

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AGENDA STATEMENT

No 9 a

MEETING of: June 23, 2021

Item Title

CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the regular meeting minutes of May 26, 2021

SUBMITTED BY: Kerry Watson, Clerk to the Board

CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 26, 2021

*** 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 26, 2021
*Remotely streamed via video conferencing platform***

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 26th day of May 2021, via Zoom. (Board members met in the Ketchikan High School library with the meeting streamed via with Zoom.) Board President Kim Hodne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.¹

The following members were present to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board President Kim Hodne; Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; Board Members Diane Gubatayao; Jordan Tabb; Paul Robbins Jr.; and Nicole Anderson. Student member Henry Clark was also present.

Administrative staff present via videoconference included: Incoming Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson and Business Manager Katie Parrott.

The traditional lands acknowledgement was read by Board President Kim Hodne.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda for the regular School Board meeting of May 26, 2021.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

Motion to move Item 12 - New Business - before the Consent Calendar.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

Discussion

Board Member Bridget Mattson explained that some items under New Business impacted those under the Consent Calendar, so the New Business items should be considered first.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

ANDERSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, ROBBINS JR., HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Henry Clark, student Board member, was recognized. Each Board member thanked Henry for his contributions as the student representative and complimented him for his work and the perspective he brought to the Board.

Individuals retiring at the end of this school year were recognized, with interim superintendent Melissa Johnson reading each of their names and the number of years they had served. Retiring certificated staff are: Beth Brandt-Erichsen; Marie Fitts; Brooke Hunt, Sheila Klosterman; Michael Knight; Taylor McKenna; Robert McClory; and David White. The classified employees who are retiring are Suzi Williams and Traci Halverson.

National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 2-8, 2021) and the importance of educators' work was noted, especially that of Ketchikan teachers during this challenging year.

Likewise, the work of Ketchikan's school nurses during the pandemic year was recognized, as National School Nurse Day occurred on May 12, 2021.

¹ *The Borough Assembly Chambers was closed for the duration of May, 2021 to meetings of governmental bodies.*

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. recognized the Ketchikan Daily News for providing photographs from the community and schools to be used in the Superintendent Search brochure.

Board President Kim Hodne recognized Bill Whicker and Kepa Wong for making that evening's hybrid meeting possible.

CITIZEN REMARKS²

Brenda Loughman had submitted written comments in which she stated she had hoped more candidates would have applied for the School Board vacancy. She asked the School Board to vote no on Trevor Shaw's appointment and to keep looking for a new School Board member.

Written comments submitted by Becky Harris objected to Trevor Shaw being nominated to the Board.

FILLING THE BOARD VACANCY

Motion to postpone item 5 ("Filling the Board vacancy") to meet with the intent of BB 9223 to draw from the widest possible pool of candidates; and to open the process back up and to hold a special meeting on June 3.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: TABB

Discussion

Board Member Jordan Tabb indicated re-opening the process would provide for a wider variety of applicants, as per Board Policy 9223.

Board Member Diane Gubatayao said that the vacancy had been adequately publicized; and extending the deadline wasn't fair to Mr. Shaw, as the sole applicant who had met the deadline.

Mr. Hodne said that there is previous precedent for only one applicant being appointed to a vacant seat, citing Board Member Robbins as one of those examples. Mr. Hodne also said that Shaw had the right to be heard that night; and in fairness the Board needed to follow through with the process. President Hodne also noted the 30-day timeline for filling the vacancy would end soon.

Mr. Robbins said the current candidate would still be included in the process. The motion was intended to move the deadline to see if additional applicants were interested, he added.

Mr. Tabb said there is not a formalized process other than what is in the Board Bylaw; and it is ultimately up to the board to decide on the process.

There was some more discussion.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – ABSTAIN

ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, TABB, ANDERSON - AYES

GUBATAYAO, HODNE - NAYS

4-2

MOTION PASSED

A brief discussion also followed the approval of the motion. Mr. Tabb said a special meeting on June 3 would provide for an appointment by the 30-day deadline which is up on June 4. It was agreed that the vacancy would be immediately publicized, with a new deadline for applications.

² Citizens were invited to submit written comments to be read aloud at the meeting by the Board Clerk.

OFFICER ELECTION/BOARD RE-ORGANIZATION

Motion to move the officer elections to the June 3 special meeting, in order to have a full seven members present.

Motion by: ANDERSON; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

GUBATAYAO, TABB, ANDERSON, MATTSON, ROBBINS JR., HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Members Gubatayao, Anderson, and Mattson provided information on the permanent superintendent search process for the benefit of the public, by reading from the recruiting brochure. It was requested that the brochure be posted on the school district's website.

Mr. Robbins Jr. reported that the policy committee would be reviewing policies regarding school connected organizations, complaints against the school district, and Board officer stipends at its next meeting on June 2.

Ms. Gubatayao commented on a recent training put on by the state Department of Health and Social Services regarding developing a response plan to tragedy and crisis.

Claims of May 14, 2021 for information:

A \$6,000 projector expenditure was questioned. Business Manager Katie Parrott said the payment was for several projectors for Houghtaling classrooms that weren't previously equipped.

