

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular meeting of February 12, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 12th day of February, 2020, in the Ketchikan Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Bridget Mattson called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

The following members were present to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board President Bridget Mattson; Vice President Sonya Skan; Clerk-Treasurer Diane Gubatayao; Board Members Leslie Becker; Jordan Tabb; and Paul Robbins Jr. Student Kaelyn Cadiente was also present, filling in for Brendan Roof.

Administrative staff consisted of Beth Lougee, Superintendent; Business Manager Katie Parrott; and Clerk to the Board Kerry Watson.

Other district staff included: Ketchikan High School Principal Jason House; Assistant Principal Cole Maxwell; and Assistant Principal/Activities Director Melissa Johnson.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: BECKER

Motion to amend

Motion to amend the agenda to move New Business item #13 to after #6 - Executive Session

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

Discussion

There was no discussion.

VOICE VOTE: Motion passed without objection.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

School Board Recognition Month-In recognition of February as School Board Recognition Month, Superintendent Beth Lougee read information provided by the Association of Alaska School Boards about school boards. The Ketchikan School Board is one of 53 school boards in Alaska.

Board Clerk Treasurer Diane Gubatayao recognized Lead On students from Ketchikan High School, who had recently hosted an assembly for students about substance abuse. She also recognized the Rotary Daddy-Daughter Dance the previous Sunday put on by the Rotary Interact Club.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Dr. Valerie Brooks, who teaches at Houghtaling Elementary School, said she was speaking as a concerned citizen. She stated she'd filed a complaint regarding statements made at the January 22, 2020 School Board meeting. Dr. Brooks explained why the statements were objectionable, including being political. She said Board members are public officials and it was improper for them to express their political views during a Board meeting.

Terri Whyte, a high school math teacher, expressed appreciation for the ALICE training she'd received. She said she feels much more prepared after being trained, and noted she and her class actively practice drills such as barricading the classroom door.

Susan Stone, Kayhi teacher, thanked Ms. Lougee for the meetings she'd held with the social studies department and high school administrators regarding graduation requirements. Mrs. Stone described unique aspects of the American Government and Street Law courses, such as students being able to experience a mock voir dire with Superior Court Judge Stephens. She also listed some of the practical life skills covered in the class.

Kayhi teacher Rebecca Bowlen expressed support and appreciation for the ALICE training. She noted she is in her 28th year of teaching in Ketchikan, but described a school in south central Los Angeles amid gang turf in which she'd worked prior. Contrasting the two, she stated, Ketchikan is doing a good job of school safety preparedness. Ms. Bowlen then differentiated curriculum from materials in reference to the discussion of the ALICE curriculum. The key issue is proper delivery, she said. Lastly, Ms. Bowlen said she felt police officers at a previous Board meeting had been patronized.

Tina Peckham stated she wanted to clarify the Tongass School of Arts and Sciences' stance on the ALICE program. She is the president of the school's Academic Policy Committee. On January 9, the APC approved implementation of the ALICE training program for its students, she said. On January 21, the TSAS APC voted that the school's safety committee would adapt and teach the ALICE curriculum to reflect best practices and the principals of its HET (Highly Effective Teaching) model, said Ms. Peckham.

Darby Mainardi, who introduced herself as a parent of a kindergartner, and with a master's in education, also spoke about the ALICE curriculum. She expressed appreciation that a plan had been implemented for students and their safety, but had reservations about the curriculum for the primary ages. Young children would be confused with too many options, she indicated. If she was teaching the ALICE curriculum she would limit a safety response to one main idea, she said. Ms. Mainardi also recommended that any modifications of the curriculum be specifically noted for the benefit of any new teachers. On another topic, Ms. Mainardi stated support for a full year of government as a high school requirement.

Falene Reeve, a parent of four elementary-age students, said she applauded the district for trying to improve safety and for having safety committees. She asked for the district to slow down the process for the younger children in regards to ALICE training. Ms. Reeve said she hadn't heard enough district conversation about training for the younger children and consideration of the whole child. She said there are a lot of questions on this subject nationally as well. She stated support for focusing on improving the safety of district facilities, and for providing teachers with more tools and strategies for school safety.

