

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 5 b

MEETING OF February 12, 2020

Reviewed By

Item Title:

APPOINTMENT TO THE VACANT SCHOOL BOARD SEAT
Interviews of applicants

SUBMITTED Kerry Watson, Board Clerk

Contact Person/Telephone

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL

Name

Phone



Superintendent

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Board Bylaw 9323 calls for interviewing candidates for a vacated seat.

BACKGROUND:

The applicants are (in alphabetical order by last name):

Patrick Von Danskin; Thomas M. Heutte; Dustin Larna; and Anna M. Sherman

EXHIBITS ATTACHED

- Applications from candidates

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

NAME: Von Danskin	DATE: 2/1/2020
MAILING ADDRESS: 14142 Riddle RD Ketchikan, AK 99901	PHONE and/or EMAIL: 907-617-4752

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

My reason for seeking the interim Board appointment is to provide myself with some firsthand training and experience because I will be running in the next school board election.

2. What do you hope to accomplish as an interim Board member?

As an interim Board member, I realize my time will be short but nevertheless I feel that I can provide some valuable insight and stability and a fresh outlook to the issues facing the school board today.

3. What previous experience have you had serving on Boards?

My previous experience on Boards consists of a couple years as committee chair for a local cub scout pack. I have served several other functions for scouts consisting of treasurer, assistant cub master, and advancements. I have been a part of hiring panels and have done many one on one interviews with potential job candidates.

4. What do you consider to be the greatest personal asset you would bring to the Board as an interim member?

My greatest asset I would bring to the Board would be my willingness to listen to what people have to say and make informed decisions based on their input.

5. What are the biggest issues you see facing the district?

The biggest issues I see facing the district are:
Poor state economy and budget cuts which lead to underfunded classrooms, and higher student to teacher ratios. I see teacher recruitment being more of an issue in the future.
Child safety in the classroom is an ever-increasing issue. Also bullying is an ongoing issue both physically and mentally.

6. What suggestion(s) do you have to improve our School District?

Suggestions I have to improve our school district are we need to find ways to get parents and the community more involved in the lives of the children especially as we see budgets dwindle. Active parent involvement does so much towards a child's ability to excel in the classroom. We will need to find ways to keep teachers happy to keep retention high, but more importantly happy and content employees will always do a better job and be more creative to work with less of a budget.

SIGNATURE

Application for School Board Vacancy

Adapted from form E 9223(a)

Name: Thomas M Heutte

Date: February 4 2020

Mailing Address: PO Box 6372 Ketchikan AK 99901

Phone: (907) 821-1347

Email: theutte@msn.com

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

I am looking for an opportunity to serve the community that would make good use of my time and talents, as well as a way for me to become more connected with the community. I believe that public schools are the most important institution keeping our increasingly fragmented society working functionally. I believe that a solid broad-based education leads to adults who take their civic duty seriously and act as good citizens. I am not interested in a board membership as a stepping-off point for a political career, my interest comes out of my passion for education and wanting to serve the community in some way.

2. What do you hope to accomplish as an interim Board member?

I hope to help foster a positive atmosphere where the community, parents, the board, administrators, faculty and staff are working as a team to move our schools forward and provide a strong education for our children.

3. What previous experience have you had serving on Boards?

- 2008- 2009 At-large board member of Ketchikan Charter School
- 2008, 2015 At-large board member, Alaska Committee on Noxious and Invasive Pest Management
- 2012-2013 Secretary (note taker), Harborview Elementary School Site Council, Juneau AK
- 2013-2014 At-large board member, Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- 2014 At-large member, Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Site Council, Juneau AK
- 2015-2016 Chair, Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Site Council, Juneau AK
- 2015 Treasurer, Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- 2016 Vice President, Juneau Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- 2019 Interim member, Ketchikan Gateway District Board of Education

4. What do you consider to be the greatest personal asset you would bring to the Board as an interim member?

Problem-solving skills that overcome bureaucratic obstacles. This is based on an ability to quickly learn about new problems and issues, size-up the situation, then developing solutions as information about an issue comes in.


5. What are the biggest issues you see the District facing?

- Dealing with the fallout from cases of child sexual abuse by a faculty member
- Ongoing deliberations with KEA contract
- Leadership changes in the school district
- Turnover on the school board itself
- Children from homes where good parents are struggling with economic and social hardships to keep their children learning and in school
- Children from homes where they do not get their basic needs met and are neglected or abused.
- Thin state budgets leading to more and more deferred maintenance

6. What suggestion do you have to improve our School District?

Ensure that all persons involved in the public educational system- including the Superintendent, school board members, administrators, faculty, paraprofessionals and staff are accountable to taxpayers. A key part of this accountability is to work together as a team district-wide and across boundaries, so the groups named above are not pointing fingers at each other but working together as a team to solve problems.

