

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 9 a

MEETING OF April 22, 2020

ITEM TITLE:

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the regular meeting minutes of April 8, 2020

SUBMITTED BY: Kerry Watson, Clerk to the Board

CONTACT PERSON/TELEPHONE:

Kerry Watson 247-2142
Phone

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

Superintendent

CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 8, 2020.

*** NOTE:**

If amendments or corrections are desired to the minutes, request removal of the minutes. The minutes will then be acted upon under Unfinished Business. Appropriate motions to correct or amend the minutes are in order.

Otherwise, the motion to accept the Consent Calendar of April 22, 2020 is appropriate.

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular meeting of
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
Remotely held via videoconferencing platform***

A Work session on the FY '21 operating fund budget was held prior to the regular meeting.

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 8th day of April, 2020, with Board Members participating remotely via videoconferencing. (*Due to COVID-19 pandemic facility closures and social distancing mandates.) Board President Bridget Mattson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present on the videoconference to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board President Bridget Mattson; Clerk-Treasurer Diane Gubatayao; Board Members Leslie Becker; Jordan Tabb, Thomas Heutte; and Paul Robbins Jr. Vice President Sonya Skan was absent and excused. Student Board Member Brendan Roof was present for the worksession preceding the regular meeting.

Administrative staff present via videoconference were: Beth Lougee, Superintendent; Business Manager Katie Parrott; Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante; Ketchikan High School Principal Jason House; and Clerk to the Board Kerry Watson.

Board President Bridget Mattson read the district vision and mission statements.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Superintendent Beth Lougee asked for postponement of consideration of the science curriculum (New Business Item 10a) until the next Board meeting. With a friendly amendment, the motion to approve the agenda was modified as follows:

Motion to approve the agenda with postponement of item 10 a. (science curriculum approval)

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: HEUTTE

ROLL CALL

HEUTTE, GUBATAYAO, BECKER, ROBBINS JR., TABB, MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Board member Diane Gubatayao stated appreciation for teachers, staff, and the technology team who possible all the Zoom meetings for all of the district's classes, in addition to staff meetings. She added that it was pretty amazing how IT had pulled that together in such a short time.

CITIZEN REMARKS

One citizen, Christine Weber, had submitted written comments for the meeting which were read aloud by the Board Clerk. Ms. Weber, a parent of children from preschool to high school ages, advocated for not returning to school this year. Further, she asked that a decision be announced as not doing so confused younger children when teachers told students they'd "see them soon," she wrote.

CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION – April 3, 2020

Superintendent Lougee told the Board that payment to Alaska Pest Management for a series of invoices was for daily sanitizing of the schools from which meals were being served, as well as initial sanitizing of buildings after the first positive confirmation of COVID-19 in the community. There will be some secondary sanitizing of classrooms as well if staff have to enter areas to retrieve items for themselves or students.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Beth Lougee updated the Board on her approach to dealing with the district's "new normal" with slow, steady steps from food service to technology to student instruction. Several of the department directors were asked to report on their specific area. The update included some of the following:

- The food service program served 6000 meals in the previous week. One issue with the popularity has been running short on sacks to contain the meals.
- Technology – After being updated and sanitized, almost 200 devices had been rolled out in three days to fulfill about 500 request. Schoenbar Middle School had its own roll-out the previous week with about another 100 devices provided. A possible spot outside a school for connectivity is being researched for those families who do not have internet at home.
- Regular contact is taking place with the state education department on fiscal concerns that will affect budgeting for next year, such as the CARE Act, and waivers regarding carry over for grants.
- Special education staff are reviewing IEPs and ESERs to ensure they are followed to the extent they can be during this crisis model of education, while ensuring the health and safety of the students; and looking for further guidance from the federal and state levels.
- Ketchikan High School Principal Jason House reported on the work of the "education team" which was formed to determine how to provide education during this crisis time. During the initial week of school closure due to the pandemic, teachers made contact with students through advisory and home rooms. This past week, that contact was expanded. For example, at the secondary level, teachers were meeting with students in each of their classes, and assisting with wrapping up the third quarter that was interrupted. Teachers were surveyed during this week regarding needs for education and also professional development which will guide the next steps.

There were some questions from Board members. Superintendent Lougee said she thinks it is highly likely that the Governor will close schools state wide through the rest of the school year. If that occurred, students and teachers would continue as they have been doing.

Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante provided information about the Collaborative Classrooms adoption which was on the agenda for the Board's approval that evening. The English Language Arts curriculum was piloted for grades K-6th last fall, with 12 teachers from Houghtaling, Fawn Mountain and Point Higgins elementary schools participating. In addition, five of those teachers and Mr. Escalante traveled to Seattle to view the program in action at several schools. After doing so, the teacher were even more enthusiastic in their support of the adoption, he said. He responded to a few questions on the curriculum from Board members.

Business Manager Katie Parrott reported on how the business office had dealt with situations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and closures. These ranged from: developing a new budget code and a new leave code to track COVID-related expenditures and provide for employee leave time to ensuring that testing for COVID-19 is free to employees through the health insurance program. Ms. Parrott also described rolling out an entirely new and unique food service program with the closure of the school buildings. The staff who are working in that program are some of the few in the district working outside their homes, Ms. Parrott pointed out; and strict protocol is being followed to keep the public and employees safe during the food pick-up and delivery. The district is serving about 100 more meals than in a typical month, she said.

There were some follow up questions and discussion on the food service program. It was noted that a local family was encouraging donations to the food program as a way to honor their child who had died.

Business Manager Parrott added some comments for the public's benefit regarding the draft FY 21 budget, additional to what had been discussed in a work session prior to the regular meeting. The budget reflects minimal changes and is about \$100,000 less than the current year's budget, she said.

*****PUBLIC HEARING - BUDGET*****

Motion to approve the draft FY21 Operating Fund Budget in the amount of \$41,100,832 in first reading.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: HEUTTE

Public Hearing

There were no public comments.

Board Discussion

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. stated for the benefit of any listening public that the Board had a discussion on the budget in a worksession prior to this regular meeting. (*The worksession was also streamed live*).

In response to Board Member Gubatayao, Business Manager Parrott said she had conversations with the Borough Finance Director as the budget was being drafted regarding expectations for the local contribution and discretionary contribution from the Borough.

ROLL CALL

HEUTTE, GUBATAYAO, BECKER, ROBBINS JR., TABB, MATTSON - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of APRIL 8, 2020

Moved by: HEUTTE; Second by: BECKER

- *Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 25, 2020.*
- *Motion to approve a teaching contract for Robin Hartman for the 2020-2021 school year.*
- *Motion to approve an administrative contract for Marian Gonzales for the 2020-2021 school year.*

ROLL CALL

BECKER, HEUTTE, TABB, ROBBINS JR., GUBATAYAO, MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the purchase of K-6 ELA curriculum, Collaborative Classrooms, for the 6-year cycle at \$108,211.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: BECKER

Discussion

There was no discussion.

ROLL CALL

GUBATAYAO, TABB, ROBBINS JR., BECKER, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

Motion to adopt the recommendations of the executive committee concerning Board Committees.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

Discussion

In a response to a question from Mr. Robbins Jr., Board President Mattson explained the Board officers had received some advice regarding committees from Timi Tullis of the Association of Alaska School Boards. In part, she advised on the difference between district administrative committees and Board committees. Some of the recommendations before the Board resulted from that conversation.

ROLL CALL

BECKER, GUBATAYAO, TABB, ROBBINS JR., HEUTTE, MATTSON – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION

2020-2021 School Year Calendar – Adjustments were made to this calendar, as had been done to the 2019-2020 calendar, to match to the collective bargaining agreement with Ketchikan Education Association, and to change a half-day issue which was incompatible with the new business office software. Student contact days remain at 176. Teacher work days will be 183, a reduction of a half-day from the earlier calendar draft.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Gubatayao commented positively on how everyone in the district is dealing with an extraordinary situation in education. Everyone is working hard to stay connected to the students, and to each other, she said.

Board Member Leslie Becker also stated appreciation and thanked Ms. Parrott (& Ms. Lougee?) for being ahead of said she seconded that and also thanked for work on budget and for being ahead of it as much as can be.

Board President Bridget Mattson commented on the work of the science committee this year, and said she is excited to see the recommendations. She too echoed thanks to the teachers and staff and to the community of Ketchikan and commented on how people are finding ways to give back and help each other.

Ms. Gubatayao noted that the Wellness Coalition has developed a list of resources which is on its website.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Future Board events were briefly discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment, and with no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.