

TO: School Board

FROM: Board Clerk Kerry Watson

RE: Applications for School Board Vacancy for Special Meeting of June 3, 2021

The applications submitted by the deadline of 4:30 p.m. June 1, 2021 follow.

The applications are ordered alphabetically by the last name of the applicants. The applicants are: Van Abbott, Jack Finnegan, Douglas Gregg, Rushcelle Hull, Nicole Linn, Charlene Meeks, James North, Deborah Simon, Jacob Trumble, and Christine Willis.

(Note: The applicants were invited to submit the application in the manner in which it was easiest or most convenient for them, but all responded to the same six questions.)

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

NAME	Van G. Abbott	DATE	May 30, 2021
MAILING ADDRESS	1016 N Pt Higgins Rd Ketchikan, Ak 99901	PHONE and/or E-MAIL	907 225-9495 vgabbott@gmail.com

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

I would like to offer the Board my many years of public financial and budget experience as well as the appreciation I have for the first line teachers and administrators who are charged with a monumental task of educating our children who are a basic foundation to our continued democracy. In addition, I feel that my personal stability may help the Board with what I perceived as a great need for continuity.

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

I believe one of my main contribution would be to assist the Board with navigating the current and oncoming financial hardships that the Board will be forced to deal with as Alaska's oil driven economy meets with diminished returns without any clear solutions in sight.

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

*I served on Ketchikan Gateway Borough Planning Commission.
I served as a Member of the Board of Directors of a small (150 employees) private company. I served as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Telephone Association.*

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

I spent over 20 years working in high level financial management positions. As such, I could assist in the School Board's analysis and review of the annual Ketchikan School District budget and prospective five years and longer planning documents.

A great deal of my upper management financial work dealt with complex computer systems automation and implementation whereby my experience could be helpful in evaluating future School District automation projects.

I spent two years as a teacher in the US Peace Corps and taught briefly in a California school district. I hold an inactive California Teaching Credential. I feel my prior teaching experience will allow me to understand the unique problems facing teachers in our Ketchikan School District allowing for a fair and balanced management perspective.

I served as a Telecom General Manager for eleven years and this gives me a macro perspective of challenges facing School District Management.

In several work positions, I dealt heavily with two City Councils and Municipal Utility boards and thus have a thorough understanding of the public entity processes and parliamentary procedures.

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

Navigating the impending and on-going budget shortfalls.

Addressing the need to manage teacher and administration staff effectivity and longevity. Addressing the continuity and effectiveness of the Board itself and assisting with the liaison opportunities with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.

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

My recommendation would be for the Board to carefully consider the expertise and standing that your choice of applicant for filling this Board seat presents itself. The appointment process gives the Board a unique opportunity to bring needed and targeted expertise and experience to help with the many real and difficult management decisions that the Board has to deal with currently and in the next five years.



06/01/2021

Signature

BOARD VACANCIES**APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY**

NAME John "Jack" Finnegan	DATE June 1st, 2021
MAILING ADDRESS 520 Front Street, Apt. C	PHONE and/or E-MAIL citylovesong@gmail.com

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

Primarily, as a means for serving my community.

Having worked for years as a substitute teacher, workshop leader, and classroom assistant in schools across our district, I have observed a wide array of teaching styles, learning cultures, and administrative approaches. This first-hand experience has given me a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist within our school system. But these transitory roles I've held have offered limited opportunity to make lasting contributions. Serving on the Board would allow me to make a more direct effort to strengthen and improve our schools.

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

My first objectives would be to listen and to learn. Reading minutes and observing meetings are different from active participation, and I don't assume to comprehend the nuances of a Board I've not joined. (To say that I'll listen doesn't mean I'll not speak up; if I have something to offer that I believe is of value, I will say it.)

My second objective would be to contribute to discussions in a manner that is thoughtful, empathetic, well-reasoned, courteous, and patient.

My third objective would be to use the measure of my experience as an Interim Board Member when considering whether to run for a full term.

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

Member-at-Large, Board of Governors, First City Players: 2016-2019

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

Patience, and a willingness to listen, even to those with whom I disagree. KGBSD's mission statement draws focus on the value of building "meaningful relationships," and this must also hold for those with whom we have differing views or values. To cultivate a strong community, we must elevate the notions of compromise and collaboration. Finding common ground is not always comfortable (and is sometimes impossible), but that doesn't mean the effort should be neglected.