Melissa Johnson, vice president of Ketchikan Indian Community and its education chair, stated that one of KIC's goals is to have more of an advocacy role in the city and state. Additionally, the education committee has a goal for its members to attend as many School Board meetings as possible. She noted that at the previous meeting Randy Williams and Judy Leask Guthrie had both attended and spoke. Ms. Johnson requested a government to government consultation.

APPOINTMENT TO THE VACANT SCHOOL BOARD SEAT

Proposed process for appointment

Motion to approve the proposed Board vacancy appointment process *(provided in the Board packet)*

Moved by: TABB; Second by: GUBATAYAO

ROLL CALL

Student Member Kaelyn Cadiente (preferential vote) - AYE

SKAN, BECKER, GUBATAYAO, TABB, ROBBINS, MATTSON - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

Interviews of candidates: Patrick Von Danskin; Thomas M. Heutte; Dustin Larna; Anna M. Sherman
The candidate interviews began at 6:50 p.m. with Patrick Von Danskin interviewed first, followed by Thomas Heutte, Dustin Larna and Anna Sherman. The applicants waited in a separate room until their interview time so as not to hear the questions ahead of time.

Balloting and motion(s) regarding appointment

At the conclusion of the interviews, each Board member ranked the candidates on a secret ballot. (The two teleconferencing members had been provided ballot sheets electronically). The secret ballots were tallied by Board Clerk Kerry Watson and Superintendent Beth Lougee. Following the approved appointment process, the two highest ranked candidates - Tom Heutte and Dustin Larna - advanced to the next round. President Mattson thanked the other candidates for applying.

These two finalists were asked a second set of questions. Balloting took place again. President Mattson announced that Mr. Heutte had received the majority of votes. She encouraged all applicants to run as candidates in the October municipal election, and thanked them for their interest and time.

Motion to appoint Thomas M. Heutte to the School Board seat.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: MATTSON

ROLL CALL

Student Member Kaelyn Cadiente (preferential vote) - AYE
ROBBINS, GUBATAYAO, SKAN, BECKER, TABB, MATTSON - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

Oath of Office

Mr. Heutte took the Oath of Office and was seated at the Board table.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's negotiated contract with legal counsel, a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district

Moved by: TABB; Second by: GUBATAYAO

ROLL CALL

TABB, GUBATAYAO, BECKER, SKAN, MATTSON, ROBBINS, HEUTTE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

President Mattson stated that in addition to the Board, Superintendent Lougee and attorney John Sedor, as legal counsel, would participate in the Executive Session.

The Board entered the executive session at about 7:47 p.m. The session ended at about 8:18 p.m. and the Board came back into regular session. President Mattson stated that no action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS - #13

Motion that the Board of Education approve an Employment Contract with Elizabeth Lougee as Superintendent of Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District, for a term of two years, commencing on or about July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2022, in the amount of \$145,000 salary for 2020-2021 (does not include benefits.)

Moved by: TABB; Second by: HEUTTE

Discussion

There was no discussion.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Kaelyn Cadiente (preferential vote) - AYE

ROBBINS, GUBATAYAO, SKAN, BECKER, TABB, HEUTTE, MATTSON - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION - January 24, 2020 and February 7, 2020. Clerk Treasurer Diane Gubatayao stated appreciation for the new claims format.

REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS – SUPERINTENDENT/STAFF:

Superintendent Beth Lougee first commented on two recent special programs that involved students at school and district levels: the Battle of the Books and the Spelling Bee. In addition, each district school has been involved in preparing events and presentations for Elizabeth Peratrovich Day. She had more information on all these events in her written report.

On another subject, Superintendent Lougee said the district had responded to false information on social media about the coronavirus being in the schools. The district's nurse and Alaska Department of Education and Early Development had also presented information in response. She noted the district would follow policy in the event of an influenza or pandemic outbreak; and she had included a sample policy from the Association of Alaska School Boards on this topic in the Board packet.

