

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL meeting of Thursday, February 11, 2021  
Noon  
Via WebEx virtual platform

**CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL**

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in a **special session** on the 11th day of February, 2021, virtually via WebEx. Board President Kim Hodne called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

The following members were present via WebEx, to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board President Kim Hodne; Vice President Sonya Skan; Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; Board Members Diane Gubatayao, Jordan Tabb, Paul Robbins Jr., and Nicole Anderson.

Administrative staff present on the videoconference were Business Manager Katie Parrott and School Board Clerk Kerry Watson.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

No written comments were submitted and no citizens had signed up to comment.

**DISCUSSION regarding the district's Smart Start plan operations and risk level**

Board President Kim Hodne commented on the report regarding the community's risk level provided by Emergency Operations Incident Commander Abner Hoage at the Board's meeting the previous evening.

Acting Superintendent Katie Parrott stated that Mr. Abner expects the current risk level to be in place through the following week, and potentially for a bit longer. Based on that, she recommends that the Board approve an extension of the current Smart Start operations through February 19. However, she added that the Board could reconvene in the following week to review the status of the community risk level and make a further determination.

There was some discussion regarding how much time schools needed to adjust to a new level and coordinating with EOC community risk level information.

**ACTION**

**Motion that the Board of Education sustain the current Smart Start plan operation in the district for one more week until the Board reconvenes on Thursday, February 18.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: TABB

**ROLL CALL**

**TABB, SKAN, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, HODNE – ALL AYES**

***MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

**DISCUSSION regarding changing the district's quarantine timeline to follow CDC recommendations.**

Ms. Parrott explained the background for asking the School Board to consider updating the district's quarantine protocol for staff and students. In December, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance that close contacts of positive COVID individuals need to quarantine for 14 days. The district's current guidelines adhere to that full 14 days of quarantine, said Ms. Parrott. The CDC's updated guidance now contains options to shorten that period for asymptomatic individuals who are close contacts. Ms. Parrott said that both the local EOC and public health officials had reviewed the updated recommendations. The guidance now suggests that the quarantine time could shorten for those asymptomatic individuals to as little as 8 days, but with preference for 10 days, she said. That new shortened quarantine time would be dependent on negative COVID testing during that time period and close monitoring for symptoms, added Ms. Parrott. Acting Superintendent Parrott said the district feels comfortable with adopting the updated recommendations. By doing so, staff and students will be able to return to school quicker and not increase the risk much in doing so, she said.

Another topic Ms. Parrott addressed with the Board was what she termed “surveillance” testing for COVID. She explained that some non-school district organizations were using this random testing of their membership, who happened to be students in the district. She said this testing is done on asymptomatic individuals who are not close contacts and haven’t traveled as a sample type of testing organizations to catch potential positive cases sooner. The issue for the district emerged when students from these entities had a pending test, so were kept out of school as is protocol with pending tests. Potentially, these affected students could be out of school for some time if a test result takes several days, pointed out Ms. Parrott. Additionally, some of the organizations utilizing the testing might be doing it several times a week during higher risk level periods, she said. Ms. Parrott asked that the Board approve adjusting of the district screening protocols regarding the surveillance test affected students. The purpose is to avoid keeping these students out of school if they don’t meet the criteria for doing so, such as being symptomatic, or a close contact of a positive COVID case, she said. Ms. Parrott said this topic might become more of an issue for the district itself in the future.

There was some discussion and questions on this matter and some associated topics.

### **ACTION**

#### **Motion to align the district COVID quarantine protocols with CDC recommendations.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: SKAN

### **ROLL CALL**

**SKAN, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, TABB, HODNE – ALL AYES  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **Motion to remove surveillance testing from pending COVID testing quarantine restrictions.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

### **ROLL CALL**

**GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, TABB, MATTSON, SKAN, HODNE – ALL AYES  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Mattson thanked teachers and staff, and Ms. Parrott for her work and the memo presented for the meeting. She also wished the debate team luck in the state tournament that weekend.

Ms. Gubatayao also thanked Ms. Parrott for her memo to aid in the decision-making.

Mr. Hodne also expressed thanks to Ms. Parrott and her work.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

*Minutes approved as distributed at the February 24/25, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Education.*

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**BOARD PRESIDENT**  
Kim Hodne