

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular meeting of July 15, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 15th day of July, 2020, in the Ketchikan 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; Clerk-Treasurer Diane Gubatayao; Board Members Leslie Becker; Jordan Tabb; Paul Robbins Jr., and Tom Heutte. Vice President Sonya Skan was absent and excused.

Superintendent Beth Lougee participated via teleconference as she was out of town.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of July 15, 2020.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: TABB

ROLL CALL

BECKER, TABB, GUBATAYAO, HEUTTE, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Recognition was given to the Kayhi Rotary Interact Club for the student group's selection for the Platinum distinction from Rotary International. This recognition is the highest level of citation that Rotary International gives to any club, adult or student, said First City Rotary past president Margaret Custer. Emma Campbell, the outgoing president of Kayhi Rotary Interact Club, a Kayhi Class of 2020 graduate, described Interact's many annual activities. These include selling products from TAFCOM, an organization in Tanzania, Africa at the Blueberry Arts Festival; and an annual pie auction, benefiting the Ketchikan Pioneers' Home, among many others. Incoming Rotary Interact Club president Cade McAllister and Interact member Jodee Paule were also present to receive the recognition.

School Board President Bridget Mattson said the Board is proud to recognize these student leaders from Kayhi.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Parent Tiffany Cook addressed school plans for the 2020-2021 school year. She said she is pleading for the district to come up with a plan where students have a consistent place to go for school every day. She stated parents were completely left out of the district's planning and that they have many ideas. Ms. Cook referred to a local Facebook group initiated to focus on the school plans. She said an anonymous survey of that group showed a majority would support a parental waiver allowing their children to attend on site school. Ms. Cook objected to a blended learning model being considered for all students when the community's current risk with the coronavirus was low. She said Ketchikan is not a "hot zone" for COVID-19 cases, and its school plan needs to be based accordingly. Ms. Cook also stated that education is essential and indicated teachers needed to be back in the classroom. She also cited medical professionals' views on the importance of getting children back in school. She concluded by speaking about the health and safety risks to those vulnerable children in the community who will be home alone if school is not available to them.

Ali Ginter, who said she is a stay at home parent, stated she was disappointed in the district as a whole for not considering the uniqueness of Ketchikan. The community's current levels of the virus do not warrant the amount of restrictions the district is trying to implement in the current Smart Start plan, she said. She cited Ketchikan's isolation and its ability to test people arriving in town. Ms. Ginter said she does agree with having a back-up plan ready to implement if Ketchikan's numbers rise. She stated that distance learning should not be forced on all students and families; and that Fast Track is available as an alternative to those families uncomfortable with sending their children to school.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Member Diane Gubatayao briefly reported on a Zoom meeting she'd attended regarding student activities for the coming year, hosted by the Alaska Association of Student Activities' Billy Strickland.

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. reported on a meeting of the Policy Committee. The committee of Mr. Robbins, Board Member Tom Heutte and Board President Bridget Mattson, met and reviewed the Professional Boundaries policy which was on that evening's agenda. The standing committee will meet regularly to review policies by sections, said Mr. Robbins.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Beth Lougee spoke about ongoing work regarding the Smart Start plan. She said it was necessary to roll out the draft plan on May 27 to enable school to start in the fall. The various teams planning for the upcoming school year have gone "back to the drawing board" many times to try to address various issues and suggestions which have arisen from parents and the community, said Superintendent Lougee. Surveys have been conducted with teachers and parents, and the results will be used by the planning teams and presented to parents at a proposed upcoming Town Hall meeting. Meetings have also been held with the Emergency Operations Command manager, and public health officials. That type of group will make a determination of when the schools might need to move from one risk level to another, she said. Superintendent Lougee stated that the school plan is focused on

providing an education that meets the needs of all students, based on the COVID-19 situation taking place in Ketchikan. She then shared the probable timeline for work on the plan over the next few weeks, leading up to a “town hall” presentation to the community. She suggested the Town Hall be scheduled for July 27; and that it be repeated if needed on succeeding nights to accommodate all who want to hear it.

Board Member Diane Gubatayao said that she understands that the ultimate decision on the “plan” will be by a vote of the School Board. She asked that results of the parent and teacher surveys be provided to the Board to inform its decision-making. Superintendent Lougee said she would present it to the Board after the planning team has time to at the results.

Board Members Leslie Becker, Jordan Tabb and Paul Robbins, Jr., all commented on their hope that the Board and community would receive information on the updated plan as soon as possible. After the discussion, Board President Mattson summarized the Board’s request: to have the raw data of surveys as soon as possible; and to attempt to release at least the framework of the Smart Start planning sessions so people are prepared for the town hall with the basics of the plan.

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

Motion to approve Board Policy 3510 - Maintenance in first reading.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: HEUTTE

Public Hearing / Board Discussion

No public members commented; neither were there Board member comments on the policy.

ROLL CALL

HEUTTE, ROBBINS JR., BECKER, GUBATAYAO, TABB, MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

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

Motion to approve Board Policy 5141.42 - Professional Boundaries of Staff with Students in first reading.

Moved by: HEUTTE; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

Public Hearing

There were no comments by members of the public for the policy hearing.

Board Discussion

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr., said that the Board’s policy committee had reviewed this new policy from the Association of Alaska School Boards. He and fellow policy committee member Tom Heutte commented on a section of the policy that the committee feels needs more clarification.

ROLL CALL

GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., HEUTTE, TABB, BECKER, MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. *Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 24, 2020.*
- b. *Motion to approve Resolution 21-01 authorizing district bank signers and bank accounts.*
- c. *Motion to approve an administrative contract with Scott Huff for the 2020-2021 school year.*
- d. *Motion to approve a teacher contract with Ali Pry for the 2020-2021 school year.*

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of July 15, 2020.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: HEUTTE

ROLL CALL

TABB, HEUTTE, ROBBINS JR., GUBATAYAO, BECKER, MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to ratify the 2020-2022 Negotiated KEA-ESP Labor Contract between KGBSD and the KEA Administrative Assistants.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

Ms. Gubatayao stated her appreciation to Business Manager Parrott for her work in bringing the negotiations to a conclusion and a contract.

ROLL CALL

GUBATAYAO, BECKER, HUETTE, TABB, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve application to the FY21 Governor's Emergency Education Relief Competitive Grant fund.

Moved by: HEUTTE; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

Ms. Parrott briefly described how the district would use the funds, if awarded. However, she added that she'd heard there were many applicants.

ROLL CALL

HEUTTE, BECKER, GUBATAYAO, TABB, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve the contract with Schmolck Mechanical Contractors for the Kayhi Boiler #2 Replacement Project in the amount of \$240,094.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: TABB

Discussion

There was no discussion

ROLL CALL

TABB, ROBBINS JR., BECKER, HEUTTE, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION

Board Member goals relating to the School Climate and Connectedness Survey: *Board members discussed areas of school climate and connectedness that they'd like to see addressed in Board goals.*

Town Hall tentatively scheduled for July 29, 2020: *The Board agreed with the Superintendent's suggestion to schedule the Town Hall on July 27, with a special Board meeting on July 29.*

CITIZEN REMARKS

There were no citizen remarks.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Gubatayao shared various details of her life and stated the school planning decisions weigh on her. These included that: her father had been a doctor; both her children and now her grandchildren have been schooled in Ketchikan; she has a grandson who has had leukemia; and her daughter teaches in the Ketchikan district.

Mr. Robbins Jr. commented in support of the work of Superintendent Lougee and her staff throughout the school planning process. He said that the public's comments have been heard not just by the Board, but also by the Superintendent, and changes have been made to the school plans as a result.

Ms. Mattson commented on several issues regarding the Smart Start planning. First, she disputed assertions that the Board's May vote regarding the Smart Start draft plan had violated the Open Meetings Act. She said she had consulted with legal counsel multiple times, and the Board's voting on the draft did not violate the OMA. She stressed it was a draft presented early to get the public's input; adding she was grateful for that input. Some of those ideas have been implemented into what will be final plans. Those involved in the planning want to be able to respond to the many variables while keeping children and staff safe, she said. President Mattson said the goal is for children to be back in school, and teams are working diligently to achieve the most face to face time as safely possible. Ms. Mattson also spoke to the need for the plans to be flexible to respond quickly if the virus situation in Ketchikan changes or if the state issues mandates. She concluded by again thanking the public for their input, and expressing gratitude for the many hours spent by the staff planning for the start of school.

Advance Planning

The next regular meeting of August 12, 2020, was noted. There are no updates on scheduling of Government to Government consultations (also listed on advance planning.)

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the Board meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the August 12, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Bridget Mattson