

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA STATEMENT

No 7a.

MEETING of: May 28, 2025

Item Title

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the regular meeting minutes of February 26, 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
February 26, 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 26th day of February 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, Ali Ginter and Student Member Lily Pader.

Administrative staff present included Superintendent Michael Robbins, Business Manager Daniel Schuler and School Board Clerk Chloe Hall.

President Michelle O'Brien and member Keenan Sanderson were both excused absences.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Ginter made a motion to modify the agenda to include a presentation from community members, and the MOA with KNEPC under reports. There were no objections and the agenda was approved as modified.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Alaska Principal of the Year - Sheri Boehlert, Schoenbar Middle School
Vice President Jordan Tabb, shared a Principal of the Year proclamation for Sheri Boehlert.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Jen Kloxin, staff member at Houghtaling Elementary, saved her comments for a presentation that was added to the agenda under Reports.

Hunter Rodgers, student at Point Higgins Elementary, spoke against the proposed school specialization, sharing with the board that he wants to finish elementary school at Point Higgins.

Mishele Rhein, community member, shared her experience in education and with the district.

Mio Rhein, community member, spoke to the school board to address accountability and budget concerns, noting that current solutions are not long-term.

Frankie Urqhart, teacher at Ketchikan High School, spoke to the board about the practice of transferring teachers between schools, sharing that she believes it creates difficulties for students and leads to a lack of coherence. Mrs. Urqhart shared that she believes it will affect both academic and emotional growth.

Penny Leighton, a parent in the district, emphasized the negative impact of removing school choice on children, particularly those with trauma and mental health challenges. Mrs. Leighton asks the Board to discuss alternatives.

Nicole Linn, a parent of two children in the district, expresses her understanding of the challenges faced by school officials while urging them to listen to community concerns regarding the restructuring plan.

Hunter Hink, student in the district, shares concerns about potential school changes and the impacts on students and programs.

Eugenia Smith, parent and district teacher, advocated for the emotional well-being of students impacted by proposed changes in the school system.

Wendy McClarren, district teacher, spoke about the relocation of Aleuts during World War II, highlighting the importance of considering the psychological effects of changes. Mrs. McClarren shared a petition with 50 signatures opposing school restructuring.

Jamie Palmer, parent in the district, is opposed to the restructuring plan, speaking in support of community schools. Palmer shared her beliefs on the importance of keeping siblings together with familiar teachers, and encouraged the Board to restore peace and evaluate other proposals.

Ali Cook, community member, spoke against the proposed school specialization and shared a petition with 45 signatures, urging the board to reconsider.

Jeff Jones, spoke on behalf of Tiffany Cook. Tiffany Cook wrote a letter sharing her opposition to the proposed school specialization.

Bob Sivertsen, spoke as a community member and a Grandfather to children in the district. Sivertsen advocated for open communication and transparency to build trust. Sivertsen urged reconsideration of current decisions and exploring alternative options to support the community effectively.

Victor Chen, a psychiatrist and parent of children in the district, thanked the school board for their efforts during this difficult time. Chen spoke in opposition of the restructuring for reasons related to demographic changes. Birth rates are falling, leading to a need for fewer schools. The restructuring isn't a real solution but a temporary fix. Chen urged the Board to consider closing a school now for a better long-term plan.

Syd Hartley, a mother of three, expressed deep concerns about her children's school options. Hartley shared that these distances are unmanageable without a vehicle, especially if a child becomes sick. She cites Alaska law, and highlights traffic issues, stressing that the proposed transportation options are not viable.

Rodney Dial spoke as a community member, emphasizing where he believed the issues began in 2018, sharing that the district does not expect to balance its budget and faces ongoing financial challenges.

Michelle Eakman, community member, shared her thoughts on budget saving strategies, urging the board to

reconsider the school specialization due to issues such as transportation.

Neddie Manabat, a mother in the district, spoke to the board in opposition of the proposed school specialization, sharing that she is backed by 277 petition signers from the community. Manabat shared that many families are worried about transportation issues to distant schools, urging the board to prioritize the well-being of district children and community members in the decisions.

Spring Barry, expresses deep concerns about recent school board decisions affecting local education, and appeals to the school board to reconsider their decisions and engage with the community.

