



ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting January 24, 2023

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Darlene Stickel, President; LeAnne Bremer; Kevin Davis; Mark Hottowe; Nancy Miller; and Heidi Rosenberg. Cabinet Members Present: Marnie Allen, Gavin Hottman, Jeffrey Niess, Mike Nerland, Jodi Wall, and Kathy Whitlock. Guests Present: Janelle Tuttle.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by Darlene Stickel, *President*, at 3:04 pm on January 24, 2023. A quorum of six members was present.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Program Highlight – ESA Special Education Cooperative: Jeffrey Niess, *Executive Director of Specialized Student Services*, introduced Janelle Tuttle, *Special Education Director*, to share an overview of the ESA Special Education Cooperative. ESD 112 is the only ESD in the state that directly provides special education services for school districts. The ESA serves 29 districts throughout the State of Washington. The ESA directly employs over 230 people including certificated teachers and specialists, paraeducators, and administrative staff. The ESA works collaboratively with many ESD programs including ESD-U and the Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST) program. Challenges such as staffing shortages, workload challenges, and increasing student needs were also discussed.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Program Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education*, reviewed highlights of the monthly report including an update on the Health Services Advisory Team which will meet next month to develop a COVID mitigation policy as required under new guidelines. Enrollment numbers continue to be lower than usual due to the continued staffing crisis.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Annual Training: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education*, provided annual training for the Board of Directors that reviewed the governance structure for EHS and ECEAP. The governance structure includes the Policy Council, which is formed of parents, the ESD Board of Directors, and program management staff. The board is provided with annual and monthly reports, annual self and community assessments, as well as updates on the program strategic plan and progress towards program goals.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - Board Vacancy, District 1: Two applications have been received from qualified candidates. A special board meeting will be planned for February 14, 2023, to interview the candidates.
 - Legislative Update: Tim shared a brief update on legislation that has been introduced regarding mental health supports, early learning, special education, and transportation.
 - ESD 113 Update: Superintendent Dana Anderson will retire in June 2023.
 - ESD Board Elections: WSSDA will take over governance of ESD board elections this year. They would like to conduct elections electronically rather than continuing the use of paper ballots and expect this will increase ballot returns.

- Project Aware Grant: ESD 112 received a new grant in partnership with Vancouver Public Schools which will provide an additional six mental health positions in Vancouver with the possibility of expansion into Cowlitz County. \$450,00 in funding will be provided for the next three years.
- Third-Year Accreditation Review Volunteers: Board member volunteers are needed to participate in Third-Year Accreditation Reviews that will be held via Zoom on February 21-22, 2023. Seven local schools will present. Panelists provide commendations and recommendations to schools as they continue the six-year accreditation process.
- District Levies: The ESD is providing support to seven of nine districts that are running levies.
- The ESD 112 annual audit will begin next week with preliminary activities.
 - AESD State Conference: the AESD State Conference will be held April 12-14, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington and will be hosted by ESD 113 and PSESD 121.
- Employee Acknowledgements & Recognition: Monique Dugaw, *Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations*, recognized Robert Reyna and Kaela Praisewater for their work with the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council; the ESD-U Team – Lori Jass, Alissa Jolly, Amy Glenn, & Kathy Oh-Keith; as well as Park Crest Early Care & Education staff.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meetings – December 13, 2022, ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for January 2023, ESD Expenditure Reports for November and December 2022, and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for November and December 2022.
- **Motion passed**: Board Resolution R.22.12 – In the Matter of Authorizing the Superintendent to Reduce Programs for 2022-23 and 2023-24 Fiscal Years, to Issue Reduction in Force Notices and Offer Severance Agreements.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

- The annual election of Officers was held. Mark Hottowe was elected as President and LeAnne Bremer was elected as Vice-President.
- Appointments: Darlene Stickel to serve as the 2023 AESD Representative; Mark Hottowe will serve as the 2023 Legislative Representative; and Heidi Rosenberg will serve on the 2023 EHS/ECEAP Policy Council.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: There were no public comments.
- Correspondence:
 - News Article: "[In Washington, Students Learn About Climate Change Like Nowhere Else.](#)" – Reasons to be Cheerful
 - News Article: "[Washington Legislature Looks to Aid Rural Districts](#)" – The Daily News

- Board Participation at Events:

- Darlene Stickel shared a recap of the AESD Executive Board Meeting on January 17, 2023.
- Heidi Rosenberg shared an update on the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on January 19, 2023.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – Feb 21, 2023 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Retreat – ESD 112 – March 27, 2023
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – ESD 112 – March 28, 2023 - 8:30 am – 12:00 am

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 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.