

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special meeting of
Thursday, April 16, 2020
Remotely held via videoconferencing platform*

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in special session on the 16th day of April, 2020, with Board Members participating remotely via videoconferencing. (*Due to COVID-19 pandemic facility closures and social distancing mandates.) Board President Bridget Mattson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The following members were present on the videoconference to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board President Bridget Mattson; Clerk-Treasurer Diane Gubatayao; Board Members Leslie Becker; Jordan Tabb, Thomas Heutte; and Paul Robbins Jr. Vice President Sonya Skan was absent.

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

CITIZEN REMARKS

No citizens had provided comments for the special meeting.

ACTION ITEM regarding suspending portions of Board Policy 6146.1 – High School Graduation Requirements.

Motion that the Board of Education, through the authority provided in BP 9314, temporarily suspend the following provision of BP 6146.1 (High School Graduation Requirements): “Additional requirements include 100 hours of work experience or community service, completion of the State of Alaska Job Application and participation in the WorkKeys or ACT or SAT assessment.” This temporary suspension will only continue through June 30, 2020.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: TABB

Discussion

Board Member Tom Heutte commented on some language in the cited Board Policy 9314 – Suspension of Policies, Bylaws, Administrative Regulations – which seemed unclear. Board President Bridget Mattson said that attorney John Sedor had reviewed these policies and language before the issue was brought to the Board. He advised that the Board was justified in suspending the graduation requirements.

Superintendent Beth Lougee added that Mr. Sedor had also pointed out that there was no way to predict this pandemic and its consequences when the graduation requirements were put into place.

Board Member Diane Gubatayao commented that the requirements being suspended weren't those pertaining to subject area credits, such as math or science, so were relatively minor.

Superintendent Lougee briefly addressed the number of students who had not met or wouldn't be able to meet the requirements in question. Three students had not yet fulfilled the WorkKeys, ACT or SAT assessment, and ACT and SAT have shut down their services until June, she said. Approximately 15 students had not yet completed the 100 hours or work experience or community service, and their options to do so now are limited. Up to 33 students had not been able to complete all the sections of the state of Alaska job application for various reasons.

Superintendent Lougee also noted that Revilla's high school students earn their credits in a different manner. Their credit requirements for subject areas have not changed.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION – FY '21 Draft Budget

Superintendent Beth Lougee and Business Manager Katie Parrott explained adjustments that have been made to the draft operating fund budget presented at the April 8 School Board meeting. Supplemental funds have been removed. In addition, no pending federal funds from the CARES Act are built into the draft budget as its details are still unclear. Superintendent Lougee said that the budget adjustments have mainly been to staffing, and the budget is now essentially flat funding. Special education staffing will be an area of focus, and for that reason the superintendent said she is establishing a special education task force. Ms. Parrott provided a few details on what she does know at this point about the CARE funds: they will not be operating funds, but instead will be in the form of a grant based on a formula similar to that of federal Title I funding; the funds will come in fiscal year (FY) 2020 and not FY 21; and there will be specific provisions for their use. Business Manager Parrott and Superintendent Lougee then provided more explanation on the draft budget adjustments and answered questions.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment, and with no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the April 22, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Bridget Mattson