

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA STATEMENT

No 8a.

MEETING of: June 11, 2025

Item Title

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the regular meeting minutes of March 12, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Chloe Hall, School Board Clerk

*** 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 AND WORK SESSION
Meeting of March 12, 2025
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in a regular session on the 12th day of March 2025, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board Vice President Jordan Tabb 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:

Vice President Jordan Tabb, Clerk-Treasurer Katherine Tatsuda, Members Judy Leask Guthrie, Tom Heutte, Keenan Sanderson, Ali Ginter and Student Member Lilly Pader.

President Michelle O'Brien and business manager Daniel Schuler appeared via Zoom.

Administrative staff present included Superintendent Michael Robbins and School Board Clerk Chloe Hall.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M/S: Sanderson/Heutte

ROLL CALL:

YES - Guthrie, Heutte, Ginter, Tabb, Sanderson, Tatsuda

The agenda was approved as presented.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Ketchikan Charter School Robotics Team

Member Katherine Tatsuda shared recognition for the Ketchikan Charter School Robotics Team.

Ketchikan Charter School Battle of the Books

Member Katherine Tatsuda shared recognition for the Ketchikan Charter School Ketchikan Charter School Battle of the Books team.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Dave Timmerman, community member, expressed frustration over Board communication with the public and emphasized the need for improvement.

Jason House, KLO President, spoke to the board about creating a supportive environment, sharing that the bullying culture that silences voices must be addressed. House urged the Board to promote respectful discourse to set a positive example for students.

Matthew Boyd, 4th grade teacher, urges the board to consider alternative proposals, such as split grades, to address enrollment declines.

Roseann Lynch, community member, emphasized the vulnerability of children, and urged the Board to use caution in making decisions that could impact their well-being.

Wendy McClaren, teacher at Point Higgins Elementary, shared her positive experiences with multi-age classrooms, and emphasized the benefits of enhanced peer learning.

Spring Berry, community member, spoke to the board about school specialization, highlighting the potential for increased anxiety, social disruption and student travel times.

Arbor Berry, student at Point Higgins Elementary, expresses their desire to stay at Point Higgins, due to the strong support system and familiarity.

Eugenia Smith, teacher at Point Higgins Elementary, shared that her previous experience with multi-grade teaching had been successful.

Nicole Lynn, community member, expressed gratitude to the Board for the reconsideration of the specialization plan, highlighting potential drawbacks.

Vice President Jordan Tabb shared a letter to the Board from Tiffany Cook, community member, urging them to reconsider the restructuring plan and consider alternatives.

Vice President Jordan Tabb shared a letter to the Board from Melissa Edenfield Goude, community member, expressing appreciation for the reconsideration, urging the Board to consider all options.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Member Heutte shared an update after attending a training provided by The Great Alaska Schools, an advocacy group statewide working to get funding from the State for public schools. Heutte shared that House Bill 69 which increases funding for public schools had passed the House and now awaits the Senate approval. Heutte encouraged continued advocacy for the need for increased funding.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION:

a. Claims of February 28, 2025

M/S: Guthrie/Sanderson

No Objections, CLAIMS APPROVED

b. February Board Financial Report

M/S: Heutte/Guthrie

No Objections, REPORT APPROVED

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Robbins began his update with a reminder on how to find the budget website, where all budget documents can be found. Robbins reported the budget needs to be submitted to the Borough by May 1st, with a 30-day review period, and then to the State by July 15th. The boys' basketball team has won the Region 5 Championship and will go to State next week. The administration team is moving forward with plans for next year, as directed by the School Board, and paraprofessionals have been placed.

School Board entered a recess from 6:46 - 6:49

RISE SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK REPORT

Kathryn Frutiger gave a report on the District's Social Work department, a team of master's-level, licensed clinicians, led by herself. Frutiger reported that the team prioritizes student and family confidentiality, ensuring that all discussions remain private, unless mandated reporting is required. The department provides tiered support, including trauma-informed interventions, small groups, and targeted services for crisis management and behavior support.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 11, 2024
- b. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 15, 2025
- c. Motion to approve the listening session minutes of January 29, 2025
- d. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 29, 2025
- e. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 12, 2025
- f. Motion to approve out of state travel request for Ketchikan High School Track and Field team to travel to Oregon in April.
- g. Motion to approve offering a long term teaching contract to Susan Johnson from March 17 to the end of the 2024-25 school year at Fawn Mountain.
- h. Motion to approve the nomination and confirmation of public members of the English Language Learners Committee of the School Board.

M/S: Sanderson/Guthrie

ROLL CALL:

YES - Tabb, Ginter, Guthrie, Sanderson, Heutte, Tatsuda, O'Brien

(MOTION APPROVED 7-0)

The Board entered into a recess from 7:26-7:36

WORK SESSION

Motion to enter into a work session to discuss reconsidering FY25/26 KGBSD Restructuring Plan - Specialization Plan, Closure of Point Higgins Elementary or Schoenbar, Alternative Proposals, and Budget.

