

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR meeting of
Wednesday, March 24, 2021**

Remotely held via Webex video conferencing platform

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 24th day of March 2021, participating remotely via the videoconferencing platform WebEx. Board President Kim Hodne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present on the videoconference to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board President Kim Hodne; Vice President Sonya Skan; Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; and Board Members Diane Gubatayao; Jordan Tabb; Paul Robbins Jr. and Nicole Anderson. Student member Henry Clark was also present.

Administrative staff present via videoconference included: Superintendent Beth Lougee; Business Manager Katie Parrott; and Board Clerk Kerry Watson.

The traditional lands acknowledgement was read by Board President Kim Hodne.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda of the March 24, 2021 regular meeting.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ANDERSON

Superintendent Beth Lougee requested that the "New Business" item of a purchase of English Language Arts curriculum be removed from the agenda. This would allow for its review by the curriculum committee and would follow the curriculum process outlined in Board Policy 6141 and Administrative Regulation 6141, she said.

Motion to amend the agenda to remove item 11a (*purchase of ELA curriculum*)

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

ROLL CALL (to amend agenda)

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, TABB, SKAN, MATTSON, HODNE - AYES

AMENDMENT APPROVED

ROLL CALL - Amended Main Motion

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, TABB, SKAN, MATTSON, HODNE - AYES

AMENDED MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Student Member Henry Clark recognized the girls' and boys' basketball teams for their performances at regionals. Both teams are headed to the state tournament. He said the team members worked very hard this year despite all the setbacks, competing at a level indicative of a normal year.

Board Member Diane Gubatayao announced that the K-Highlites Dance Team had scored a superior rating for regionals. They were judged on a video of their routine. She also complimented the Kayhi cheerleaders for their performance.

CITIZEN REMARKS

No citizens had signed up to speak nor were any written comments submitted.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Policy Committee - Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. reported that the policy committee had reviewed 7 policies from the 1000 series. Two of those policies with proposed revisions were before the Board that evening. The committee also discussed ideas in a "Transforming Schools" document that Ms. Gubatayao brought forward.

Finance Committee - The finance committee continues to go over the budget, reported Board Member Bridget Mattson, and is focused on using resources wisely, including COVID funds.

Assembly/School Board Liaison Committee - Board Member Nicole Anderson said the discussion of this committee at its March 22 meeting centered on not fiscally overburdening the Borough.

Other Information

Ms. Gubatayao added some comments about the finance committee meeting, including that the deficit in the local education fund had been discussed. She said she knew that was a topic at the Liaison meeting as well.

Board Member Jordan Tabb said that he and Ms. Anderson had been asked to look at recommendations from the district special education director in regards to staffing and special education funding. They hope to forward recommendations to the finance committee.

Ms. Gubatayao commented on the value of a youth mental health first-aid class she'd attended.

Claims of March 19, 2021 for Information - Questions were asked regarding a Northwest Evaluation payment (MAP assessment); library consortium fees; and a claim for State of Alaska "school based services."

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Beth Lougee said she'd provided a review of the past year in her written report. She stated the report emphasizes the need to focus on student achievement, learning recovery, adequate funding, and safe and healthy learning. Superintendent Lougee spoke about the planning for addressing learning recovery, also referred to as learning loss. She also noted that PEAKS assessments will be administered soon, beginning with Ketchikan High School. Ms. Lougee concluded by expressing thanks to those who had provided support while she was on bereavement and sick leave.

Student Member's Report:

Student Member Henry Clark first noted the success of Kayhi teams at Regionals, and said students were happy to be able to perform and play in person. He commented on Spring Break truly being a break for many, but added that he was happy that school had resumed afterward this year. Many students are still quarantining as a result of their trips, he also noted. In addition, Henry announced that prom will occur at the end of April.

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

Motion to approve revisions to the Board Policy 1020 - Youth Services in first reading.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Public Discussion

No members of the public had signed up to speak regarding the policy.