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

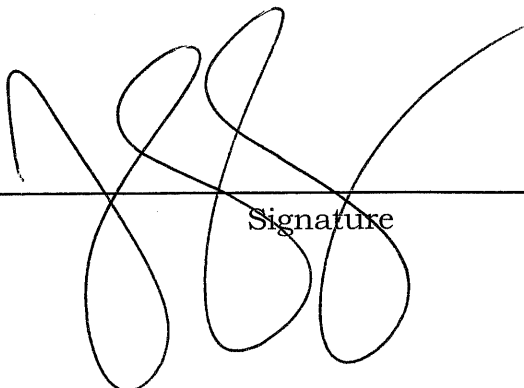
Selection of a permanent Superintendent is an obvious priority, with the prospect of significant and lasting impact.

Budget issues are always a challenge, especially in a year of decreased revenues and lingering uncertainty.

But I am particularly struck by, and concerned with, the discord between KGBSD and the Alaska Native community. I am aware that there are no easy solutions to this historically complex social relationship. I am further aware that as a non-Native, I am probably least equipped to concoct a meaningful solution to this dynamic challenge. But when taking in the "big picture," this, to me, is a vexing and far-reaching concern that I am keen to see addressed. This goes to the very heart of who we are as a community. I know there will be no easy answers. But it is a challenge that must hold our focus.

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

KGBSD's vision is to educate and empower students to be "critical thinkers and problem solvers." Countless studies have demonstrated that increased participation in the arts can lead to improved attendance, improved literacy, improved test scores, greater empathy, greater self-confidence, better collaboration, better critical thinking, and better problem-solving skills. I would like to see more students have greater access to arts-related programming. Ketchikan proudly bills itself as an arts-centric community; this should also be reflected in our schools.



Signature

BOARD VACANCIES

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

NAME	DATE
MAILING ADDRESS	PHONE and/or E-MAIL

Please See Attached


PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?
2. What do you hope to accomplish as an interim Board member?
3. What previous experience have you had serving on Boards?

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

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

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



Signature


Douglas Gregg
4776 Bucey Ave.
Ketchikan, AK 99901

5/28/21

247-8463

dougregg16@gmail.com

1. My commitment to Ketchikan and the school system is the reason I am seeking interim appointment. I believe our school system is central to the community of Ketchikan.
2. As an interim board member I hope to facilitate the board's efforts to educate and empower students to be leaders, critical thinkers, and problem solvers.
3. I have served on the Ketchikan Children's Home, Residential Youth Care, Alaska Association of Homes for Children, Alaska Alternative School Association, Ketchikan Wellness Coalition, Community Connections Capital Campaign, Ketchikan Youth Soccer League, Ketchikan Youth Football League, Ketchikan Wrestling Club & Special Olympics Ketchikan.
4. I had 20 years of experience owning, operating, and managing several small businesses in Ketchikan prior to my hire by the District. I taught at Schoenbar Junior High (now SMS), Point Higgins Elementary, Houghtaling, White Cliff, Valley Park, and Ketchikan High School. I served as principal at Revilla Alternative School until my retirement. I have extensive experience working with budgets, contracts, curriculum, new teacher hire, and students. These experiences combined with the opportunity I had to work with several Superintendents and School Boards provided perspective for effective District operations.
5. The predominant issue facing the School Board has been and continues to be, the budget. Difficult decisions need to be made every year regarding the allocation of limited resources to most effectively address the diverse needs of our students. At this time the Board has an additional urgent task to select a new Superintendent.
6. The Board needs to continue to develop opportunities for communication and dialogue to effectively allocate our limited resources.



BOARD VACANCIES**APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY**

NAME Rushelle Hull	DATE 6-1-21
MAILING ADDRESS P.O. Box 6904 Ketchikan, AK 99901	PHONE and/or E-MAIL 907-617-0599 alaska.pebbles@gmail.com

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

I have more time and I am now able to make meetings. I want to be more involved with the community. I have twins and a niece with special needs in the system.

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

I hope to be a part of the decision making that will make a difference in all students lives.

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

Alaska Native Education Council student rep for 3 years when I was in mid high school.

I am now Vic Chair of the Advisory Health Board at KIC. I have been on the Board going on 4 years.

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

I take time to look and hear all the facts and detailed information Before I make any choices

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

COVID Will Beat the top for a few more years
But I also hear about bullies and
Mental health issues

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

I would like to see classes that have
Basics like Balance a checkbook, change a tire
Budgets, the everyday things that are needed.



Signature

BOARD VACANCIES**APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY**

NAME NICOLE LINN	DATE JUNE 1 2021
MAILING ADDRESS P.O. BOX 15605 WARD COVE AK 99928	PHONE and/or E-MAIL 209.327.9899

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

DEPOLITICIZATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD. I WILL LIKE TO BE PART OF SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS, STUDENTS AND STUDENT FAMILIES. AND ASSIST IN PLANNING STRATEGIES THAT MOVE TOWARD AN AGREED GOAL.

