



**ESD 112 Board of Directors Retreat  
March 24, 2025**

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**ROLL CALL**

Board Members Present: Heidi Rosenberg, President; Susan Barker; Kevin Davis; Mark Hottowe; Mel Netzhammer; 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: Asha Riley, Jeff Snell, Ann Varkados, Vickei Hrdina, and Janelle Tuttle.

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Heidi Rosenberg, *President*, opened the meeting at 9:00 am on March 24, 2025, and welcomed all participants. A quorum of six members was present.

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**PURPOSE OF THE DAY**

Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, reviewed the meeting agenda.

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**ESD 112 FISCAL UPDATE**

Gavin Hottman, *Chief Business Officer*, provided an update on the ESD 112 budget for 2024-25. Revenue and expenditures are on track as projected for the fiscal year. Staff travel expenses are well below pre-pandemic levels.

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**UPDATE ON THE STATE & FEDERAL BUDGET**

Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, shared a brief update on the state and federal budget. The legislative session ends on April 27, 2025. The state revenue forecast over the next four years has been reduced by \$845 million. An update was shared on possible changes to the federal funding. ESD 112 receives 10.1% of its funding from federal sources.

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**STATE OF THE ESD**

Tim Merlino, *Superintendent*, provided an update on the State of ESD 112 and the region.

- School district enrollment in the region has been flat or declined in all areas of the region except for northern Clark County and southern Cowlitz County. Most districts are making significant budget cuts. Five districts in the state are currently in binding conditions and are forecasted to end the year with a negative balance.
- ESD 112 is the largest ESD in the state. Direct services are provided to more than 15,000 students per year.

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**DEPARTMENT UPDATES AND FORECAST FOR 2025-26.**

ESD Leadership shared brief updates on their departments and a look forward to challenges and opportunities expected in the 2025-26 School Year.

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**ESD 112 SUPERINTENDENT PANEL**

Three superintendents from the region participated in a panel discussion regarding ESD 112 services and shared updates on their districts, as well as suggestions on additional services or support ESD 112 can provide to school districts. Panelists included Asha Riley, Woodland School

District; Dr. Jeff Snell, Vancouver Public Schools; and Dr. Ann Varkados, Centerville, and Lyle School Districts. Each superintendent provided an overview of their district and the challenges each district is facing.

### **ESA & REGIONAL PROGRAM GROWTH**

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Jeffrey Niess, *Executive Director of Specialized Student Services*, and Janelle Tuttle, *ESA Director*, shared an update on the ESD 112 Educational Service Agency (ESA) and regional therapeutic educational programs. ESD 112 is the only ESD in the state that offers special education services through an ESA and is responsible for Free And Public Education (FAPE) as a partner to districts. Last year, the ESA onboarded Entiat, Manson, and Cascade School Districts. The ESA currently serves nearly 1900 students across the state.

The ESD operates five therapeutic educational programs that support students in kindergarten through age 22 in meeting their behavioral and academic goals. The programs currently serve students from twenty-two districts.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS & POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

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Vickei Hrdina, *Director of Career Readiness, Youth Workforce, & STEM Initiatives*, shared an update on graduation requirements and post-secondary readiness. Vickei reviewed the nine graduation pathways that are available to students. The ESD 112 Rural CTE Cooperative provides access to CTE pathway options that were not previously available to small and/or rural district. Students in cooperative districts will now have access to six CTE pathways.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.



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.