Signature: _____

 2/4/2020

RECEIVED
2/5/20
by Kerry Watson

Application for School Board Vacancy

Name: **Dustin Larna**

Date: **February 4, 2020**

Mailing Address: **1418 Pond Reef Road, Ketchikan, AK 99901**

Phone: **907-220-7299**

Email: **dustinlarna@gmail.com**

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board Appointment?

I desire to make a positive difference in the lives of the youth living in the community of Ketchikan, Alaska. I believe serving on the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District Board is an avenue to accomplish this, and I have the requisite administrative, programmatic, and business/financial management experience to apply to the position.

2. What do you hope to accomplish as an interim Board Member?

I hope to bring new ingenuity, insights, ideas, suggestions, and creativity to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District Board. I hope to improve student experience and ensure educational outcomes. I will continue to support the District in becoming trauma sensitive and culturally responsive, as well as building transparency and financial accountability.

3. What previous experience have you had serving on Boards?

2011-2014	Member, Alaska Bring the Kids Homes Initiative
2015- 2017	President, Alaska Association of Homes for Children
2011- Current	Member, Alaska Association of Homes for Children
2018- Current	Member, Alaska Behavioral Health Association
2019- Current	Member, State of AK 1115 Waiver Continuity of Care Committee

4. What do you consider to be the greatest personal asset you would bring to the Board as an interim member?

I have worked in the adolescent behavioral health sector for 19 years; the main goal has always been to support and empower youth. As the CFO-COO of RYC I have worked as an administrator under the guidance and support of a board of

directors. I understand how a board can promote agency accountability and transparency. I know the value of a board that maintains adherence to agency goals and mission. I have seen the impact of a board supporting administration to do the work that needs to be done. When a board finds balance between accountability and support, good things will happen. I have significant experience developing policy and programs while maintaining compliance with laws and regulation, specifically working with state policy and programs. I know what it takes for an agency to maintain compliance with licensing regulation and exceed standards to be nationally accredited as a children's behavioral health provider. I am very familiar with the challenge to do "more work with less money" and I know it is possible to improve quality and outcomes during budget shortage through innovation and being open to change.

I am consistently focused on asking, "What are the needs of the community and how can we best meet them?" Throughout my time with RYC, the growth that has been accomplished has always been driven by the goal to meet the needs of the community and clients we serve. I am hopeful that my experience and commitment to supporting Ketchikan youth will be an asset to the board.

5. What are the biggest issues you see the District facing?

I think the District is facing several challenges that are all interconnected. Continuous improvement to the student experience and ensuring educational outcomes is tough to plan for in a "cut the budget" scenario or when funding is consistently unpredictable. I think these factors can push the District towards just trying to maintain the status quo or surviving budget cuts, instead of approaching programming with innovation, resourcefulness, and creativity. The student outcomes and experience as a priority will be a challenge, which includes continuing the district down the path of becoming trauma sensitive and culturally responsive and addressing the achievement gap.

6. What suggestion(s) do you have to improve our School District?

We have to keep student learning at the forefront of all decisions, and align our resources to our strategic goals. We must be collaborative with district staff, parents, and students in the process, and continue moving the district toward increased transparency and accountability while we work to make changes. We must listen to the experts to make informed and strategic decisions for the sake of the students and community.



Signature

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

NAME: Anna M Sherman

DATE: February 5

MAILING ADDRESS: 3609 Tongass Ave #6281

PHONE and/or E-MAIL: 505.659.5997/dre@holynamektn.org

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

I take great pride in serving on school boards where my children attend. I strongly believe in parental involvement and after moving here from New Mexico, I would like to continue to serve and support the district now by working with the board in ensuring and improving student success.

2. What do you hope to accomplish as an interim Board member?

To focus on what is best for ALL students and to be an advocate for both students and teachers.

To adhere to the philosophy and goals set for the district believing that all students be offered an opportunity to grow and succeed.

3. What previous experience have you had serving on Boards?

2017-2018: board member volunteer, NexGen Academy, Albuquerque, NM

2016-2017: School board volunteer Amy Biehl High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico

2015-2016: School/Parent Liaison on board for Taylor Middle School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

2014-2015: Vice President, Taylor Middle School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

2013-2014: Board member, Taylor Middle School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY APPLICATION (cont.)

4. What do you consider to be the greatest personal asset you would bring to the Board as an interim member?

Coming in with an independent, open mind and a willingness to collaborate with other board members to help the district move forward.

5. What are the biggest issues you see the District facing?

Currently, the biggest issue would be recommended changes to the graduation requirements. The elimination of US/World History and the recommendation of reducing American Govt to one semester.

6. What suggestion(s) do you have to improve our School District?

As a new member of the Ketchikan school district, I have no current suggestions as I have stated that I come in with an open mind and a willingness to listen to the public, teachers, and students. As a strong advocate for parental involvement, I strongly believe in encouraging parental involvement within the schools and classrooms to not only assist teachers and staff but to provide a framework for setting values and morals that can influence and shape our children of what is right and wrong.

Signature: