

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No 9 a

MEETING of: July 13, 2022

Item Title

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2022

SUBMITTED BY: Kerry Watson, Clerk to the Board

CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2022.

*** 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
REGULAR meeting of
Wednesday, May 11, 2022
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 11th day of May 2022, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Stephen Bradford 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 Stephen Bradford; Board Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; and Board Members Diane Gubatayao; Paul Robbins Jr.; Jordan Tabb; and Nicole Anderson. Board Vice President Keenan Sanderson participated telephonically, (connecting to the meeting at 6:30 p.m. during the Superintendent's Report.)
Student Board Member Braxton Zink was also present for the meeting.

Administrative staff present included Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson; Business Manager Katie Parrott; and Schoenbar Middle School Principal Sheri Boehlert.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Student Representative Braxton Zink: Braxton Zink was recognized for his contributions as the student representative on the School Board. Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson spoke about the qualities that Braxton brought to the role. She described him as speaking up during a year of turmoil, even if he held an unpopular opinion. She said he had been gracious with those who didn't agree with him, but had held firm to his views. Braxton exemplified what leadership is for both the students and community, said Ms. Mattson.

Braxton responded to thank her for the comments.

Other Recognition: Recognition was given for Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month as well as Teacher Appreciation Week, which is celebrated the first week of May. Board Member Diane Gubatayao read a proclamation she'd written for Teacher Appreciation Week, and Braxton added his thanks to the teachers he'd had during his schooling. School Principals' Day (May 1) was also noted.

ASAA Gold Pass Awardee John Brown - Recognition was given for former Kayhi coach John Brown for receiving the ASAA Gold Pass award. The Alaska Student Activities Association's pass is awarded to notable individuals who have contributed significantly to high school activities in Alaska for at least 20 years. Mr. Brown was a four-time Kayhi basketball state high school champion and a basketball coach for 15 years or more at Kayhi. He still mentors and coaches youths early in the morning at the Recreation Center, stated Board President Stephen Bradford.

2022 Retirees: Lastly, President Bradford saluted the 244 years of combined service to the district by the teachers and classified staff who are retiring this year. They are: Sharon Creasy, Melissa Klepser, Susan Webb, Valerie Brooks, Carol Stanton, Penny Ranniger, Kerry Watson, Susan Johnson, Lori Ortiz.

Ms. Gubatayao noted that Rotary Interact has raised \$2,000 to make special kits for foster children, in conjunction with Carmel Anderson's art exhibit regarding the theme of foster care.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Justin Breese stated that he was speaking to the Board for the third time regarding a list of tribal values which are posted in district schools; and specifically in reference to the posted tribal value of "reverence for our creator." The district administration has provided him a form for reconsideration of teaching materials to register

his concerns, but the tribal values are not being used as teaching materials, said Mr. Breese. Instead, they are being used as behavior modification and for promoting religious beliefs and they are posted in his children's schools, he said. Mr. Breese responded to arguments regarding the value in question not being of a religious nature, citing Tlingit and Haida's Central Council website regarding the tribal values which he said indicates it is a belief in creationism. He said that he believed that those who advocated for the posting of the tribal values were trying to do the right thing, but he doesn't believe posting of the values will lead to a greater respect of cultures overall. He referred to former Supreme Court Justice Souter's stance regarding posting of religious statements in schools. Mr. Breese said the school board needs to address the posting of the tribal values in the schools.

Becky King said she was following up on the topic to give a slightly different perspective as a teacher. She said that as a teacher she is being asked to teach the tribal values as a positive behavior support. She then referred to guidance for implementing positive behavior supports, including how to measure the behavior. She said many of the tribal values are not measurable, and many of them are beliefs and values, and not behaviors. The tribal values belong in a lesson with a curriculum, she said; with interpretation provided by the Native community. She also said that the tribal values are not universal and do not apply to all cultures. She also explained her view of the "reverence to our creator" value as teaching creationism. Ms. King asked that the topic be addressed by the Board.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no reports.

CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION - For Information - Claims of April 15, 2022; and Claims of April 29, 2022

Ms. Gubatayao commented on: the Kayhi fuel bill and lights being on at all hours at that facility and on the possibility of using a pellet boiler. She also asked a question about a fee for Collaborative Classrooms, to which Business Manager Parrott said she would research and provide an answer.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent's Report:

Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson said that her report was going to cover subjects which were already acknowledged in Public Recognition. However, she briefly added her thanks to the teachers, speaking to all the knowledge of those retiring. She also commented on John Brown's receiving the ASAA Gold Pass. She said that Ms. Gubatayao had suggested that Mr. Brown was a worthy recipient. The pass will provide him with entrance into any activity tournament in the state, she said.

Ms. Johnson reported that the teacher evaluation revamping process was almost complete; and the district will pilot the new evaluation program next school year. Planning is occurring for professional development for next fall, she also said.

Local budget request

Business Manager Katie Parrott was asked to report on the local budget request of the Borough. She said the Borough Assembly at its last meeting had directed Borough staff to prepare an ordinance that provided for the maximum discretionary appropriation without dipping into the \$2 million Local Education Fund. This means an approximately \$355,000 reduction to the district's budget request. The ordinance will come before the Assembly at the following Monday's meeting, said Ms. Parrott.

Student Member's Report:

Student Member Braxton Zink noted that extracurricular activities have come to an end except for softball, baseball, soccer and track and field; Kayhi Drama was performing "SpongeBob" on May 20 and 21; and AP exams were occurring, he said. Braxton reported that Governor Walker had spoken to students at Kayhi that day, and said he couldn't remember the last time a governor had visited the school. The Student Body Association elections would occur that Friday, and Braxton's replacement (the student body president) would be chosen. Braxton also noted that four Kayhi graduates would be interning with U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski's office this summer - Jenna Walker, Jocelyn Cannon, Bella Kershaw, and himself.

Lastly, he noted the end of school senior class activities are occurring, culminating with graduation on May 29.

Interim Superintendent Johnson commented that Ketchikan is hosting the track and field regional competition on May 20-21, with all Southeast schools competing, and volunteers were needed.

Schoenbar Middle School Report

Schoenbar Middle School Principal Sheri Boehlert focused much of her school's report on its teacher mentoring program led by retired teacher Taylor McKenna. Ms. Boehlert stated that she felt a mentoring program was necessary at Schoenbar as there was no longer a district-wide mentoring program and the school had nine teachers who were either first-year teachers or were new to Schoenbar. In addition, Principal Boehlert said she had no assistant principal to assist her in supervising the staff. Ms. McKenna spoke about the mentoring program, which was informed by research and experts in the field of instructional coaching philosophy. Ms. Boehlert said she and Ms. McKenna envisioned the mentoring program to be more than was offered in the past, for it to be progressive and cutting edge.

Ms. Boehlert said she hopes to continue a mentoring program next year at Schoenbar, when she will have an assistant principal and dean of students on staff.

In the school report, Principal Boehlert also updated the Board on the 2021-2022 school year at Schoenbar, including the following:

- Current enrollment for the school is 246 students, fairly evenly split between 117 eighth-graders and 129 seventh-graders; and 127 female students to 119 males. Enrollment for next year is projected to be about 270 students.
- The school has 23.5 FTE (full time equivalent) staff, which in addition to classroom teachers includes library staff, specialists and a dean of students.
- Attendance is a concern with some students having 30 to 50 absences. Ms. Boehlert speculated some absences are due to families who are still not comfortable sending their children to school. Schoenbar will be focusing on getting kids back into the actual school building and stressing the importance of being in the classroom, she said.
- Findings from the almost 200 responses to the School Climate and Connectedness Survey were also covered. Connectedness was the biggest area of growth for students, while for staff it was in social-emotional learning. Ms. Boehlert said the staff SEL rating might be attributed to a "character strong" program being used in homerooms. One of the areas for improvement stemming from the survey will be getting more kids involved in school decision making, she said.

