



## ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business Meeting February 27, 2024

### ROLL CALL

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Board Members Present: Mark Hottowe, President; LeAnne Bremer, Vice President; Susan Barker; Nancy Miller; Heidi Rosenberg; and Darlene Stickel. Superintendent Present: Tim Merlino. Cabinet Members Present: Marnie Allen, Monique Dugaw, Gavin Hottman, Mike Nerland, Jeffrey Niess, Jodi Wall, and Kathy Whitlock. Guests: Dax Logsdon, John Peterson, and Mark Prussing. Members of the Public: One person joined virtually – name not shared.

### CALL TO ORDER

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The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by Mark Hottowe, *President*, at 3:00 pm on February 27, 2024. A quorum of six members was present.

### OATH OF OFFICE

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Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, administered the oath of office to Heidi Rosenberg. Heidi was elected to office in November 2023 but was unable to take the oath at the January board meeting.

### REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

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- Program Highlights:
  - Construction Services Group: Gavin Hottman, *Chief Business Officer*, introduced Dax Logsdon, *Construction Services Group Director*. Dax shared an overview of the services that the program provides to school districts throughout the State of Washington. Dax shared an update on new projects and efforts to diversify the services they provide to school districts through a combined funding strategy utilizing small rural school grants and the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) to fund modernization projects for districts with 1000 students or less, working on OSPI School Seismic Safety Grant program projects, as well as new capital bond work.
  - Financial Advisory Services: Gavin Hottman, *Chief Business Officer*, introduced Mark Prussing, *Executive Director of Financial Advisory Services*, and John Peterson, *Director of Financial Advisory Services*. Mark and John briefed the board on the support they provide to school districts throughout the state as well as a recap of the development of the program. ESD 112's program is the only provider of financial advisory services to school districts in the country and is the leading financial advisory service for districts in the State of Washington. The program partners with other ESD 112 programs regularly such as Communications and CSG.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education (ECE)*, shared highlights of the report. Heidi Rosenberg, EHS/ECEAP Board Liaison, shared an update on the First Responder Community Fair, that the Policy Council will hold at ESD 112 on Saturday, May 18, 2024.

- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
  - School District Levy & Bond Communications: All the districts in the region that ran levies passed. The ESD 112 Communications team was involved in fourteen levy campaigns around the state. Thirteen out of fourteen districts passed their levy.
  - New Superintendents: Tim shared an update on the new superintendents that have been hired in the region and districts with position openings.
  - District Board Trainings: Tim and Marnie provided school board trainings in Trout Lake and Kalama School District this month.
  - Budgets: Tim reviewed the 2024 Operating Budgets that were proposed by the House and the Senate.
  - Audit Update: The annual ESD 112 audit is going well and may be completed this week.
  - Art Show: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Engagement*, shared an update on this year's Regional High School Art Show, which will be offered virtually again this year. There were nearly 150 entries from fifteen school districts. The online art show and gallery have expanded access for districts. The last two virtual art shows each had over 500 viewers.
- Employee Acknowledgements & Recognitions: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications & Public Engagement*, shared employee acknowledgments for February. Fred Gunnerson, *Junior Graphic & Wordpress Designer*, was recognized for going above and beyond in his work. Chris Selcer, *Mental Health Therapist*, was acknowledged for his responsiveness and efforts to make a difference for students at the Washington State School for the Blind. Solina Journey, *Regional Implementation Coordinator*, and Weslee Vann, *Regional MTSS Coach*, were also recognized by Superintendent Elyse Mengarelli for conducting engaging professional development for the staff at Glenwood School District.

## **PROPOSALS FOR ACTION**

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- **Motion passed** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – January 2024, ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for February 2024, ESD Expenditure Reports for January 2024, and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for January 2024.
- **Motion passed**: To adopt new Policy 5252 – Participation in Political Activities.
- **Motion passed**: To adopt revised Policy 5155 – Health & Additional Benefits.

## **BOARD REORGANIZATION**

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- Heidi Rosenberg was appointed to serve as the 2024 EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Representative.
- Mark Hottowe was appointed to serve as the 2024 Legislative Representative.

## **PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS**

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- Public Comments: There were no comments.
- Correspondence: This month's correspondence included emails from Battle Ground Public Schools and Cashmere School District commending the ESD 112 Communications team for their support of the districts' levy campaigns.

- Board Participation in Events:
  - Heidi Rosenberg participated in the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on January 25, 2024, and February 15, 2024.
  - Darlene Stickel attended the WASA Legislative Conference on January 28, 2024.
  - Darlene Stickel attended the AESD Executive Board Meeting on January 30, 2024.
  - LeAnne Bremer participated in the ESD 112 Risk Assessment Meeting on February 2, 2024.
  - LeAnne Bremer, Susan Barker, and Darlene Stickel participated in the ESD 112 Audit Entrance Meeting on February 14, 2024.
  - Heidi Rosenberg and Darlene Stickel participated in the Third Year Accreditation Review on February 27, 2024.

## **CALENDAR**

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- ESD 112 Regional High School Art Show – Virtual – March 20, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Annual Retreat – Hilton Hotel, Vancouver - March 25, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – March 26, 2024
- AESD Annual Conference – Campbell’s Resort, Lake Chelan - April 3-5, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – April 23, 2024
- EHS/ECEAP Policy Council First Responder Fair – ESD 112 – May 18, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – May 28, 2024
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – June 25, 2024

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.



For questions, please contact Sara Moore, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, at (360) 952-3318 or email: [sara.moore@esd112.org](mailto:sara.moore@esd112.org). Approved minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings are kept in the ESD 112 Administration Offices and are public record.