



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Darlene Stickel, President; LeAnne Bremer; Marilyn Koenninger; Dr. Richard Graham; and Steve Wrightson.

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## CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business meeting was called to order by Darlene Stickel, *President*, at 3:01 pm on February 22, 2022 with a quorum of members present.

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## INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF GUESTS

- Darlene Stickel welcomed attendees and the following guest: Sara Hatch.

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## REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Early Head Start and ECEAP Program Monthly Report: Mike Nerland, *Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning*, shared information on services to children in Ocean Beach School District where children with delays and disabilities are served in the same classroom with typically developing peers using the Pyramid model. He also shared that two babies were born in the EHS program. Both babies were in the NICU at the same time and have since been released to go home. EHS has been able to provide a great deal of support to the families.
- Spero Center Program Update: Sara Hatch, *Outpatient Program Director*, reported on the Spero Center. The Spero Center was formed to serve students with mental health issues that have created barriers to their full involvement in school. The Spero Center currently serves 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students that qualify for an IEP. Students are provided with intensive supports at the Spero Center in a therapeutic school setting with a goal of returning to their home school. Mental health therapy is provided at least twice per week as well as full day programming. Supports are also provided to students' families including family sessions. Collaboration with students' home districts is an important focus. The home district is fully involved and engage in regular meetings to ensure plans are sustainable. When students transition back to their home school, Spero staff work closely with school staff to ensure the student, family, and school staff are fully supported. The average length of stay for students has been just under 90 school days.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
  - A. Update on Ann Campbell
  - B. State Budget Update: There is more revenue available than ever before with over \$7 billion more revenue than projected expenditures. There has been a push to recoup ESD core funding taken during mid 2000's. In the Senate budget, the money was reinstated in part but not in the House budget. Funding is expected to provide enrollment stabilization for districts. If districts lost funding due to COVID, this will help to recoup approximately 50% of monies lost. Funding is also noted for additional school counselors and nurses. COLAs were provided in both the Senate (2.8%) and House (5.5%) budgets. This will impact ESDs because they compete for the same employees but do not have the same funding sources. ESDs joined PEBB last year because SEBB rates were higher. Next year, PEBB rates will increase to approximately \$160 per month more. As a result, ESDs may join SEBB next year - one year ahead of what is required. PEBB rates are expected to continue to increase.

- C. Board District Re-Districting: The public hearing and discussion will be held at the March board meeting.
  - D. District Levies: In our region, there were 10 levies and one bond. Levies passed in Castle Rock, Green Mountain, Wahkiakum, Centerville, Klickitat, Glenwood, Mt. Pleasant, and Hockinson. The ESD communications team assisted most of these districts with communications. In our region, levies failed in Evergreen and La Center, as well as the bond in Ridgefield. Evergreen will run their levy again in April and the ESD communications team will assist with communications. Overall, 17 levies failed in the state this month.
  - E. ESD Audit: Tim asked Gavin Hottman to provide an update on the audit.
  - F. Update on Legal Issues: Tim asked Marnie Allen to provide an update on current legal issues.
  - G. Board Retreat in March: The March Board Retreat and Board Meeting scheduled in March will be held as remote meetings. A suggestion was made to adjust the times of both the retreat and the business meeting. The board agreed to discuss the suggestion later in the meeting under Proposals for Action.
  - H. District 7 Board Vacancy: The application period for District 7 closed on February 11<sup>th</sup>. There were six inquiries into the position and three applications submitted. One applicant later withdrew their application because of a family medical emergency. A suggestion was made to schedule a special session in March to interview applicants and select a District 7 board member. The board agreed to discuss the suggestion under Proposals for Action.
  - I. COVID Update: Last Thursday, Governor Inslee announced the indoor mask mandate will end effective March 21<sup>st</sup>. ESD is closely watching case rates and will determine staff guidelines later. School staff will closely follow district guidelines. Additional guidance regarding school district policies is expected on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - J. Agency COVID Update: COVID rates are decreasing for ESD staff. In the highest week, over 60 staff were tested for COVID. Last week, seven employees needed testing and three tested positive.
- Employee Acknowledgements and Recognition: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications and Public Engagement*, briefed the board on the following:
    - K. 2022 Poetry Out Loud Video: ESD 112 was commended for the 2022 Poetry Out Loud video that was released on February 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information and a link to the virtual presentation, view the [ESD 112 Newsroom article](#).
    - L. Art Show 2022: The high school art show will be held virtually on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
    - M. Statewide Community Engagement Board Training: Claire Pearson-Walker will lead a Statewide Community Engagement Board Training.
    - N. 2022 National ESEA Conference: Vikei Hrdina, Effie Triol, and Chad Mullen all presented at the 2022 National ESEA Conference in New Orleans on “Promoting STEM Skill Development through Literacy and Language Acquisition”.
    - O. VFW Citizenship Award: Grant Gilson, *Communications Manager*, serves Washougal, Hockinson, and Mill A School Districts. He recently wrote a story about Scott Rainey, 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Washougal, that was awarded the VFW Citizenship Award. Scott Rainey shared, “Thank you for the wonderful release. That’s one I’ll be keeping forever”.
    - P. Thank You from Career Connect: Scott Culbertson, Career Connect, recognized Laura Martin, *Graphic Designer/WordPress Designer*, and Melissa Burt, *Copywriter/Graphic Designer*, for their work converting student-facing information into useful electronic documents that can be easily shared.

## 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 25, 2022; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for January 2022, ESD 112 Expenditure Reports for January 2022; and Early Head Start expenditure reports for January 2022.

- **Motion passed** to approve Board Resolution R.21.15 – In the Matter of Recognition of Exemplary Leadership of Ann Campbell, as presented.
- **Motion passed** to change the meeting time for the Board Retreat on March 28, 2022, to 9:30 am – 12:00 pm.
- **Motion passed** to changed the meeting time for the Board Business Meeting on March 29, 2022, to 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm.
- **Motion passed** to schedule a Special Session to interview District 7 Board Candidates and select a new board member on March 15, 2022, from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

## **PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS**

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- **Public Comments:** No members of the public were present.
- **Correspondence:** None distributed.
- **WASA Legislative Conference, Jan 30:** Darlene Stickel attended and commented on the conference.
- **Poetry Out Loud, Feb 7:** Monique Dugaw commented on the event.
- **Third Year Accreditation Review:** Darlene Stickel attended and commented on the review.

## **CALENDAR**

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- ESD 112 High School Art Show – Virtual – March 16, 2022
- WASA Small Schools Conference – Wenatchee, WA – March 21-22, 2022
- ESD 112 Board of Directors’ Annual Retreat – Zoom – March 28, 2022 – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors’ Business Meeting – Zoom – March 29, 2022 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors’ Business Meeting – TBD – April 26, 2022 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- AESD Membership Meeting – Zoom – April 27, 2022 – 9:30 am – 2:00 pm

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.



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.