Principal Boehlert also described this year's course schedule which returned to that of the more traditional pre-COVID schedule. She described the differences between offerings for seventh and eighth-grade students, with the latter having more elective choices, for one. Some new programs this year for enrichment offerings included a cooking class taught by one of the Filipino teachers and a special project provided for under a cooperative grant with the Cook Inlet Tribal Council. The latter provided for a "fab lab" - a digital fabrication resource center. Middle school sports also resumed this year and students in those activities were able to travel.

The popular seventh-grade camping trip and the eighth-grade survival trip also resumed, with the seventh-grade event starting just that day. This year, the school added "day trips" for the students who were not able to participate in the camping trip for various reasons, said Principal Boehlert. The trips also evolved this year to incorporate more curricular areas and staff, beyond science, she said.

The Schoenbar Middle School report lasted about 40 minutes, ending at 7:25 p.m.

Break

The Board took a five-minute break after the school report before continuing its meeting.

****PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY****

Motion to approve revisions to Board Policy 4218 - Personnel: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action in first reading.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Public Hearing

No members of the public commented.

Board discussion

Board Member Nicole Anderson noted that the term “classified” had not been struck in one area of the policy revisions, where it had been in all others. It was confirmed that the intent was to change all occurrences of the word, and that had been an oversight.

Mr. Robbins Jr., a policy committee member, explained that changes were being made so this policy would apply to all district staff, not just the classified. The only other proposed change in the policy language was providing for notification to the affected person by electronic means.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - AYE

ANDERSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, ROBBINS JR., SANDERSON, BRADFORD - ALL AYES

MOTION APPROVED

Motion to replace current Board Policy 4112.8- Personnel: Employment of Relatives with a new version.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

Public Hearing

No members of the public commented.

Board discussion

Interim Superintendent Johnson explained why revisions had been recommended to this policy, referencing Alaska statutes which address relatives of a Superintendent or a School Board member being employed by the same school district. The Association of Alaska School Boards recommended using its model policy for this issue.

There were some questions and comments from the Board. Several Board members suggested language was needed that addressed nepotism or conflict of interest situations among staff besides the Superintendent or School Board members. There was also a concern expressed that language regarding sexual harassment and dating relationships in the current policy was being recommended for deletion.

Mr. Robbins said he believed this policy consideration should go back to the policy committee to rework the policy; so he would be voting “no” on the motion; and encouraged his fellow Board members to do the same.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - NAY

BRADFORD, TABB, SANDERSON, ANDERSON, ROBBINS JR., GUBATAYAO, MATTSON - NAYS

MOTION FAILED

President Bradford stated that Board Policy 4112.8 would go back to the Policy Committee.

CONSENT CALENDAR of May 11, 2022

- a. Approval of leave of absence for Sarah Huerta (paraprofessional).
- b. Motion to approve a special services contract with Terri Crofcheck.
- c. Motion to approve offering of contracts to non-tenured certified staff.
- d. Motion to approve offering of an administrative contract to Shane Scamahorn.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of May 11, 2022.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: MATTSON

MOTION PASSED with no objection expressed.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the application to the Title I, Part D, Subpart B Neglected & Delinquent Youth Competitive Grant, as presented.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ANDERSON

Discussion

Ms. Gubatayao asked if this was a new grant, and also commented on the wording of its title.

Business Manager Parrott stated that the name of the grant was the official federal title for this program under Title I. She said it is a newer grant, but that the district may have applied for it in the past. The grant's purpose is to serve youth served by the district who are in in-patient residential situations and in the juvenile justice system.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) – AYE

SANDERSON, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, TABB, BRADFORD - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to approve July 13, 2022, November 9, 2022, and December 14, 2022, as regular meeting dates for the School Board.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

Discussion

There was no Board discussion.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - AYE

BRADFORD, SANDERSON, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, ANDERSON - ALL AYES.

MOTION PASSED

(Clerk's note: President Bradford explained prior to the motion regarding the July, November and December meeting dates that a Board Bylaw specifies that these months' meeting dates need to be determined, as the Board could choose to hold only one meeting during these months. A second meeting could always be added, if necessary during these months, he added.)