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

I HOPE TO ATTRACK THOSE WHOM USUALLY DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE AND ENCOURAGE MORE VOICES SHARING SOLUTIONS AND CREATIVE IDEAS FOR EVER CHANGING EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND NEEDS.

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

I CURRENTLY SERVE ON THE WOMEN IN SAFE HOMES BOARD.

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

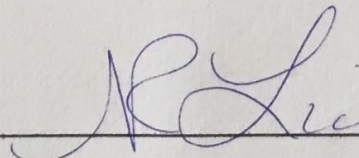
THE ABILITY TO ACTIVELY LISTEN, CONSTRUCTIVELY COLLABORATE AND PROBLEM SOLVE. ALL WITH THE AIM TO FOCUS ON THE EDUCATION AND SAFETY OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS.

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

BUDGET AND CONCERN FOR STUDENTS MAKING UP ANY LOST GROUND ASIDE, BURNOUT.

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

HAVING NEVER SERVED ON THE SCHOOL BOARD I DO NOT CLOSELY KNOW ALL THE NUANCES OF THE ISSUES. THEREFORE AT THIS TIME I HAVE NO SUGGESTION I WISH TO SHARE.



Signature

BOARD VACANCIES

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

NAME	DATE
Charlene Meeks	June 1 st , 2021
MAILING ADDRESS	Phone and/or E-MAIL
3705B S. Tongass HWY Ketchikan, AK 99901	(907) 225-3970 (907) 204-1486 charlenemeeks2017@gmail.com

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

Ketchikan has been my home for most of my life. I grew up here and now I am here raising children of my own. I am a mother to five beautiful humans, and all my children go to Public School or will go to Public School within the next couple years. I would like our school district to keep having a positive impact on my children and other children in this community. I am taking this opportunity to get involved instead of sitting on the side-lines.

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

I hope to be an advocate for our children. My goal is to really listen to the parents concerns and make decisions that will continue to make this school district great.

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

This will be my first experience serving in this capacity. I have always had a mild interest in getting involved, but shied away from such a public position.

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

My ability to be a good listener for starters. Also, I believe that my experience of living most of my life in this unique community also can be considered an asset. My connection to this community should be counted as an asset as I understand the personality of our community in ways that others may not.

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

Three issues come to mind immediately.

- 1. How to continue to offer quality education with the ongoing threat of Covid-19.*
- 2. Ensuring that we maintain positive connections to the indigenous tribes of this area.*
- 3. Finding a superintendent that will be a good fit for this community.*

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

I do not have any suggestions currently. Thank you for considering me to serve the community in this capacity.



Signature

Received 12:55 PM
June 1, 2021
KSN

BOARD VACANCIES**APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY**

NAME James North	DATE 5-27-2021
MAILING ADDRESS 54 Shoup St Ketchikan, AK 99901	PHONE and/or E-MAIL (907)821-1233 james@ketchikanlegacy.com

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

I am seeking the interim board position because I have two children in the district and I believe the development and success of our community starts with our children.

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

In years past, there has been a loss of trust from the community. My biggest hope is to rebuild that trust of the School Board through transparency, accessibility, and honesty. Building this trust will promote cohesion within the community and greater involvement by its members.

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

I have no experience serving on boards but I have a lot of experience working as a member of a team from my time in the service industry and my time as a medic in the U.S. Army.

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

As an interim board member, I would bring a variety of personal assets that are equally great such as my temperament, patience, perspective, and accessibility. My greatest personal asset is my ability to resolve conflicts.

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

The biggest issues I see the district facing is communication and transparency in the decision making process, student investment in their own education, and parent involvement across the entire district.

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

I suggest the School District open lines of communication between admin and staff/faculty and parents. I also recommend exploring more engaging curriculum. There is a great deal of things the School District can accomplish by expanding its "toolbox".

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a flourish.

Signature

May 27, 2021

Deborah Simon
P.O. Box 5086
Ketchikan Alaska 99901
907-225-1969 - home
360-860-1349 - cell
judges4@gmail.com

Re: Application for Interim Board Appointment

Please find below my application for the position of interim Board member recently created in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. The online announcement was unclear on where to send the completed application, and I hope it was acceptable to forward it to this email address. I am, of course, happy to answer any questions you have. Thank you for your consideration.

What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

I have been involved in education for most of my adult life in one capacity or another—teaching, planning, training, administering, and homeschooling. As my own children are steadily growing towards adulthood themselves, I would like to put my experience to work for others. I believe I can offer a unique perspective that weaves together the lessons learned as a teacher, a parent, and a community member.