Board Member Gubatayao commented on lights being on at Kayhi at night.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson launched her first Superintendent's Report by stating several state health officials were attending the meeting for their expertise regarding the current COVID situation and outbreaks. Southeast Alaska regional public health nurse manager Sarah Hargrave and Department of Health and Social Services officials Dr. Liz Ohlsen and Dr. Coleman Cutchins were present on the videoconference. Business Manager Katie Parrott also provided input. An approximately 40-minute discussion between the presenters and the Board included such topics as: considerations for holding graduation safely with the community's COVID situation; the continuing positives were probably individuals in the 20-40 year old age group who had little or no symptoms so they were not getting tested; that the rapid spike in Ketchikan was not attributed to a variant, but it was emphasized that "regular" COVID is a tricky virus; more testing and vaccinations is important; the various tests for COVID were described; that more vaccinated kids could lead to less mitigation measures in school; a report that the district had stepped up its testing for athletes and for activities such as the middle school survival trip; and discussion that the long-term effects of COVID are still unknown.

Evaluation Committee Report: Dr. Valerie Brooks reported on a committee reviewing the certificated evaluation tool and professional growth program. Committee members included teachers, several administrators and the curriculum director, and the group began meeting in September. The committee is developing a program and proposed evaluation tool to be piloted in the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Brooks said one purpose is for the evaluation tool to be more user friendly, to involve less paperwork as it will be online, and to allow for more communication during the evaluation process.

Board Member Robbins Jr. said he would like to hear a report after the piloting year from both administrators and teachers regarding how the new evaluation tool worked.

Student Member's Report:

In his last report, student member Henry Clark noted that day had been the seniors' last day; and graduation was that Sunday. He said that incoming and outgoing Student Body Association members had met that day, and vaccination for students had been discussed, he said. With varying opinions on that topic, the students did agree on wanting to be in school in person five days a week, he said. New SBA president Braxton Zink accompanied Henry. Braxton will also be next year's student representative on the School Board.

At the conclusion of the reports, Ms. Johnson thanked Ms. Parrott for all her work as acting superintendent. The following week, Interim Superintendent Johnson said she would be involved in interviewing internal applicants for the Special Education Director position. In response to Board President Hodne, she said the main planning for next school year will occur in August after school staff gets a break.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to ratify an interim superintendent contract with Melissa Johnson in the amount of \$183,982.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

Discussion

Mr. Robbins Jr. asked if any significant changes had been negotiated with the contract after it was initially offered to Ms. Johnson.

Ms. Mattson said there were only some small details, such as aligning days off with the KLO contract. In addition, Ms. Johnson agreed to continue on her assistant principal salary through the end of June, so that was reflected in the contract.

ROLL CALL

**Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE
ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, TABB, MATTSON, ROBBINS JR., HODNE - ALL AYES**

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve the FY 22 operating fund budget revision in the amount of \$41,555,067.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ANDERSON

Discussion

An involved discussion was held regarding two options which had been presented to the Board to account for a \$153,490 reduction in the local discretionary contribution provided by the Borough. Business Manager Parrott explained that one option would include cutting positions previously approved by the Board, including a world language teacher. The second option, which was reflected in the motion on the table, would fund the shortage through the district's fund balance. After her explanation regarding both options, discussion ensued.

ROLL CALL

**Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE
TABB, ANDERSON, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, HODNE - AYES
ROBBINS JR. - NAY**

MOTION PASSED

Motion to approve the new English Language Arts curriculum, MyPerspectives for Schoenbar Middle School for \$39,125.24.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante said this curriculum was purchased for seventh and eighth grade and had both a reading and writing component. Teachers approved it unanimously after looking at numerous vendors' products, he said.

Mr. Robbins Jr. asked what made this Savaas product the clear choice over other choices. Mr. Escalante said in particular teachers liked its writing component that gave students feedback, and also Savaas' literature selections.

There was some discussion regarding the review of this curriculum and the process.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

TABB, ROBBINS JR., MATTSO, GUBATAYAO, ANDERSON, HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of April 12, 2021, consisting of the following:

- a. *Motion to approve the emergency meeting minutes of May 4, 2021.*
- b. *Motion to approve the emergency meeting minutes of May 5, 2021.*
- c. *Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Joshua Porca for the 2021-2022 school year.*
- d. *Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Shane Scamahorn for the 2021-2022 school year.*
- e. *Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Louisa Ortiz for the 2021-2022 school year.*
- f. *Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Anita Arteaga for the 2021-2022 school year.*
- g. *Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Thomas Varela-Kossak for the 2021-2022 school year.*
- h. *Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Megan Fullerton for the 2021-2022 school year.*
- i. *Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Daniel Patton for the 2021-2022 school year.*
- j. *Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Rebekah Beckett for the 2021-2022 school year.*

Moved by: TABB; Second by: MATTSO

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

ROBBINS JR., MATTSO, TABB, ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Mattson congratulated the graduating class of 2021 and student member Henry Clark in particular. She said this class had shown resilience.

Ms. Anderson also congratulated the graduating class; and expressed pleasure that the eighth-grade survival trip was occurring.

Board Member Jordan Tabb also echoed the congratulations for the graduating seniors, noting his son was one of them. He encouraged the community to heed the advice heard that evening from the medical experts, and to get tested.

Ms. Gubatayao stated she was proud that the community had done as well as it had. She congratulated Henry and also Ms. Johnson as the newly appointed interim superintendent. She also commented in recognition of teachers and their work.

Mr. Robbins Jr. commented on only having one candidate for the Board vacancy, and urged people to step up and apply. He listed what he felt were the basic criteria for a potential applicant.

Mr. Hodne said he was disappointed as he felt that past precedence for appointing a new Board member had been ignored. He stated appreciation for the Board's openness and dialogue.

Student Member Henry Clark said it had been an honor to work with the Board and commented on the perspective he'd earned. He thanked his teachers and staff at Kayhi and his parents for supporting him in his education. He specifically mentioned teacher David Mitchel in appreciation, stating he had been his biggest mentor.

Incoming student board representative Braxton Zink said he was excited to soon be serving on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.