Ketchikan High School Annual Report

Three students with the Lead-On group started off the Ketchikan High School annual report. Evelyn Nutt, Franchezca Correa, and Maegan Chua explained the genesis of the group and how they'd selected the issue of substance abuse for a community campaign. The students recently hosted the first of two planned school assemblies on the issue. In addition, Lead On publicizes daily facts in the school regarding substance abuse and has set up a box to gather anonymous comments from students and staff on the subject.

Principal Jason House, in following up the students, stated how proud he is of their leadership and advocacy. He, and his two assistant principals, Cole Maxwell and Melissa Johnson, highlighted aspects of Ketchikan High School, and on how the school works to support the district's mission and vision statements. The report ranged from celebrating the school's strong community partnerships, its diverse academic offerings for students, as well as its opportunities to be involved in activities. Principal House spoke about strengths and challenges for the school, and included details on the goals and action steps staff developed under the school's STEPP plan. Four key goals are to: increase the overall attendance rate from about 93 percent to over 95 percent; increase the four-year graduation rate from 91 to 95 percent; increase the cultural connectedness of students; and to raise the proficiency of English Language Learners.

Mr. Maxwell's segment of the report focused on community partnerships and on the diverse learning paths for students at Kayhi. Activities Director Melissa Johnson spoke about winter sports and activities at the school, and noted the school has the defending state champions for the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. She also commented on a new activity of online gaming, "E-sports." Additional activities, clubs and classes were also listed by Mr. Maxwell, and he stated they all provide connections for the students within the building and outside of it.

Wrapping up the Superintendent's report, Superintendent Lougee noted the school district will assist in providing resources on the 2020 U.S. Census; and the district will participate in a community health fair on March 14 as it has done in the past. She also commented briefly on the FY 21 budget development schedule.

Directors' Reports

Business Manager Katie Parrott provided a summary of state education funding, historical district budget information, and the outlook for the district's FY 21 operating budget. (The information was all provided in written and graph form in the Board packet.) Regarding the outlook, she stressed the likelihood of flat funding with no supplemental state appropriations.

She noted that as part of the budget development process, one public budget presentation has occurred, and another is scheduled for March 7.

Student Board Member's Report

Student Kailyn Cadiante presented the Student Member's report, which first focused on Kayhi students' recommendation regarding the ALICE program. The students who weighed in support implementation of the K-12 student curriculum, with mental health considerations taken into account. A concern expressed was that evacuation be prioritized over any confrontation of an attacker. Kailyn also reported on the recent Job Fair at Kayhi; and a presentation by Kayhi's National Ocean Science Bowl team.

*****PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY*****

Motion to adopt the proposed revisions to Board Policy 5141.31 - Immunizations in second reading.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: TABB

Public Hearing

No public members commented.

Board Discussion

Board Member Tabb commented that the policy revisions align with state statute requirements.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Kaelyn Cadiante (preferential vote) - AYE

SKAN, BECKER, GUBATAYAO, TABB, ROBBINS, MATTSON, HEUTTE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

*****PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY*****

Motion to approve the recommended changes to graduation requirements as reflected in the proposed revisions to Board Policy 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements in first reading.

Moved by: ROBBINS; Second by: MATTSON

Public Hearing

No public members commented.

Board Discussion

Board Member Gubatayao said she was still conflicted about the American Government requirements, and the required second semester. Superintendent Lougee explained the recommendation for the three required social studies requirements is that they be made up of: one full credit (1 year) of American Government; a half-credit of Alaska studies; with the remaining 1.5 credits comprised of a combination of other social studies offerings.

To clarify, Board Member Tabb asked if the recommended requirements had changed since the last Board meeting. Ms. Lougee confirmed that the recommendation had changed from 1/2 credit to 1 credit of American Government.

Ms. Gubatayao stated appreciation discussions, surveys and gathering of information on this issue. She also noted that many colleges require a full year of U.S. history upon entrance.

