

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 5a

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 Sharon Montgomery is appointed to the Board, she will take the Oath of Office before being seated.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Sharon Montgomery's Application

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

To fill the vacant seat.

BOARD VACANCIES**APPLICATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY**

NAME Sharon Montgomery "Shari"	DATE 03-28-2025
MAILING ADDRESS 59 Earl Hines Ln Ketchikan, AK 99901	PHONE and/or E-MAIL (907) 821-8905 SharonFisher907@Gmail.com

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

As a lifelong resident and parent of two young children, I'm hoping to get my foot in the door to help our School District with the current issues we are facing, as well as future decisions to ensure our district keeps moving in the right direction. The recent resignations came at a critical time for our board and we need well-rounded and dedicated community members to step up and finish those terms. I believe I am an excellent candidate to hit the ground running in the short time we have left before the next election. My experience in business paired with my love for my hometown and my children will bring a balanced and fresh new skillset to the table.

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

I hope to regain some confidence from our community and prove the Board is doing what is truly best for our students. I understand there is a strained relationship and a perceived sense of dishonesty from a number of citizens. I have always operated with integrity and taken pride in my beliefs and morals. I aim to use those values to prove to Ketchikan that the School Board also operates with honesty and ethics. While this position may only be for a short term, I understand the importance of making an impression and I hope to use this opportunity to gain support for a future seat on the Board.

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

My longest experience was serving as Secretary on the Ketchikan Softball Association Board of Directors from 2012-2025. Responsibilities in that position included a variety of duties including recording meeting minutes, proposing and voting on motions, and reviewing financial statements and accounts. I am currently on the Library Advisory Board for the City of Ketchikan. I was appointed to that position on August 17, 2023. Our meetings are governed by Robert's Rules of Order, giving me a good understanding of how School Board meetings operate. With the intention of running for the School Board this fall, I introduced an agenda item at our last meeting to move our meetings from Wednesday nights to not interfere with future School Board meetings. That motion and discussion will come up at our next meeting on April 9th.

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

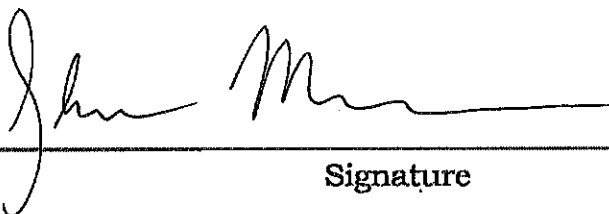
Loyalty. I am loyal to Ketchikan as my hometown. I will devote the time and effort necessary to ensure this remains a great place to live and learn. I am loyal to my children. I will stand up for their rights and do what needs to be done to afford them the education they deserve. I am loyal to myself. With a determined heart and an open mind, I will rise to every occasion with integrity and lay my head down every night knowing I did everything I could to remain loyal to Ketchikan and our children. I take great pride in this town and if I can restore or retain that pride for even just one other person, it's worth it.

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

The most obvious issue is funding. Schools all across the state are all operating with the same amount of funding while the Consumer Price Index has continued to increase year after year. Increasing expenses with stagnant revenue does not lead to a successful business model. Solving the financial crisis isn't something that will happen overnight, but steps need to be taken to move out of the red. The next issue involves enrollment and community confidence. Regaining the trust of parents and teachers is huge. For every student pulled from the district, funding decreases. Hiring administrators that act without turpitude and truly represent our community with honesty and a passion for education are detrimental to our success.

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

Listen to the community. As elected officials, it is your duty to listen to different interests and search for compromises acceptable to the majority. Restore the faith of our students, parents, and teachers in our School Board. If I am not your first choice, please appoint someone Ketchikan can relate to and trust. Pick someone that not only has skin in the game, but is also devoted to the outcome. I will help you every step of the way on this uphill battle if you'll allow me. Thank you.



Signature