Linda Williams, shared a letter from Caitlyn Andrews. Caitlin Andrews, a local mom and behavioral health therapist, expresses her worries about the school restructuring plan affecting her children and the community.

Linda Williams, community member, spoke about removing important incentives for kids, affecting sports participation and future opportunities.

Trixie Bennett, community member, encouraged the Board to reconsider the restructuring plan and allow more community input, sharing the desire for surveys and open houses. Bennett shared that tough financial decisions are needed, but pausing for discussion is important.

Gibson Girt, student at Point Higgins, asked the board to please reconsider their decision and find a way to keep current students at Point Higgins.

Melissa Goude Edenfield, community member, expresses concern over the impact of budget issues on education and the community.

Edna Sivertsen, community member, suggested better accountability and public comment opportunities during meetings.

Kelsey McNeil, community member and parent in the district, urged reconsideration of the school specialization plan, and highlighted community-driven alternatives.

Amy Christenson, community member, spoke on her concerns regarding school specialization, sharing her beliefs that it would have social, emotional, and educational impacts.

Michelle Hall, community member and parent in the district, emphasized that the board must act responsibly for the benefit of the community and the children, speaking against school specialization.

Rachel Pettiprin, parent in the district, encouraged the board to acknowledge the importance of neighborhood schools being vital as community centers and safe spaces, which should be valued beyond their test scores and shared her appreciation of the commitment of board members in listening to their constituents.

Matt Boyd, teacher at Point Higgins discussed key points regarding the school board's ethics and community involvement during recent meetings. Boyd expressed his love for Ketchikan and the importance of unity within the community.

Bridget Mattson, community member, expressed gratitude for the dedication to children and families amid financial challenges. Mattson emphasized the importance of community and staff engagement during difficult changes to build trust, open communication and understanding is essential for effective leadership to ensure the best outcomes for the community.

Darby Mainardi, parent in the district, expressed concern regarding recent school restructuring decisions,

emphasizing the impact on students and families. Mainaridi urged the board to think critically about the decisions made and their consequences for future generations.

Jen Kloxin, teacher at Houghtaling Elementary, spoke on school specialization, sharing that a move can cause anxiety and disrupt progress, especially for vulnerable students. Kloxin shared 157 signatures asking the board to reconsider the proposals.

Michelle Mecham, shared a letter with the board, and shared her experiences and challenges while raising eight children. Mecham encouraged the board to consider other options.

The Board entered an at ease from 8:02-8:12

Terri Schultz, A teacher from Ketchikan Charter School expresses concerns about the district's restructuring plan and the lack of consideration for parents and teachers' opinions in relation to a Facebook survey done by the community.

Roger Axelson, a 10-year-old fourth grader, expressed his concerns about potential changes that would affect transportation and schooling for children. Roger asked for support for students facing challenges and urged the board to consider their well-being.

Jasmine Pattison, community member, shared a letter in opposition of the proposed school specialization.

Joy Fowler, community member, shared a letter expressing her worries regarding a school restructuring plan that will impact many families, including her own, and urges consideration of the impact on families and children due to the proposed changes.

Tracy Benner, community member, shared a letter with the board, urging reconsideration of the restructuring plan, emphasizing the need for a solution that doesn't burden elementary families.

Roni Dever, a Coast Guard family member, expressed love for Ketchikan after living there for seven years. Dever shared hopes for further elaboration on decision-making processes affecting the community and emphasizes the importance of clear communication.

Kristen Peterson, community member and parent, expressed her opposition to the restructuring plan for elementary schools in the district.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

ELL Committee- Member Tom Heutte shared that the ELL Committee had met on February 18, 2025, with about a dozen people. Discussions included making ELL programs more accessible for families with language challenges, improving the website by adding languages, and ensuring teachers have access to individualized language plans.

Borough Liaison Committee - Member Tatsuda gave an update following the Borough Liaison committee meeting. The Liaison committee met and discussed school district accruals, an audit update, FY2025 school district revenue and expenses, the funding request for FY26, and Health Insurance Debt repayment plan. Tatsuda shared that there is a want for the Board of Education to start giving reports again at the Borough Assembly meetings.

