

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 5g

MEETING OF April 23, 2025

Item Title:

Filling The Board Vacancies

SUBMITTED BY: Chloe Hall, School Board Clerk

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL: Michael Robbins, Superintendent

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

There are two vacant seats on the School Board that need to be filled with appointment

BACKGROUND:

The vacancies have been advertised with an application deadline of Thursday, April 17, 2025.

ISSUE:

Board Bylaw 9223 states that a vacancy on the Board shall be filled within 30 days of the seat being declared vacant. The seats were declared vacant when the Board accepted the resignations on March 26, 2025 for Michele O'Brien and April 2, 2025 for Keenan Sanderson.

If Spring Barry is appointed to the Board, she will take the Oath of Office before being seated.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Spring Barry's Application

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

To fill the vacant seat.

BOARD VACANCIES**APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY**

NAME Spring Barry	DATE 04/16/25
MAILING ADDRESS 22 Bucka Lane Ketchikan, Alaska 99901	PHONE and/or E-MAIL 907.220.7164 spring.barry1991@gmail.com

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?**

I believe my unique perspectives can help bridge gaps between families, educators, and the community, and ensure decisions are made with fairness, transparency, and long-term impact in mind. I care deeply about the success of my children within this district, therefore, when I see a wake of devastated teachers, parents, and students, something needs to be corrected at a higher level to ensure the health of our students and staff alike. I provide a full-circle and powerful combination of experiences that could improve the way the board conducts business, which would benefit all.

2. What do you hope to accomplish as an interim Board member?

At the very least as an interim board member, I hope to bring new perspectives, clear communication, insights to the budget, and I believe I could assist with the appointment of a new Superintendent and identifying the pertinent qualities within an applicant that meets the needs of the district.

3. What previous experience have you had serving on Boards?

I previously served on the board of the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council for approximately 5 years and also acted as Chair of the Program Education Committee.

I have further professional experience working in collaboration with boards, including in non-profit, corporate, and governmental settings over the last 10 years as a visual communication professional.

4. What do you consider to be the greatest personal asset you would bring to the Board as an interim member?

I have a balanced, fair-minded approach and take the time to consider all perspectives before forming a conclusion. This enables me to make well-informed decisions; as an alumni, I have a moral obligation to preserve the district and enhance the access and equal opportunity to education for all. In addition to that, as someone who has grown up in Ketchikan, I have experienced a multitude of unique situations within this district. I have survived trauma within this district, while I have also had major academic success within this district. I have underwent serious amounts of uncertainty and endured "Schoen-Bon" within this district. I am a mother of 2 young children within this district, and am also a SPED parent and business owner/operator.

5. What are the biggest issues you see the District facing?

The biggest issues the district is facing is severe budget shortfalls. There are rising operational costs which calls for a creative approach to explore sustainable solutions. There are potential program reductions, and severe community engagement and transparency issues.

6. What suggestion do you have to improve our School District?

People of this community genuinely want to have an understanding of the decisions being made within this district. A lot of that comes from hard and swift decisions being made that aren't fully expressed for the community to understand the direction and intention of the board.

I would like to encourage more discussion and outreach to the community to rebuild trust and engage in a healthy way as difficult decisions may be ahead of us.

I have a vested interest in the success of this district as I raise my children in it, so I would like to see the SPED department get more support, and I see a waste of funds that should be addressed within that department.

Also, our district fails to follow procedure and policy, which puts the district in a borderline negligible perception and also presents a liability. It needs to be addressed on how to correct that.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SJB', is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the word 'Signature' is printed.

Signature