



**ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting  
February 21, 2023**

**ROLL CALL**

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Board Members Present: Mark Hottowe, President; LeAnne Bremer; Kevin Davis; Mark Hottowe; Nancy Miller; Heidi Rosenberg; and Darlene Stickel. Cabinet Members Present: Marnie Allen, Monique Dugaw, Gavin Hottman, Jeffrey Niess, Jodi Wall, and Kathy Whitlock. Guests Present: Gahlya Auel, Solina Adelson-Journey, and Stacy Meyer.

**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 21, 2023. A quorum of six members was present.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

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Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, administered the oath of office to Susan Barker who was appointed by the Board of Directors to serve as Director for District 1 on February 14, 2023.

**REPORTS AND DISCUSSION**

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- AESD Initiative Program Highlights: Tim Merlino, Superintendent, provided an overview of many AESD initiatives that are operated statewide by the network of nine ESDs. Kathy Whitlock, *Executive Director of Student and School Success*, introduced the following coordinators to provide an update on three of the AESD initiative programs.
  - Stacy Meyer, *Science Coordinator*, shared an overview of the [ClimeTime](#) program which provides teachers with professional learning on climate science. ClimeTime work in the ESD 112 region has provided STEM storylines to support K-5 teachers in the region, STEM Seminars that bring teachers together with climate scientists, Climate Justice League, Project VOICE in collaboration with VPS to support environmental science teachers, as well as OpenSciEd access for teachers to high-quality instructional materials. ClimeTime communication is supported statewide by the ESD 112 communications team.
  - Solina Adelson-Journey, *Regional Implementation Coordinator*, provided an update on the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) program which focuses on providing support for all students where they are and when they need it. The work of the ESD MTSS coordinators focuses on increasing knowledge and skills at the district level as well as teaming structures, to help the district scale up MTSS. MTSS works to align all district initiatives so the district can work collaboratively. There is funding for MTSS through 2025, with a coordinator in each ESD supporting their region's school districts.
  - Gahlya Auel, *Inclusionary Practices Coordinator*, briefed the board on Inclusionary Practices Program work in the ESD 112 region. In 2018, the National Council on Disabilities published a report that included data on the segregation of students with disabilities. Washington was found to be the 44<sup>th</sup> least inclusive state in the nation. As a result, the legislature provided funding to implement professional learning in support of inclusionary practices with an emphasis on coaching and mentoring. Students served in the least restrictive environment have doubled in districts being

served directly by the program. ESD 112 provides all training statewide, which has reached over 8,000 participants.

- Early Head Start & ECEAP Program Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education*, reviewed highlights of the monthly report. Twenty parents are now engaging in Circle of Security Parenting, which has been very well received. Programs continue to be under-enrolled in the region, as well as statewide, due to severe workplace shortages. Many classrooms have students on waiting lists but cannot open due to the lack of qualified staff. Jodi shared that the newly renovated 49<sup>th</sup> Street Early Learning Center is close to opening. Heidi Rosenberg, Policy Council liaison, shared information on the work being done by Policy Council to attract more parent participation.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
  - New CTE Grant: ESD 112 was awarded funding to work with small, rural districts to serve CTE students. This grant will leverage CTE teachers to provide live online instruction that students will be able to access from their home districts with paraeducators available in the classroom to support them. All districts in Klickitat and Skamania County will participate, as well as some from Pacific County. Transportation will be provided for worksite visits.
  - Appointment of Regional Committee on School District Organization Members: Tim shared applications from two qualified candidates for the committee to be reviewed by the board.
  - District Visits: Superintendent Merlino recently visited Ridgefield, Naselle, Ocean Beach, La Center, and Kalama School Districts and shared an update. Districts shared that they appreciate ESD services. Challenges continue to include more intense behavioral issues in students. Clark County districts have requested that the ESD operate a program for students experiencing these issues. There also continues to be a heightened need for mental health and support for students. Through a new AWARE grant, more embedded staff will be provided in Cowlitz County.
  - School Levies/Bonds: An update was shared on recent election results for districts running local levy and bonds.
  - State Audit: Gavin Hottman shared an update on the ongoing ESD 112 audit.
  - Legal Update: Marnie Allen provided an update on a lawsuit filed against the STEPS program.
  - Due Process: Jeffrey Niess shared an update on a due process hearing in Kalama School District.
  - ESD 112 Board Retreat: Superintendent Merlino shared an overview of the draft agenda planned for the ESD 112 board retreat on March 27, 2023. Three superintendents will visit to share information regarding ESD services. A State of the ESD and fiscal update will be provided, as well as information on the fiscal issues districts are facing. The board business meeting will be held on March 28, 2023, from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Professional photos and a new group photo will be taken at 8:30 am prior to the board meeting.
  - Revised Budget Timeline: Tim will ask the board to approve the budget in June this year, rather than May, to allow for the completion of the salary study and to allow more time due to the implementation of a new budgeting system.
  - ESD 112 Regional HS Art Show: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations*, provided a virtual tour of the [2023 Southwest Regional High School Art Show](#) entries and information on the program.

- AESD Conference: Information will be shared regarding the upcoming conference. Nominations are now open for the 2023 AESD Award of Distinction with a deadline of March 9, 2023.
  - Darlene Stickel proposed the ESD 112 nominate Representative Monica Stonier for her strong advocacy for education and CTE programs.
- First Reading on Revisions to Board Policies, Chapter 5000, Personnel: Marnie Allen reviewed the proposed policy changes. A formatting issue was noted in Policy 5400 that will be corrected.
- Employee Acknowledgements & Recognition: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations*, recognized Laura Martin and Xander Hayes for exceptional service.

## PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

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- **Motion passed** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meetings – January 24, 2022, ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for February 2023, ESD Expenditure Reports for January 2023, and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for January 2023.
- **Motion passed:** To nominate Representative Monica Stonier for the 2023 AESD Award of Distinction.
- **Motion passed:** Board Resolution R.22.13 – In the Matter of Appointment of Mr. Steven Wrightson to Position #3 of the Regional Committee for School District Organization for Term 2023-2023 and Board Resolution R.22.14 – In the Matter of Appointment of Ms. Andrea Hanson to Position #5 of the Regional Committee for School District Organization for Term 2023-2023.
- **Motion passed:** Board Resolution R.22.15 – In the Matter of Approving Conditional Certificate for Special Education Assignment.

## PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

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- Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- Correspondence: There was no correspondence.
- Board Participation at Events:
  - Audit Risk Assessment Interview was attended by Mark Hottowe.
  - Audit Entrance Meeting was attended by Mark Hottowe and Darlene Stickel.
  - The Third Year Accreditation Review was attended today by Heidi Rosenberg, Darlene Stickle, Nancy Miller, and Mark Hottowe. Heidi shared that it was very interesting to hear about the school improvement process for each school and their unique approaches.

## CALENDAR

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- ESD 112 Board of Directors Retreat – ESD 112 – March 27, 2023
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – ESD 112 – March 28, 2023 – 9:00 am – 11:00 am

## ADJOURNMENT

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The meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.



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