Vice President Tabb shared information about board bylaws regarding reconsideration of motions.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION:

a. Claims of February 14, 2025

No Objections. CLAIMS APPROVED

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Robbins gave an update on the progress since February 12, when staff received direction to move forward with the school specialization plan. Robbins shared that staff and administration conducted tours on the professional development day, which had good attendance and engagement. Conversations took place between administrative staff and individual teachers about placement preferences, with a majority receiving their first choice. Paraprofessional assignments will be communicated in the near future. Robbins shared recognition for Schoenbar Middle School Principal, Sherilynn Boehlert, as she was nominated for Principal of the Year. Robbins ended with a brief update on HB 69, about education funding in the legislature.

STUDENT REPORT

Student Member, Lilly Pader, shared an update on current events at Ketchikan High School. Pader shared that the drama club produced Midsummer Night's Dream, and there were recent various activities, including a pool party and a job fair. The Academic Decathlon team placed third in the state competition. This week is spirit week with a dress competition, and new recycling bins are being implemented around the school. Boys and girls basketball games are scheduled, along with senior night celebrations. Next week features parent-teacher conferences, a pep rally, and the region v tournament hosted by the Kings.

COMMUNITY REPORT

The community, involving parents and teachers, shared a presentation to address potential budget cuts for the 2025 school year. The group shared two different proposals, with savings projected through reductions in teaching staff, administrative costs, and school maintenance expenses.

MOA with KNEPC

The Board discussed the upcoming MOA with KNEPC, and decided to bring it back as a discussion item on a future agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve a contract for \$487,247.00 with Dawson Construction LLC for Siding Replacement project at Schoenbar Middle School.

M/S: TATSUDA/HEUTTE

ROLL CALL:

YES: GINTER, GUTHRIE, HEUTTE, TATSUDA, TABB

(MOTION PASSES 5-0)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve revisions to the FY2024-2025 Operating Fund Budget and Special Revenue Funds Budgets.

M/S: TATSUDA/GUTHRIE

Business manager Daniel Schuler shared a presentation on the revisions to the FY2024-2025 Operating Fund Budget and Special Revenue Funds Budgets. Schuler presented information on necessary budget revisions due to lower-than-expected revenue in special funds. Items initially on grants must shift to operating funds. Schuler spoke about the OASIS student count, transportation reductions, operating fund adjustments, and special revenue fund adjustments. Schuler answered questions from Board Members in relation to the presentation.

ROLL CALL:

YES: Tatsuda, Guthrie, Ginter, Hewitt, Tabb

(MOTION PASSES 5-0)

****PUBLIC HEARING** POLICY**

Motion to move ****PUBLIC HEARING** POLICY** to the next regularly scheduled School Board meeting of March 12, 2025.

M/S: Tatsuda/Heutte

ROLL CALL:

YES: Ginter, Tatsuda, Heutte, Guthrie, Tabb

(MOTION PASSES 5-0)

- ~~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.~~

Meeting Extension

Motion to extend the meeting until 10:30 p.m.

M/S: Heutte/Tatsuda

ROLL CALL:

YES: Ginter, Heutte, Tatsuda, Guthrie, Tabb

(MOTION PASSES 5-0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter into an executive session pursuant to discuss Paraprofessional Negotiations, per BP 9321 on matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district.

M/S: Tatsuda/Heutte

ROLL CALL:

YES: Tatsuda, Guthrie, Heutte, Ginter, Tabb

(MOTION PASSES 5-0)

Present in executive session with the Board: Superintendent Michael Robbins, Business Manager Daniel Schuler, and Addie Roth, representing the negotiation team.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENTERED: 9:51 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION EXITED: 10:15 P.M.

BOARD COMMENTS

Member Ali Ginter shared that she was disappointed in the lack of Tribal consultation, and shared she believes there is a need for more dialogue.

Member Tatsuda expressed gratitude to everyone present and acknowledged the difficulties of navigating ongoing disagreements. She thanked everyone for showing up, and watching online from home for their continued participation, and emphasized the importance of clear communication.

Member Guthrie shared her thoughts on improving communication, sharing that it is a priority for the district.

Vice President Tabb asked that if fellow board members have questions for staff members, to please provide them to district employees ahead of board meetings, in hopes that district employees have more time to provide accurate answers.

ADVANCE PLANNING

School Board Regular meeting Wednesday March 12 & 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers

ADJOURNMENT at 10:28 p.m.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Katherine Tatsuda

Board Vice President
Jordan Tabb

Clerk Treasurer