

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Meeting of
Wednesday March 8, 2023
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 8th day of March 2023, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Stephen Bradford 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: Present members included Board President Stephen Bradford, Vice President Keenan Sanderson, Members Diane Gubatayao, Paul Robbins, Jr. and Melissa O'Bryan. Board Clerk-Treasurer Nicole Anderson appeared telephonically. Member Tom Heutte and Student Member Jack Zink had excused absences.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no objections to the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Member Gubatayao gave recognition District Spelling Bee and Battle of the Books winners, mentioning both groups would be competing at the state level. She then gave recognition to Viana Esposito, KHS Student who was selected to be the Rotary Youth Leadership Representative.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Tom Guthrie, Ketchikan resident, stated he would say some words in his native language and that he was speaking for the matriarchs of his tribe. He explained that it was important for details to be available to all people so everyone can know what is happening and when it is happening.

Frankie Urquhart, district teacher, advocated for the use of the recently awarded SAMHSA Mental Health Grant funds to be used for work done directly with students instead of funding administrative positions.

Judy Leask- Guthrie, Ketchikan resident and KIC Council Member, commented on the new availability of resources for students and urged the School Board to approve the offering of the contract for the Deputy Superintendent position to Mrs. Johnson.

Lloyd Ruaro, KIC Council Member read a letter addressed to the School Board from KIC President Norm Skan. The letter addressed President Skan's concern of the non-offering of the Deputy Superintendent contract to Melissa Johnson at the school board meeting of February 22, 2023.

President Bradford commented that the Board received KIC President Skan's letter via email and notified Mr. Ruaro that it would be discussed amongst the School Board as a government-to-government letter.

A member of the public audience notified the Board there was a problem with the live stream option to view the meeting. The Board took an at ease to investigate the technical issue.

With no resolution to the live stream issue, President Bradford asked the Board if there were any objections to continuing the meeting. There were no objections from the Board.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

President Bradford acknowledged receipt of the government to government letter from KIC President Skan and also of a Complaint Against a Board Member. He suggested the next meeting include a public discussion item concerning the complaint and how the Board would proceed.

Member Gubatayao reported her attendance to a "Meet Your Legislator" event where local area administrators and representatives were present to learn about major issues facing school districts, including the request for an

APPROVED minutes of the March 8, 2023, Regular meeting

increase in BSA and issues surrounding Health Insurance funding difficulties. She was encouraged to contact the Governor to advocate as well as the Legislature.

President Bradford called for another at ease after receiving word that the live stream was still not working, although he had word the meeting was being broadcast on the KPU local access channel.

Following the at ease, President Bradford announced that the meeting was continuing over the local access channel and the issues with the live stream were not able to be resolved at this time.

CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION:

Claims of March 3, 2023- claims approved as presented.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Robbins reported he and Deputy Superintendent Johnson attended the Legislative Fly- In, meeting with government officials such as Senator Stedman and Representative Ortiz, to discuss the need for an increase in the BSA across the state. He believes that the announcement of the BSA increase or not will be in mid-May. He referenced House Bill 21, House Bill 65 and Senate Bill 62 all which would benefit school districts in Alaska. He concluded with a report of the meetings he has had over the week, conference travel, upcoming Reads Act reports and a summary of current high school sports and activities.

President Bradford relayed a request to Superintendent Robbins to provide a break down of the funding of the SAMHSA grant at the next meeting of March 22, 2023.

Member Gubatayao asked Superintendent Robbins to discuss the Reads Act and he discussed the process of bringing in instructional coaches to help implement the Reads Act as well as using available training resources to increase the successful use of the tools of the Reads Act.

Member Gubatayao asked Superintendent Robbins about his attendance at the Saxman IRA Council meeting and the status of a joint meeting between them and the School Board. Superintendent Robbins reported the joint meeting was welcomed and they were working on a date.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 22, 2023
- b. Motion to approve the offering of the Certificated Administrator contract of Deputy Superintendent for the 2023-2024 school year.
- c. Motion to approve the offering of Tenured Certified Teacher contracts for the 2023-2024 school year.
- d. Motion to approve the Home Builder's Institute (HBI) Schools to Skills Grant application.
- e. Motion to approve the purchase of a fire panel replacement for Revilla High School.

M/S: SANDERSON/ROBBINS, JR.

ROLL CALL:

6 YES- SANDERSON, O'BRYAN, ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS, JR., BRADFORD

Member Gubatayao originally voted to abstain and then voted when she was reminded of the Board Bylaws of abstaining only in the event of a conflict of interest.

CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED

EXECUTIVE SESSION - (The Board reserves the right to enter into executive session at any time as and to the extent provided for by AS 44.62.310 (the Public Meetings Act) and Board Bylaw 9321 (Executive Sessions.)

a. Regarding labor negotiations with KEA, a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district.

M/S: ROBBINS, JR./SANDERSON

ROLL CALL:

6 YES- ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, O'BRYAN, ROBBINS, JR. SANDERSON, BRADFORD

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENTERED AT 7:01 P.M. AND EXITED AT 7:13 P.M.

b. Regarding labor negotiations with KLO, a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district.

M/S: GUBATAYAO/SANDERSON

ROLL CALL:

6 YES- O'BRYAN, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS, JR., ANDERSON, SANDERSON, BRADFORD

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENTERED AT 7:14 P.M. AND EXITED AT 7:30 P.M.

DISCUSSION

a. FY24 Budget Presentation

Superintendent Robbins gave a presentation on the Fiscal Year 24 Budget. He stated that a more specific budget plan was being worked on to present later and this plan was a general overview for the public to begin looking at. He also stated the budget may change based upon an increase in the BSA by the State of Alaska.

b. Monthly budget report format options

Business Manager Daniel Schuler and the Board discussed the monthly budget report Mr. Schuler supplied to the Board for review and suggestion. Board members had some positive comments and reported general support for this format of reporting. Mr. Schuler commented on options to add such as a variance column and with other questions and answers, the Board agreed this was a sufficient format for reporting to the Board and the public via the School District website.

c. Superintendent Evaluation

President Bradford asked Member Robbins, Jr. to report the status of the 360° Superintendent Evaluation questions recently submitted to stakeholders. Mr. Robbins, Jr. reported he had worked with Superintendent Robbins to create the questions, the majority which were based on the Superintendent goals set at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Robbins, Jr. explained the rating scale created to ensure the most accurate results and mentioned there was a place for comments for those who wanted to share additional feedback. He went through the list of stakeholders who received the questions who included, District administrators, staff, and teachers, as well as community partners and tribes.

Superintendent Robbins began with listing the community groups to whom Deputy Superintendent Johnson had sent the Evaluation questions; he encouraged everyone to look at the questions and respond if they yet had not. Through discussion between members and the superintendent, it was decided to send a district wide reminder to complete the evaluation by March 15, giving time for the results to be compiled and presented to the Board at the meeting of March 22, 2023. President Bradford also requested Superintendent Robbins have his self-evaluation ready to present to the Board at the same meeting. He then instructed the board to have their evaluation workbook of the superintendent completed for compiling and results shared at the meeting of April 8, 2023.

BOARD COMMENTS

Member O'Bryan apologized for the way actions were perceived by the Tribal community concerning the offering of the Deputy Superintendent contract. She expressed her view of the importance of maintaining trust and collaboration with Tribal citizens and the community. She also encouraged staff to reexamine the need for hiring a Special Education Director to meet the needs of children and to ensure state compliance.

Member Robbins, Jr. commented on the letter from KIC sent to the Board, stating he was glad to see that included in the letter of concern was support of the past practice of considering Mrs. Johnson for Superintendent and ultimately hiring her as the Assistant Superintendent. He expressed his feeling that the recognition from KIC in this area was a representation of some trust between the two bodies.

Member Gubatayao thanked the Borough for designating the PILTs funds to the School District for FY24. She also apologized for any misunderstanding regarding the offering of the Deputy Superintendent contract. She explained her concerns surround the budget and her intent was to understand the position, not target any individual. She expressed her hope for the community's energy to be funneled to lobbying the legislature and state government for an increase in school funding from the state. She commented that the Joint Resolution was now approved by both the Borough and School Board, creating a powerful document to use for lobbying.

President Bradford commented on the KIC government to government letter of concern and the need to schedule a joint meeting between KIC and the School Board. He also stated he would reach out to the Saxman IRA Council to schedule a meeting as well.

ADVANCE PLANNING

- a. School Board Listening Session Saturday March 11th (Pilothouse) or Sunday March 12th (Cape Fox,) 2023 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Superintendent Robbins suggested and the Board agreed to the Listening Session being postponed to the weekend after the meeting of the 22nd to reach those who may be on Spring Break and to hold it after the next budget presentation.

- b. School Board regular meeting and/or work session March 22nd, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers.

With no objections, ADJOURNMENT at 8:45 p.m.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Stephen Bradford