



Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District

333 Schoenbar Rd. • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Ph. (907) 247-2109 Fax: (907) 247-3820

Melissa Johnson, Interim Superintendent • Katie Jo Parrott, Business Manager

Catherine Alilin, Human Resources Manager • Alonso Escalante, Curriculum Director

Derek Meister, Special Services Director • Linnaea Troina, COVID Communications and Public Relations Director

Memo

To: KGBSD School Board Members

From: Melissa Johnson, Interim Superintendent

CC: Kerry Watson, Board Clerk

Date: September 17, 2021

RE: Superintendent Report for September 22nd meeting

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District endorsed a pilot program for spectators at activities when we're in high risk operations. The program was piloted at our first home event in the Kayhi gym, which happened to be volleyball, the weekend of 9/9/21. Spectators were required to wear masks, socially distance, and sit in the balcony of the gymnasium. The pilot program was designed for players' immediate family members or close friends to attend events during high risk. Student/staff safety was the number one priority, and mitigation plans were designed to ensure that.

On September 10, 2021, we celebrated Irene and Nettie Jones with a Documentary Viewing and Mural Reveal at the Discovery Center. September 10th is the 92 anniversary of Irene Jones, who sued the KGBSD school board so that she could attend public school in Ketchikan and in hopes of stopping segregation in the KGBSD. Teresa Varnell, the Cultural Coordinator for the District, organized the event along with the support from the Ketchikan Native Education Parent Committee and curriculum director Alonso Escalante. During the event they celebrated by watching the documentary, "I fought for that Seat", which was created by a group of students from Mr. Frey's 2020-2021 8th grade documentary films class at Schoenbar. Here's a link to the video: "[I fought for that Seat](#)".



Matt Hamilton unveiled the mural he created that is dedicated to Irene and Nettie Jones, which will be displayed at Ketchikan Historical Museum. Gloria Burns, KIC President, made a proclamation declaring September 10th Nettie Jones Day. Nettie Jones is the mother of Irene Jones and pushed to have her child attend the public school in the KGBSD. As an Alaskan Native woman, I felt the event was powerful and amazing, and I thank all who attended and participated in this event.

Start Strong 2021-2022

The committee will meet on 9/21/21 for its first monthly review of the approved COVID mitigation plan. Discussion topics will include: KHS Activities Spectator Pilot; [KHS Activities](#)



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[Mitigation Plan](#); Auditorium Use by Outside User Groups; Masking in PE; Appendix Documents; feedback from stakeholders.

Curriculum/PD/Assessment:

The Calendar Committee met on September 9th and has a proposed calendar for the 22-23 school year. We are currently gathering public comment on the proposed calendar and hope to present the calendar and feedback to the school board October 13th.

PEAKS state standardized testing took place last spring after being cancelled the previous year due to COVID school closures. When the state released the scores, they cautioned districts against using these scores to make overarching decisions because overall participation rates were down and this was the last year that PEAKS would be administered. No science scores were released because the science test was the baseline pilot. Historically, KGBSD has outperformed the state and did so again last year. 43.8% of KGBSD students tested scored proficient or above versus 39.6% for the state.

For this year's testing, the state is moving to MAP Growth as the summative assessment for ELA and math. As a result, we will not receive scores until late summer after DEED establishes cut scores. MAP Growth PD - Professional development for the new state assessment, which is also our K-12 benchmark assessment, took place on September 13th. Each school had a trainer who worked with the staff (via Zoom) to prepare them for testing this year.

The World Language Curriculum Committee met last week to review their curriculum. Currently they are leaning towards using funds to supplement their instruction in a more holistic and real world manner than purchasing a new curriculum.