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

I have taught both my students and my own children to have one main goal—to leave a place better than the way you found it. That includes cleaning up anything that needs it, whether or not you were directly responsible for creating the need, and using your unique skills and abilities to make it even better. These would be my goals as an interim Board member in a nutshell—to assist in solving any open problems I can, and to use my skills and abilities to improve existing policies and procedures.

What previous experience have you had serving on Boards?

I worked as an interim executive assistant for a major nonprofit organization, interfacing directly with the board in addition to overseeing daily organizational operations. I also worked as a corporate paralegal in a public corporation supporting corporate executives and board members. In the education sector, while living in Washington State, I served on the local school district's community financial committee that existed to advise and offer the school board a community perspective on budgetary concerns.

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

My greatest personal asset is my eclectic and combined experience. As a longtime teacher, I can offer the perspective of an educator as well as insight into the daily needs of teachers and students. As a parent and community member, I can offer the perspective of stakeholders most directly affected by decisions and policies. Both my advanced degree focused on the educational needs of gifted and twice-exceptional learners and my study/work with local Washington State tribes will allow me to offer the perspective of those who are often overlooked and underserved when it comes to reaching the needs of all students.

What are the biggest issues you see the District facing?

The biggest issue for all sectors of our society is what happens after COVID. Both budgets and relationships alike will feel the pressure of recovery and rebuilding. The challenge will be to carefully and thoroughly uncover and heal the damage left behind and consciously use lessons learned to create policies and solutions that will make the district stronger for the experience.

What suggestion do you have to improve our School District?

In my experience, reaching every student is the single most important aspect of any educational endeavor. There simply is no “normal” when it comes to the uniqueness of humanity, and a one-size-fits-all approach will always leave everyone needing more. While there is a time and place for compromise, that can only be reached after all needs are discovered, considered, and evaluated. Every unknown need is a person left out, and one thing the district can do is adopt a goal of taking the extra steps necessary to discover, consider, and evaluate the individual rather than the group, putting in place the policies and procedures necessary to ensure each decision is expedient without being shortsighted.



Deborah K. Simon, M.Ed.

BOARD VACANCIES

APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY

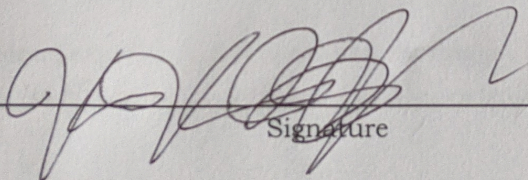
NAME JACOB DEAN TRUMBLE	DATE 6-1-2021
MAILING ADDRESS 6899 ROOSEVELT DRIVE KETCHIKAN, AK 99901	PHONE and/or E-MAIL 907-821-1671 JACOBTRUMBLE79@GMAIL.COM

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?
I HAVE SEVEN NIECES AND NEPHEWS CURRENTLY IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
I SEEK TO ENSURE THEY AND ALL OTHER KIDS GET THE BEST EDUCATION WE CAN GIVE
THEM.
2. What do you hope to accomplish as an interim Board member?
I HOPE TO HELP OUR DISTRICT BE THE BEST IT CAN BE.
3. What previous experience have you had serving on Boards?
I HAVE NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE SERVING ON BOARDS.

BOARD VACANCIES (continued)

4. What do you consider to be the greatest personal asset you would bring to the Board as an interim member? *I feel I have a unique perspective having attended nearly every school on the Island ~~as~~ as well I have a deep love of education, teaching my Nani and Gi (nieces, and nephews) and learning with them is one of my favorite activities.*
5. What are the biggest issues you see the District facing?
Budget cuts, teachers leaving, Covid shut downs.
6. What suggestion do you have to improve our School District?
Intitiation of Native American classes, both language and history



Signature

BOARD VACANCIES**APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY**

NAME Christine Willis	DATE 05/30/2021
MAILING ADDRESS 10709 Gena Road Ketchikan, AK 99901	PHONE and/or E-MAIL (907) 204-0478 christy.a.willis@gmail.com

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What is your reason for seeking an interim Board appointment?

I have a heart for children, and education. Children are our future. As adults, it's our job to ensure that all students are given as many opportunities as possible, in order to thrive, and succeed.

I had a wonderful life growing up in Ketchikan. It's important to me to give back the community that helped shape me.

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

I have no specific agenda. I simply want what is best for the children of Ketchikan.

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

I have served on numerous boards in Ketchikan, as well as in Sioux City Iowa. The United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army, and Crime Stoppers. I am currently a Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce board member.

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

Integrity

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

Challenges related to Covid. Financial issues, future enrollment numbers, teacher and parent confidence, and satisfaction.

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

I would like to see increased parental involvement in education.

Christine Willis

Signature