

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR meeting of
October 14, 2020
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 14th day of October in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Bridget Mattson called the meeting to order at 6:00 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, Paul Robbins Jr. and Thomas Heutte.

Student Member Henry Clark was also present.

Administrative staff present included: Beth Lougee, Superintendent; Business Manager Katie Parrott; and Board Clerk Kerry Watson. Several building principals and department directors were also in attendance.

Vision and Mission Statement

The school district's vision and mission statements were read by School Board Diane Gubatayao.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda of October 14, 2020

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: TABB

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) - AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Caitlin Jacobson, librarian at Ketchikan High School, was recognized for her work in the school library profession. She was recently announced as the recipient of the 2020 Linda K. Barrett award from the Alaska Association of School Librarians. The award is given for outstanding service in the school library profession.

Linda Lory-Allen, a bus driver with First Student, was recognized by Michael Johnson, site manager with the bus company. He commended her dependability, communication and teamwork skills. She has been with First Student off and on for more than 14 years, said Mr. Johnson, and is retiring soon.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Kyle Quinn with Alaska Pest Management first thanked the School Board for its work; then stated he was available to answer any questions on the action item relating to his company later on the agenda.

Clinton Wright, an eighth-grade student at Schoenbar Middle School, spoke about why he thought mask wearing at school should be optional. He cited inconsistencies within the district in how and when the mask-wearing rules were applied. He also mentioned miscommunication and misunderstandings were possible as masks could make speech unclear. He noted his mother operates an assisted living facility where no COVID cases have occurred, and where mask-wearing is optional.

Dee Wright, mother of Clinton, also called for making masks optional in the district's schools. She said that Ketchikan is not a hot spot for COVID and its residents are not at risk. In addition to also commenting on varied application of mask protocol in the district, she described a parallel inconsistency in determining when to send symptomatic children home from school. She suggested that a school nurse should be making that determination, not other staff at the schools.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Leslie Becker briefly commented on a meeting of the insurance committee, and stated that the committee serves an important function of the Board. Ms. Becker, who was attending her last meeting as a School Board member, offered to be an ongoing resource and support on this issue.

Ms. Gubatayao said that this month is Domestic Violence Prevention Week, and spoke about a local event recognizing such. She commented that domestic violence affects many students.

Board Member Sonya Skan said she'd like to schedule a Native Education meeting, tentatively for October 28. She proposed that recognition of traditional tribal land be one of the subjects to be discussed by the committee before it comes to the full Board.

Claims for Information – October 2, 2020 – Workmen's compensation payments, and some other insurance payments in the claims were noted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Member Report: Student Member Henry Clark first reported on the accomplishment of Kayhi cross country runner Mickey Lapinski taking first at the Southeast regionals with a time of 16:45 for the 5k race. Kayhi can't compete at the state tournament this year though, he added. Swimming and volleyball have also had a couple meets, and debate's first meet will be on the weekend, virtually hosted by Metlakatla. The SBA is working with the Kayhi staff to resupply that bathrooms at Kayhi with paper towels, he said. Henry said that the paper towels were removed due to vandalism, but indicated they are especially needed now with an increased emphasis on hygiene. He also reported that the SBA is working on plans for a mural at Kayhi to recognize the community; and that the service committee was hosting a trash pickup at Rotary Beach that coming Saturday.

Superintendent Report:

Superintendent Beth Lougee announced that late that afternoon the first positive student COVID case in the district had been confirmed at Ketchikan High School. The school was closed after the confirmation and there would be no school the next day, she said. This will allow for contact tracing and a deep cleaning of the building. The public, teachers, students and parents will be kept updated, she said; and all other schools in the district will remain open.

Ms. Lougee asked Cole Maxwell, Kayhi assistant principal and activities director, to talk about student activity travel in light of COVID factors. She said that the Alaska School Activities Association has come out with new recommendations, leaving it up to districts to choose whether to travel to, or host students from, a community with a higher COVID incidence level. She also noted that state tournaments for fall had just been cancelled by Alaska Student Activities Association (ASAA.) Regional tournaments can take place if they occur by a certain date. She asked Cole Maxwell Kayhi assistant principal and activities director, to speak more about this subject.

Student Activities

Mr. Maxwell said he is working on protocols for student activities and looking ahead to what might occur with winter and spring activities. He said that if Ketchikan is at the lowest two levels (termed green and yellow) its students can participate in activities with students from a community at either of the same levels, either traveling to that other community or hosting its students here. Anchorage's high COVID status at a "red" level precluded Kayhi's cross-country runner Mickey Lapinski from going there to compete at state, said Mr. Maxwell. He spoke briefly about travel mitigation planning and protocols. He stated that ASAA has set November 21 as a date by which all current student activities need to be completed, including regionals.

Maintenance Department:

Al Jacobson, director of maintenance, gave an update on district maintenance projects. This included that:

- A flatbed truck with a spreader was being sold (on the agenda that evening);
- The main fire control panel at Schoenbar, monitoring smoke and heat and tied to the fire department, had died. Fire department officials were informed, and allowed occupancy if the building was monitored until the panel could be replaced.
- Control panels at several other schools will be upgraded to conform to new HVAC software;
- The shipment of new boilers for Kayhi has been delayed, putting the department a month late on its schedule.
- A security assessment of safety and security needs will be conducted in the district in mid-November.

Regarding the security assessment, Superintendent Lougee said it would update the Safe Havens report that was produced years before.

