

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AGENDA STATEMENT

**No. 5b**

**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 Steven Thomas is appointed to the Board, he will take the Oath of Office before being seated.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Steven Thomas' Application

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

To fill the vacant seat.

**BOARD VACANCIES****APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY**

<b>NAME</b> Steven W. Thomas	<b>DATE</b> 4/2/2025
<b>MAILING ADDRESS</b>  6695 Roosevelt Drive Ketchikan Alaska 99901	<b>PHONE and/or E-MAIL</b>  907-617-7215 Thomasstalaska@gmail.com

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

I see a need in our community for members to stand up and serve. This feels like the right time for me to stand up for our students and community during this very difficult time. I am excited to help make decisions that impact the education of our community.

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

I hope to assist in rebuilding trust and communication between the parties involved. I look forward to assisting in the hiring of the new Superintendent and moving into whatever changes move us into the next school year.

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

I have been very active in attending or watching many board meetings, but have never had the opportunity to serve directly. As a previous educator, I did serve on various vocational committees, but nothing as formal as the school board.

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

As a previous educator, I have a unique perspective on many of the decisions that will be made. I also have served as a religious leader, which has taught me to be flexible, yet compassionate to different viewpoints.

I am also a parent of 6 children, all who have been, or are currently attending, school in this district. I have children experiencing special needs as well as some who academically excelled so I see the need for a well rounded education opportunity.

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

1. The budget
2. Communication challenges between the public, educators, administration, Borough Assembly and the School Board
3. Change of leadership
4. Consistency and trust with our educators

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

I see the need for looking at things long term, not just immediate. Long term decisions for the budget that allow for more stability in the years to come.

I think it will be important to consider a variety of communication methods to reach all community members who desire to know what decisions are being made.

Change in leadership is challenging. It will improve our district if we can look at things that have been great or worked in our district and see what we can implement. As an active member of the education system for 18 years, plus experience in other districts, I have ideas that can be developed upon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

**Signature**