M/S: Tatsuda/Guthrie

ROLL CALL:

YES - Tabb, Sanderson, Tatsuda, Guthrie, Ginter, Heutte, O'Brien

The Board entered a work session at 7:37 p.m.

Board members spoke on revisiting the restructuring plan. Members discussed the potential of closing either Point Higgins Elementary, or Schoenbar Middle School, multi-grade models, and alternative ideas. The Board asked Superintendent Robbins clarifying questions on building closures and timelines.

Motion to end the work session.

M/S: Tatsuda/Guthrie

ROLL CALL:

YES: Sanderson, Ginter, Tatsuda, Heutte, Tabb, Guthrie, O'Brien

The work session ended at 9:11 p.m.

The Board entered into a recess from 9:12 - 9:19

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to confirm, amend or rescind direction to district staff and provide district staff with new direction based on work session.

Motion to direct staff to explore a multi grade model for Houghtaling Elementary, Point Higgins Elementary,

Fawn Mountain Elementary, and to close Schoenbar Middle School.

M/S: Ginter/Guthrie

DISCUSSION:

The Board entered into a discussion on keeping the Elementary schools open, and shutting down Schoenbar Middle school. Members discussed the potential of moving the Schoenbar students into the elementary schools or into the High School.

ROLL CALL:

YES: Ginter

NO: Tabb, Guthrie, Sanderson, Heutte, Tatsuda, O'Brien

(MOTION FAILS 6-1)

Motion to create a school closure plan for Point Higgins Elementary School.

M/S: Tatsuda/Guthrie

DISCUSSION:

The Board entered into a discussion on closing down Point Higgins Elementary. Board members discussed the decline in student population, transportation worries, and the budget.

ROLL CALL:

YES: Guthrie, Tatsuda, O'Brien

NO: Tabb, Ginter, Sanderson, Heutte

(MOTION FAILS 3-4)

Motion to direct staff to develop a plan to close Schoenbar Middle School.

M/S: Ginter/

MOTION DIES

Motion to extend the meeting until 10:30pm

M/S: Sanderson/Ginter

ROLL CALL:

YES: Tatsuda, Guthrie, Heutte, Ginter, Sanderson, Tabb, O'Brien

(MOTION PASSES 7-0)

Motion to direct staff to exploring either Schoenbar Middle School or Point Higgins Elementary.

M/S: Ginter/Tatsuda

Motion to amend motion to close Schoenbar Middle School and/or Point Higgins Elementary.

M/S: Tatsuda/Ginter

DISCUSSION:

Board entered into a discussion that this option has already been asked and answered.

MOTION RESCINDED

Motion to direct staff to build a plan on multi-age classrooms for Houghtaling Elementary, Fawn Mountain Elementary, and Point Higgins Elementary.

M/S: Ginter/Tatsuda

Motion to amend the motion to include a plan to include reducing district expenses by the following suggestions: having a shared Vice Principal and Music Teacher for Fawn Mountain and North Point Higgins, a traveling librarian, cut unnecessary travel, and request to the Borough that the Board only pay 500,000 towards debt reimbursement.

M/S: Tatsuda/Ginter

DISCUSSION:

The board and Superintendent entered into a discussion on the amendments to the motions, asking clarifying questions on classifying 'necessary staff travel' for staff and students.

ROLL CALL:

YES: Ginter, Guthrie, Tabb, Sanderson, Tatsuda, O'Brien

NO: Heutte

(MOTION AMENDMENT PASSES 6-1)

DISCUSSION:

The Board entered into a discussion on the motion as amended.

ROLL CALL:

YES: Ginter, Sanderson, Guthrie, Tatsuda

NO: Tabb, Heutte, O'Brien

(MOTION PASSES 4-3)

****PUBLIC HEARING** POLICY**

- a. Motion to revise BP 1250 volunteer assistance, in first reading.
- b. Motion to revise BP 5125.3 withholding grades, diploma or transcripts, in first reading.
- c. Motion to revise BP 5131.3 bus conduct, in first reading.
- d. Motion to revise BP 5131.5 vandalism, theft and graffiti, in first reading.
- e. Motion to revise BP 5141.51 at-risk youths, in first reading.
- f. Motion to revise BP 6161.20 damaged or lost instructional materials and equipment, in first reading.

Motion to postpone policy hearing until the meeting of March 26, 2025.

Heutte/Tatsuda

ROLL CALL:

YES: Guthrie, Tabb, Heutte, Ginter, Tatsuda, Sanderson, O'Brien

(MOTION PASSES 7-0)

BOARD COMMENTS

NONE.

ADVANCE PLANNING

ELL Committee meeting Tuesday March 25, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Social Studies office at Ketchikan High School

School Board Regular meeting Wednesday March 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers

School Board Regular meeting Wednesday April 9 & 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers

ADJOURNMENT at 10:21 p.m.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Katherine Tatsuda

Board Vice President
Jordan Tabb

Clerk Treasurer
Ali Ginter