

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No 9 b

MEETING of: June 23, 2021

Item Title

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the special meeting minutes of June 3, 2021

SUBMITTED BY: Kerry Watson, Clerk to the Board

CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Motion to approve the special meeting minutes of June 3, 2021

*** NOTE:**

If amendments or corrections to the minutes are desired, a Board member should request removal of the minutes from the Consent Calendar.

The minutes would then be acted upon under Unfinished Business. Appropriate motions to correct or amend the minutes would be in order.

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL meeting of
Thursday, June 3, 2021
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in special session on the 3rd day of June, 2021, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Kim Hodne 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 Kim Hodne; Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; Board Members Diane Gubatayao; Jordan Tabb; Paul Robbins Jr.; and Nicole Anderson.

Administrative staff present included: Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson; and Board Clerk Kerry Watson.

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

CITIZEN REMARKS

Becky King, teacher and parent, thanked the Board for delaying its appointment to the School Board in order to attract more candidates. She asked the Board to consider changing the 30-day deadline for appointment, so it would not have to seat a sole applicant. Ms. King also commented on how some who had posted on social media about the applicants were characterized.

Written public comments submitted by Dr. Valerie Brooks were read. Ms. Brooks supported Doug Gregg to be appointed to the Board vacancy. She wrote that he was an experienced educator who would bring years of educational experience to the Board.

FILLING THE BOARD VACANCY

Board President Kim Hodne outlined the process for that evening's interviews and selection of an individual to fill the Board vacancy. Each applicant would be asked to provide an introduction, and then would be asked a single question. At the conclusion of this first round, the Board would select its top three candidates. Interviews with three applicants who were not physically present were to be conducted telephonically, and those interviews would occur first. The five in-person candidates waited outside the Assembly Chambers until each of their turns to be interviewed. The telephonically-participating candidates had agreed to not access the live stream of the meeting, so that each would be following the same rules as the in-person candidates.

The order for the first round was: Douglas Gregg, Nicole Linn and Christy Willis, participating telephonically; and then Jack Finnegan, Ruschelle Hull, Charlene Meeks, Deborah Simon, and Jacob "Dean" Trumble.

Top three finalist selection

At the conclusion of the initial round, Board members were provided a ballot with the slate of applicants and asked to select their top three choices.

Board Clerk Kerry Watson tallied the ballots, with the tally confirmed by Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson and the results presented to President Kim Hodne.

Mr. Hodne thanked all candidates for applying. He encouraged them to run for the School Board in the fall, noting that three (3) three-year seats would be open. He then announced that Jack Finnegan, Doug Gregg, and Nicole Linn were the top three finalists.

A brief recess was called so the other phone participant could be telephoned and notified of the results.

Second round of questions

Board members took turns asking a second round of questions of each of the three finalists, with the two teleconferencing finalists again being interviewed first. The interviews were conducted in the same manner as previously, with Mr. Finnegan waiting in another room, while Mr. Gregg and Ms. Linn's interviews occurred. Board members took turns each asking a question. The six questions were:

- Describe how you will be able to assist with an important issue the Board is currently working on.
- Describe to the Board your understanding of the state's trauma engaged framework and then explain how you see the School Board's role in advancing the trauma engaged framework related policies and initiatives
- Do you intend to run for the permanent seat this October?
- What qualities do you want in our new superintendent?
- Do you believe the School Board is transparent with the community, and explain why or why not?
- What do you see as the district's weakest program or area most in need of support or improvement?

Board members were then asked to indicate their choice of one of the three individuals on a ballot. Ballot tallying and confirmation took place in the same fashion as previously. None of the three finalists received the required four (4) majority of votes. President Hodne announced that a third round of questions would take place with the top two finalists - Jack Finnegan and Doug Gregg.

Ms. Linn was called to thank her for her candidacy.

Third round of questions with finalists Jack Finnegan and Doug Gregg

In a third round, Mr. Gregg and Mr. Finnegan were separately questioned by the Board, with Mr. Gregg being interviewed first. The individuals were asked to respond to the following:

- What do you believe the role of a school board member entails, including its powers and limitations?
- The Board receives reports from each of the district schools as part of our regular meetings, what information is most important to you about the performance of our schools when you receive those reports?
- Everyone has bias, conscious or unconscious. How can you ensure that your own bias will be set aside as you seek to represent the community at large?
- How would you build trust between the Board and the community?
- Do you believe the district budget should be funded to the cap?

At the conclusion of the interviews, Board members were asked to write their chosen candidate's name on a paper ballot.

Upon completion and confirmation of the tallying, President Hodne announced that Doug Gregg had received the four votes required to be appointed. Mr. Hodne thanked Mr. Finnegan, and encouraged him to run for a seat in October.

Motion that the Board of Education appoint Douglas Gregg to the vacant Board member seat.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION PASSED

Douglas Gregg took the Oath of Office over the phone, as administered by President Hodne.

President Hodne asked Mr. Gregg to participate in the rest of the Board meeting as a regular voting member.

OFFICER ELECTION/BOARD REORGANIZATION

Office of Vice President

Jordan Tabb was nominated for the office of Vice President position by Bridget Mattson.

Diane Gubatayao was nominated for the office of Vice President by Nicole Anderson.

There were no further nominations. Board Members cast their votes by confidential written ballot. Newly seated Board Member Gregg was asked to submit his vote via email to Board Clerk Watson, as he was participating remotely. Upon being provided the vote tally, President Hodne announced that Ms. Gubatayao had received the majority of votes and had been elected as Vice President.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Mattson thanked all those who had applied for the Board vacancy, and commented on their thoughtful responses. She encouraged the applicants to run for a seat in the fall.

Mr. Tabb concurred with Ms. Mattson's statements, and said it takes a lot to put oneself forward as a candidate. He complimented the energy, ideas and desire to serve exhibited by the applicants. In response to a public comment that evening, Mr. Tabb explained that the thirty-day deadline for filling a Board vacancy was set out in Alaska statute.

Mr. Robbins Jr. stated that anyone who was a candidate for School Board or was thinking about being one could contact him. He said he wanted to encourage as robust a candidate pool as possible in the fall.

Ms. Gubatayao also thanked the applicants, stating they were diverse and that it was a tough decision to make on who to move forward. She shared a quote from a sixth-grader at Point Higgins, who wrote in chalk at the school on the last day of school. The student wrote: "This is an awesome school and I'm so happy we made it through COVID."

Ms. Anderson said she too echoed what other Board members had said. She encouraged any of those interviewed that evening to run in the elections, and noted their tenacity in answering the questions from the Board. She congratulated the eighth-graders who would be entering high school, and the high school graduates.

Doug Gregg thanked the Board for its vote of confidence. He said he looked forward to working with the Board, adding it had gone through one of the most difficult school years he'd seen.

Mr. Hodne commented first on the privilege of participating at the Ketchikan High School commencement ceremony. He recognized Ms. Gubatayao for being appointed to the Board of the Association of Alaska School Boards. Lastly, he thanked his fellow board members for their questions for the candidates that evening.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no objection to a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.