



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROLL CALL

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

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors' Business meeting was called to order by Darlene Stickel, *President*, at 3:02 p.m. on January 25, 2022 with a quorum of members present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME OF GUESTS

- Darlene Stickel welcomed attendees and the following guests: Otilia Archer and Kristen Campbell.
- Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, thanked board members for their service in recognition of Board Appreciation Month.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

- Tim Merlino administered the oath of office to four re-elected ESD 112 board members: Darlene Stickel, LeAnne Bremer, Marilyn Koenninger and Mark Hottowe.

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

- Otilia Archer, *Bilingual Family Support Specialist*, was awarded a crystal apple in recognition of her retirement.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Early Head Start and ECEAP Program Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director for Early Care & Education*, shared the program is working on re-introducing what Policy Council is at center level parent meetings. Their goal is to broaden thinking regarding parent support. She also shared the challenges being faced by the centers due to staffing shortages which have been further amplified by the recent impacts of the Omicron strain and the steps being taken to keep centers operating.
- Insurance Program Update: Marnie Allen, *Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Legal Services and Insurance*, reported on the Workers' Compensation, Unemployment and Risk Management Programs.
- Director District Boundary Review: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, reviewed new consensus populations numbers for the ESD 112 region and proposed boundary changes recommended to ensure population numbers are equally spread across the region. General consensus from the board was agreement of the proposed changes. A public hearing will be held at the next board meeting and a Resolution to approve the changes will also be presented at that time.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - A. COVID Testing: School districts have had to conduct increased COVID testing which has put pressure on supply. When the Omicron strain arrived requests for tests exceeded the available supply. The ESD worked to identify additional test kits and was able to secure and distribute 62,000 tests to districts in our region. The ESD also delivered kits to other ESD's in the state for distribution in their regions as well.

- B. Skamania Board: The Skamania school board successfully selected and appointed a fourth board member to their board this month. This means the ESD will not be needed to select additional members.
 - C. Agency COVID Update: A spike in positive COVID cases has occurred since after the holidays. In total 102 employees have contracted the COVID virus. To date no cases have been contracted at work.
 - D. Board Trainings: Tim Merlino and Marnie Allen are conducting board trainings in White Salmon, Glenwood, Castle Rock and Bickleton.
 - E. Facilities Update: The Ogden office space sale closed at the end of December. The board will be presented with a refinancing package of the business park at a future meeting. The 2400 building remodel is progressing with an expected completion date in March.
 - F. Board Retreat in March: The March retreat is scheduled to take place virtually via zoom. The exact time and duration will be decided soon. Board members were encouraged to send topic ideas to the Superintendent.
 - G. Bond/Levy: The ESD Communications team is currently supporting seven districts with bond and levy communications support.
- Employee Acknowledgements and Recognition: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - H. Bilingual Communication Support: Ari Vazquez, *Bilingual Communications Manager*, received a compliment from Yakima School District for being prompt, professional and available when most needed.
 - I. COVID Test Pickup: ESD 112 *bus driver*, Kevin Keeley, was recognized for picking up COVID testing kits from DOH and distributing to three other ESDs in addition to delivering a much-needed supply to the ESD for the 112 region.
 - J. New Payment Process: *Software and Technology Coordinators* Kathy Koren and Joseph Mathews received a thank you and acknowledgement for their work updating the payment process.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- Motion passed to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting – December 15, 2021; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports for January 2022, ESD 112 Expenditure Reports for November and December 2021; and Early Head Start expenditure reports for November and December 2021.
- Motion passed to approve Board Resolution R.21.14 – In the Matter of Obsolete/Surplus Bus, as presented.
- Motion passed to accept resignation letter submitted by Ann Campbell, Director District. No. 7.
- Motion passed to elect Darlene Stickel to serve as President of the Board of Directors for 2022-2023.
- Motion passed to elect Mark Hottowe to serve as Vice President of the Board of Directors for 2022-2023.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

- Election of Officers was held: Darlene Stickel, President and Mark Hottowe, Vice President.
- Appointments: Darlene Stickel to serve as 2022 AESD representative; Mark Hottowe to serve as the 2022 legislative representative; and the position to serve as the 2022 representative for Early Head Start/ ECEAP Policy Council was unfilled.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: No members of the public were present.
- Correspondence: None distributed.
- ESD 112 Virtual Holiday Event: Darlene Stickel attended and commented on the interview.
- AESD Executive Board Study Session: Darlene Stickel and Tim Merlino attended and commented on the event.

- Audit Risk Assessment Interview: Darlene Stickel attended and commented on the interview.

CALENDAR

- WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference & Day on the Hill – Virtual/Zoom – January 30, 2022 – 1:00 – 5:00 pm
- ESD 112 Audit Entrance Meeting – Virtual/Teams – February 1, 2022 – 11:00 a.m.
- Poetry Out Loud – Zoom – February 7, 2022 – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm – Event will be recorded and available to view after event date
- AESD Executive Board Meeting – Zoom – February 8, 2022 – 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- ESD 112 High School Art Show – Zoom – February 16, 2022 – TBD – Event will be recorded and available to view after event
- Third Year Accreditation – Zoom – February 22, 2022 – 11:00 am – 2:45 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors’ Business Meeting – Zoom – February 22, 2022 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- WASA Small Schools Conference – Wenatchee, WA – March 21-22, 2022
- ESD 112 Board of Directors’ Annual Retreat – TBD – March 28, 2022 – 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors’ Business Meeting – TBD - March 29, 2022 – 8:30 am – 12:00 pm
- ESD 112 Board of Directors’ Business Meeting – TBD – April 26, 2022 – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- AESD Annual Conference – Hyatt Regency Lake Washington – April 27-29, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.



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