



ESD 112 Board of Directors' Meeting October 24, 2023

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Mark Hottowe, President; LeAnne Bremer; Susan Barker; Kevin Davis; Nancy Miller; Heidi Rosenberg; and Darlene Stickel. Cabinet Members Present: Gavin Hottman, Melissa Kreuder, Mike Nerland, Jeffrey Niess, Jodi Wall, and Kathy Whitlock. Guests Present: Colleen Wahto, Rachel Dillman, Lisa Batterton, Vanessa Munson, Claire Pearson-Walker.

CALL TO ORDER

The ESD 112 Board of Directors Business meeting was called to order by Mark Hottowe, *President*, at 3:00 pm on October 24, 2023. A quorum of six members was present. LeAnne Bremer joined the meeting via videoconference at 3:32 pm and participated in all discussions regarding proposals for action.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

- Meet Miss Washington: Vanessa Munson: Colleen Wahto, *Director of Health Services*, Rachel Dillman, *Lead Audiologist*, and Lisa Batterton, *Audiologist*, introduced Miss Washington, *Vanessa Munson*. Miss Munson's hometown is Battle Ground, and she currently serves as an active-duty soldier in the U.S. Army. She works to empower all people through confidence building and inclusivity with her community service initiative Beauty & Beyond: What is Your Beautiful. Vanessa has had seven ear surgeries and will receive a permanent hearing aid later this month. Miss Washington partnered with the ESD Audiology program to share her message with students in SW Washington. She met with students and their families in events at 16 local schools and the ESD and has given Barbie Fashionistas dolls with hearing aids to the students at each appearance.
- Program Highlight: Attendance & Reengagement: Claire Pearson-Walker, *Attendance & Reengagement Manager*, shared information on the services provided by the ESD 112 program in Clark and Cowlitz Counties. The program partners with students, families, local districts, and the juvenile courts to limit the need for court interaction regarding truancy and to connect the students and families to needed community services. The program was established in ESD 112 in 1997 in response to the Becca Bill. During the 2022-23 school year, the program received 538 student referrals in Clark and Cowlitz County. Referrals can be a combination of truancy petitioned students, as well as withdrawn students and students with chronic absenteeism.
- Early Head Start & ECEAP Program Monthly Report: Jodi Wall, *Executive Director of Early Care & Education*, reviewed highlights of the monthly report including a recap of this month's success stories. Heidi Rosenberg, Board Policy Council Liaison, shared that policy council is considering changing the group's name to Family Connections. A First Responders Resource Fair will be offered in April or May. The program is seeking EHS volunteers. There is a need for parent volunteers with Spanish or Slavic language skills. There is interest in planning a coat drive for students this winter.
- Superintendent's Report: Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, briefed the board on the following:
 - ESD Board Elections: All four of the ESD 112 incumbent positions were re-elected with a voter turnout similar to statewide returns. A recap of statewide election results was shared.

- Clark County Day Treatment Program: Jeffrey Niess, *Executive Director of Specialized Student Services*, shared a progress update on the new program that is being designed for students with developmental delays and/or communication challenges and behavioral issues. The space next to the Spero Center in the 2400 building is being remodeled to house the new program. An advisory council is meeting to guide what the program services will be and how the school day will be structured.
- Curae Center and Gorge Academy Update: Jeffrey Niess shared an update on the opening of the Curae Center and Gorge Academy this school year. Students are currently being served in both programs.
- Possible Grant Funding for Career Connect: The Career Connect program is one of six finalists for a three-year five-million-dollar grant from The Gates Foundation. The grant proposal is focused on hiring post-secondary advisors for rural districts to identify pathways for students in both career and education continuance. A second six million dollar grant from the Department of Education has been submitted to assist with funding for the Rural CTE Program.
- Superintendent Announcements: Longview School District Superintendent, Dan Zorn, and Woodland School District Superintendent, Michael Green, have both announced their retirements at the end of the school year. Kalama, Ridgefield, and Toutle Lake School Districts are all conducting superintendent searches this year to fill interim positions.
- Regional Legislative Priorities: The regional legislative priorities for the upcoming session have been identified by local school districts as being continued increased funding for Special Education; increased funding for classified staffing; increased funding for supplies, materials, and contractual funding; and increased opportunities for funding for small school district facilities.
- Echo Glenn and Green Hill: Kathy Whitlock, *Executive Director of Student & School Success*, provided an update on staffing for the program which delivers training on pre-employment skills, internships, and career development for incarcerated students.
- Department of Justice Grant: The ESD has applied for a Department of Justice Grant. If selected, the grant will provide one million dollars in funding over three years to provide mental health therapists for students in the Juvenile Justice system as well as students involved in threat assessments.

PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

- **Motion passed** to approve the consent agenda items including minutes of the ESD 112 Board of Directors Meeting – September 2023; ESD 112 Personnel Activity Reports September 2023; ESD Expenditure Reports for August & September 2023; and EHS Budget Status/Expenditure Reports for September 2023.
- **Motion passed:** To approve resolution R.23.03 – In the Matter of Consolidation of Checking Accounts.
- **Motion passed:** To approve resolution R.23.04 – In the Matter of Capitalization and Depreciation.

PUBLIC AND BOARD COMMENTS

- Public Comments: No public comments were made.
- Correspondence: There was no correspondence.
- Board Participation in Events:
 - Heidi Rosenberg attended the EHS/ECEAP Policy Council Meeting on October 19, 2023.

CALENDAR

- WSSDA Annual Conference – Bellevue, WA – November 16 – November 18, 2023
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – ESD 112 – November 21, 2023
- AESA National Conference – Anaheim, CA – November 29 – December 1, 2023
- ESD Board of Directors Business Meeting – Fort Vancouver Historic Site, Red Cross Building – December 12, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 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.