

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No 11 a

MEETING OF January 12, 2022

Reviewed By

Item Title

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve a request from the Tongass School of Arts and Sciences APC for autonomy from the district's COVID protocols.

Superintendent

SUBMITTED BY Melissa Johnson, Interim Superintendent

Contact Person/Telephone

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL

Melissa Johnson

Name

Phone

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The School Board is being asked to approve a request from Tongass School of Arts and Sciences to give autonomy to the school to set their own COVID policy and protocols if more restrictive than the District's.

ISSUE:

The Tongass School APC (Academic Policy Committee) has requested a waiver from District policy. Specifically, that TSAS have autonomy from the COVID protocols to follow the district policy or CDC guidelines if more restrictive. Charter schools are public schools in the State of Alaska subject to the policies and procedures of the District per contract and Alaska statute. However, the School Board may elect to waive certain policies or procedures. The District's mitigation plan is considered District policy and procedure that should be applied to all schools, including the charters. In order for the charter school to amend these policies, a waiver is needed from the School Board.

BACKGROUND:

At a December Meeting of the Tongass School the APC passed the following motion:
"The APC request from the School Board that TSAS have autonomy from the COVID protocol to follow the district policy or CDC guidelines if more restrictive."

Page three (3) of the contract between Tongass School and The Ketchikan Gateway School District states:

4. Administrative Policies and Procedures.

Tongass School agrees and warrants that it will comply with all other School District policies and procedures except those pertaining to textbook, program, curriculum, scheduling requirements, and other waivers as approved by the School Board. The Tongass School principal shall evaluate Tongass School staff in accordance with Ketchikan School District policies. Any new or revised Tongass School policies must be approved by the School Board. The Tongass School has asked for, and received, a waiver of the District's Conduct and Discipline Policy.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Tongass School APC's request.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Alaska Statute regarding charter school operation

FISCAL NOTE: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

"I move that the Board of Education approve the request from Tongass School of Arts and Sciences APC to have autonomy from the COVID protocols to follow District policy or CDC guidelines if more restrictive."

Alaska Statute Sec. 14.03.255. Organization and operation of a charter school.

(a) A charter school operates as a school in the local school district except that the charter school

(1) is exempt from the local school district's textbook, program, curriculum, and scheduling requirements;

(2) is exempt from AS 14.14.130 (c) (chief school administrator); the principal of the charter school shall be selected by the academic policy committee and shall select, appoint, or otherwise supervise employees of the charter school; and

(3) operates under the charter school's annual program budget as set out in the contract between the local school board and the charter school under (c) of this section.

A local school board may exempt a charter school from other local school district requirements if the exemption is set out in the contract.