



**ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting
January 28, 2025**

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Mark Hottowe, President; LeAnne Bremer, Vice President; Susan Barker; Kevin Davis; 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: Mel Netzhammer, Travis Effinger, Corina McEntire, Susan Peng-Cowan. Members of the Public: Karen Scott

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by LeAnne Bremer, *Vice-President*, at 3:00 pm on January 28, 2025. A quorum of five members was present. It was noted that Mark Hottowe, *President*, would join the meeting at approximately 3:30 pm and assume facilitation of the meeting.

INTERVIEW OF DISTRICT #5 CANDIDATE

The board of directors interviewed Dr. Mel Netzhammer for the District #5 board position which represents parts of Vancouver and Evergreen School Districts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

LeAnne Bremer, *Vice-President*, announced that the board would convene in an executive session for 10 minutes pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) to discuss the qualifications of the candidate for the board vacancy and would reconvene the public meeting at 3:50 pm. She shared that the board may take action following the executive session.

RECONVENE/ACTION

The business meeting was called back to order at 3:50 pm. **Motion passed** to appoint Mel Netzhammer to the District 5 position for the ESD 112 Board of Directors.

OATH OF OFFICE

Superintendent Tim Merlino administered the Oath of Office to Mel Netzhammer, newly appointed Director for ESD 112 District 5.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

The annual election of officers was held. Heidi Rosenberg was elected to serve as president for one year. LeAnne Bremer was elected to continue serving as vice-president for an additional year.

Darlene Stickel was appointed to continue serving as the AESD Representative. Mark Hottowe was appointed to continue in the Legislative Representative position. Heidi Rosenberg was appointed to continue serving as the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Representative.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Early Head Start & ECEAP Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education (ECE)*, shared highlights of the report for November and December. This month's report includes annual data on student outcomes.
- Program Highlight: Regional School Safety Center: Kathy Whitlock, *Executive Director of Student & School Success*, introduced Travis Effinger, *Student Threat Assessment Coordinator*; Corina McEntire, *School Safety Coordinator*; and Susan Peng-Cowan, *Behavioral Health Navigator*. The team shared an overview of the services they provide. In 2019, a house bill was passed that formed Regional School Safety Centers in each ESD. Each regional safety center provides a broad range of safety related services and training for school districts.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - Board Appreciation Month: Superintendent Merlino shared that January is Board Appreciation Month and thanked the board of directors for their ongoing support and advocacy. Mark Hottowe was recognized for his work as board president for the last two years.
 - New ESA District Visits: Tim Merlino, Gavin Hottman, and Jeffrey Niess visited the ESD 171 region to meet with the new districts that recently joined the ESA.
 - Federal Funding Freeze: An update was shared regarding the executive order by President Trump freezing federal programs and possible impacts to ESD 112 programs.
 - YES Program: An update was shared regarding reduced funding for the Youth Employment Services (YES) program.
 - New Early Childhood Learning Center: The ESD will lease a property for the new Central Heights Early Learning Center beginning in August of this year.
 - Levy & Bond Update: Superintendent Merlino provided an update on districts in the region that will seek voter approval for district levies and bonds in the February election. The ESD communications team is supporting thirteen district levies and bonds statewide.
 - Accreditation Panels: ESD 189 is recruiting board members to serve on AESD Accreditation panels in Tumwater, May 13-14, 2025.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – December 10, 2024; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for January 2025, ESD Expenditure Reports for November and December 2024, and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for November and December 2024.
- **Motion passed**: To approve Resolution R.24.02 In the Matter of Approving Temporary Out of Endorsement Conditional Certificate.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: No public comments were made.
- Correspondence: There was no correspondence this month.
- Board Participation in Events:
 - Mark Hottowe attended the WASA Legislative Conference, January 11-12, 2025
 - Darlene Stickel represented ESD 112 at the AESD Executive Board Meeting on January 13, 2025.
 - Heidi Rosenberg attended the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on January 16, 2025.

CALENDAR

- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – February 25, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Retreat – ESD 112 – March 24, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – March 25, 2025
- AESD Conference – Spokane – April 16-18, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – April 22, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – May 27, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – June 24, 2025
- ESD 112 Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – August 26, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 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.