Business Manager:

Business Manager Katie Parrott shared that the USDA had just announced an expanded allowance of the summer food service program waiver through the end of the school year. She commented that the continuance of the program will cut down on confusion for families, as it means the meal program will not change midyear. She emphasized that the program makes available two free meals a day to all students enrolled in the district, including those through the Fast Track home school. Ms. Parrott also reported that the department is preparing for some multi-year contracts and the bidding process, such as for transportation and auditing services.

Superintendent

Superintendent Lougee noted her report again covers the district and Superintendent goals of instruction, safety, trust and budget. For instruction, she said she focused on reviewing assessment data, such as the kindergarten developmental profile, which measures a kindergartener's readiness for school. That assessment was cancelled by the state this year, and she reviewed data from previous years. The district will continue to work on the instructional goal of increasing the number of students reading at grade level by third grade, she said.

Moving on to other areas of the report, Superintendent Lougee noted that enrollment is staying steady; and then commented on the safety, trust and budget goals. A district safety plan is ready to become a living document, she said; and it covers what to do in all types of emergencies. In addition to a district safety committee, each school will have its own safety committee. In her written report, she had also included her trust goals and budget goals. For the latter, she included the timeline for development of the budget.

Board member Leslie Becker said she was disappointed in what she viewed as a lack of measures in the Superintendent's goals, particularly with the reading goal.

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

Motion to approve revisions to Personnel policy, Board Policy 4020 - Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace in first reading.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: BECKER

Public Hearing

There were no public comments about the policy.

Board Discussion

Board Member Gubatayao asked if there was an employee handbook that included expectations of a drug and alcohol-free workplace. Business Manager Parrott confirmed that there was. Mr. Robbins Jr. explained that a section in this policy was being recommended for deletion because it had redundant information.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve the revisions to Board Policy 3540 - Transportation in first reading.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Public Hearing

There were no public comments about the policy.

Board Discussion

Board Member Jordan Tabb said that he appreciated the updating of language in the policy to make it more respectful and inclusive.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve the revisions to Board Policy 5131.3 - Bus Conduct in first reading.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: BECKER

Public Hearing / Board Discussion

There were no public comments nor Board comments regarding this policy revision.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 23, 2020

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of October 14, 2020, consisting solely of the regular meeting minutes of September 23, 2020.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: BECKER

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the purchase of Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) Equipment from Provantage LLC in the amount of \$29,500.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR., Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

There were no questions or discussion by the Board.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve the service agreement with Alaska Pest Management for the 2020-2021 school year in an amount not to exceed \$40,125.

Moved by: BECKER; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

Board Member Robbins Jr. asked if the company's representative could address community concerns about the chemicals being sprayed in the schools.

Kyle Quinn of Alaska Pest Management, who had introduced himself at the podium earlier, explained that the district was using a peroxide multi surface disinfectant. It is one of the number one EPA-approved disinfectants to kill COVID-19 on non-porous surfaces, he said. Mr. Quinn added that it has less than a minute kill rate, which allows for spraying of less product. If instead, a product such as bleach had to be used, the saturation time required is up to 10 minutes meaning a lot of product has to be laid down on a lot of surfaces, he said. Another advantage to the peroxide product is it can be sprayed on electronics and furniture, without leading to discoloration or harm. It is inert after it dries, so is not harmful to any who touch the surfaces, he added. Mr. Quinn said his company has used this same disinfectant in other multiple locations and has applied it both inside and outside.

Business Manager Parrott said that this EPA-approved product is also on a list specifically of products safe for a school environment.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve the public sale of the Meyers spreader from the maintenance department.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

There were no questions or discussion by the Board.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION

Smart Start Planning Sessions (options for school after Christmas Break). Superintendent Lougee explained her recommendations for resuming school after Christmas break, as scheduled on January 6, 2021. This included staff and students planning ahead for possible quarantining; forming a task force to plan for reopening safely after the break; and pre-planning for substitute needs. Board members provided some feedback. **Superintendent evaluation:** The focus and scheduling of the two evaluations per year specified in the Superintendent's contract was discussed. The first evaluation is due to occur in October. An evaluation template will be sent to Board members.

Recognition of Traditional Tribal Land: Ms. Gubatayao explained her recommendation for a School Board acknowledgement of the traditional tribal land. There was a suggestion to discuss this first in the Native Education Committee.

Association of Alaska School Boards Annual Conference - November 7-8, 2020: All Board members will be registered for this virtual conference.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mr. Robbins recognized the superintendent and her staff for developing a school plan that allowed flexibility and continued operation even as the community's COVID level fluctuated. He expressed appreciation to Tom Heutte for serving a second appointment to the Board, and thanked him for his dedication on the School Board.

Student Henry Clark shared that he was scared to hear that a student at Kayhi had tested positive for COVID. He said he hopes that Kayhi students can return to school as soon as possible at a 100% level. He added that the administration had handled the situation well.

Ms. Gubatayao thanked Mr. Heutte for his service and his ideas as a Board member. She then expressed appreciation for the teachers who she said are on the front line with the students. She added how excited students are to be going to school, and said she is thankful for the community's support to make that possible.

Ms. Mattson thanked Ms. Becker for her time and work on the Board. She also thanked Mr. Heutte, complimenting him for the manner in which he had served on the Board. President Mattson then expressed appreciation as well to the continuing Board members, to the teachers who serve students, and to the community, which she said is very student-oriented.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Upcoming training opportunities for Board members were noted.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the October 28, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Bridget Mattson