

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
AGENDA STATEMENT

No. 8 b

MEETING OF October 13, 2021

REVIEWED BY:

ITEM TITLE:

**PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY**

Policy Committee

Approval of revisions to Board Policy 6115 -  
Ceremonies and Observances in first reading

SUBMITTED BY: The Policy Committee

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:

Melissa Brooks-Johnson, Interim Superintendent

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Policy Committee was asked to consider policy language regarding protocol for lowering flags to half-mast.

ISSUE/BACKGROUND:

Board Bylaw 9300 states that "The formulation and adoption of written Board policies shall constitute the basic method by which the Board shall govern the school district." Board Policy 0500 and Board Bylaw 9311 both address the ongoing review of district policies and programs by the School Board.

Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson asked the policy committee to look into adding language into policy regarding the appropriate times to lower flags to half-mast.

It is being recommended that Board Policy 6115 be revised to include such language. The proposed added language is indicated by bold and underlined text.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Proposed revised policy -Ceremonies and Observances

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

"I move that the Board of Education approve revisions to Board Policy 6115 - Ceremonies and Observances in first reading."

**CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES**

**Patriotic Exercises**

The School Board encourages activities that instill pride in our country. The Pledge of Allegiance may be recited or patriotic exercises conducted.

The district respects the legal right of individuals not to participate in the salute to the flag for personal reasons.

*(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*  
*(cf. 6141.2 - Recognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs)*  
*(cf. 6141.6 - Multicultural Education)*

**Special Days and Events**

District schools shall commemorate special days and events in accordance with law. Schools are encouraged to recognize days and events of local significance.

District schools shall be closed in observance of Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and the day after, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July.

Holidays which fall on a Sunday shall be observed the following Monday. Holidays which fall on a Saturday shall be observed the preceding Friday.

*(cf. 6111 - School Calendar)*

**Lowering of the flag**

**The School District shall honor the proclamations of the elected Governor of President of the United States to fly the flag at half-mast for appropriate events. Duration shall adhere to the proclamation.**

*Legal Reference:*

ALASKA STATUTES

14.03.050 School holidays

14.03.130 Display of flag

41.15.900 Observance of Arbor Day

West Virginia State Board of Education, et al . v. Burnette, et al 319 U.S. 624 (1943)

Banks v. Board of Public Instruction, 314 F. Supp. 285

Hanover v. Northrup, 325 F. Supp. 170

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Adoption Date: 10/13/99**

Revision Date: \_ \_/\_ \_/2021