Motion to accept the recommendation on Student Disciplinary case #22-02.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

There were no comments.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - AYE

TABB, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, GUBATAYAO ANDERSON, SANDERSON - AYES

BRADFORD - NAY

6-1

Board President Bradford stated that the 6-1 vote affirmed the recommendation of the hearing officer regarding this matter.

Motion to accept the hearing decision on Student Disciplinary case #22-03.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: ANDERSON

Discussion

Mr. Tabb stated he had not been able to attend this disciplinary hearing, so would abstain from voting. The same situation was true of Mr. Robbins Jr.

There was a question as to whether the student member's vote should be stricken from the first disciplinary hearing vote as he would not have been allowed to attend those hearings. President Bradford ruled that Mr. Zink's vote could be allowed, as it is advisory only. (There was no objection to the President's decision).

ROLL CALL

SANDERSON, ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, MATTSO, N,
BRADFORD - NAY

ROBBINS, TABB - ABSTAIN

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - ABSTAIN

4-1

(2 abstentions)

Board President Bradford stated that the recommendation of the hearing officer regarding this matter had been affirmed with 4 "yes" votes, 1 "nay" and two abstentions.

DISCUSSION

Six-month schedule for Board goals, evaluations and other Board activities - After discussion, the Board agreed to: discuss processes for evaluating the superintendent and for the Board self-assessment at the May 26* worksession*; to have an executive session for evaluation of the interim superintendent at the June 8, 2022 regular meeting; meet for training with AASB on trauma-engaged schools on June 9; and to discuss Board goal-setting and Board evaluation at the June 22 worksession. (*The May 25, 2022 regular meeting date had been changed to May 26, 2022 to avoid a conflict with the senior scholarship assembly.)

Drug abuse/overdose issues – Discussion included the fentanyl situation nationwide, with overdoses being the leading cause of death in Americans aged 18-49 years old. In addition, student member Braxton Zink related that there was an issue with vaping at the high school and middle school level, and described an incident in which one of the Kayhi bathrooms was closed as students were using it to vape.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Jordan Tabb congratulated student member Braxton Zink on the courage he'd shown throughout the year in representing the student body.

Board Member Nicole Anderson said Braxton had been an outstanding student representative. She also commented on the dedication the retiring teachers had shown to their students.

Ms. Gubatayao congratulated Braxton on his acceptance to the University of New Mexico. She also added congratulations for the retiring teachers and stated appreciation for their impact on students.

Board Member Mattson complimented those involved in the recent Native Youth Olympics showcase. She also stated congratulations to teachers and staff who had worked during another global pandemic year. She spoke about Braxton, stating he'd exemplified good leadership and thanking him for his service on the Board. She noted her appreciation to the Board clerk who is retiring.

Mr. Sanderson thanked Braxton for serving, and added that he himself is also thankful to be a part of the school board.

Mr. Robbins Jr. said he should have abstained from voting on the first student disciplinary matter as he had not been present at that hearing. He commented that the Board should provide direction to the Superintendent for future school presentations, and perhaps impose a time limit.

Braxton Zink thanked the Board members for their compliments to him, and also thanked those in the audience who had attended to support him at his last meeting on the Board. He asked the Board to continue supporting students to be the best that they can be. He shared that during some debate tournaments in Anchorage, with its thousands of students, the city was unable to find judges for its meets. In contrast, he said, Ketchikan rallies,

supports and fund-raises for its debate tournaments. The same happens with other activities and sports as well, he added. Braxton said the Board and community is consistent in its support of its students.

Mr. Bradford thanked the administration for organizing a recent training with the First Alaskans, stating it was a valuable session. He also expressed his appreciation to the tribal council members who came and shared their insights.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Regarding negotiations with SSPK (Special Services Professionals of Ketchikan)

No motion was made to enter into executive session, as a tentative agreement was pending with the SSPK, and the Board concurred it would wait until the May 26 meeting for its consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

With no objection to a motion to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.