ROLL CALL

**Student Member Kaelyn Cadiente (preferential vote) - AYE
TABB, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS, SKAN, BECKER, HEUTTE, MATTSON - ALL AYES**

MOTION PASSED

CONSENT CALENDAR

- *Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 22, 2020.*
- *Motion to approve Resolution #20-04 and Plan Amendment to the district's 403(b) Retirement Plan.*

Mr. Tabb requested that "Item A" (the regular meeting minutes of January 22, 2020) be removed from the "Consent Calendar" and placed under "Unfinished Business."

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of February 12, 2020 as revised.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: GUBATAYAO

ROLL CALL

**Student Member Kaelyn Cadiente (preferential vote) - AYE
ROBBINS, BECKER, TABB, SKAN, GUBATAYAO, HEUTTE, MATTSON - ALL AYES**

MOTION PASSED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 22, 2020.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: BECKER

Friendly amendment

Motion to postpone consideration of that matter until the next scheduled Board meeting.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

With no objection expressed, the friendly amendment was accepted.

ROLL CALL - on postponement of the regular meeting minutes of January 22, 2020.

**Student Member Kaelyn Cadiente (preferential vote) - AYE
ROBBINS, BECKER, TABB, SKAN, GUBATAYAO, HEUTTE, MATTSON - ALL AYES**

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve the ALICE curriculum for K-12 classrooms.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: MATTSON

Discussion

Board Member Tabb asked what had been discovered regarding being permitted to amend the ALICE curriculum.

Superintendent Lougee responded in-depth about the fact-finding, including what had been discovered in contacting the company and also other districts that use the ALICE curriculum; and recommended that the district should move forward with staff training. She emphasized that the focus now is on making sure each school's staff is fully trained. Early release time this school year to provide that training when students are not in the schools will probably be necessary.

Superintendent Lougee said she is recommending a committee review process for any amendments of the adopted curriculum, involving grade-level teachers, the school psychologist, mental health professionals, and police, to start in March. The aim would be to present back to the Board on May 27, 2020. Superintendent Lougee said that final adoption of an ALICE curriculum would then be reviewed in August. The superintendent also stressed that steps taken to modify the ALICE student curriculum will not stop the process of staff training.

Board Member Tabb cited a white paper about active shooter training by the National Educators Association and the American Federation of Teachers that had just been released the previous day. He read the groups' recommendations against active shooter drills for students and asked that those be considered by the district safety team.

Board Member Gubatayao stated appreciation for the Superintendent's research into whether the ALICE curriculum could be modified. She commented that she hoped that suggestions made by the national teachers groups would be incorporated in the August recommendation. She said she trusts teachers in knowing what is appropriate for their students. Ms. Gubatayao stated she would support the curriculum's adoption that night.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Kaelyn Cadiente (preferential vote) - AYE
SKAN, ROBBINS, GUBATAYAO, BECKER, MATTSON - AYES
TABB, HEUTTE - NAYS
5-2

MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION

School Board Goals: *Goals were formulated in a school board work session on January 29. The goals will be considered for action at the next meeting.*

School Board Training: *Timi Tullis and John Sedor of the Association of Alaska School Boards are available to provide a four-hour training to the Board. March 24 from 4 to 8 p.m. was agreed upon.*

AASB March Fly-In: *There was agreement to send up to three Board members. Board Members Mattson, Gubatayao and Heutte would like to attend.*

CITIZEN REMARKS:

No citizens commented.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. commented regarding a citizen's perspective on Board treatment of the police at the previous meeting. He referred to the seriousness with which Board members regard their role and said the Board respects the police department. He stated Board members had operated in good faith.

Board Member Tom Heutte commented on the district needing to dispel a rumor circulating on social media regarding the coronavirus in a district school. The spread of disinformation on social media appalls him, he said.

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Board meetings were noted before a motion was made and seconded for adjournment. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Approved as distributed at the February 26, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Bridget Mattson