Board Discussion

Committee member Paul Robbins Jr. briefly explained the revisions being proposed by the policy committee.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

TABB, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, SKAN, HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve revisions to Board Policy 1100 - Communication with the Public in first reading.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ANDERSON

Public Discussion

No members of the public had signed up to speak regarding the policy.

Board Discussion

Mr. Robbins explained that the proposed revision would strengthen the policy language regarding the district's responsibility to communicate with the public.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

TABB, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, SKAN, HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of March 24, 2021, consisting of the following:

a. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 10, 2021.

b. Motion to approve the offering of tenured teacher contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

Ms. Gubatayao stated she had a potential conflict of interest regarding the tenured contracts, as her daughter and daughter-in-law were both on the list.

President Hodne ruled she did not have a conflict of interest, after determining that neither individual lived in the same household as Ms. Gubatayao. He also noted that the tenured contract approval was broad-based, covering tenured teachers throughout the district.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

TABB, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, SKAN, HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the amended FY22 Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District to include the Kayhi Auditorium Sound System project, as presented.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

Board Member Robbins asked why the sound system was placed higher on the amended CIP list than projects such as mechanical upgrades and roofs.

Business Manager Parrott stated this amendment was in response to technical requests from the state. She provided some explanation on the various ways that capital projects can be handled, in consultation with the Borough, depending on whether they are major or are smaller projects.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

MATTSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., SKAN, ANDERSON, HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve the offer of a 5-year contract for bus transportation services to First Student.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

Discussion

Ms. Gubatayao remarked that she'd helped with the RFP review. First Student had tried to upgrade its transportation program and had been responsive to the points made in the RFP, she stated.

Mr. Hodne also commented on the work done on the contract and said that First Student had stepped up.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

TABB, SKAN, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

Motion to retroactively issue a three-month extra duty contract in the amount of \$5,000 for Katie Parrott for her services as acting superintendent.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: MATTSON

Discussion

Mr. Robbins stated he supported this action, but wanted to note that Ms. Parrott had expressed her opposition to the payment when it was proposed in a finance committee meeting. She had expressed repeatedly that others had also done extra work during Superintendent Lougee's absence, said Mr. Robbins.

Ms. Gubatayao commented on Ms. Parrott having performed two jobs while in the midst of budget planning. The retroactive extra duty amount is well-deserved, she said.

Mr. Hodne stated that this is not a bonus; it is retroactive payment for extra work. He said he might vote "no," not because he opposes the payment, but to support Ms. Parrott's wishes. He also stated that the payment would come from the Board's budget.

Ms. Mattson also stated this was not a bonus. There is precedence in the district for this type of payment for extra duties deserving of remuneration, she said.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – ABSTAIN

MATTSON, SKAN, ROBBINS JR., GUBATAYAO, ANDERSON, TABB - AYES

HODNE - NAY

MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION

Smart Start review - The Board and Superintendent had a broad discussion on factors to consider in planning school operation, including noting that CDC guidelines and local EOC risk levels were being modified.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Mattson said she was thrilled to come back from spring break, as compared to what had occurred last year. She expressed appreciation to administration, teachers and staff. She also said she was grateful that vaccines were available for those who wanted them.

Board Member Gubatayao commented in appreciation of Board members' work on committees. She congratulated the Region 5 athletes for their accomplishments. She also remarked on students' resilience for making the best of a difficult year.

Student Board Member Clark said he was excited for how well Regions went. He also said he was pleased that Board members had discussed many of the school issues that had been on his mind this year.

Board Member Nicole Anderson also stated her congratulations to the girls' basketball team for earning a place to state. She expressed appreciation to the district administration and staff for this school year. She also noted that a high percentage of people in the community are getting vaccinated, and that a vaccination clinic for teens was being offered soon.

Board Member Sonya Skan welcomed Superintendent Lougee back. She commented positively on the Board's discussion that evening. Ms. Skan also said she proud of Ketchikan's students and teachers for being in school.

Board President Hodne welcomed Ms. Lougee back and thanked Ms. Parrot for filling in. He said he is proud to serve with the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Minutes approved as presented at the April 14, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Kim Hodne

