

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting of September 13, 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 13th day of September 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 President Stephen Bradford, Vice President Keenan Sanderson, Clerk-Treasurer Nicole Anderson, Members Diane Gubatayao, and Melissa O'Bryan. Member Paul Robbins, Jr. appeared telephonically, and Member Tom Heutte had an excused absence.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

President Bradford welcomed Lily Gosnell, the Ketchikan High School Student Member of the School Board for the 2023-24 school year. He encouraged her to share her opinions and welcomed her input on issues that come to the board.

Member Gubatayao recognized the Child Find Screening team for their work getting children screened for preschool. She then asked the board and audience to join in a moment of silence to honor the passing of Mary Peltola's husband.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Catriona McCord and Gavin Hall- KHS Rotary President and Vice President came to the podium to promote Kings for Peace. They explained the history of the Kings for Peace group and reported the upcoming activities surrounding National Day of Peace.

Carena Wood- KHS Intensive Paraprofessional stepped forward to express her concerns and experience as an special education intensive paraprofessional.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

President Bradford reported a grant award to the district's CTE program from Southern Southeast Alaska Building Industry Association specifically to create apprenticeship certificate training curriculum. He then reported he received an invitation to serve as AASB Resolutions Committee as the Governance sub-committee Chair. With no objections from the Board, President Bradford indicated he would accept the invitation.

Clerk-Treasurer Anderson reported on the Strategic Plan Committee Town Hall forum. She recapped the main concerns of the attendees, which included Academic Achievement and learning loss as a result of schooling under COVID restrictions. She stated that the Strategic Plan Committee would have its next meeting on September 25th with Todd White here in person.

Member Gubatayao read an article regarding COVID learning loss and reported her attendance and experience at Stomp the Stigma.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION: Claims of August 25, 2023 Approved

Member Gubatayao and Business Manager Schuler had a conversation about where to find "legal fees" fall in the Monthly Operations Fund Report.

STUDENT REPORT

Student Member Gosnell provided a detailed report of high school activities during the first weeks of school.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Robbins thanked the people who organized the Student visit to White Cliff, followed by a recap of his recent travel to the SERRC Board of Directors meeting. He thanked the staff, teachers and students for a smooth opening to the 2023 school year. Superintendent Robbins shared some more details of school openings and reminded the district and community the preferred process to address complaints. He also spoke about the issues concerning the lack of paraprofessionals currently in the district, stating that some have been hired but cannot start working until their seasonal job has ended. Superintendent Robbins gave a report on Career Technical Education (CTE) classes offered at Ketchikan High School and Revilla which an average of 58% of students participate in each year. He discussed more details of the CTE program with board members including exploring internship opportunities. His report concluded with a summary of the school lunch summer program and then he thanked board members Gubatayao and Robbins, Jr. for their time serving on the board.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 23, 2023
- b. Motion to approve a four year lease agreement with American Capital

M/S: SANDERSON/GUBATAYAO

ROLL CALL:

6 YES

GOSNELL(PREFERENTIAL,) ANDERSON, SANDERSON, O'BRYAN, ROBBINS, JR., GUBATAYAO, BRADFORD

CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Motion to approve Resolution 24-01 Authorizing KGBSD Participation in SB 185 Reemployment of Retired Teachers

M/S: GUBATAYAO/ANDERSON

DISCUSSION:

Member Gubatayao asked some questions regarding the length of contract and salary placement for a retired teacher that was rehired. Superintendent Robbins replied that the salary placement would vary individually and would follow the current KEA negotiated agreement.

ROLL CALL:

6 YES

GOSNELL (PREFERENTIAL,) GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS, JR., SANDERSON, O'BRYAN, ANDERSON, BRADFORD

MOTION APPROVED

****PUBLIC HEARING- POLICY**** -Procedure (1) Citizens may give public comment regarding the subject of the hearing; (2) the public hearing is closed; (3) opportunity for Board discussion and decision.

- a. Motion to adopt new Board Policy 4112.10 Employment of Retired Teachers, in first reading.

PUBLIC HEARING: No citizen comment

M/S: ANDERSON/SANDERSON

BOARD DISCUSSION: NONE

ROLL CALL:

6 YES

GOSNELL (PREFERENTIAL,) ROBBINS, JR., ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, SANDERSON, O'BRYAN, BRADFORD

President Bradford presented Board Bylaw to board members asking if anyone had an objection to passing this new policy into effect by waiving the second reading. There were no objections.

POLICY APPROVED AND EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

DISCUSSION

a. Meeting dates through December

President Bradford summarized the current meeting schedule and stated his proposal to change the October meeting date to coincide with certification of newly elected board members. Board members discussed having one versus two October meetings.

b. School Board Listening Sessions

President Bradford reminded the board of the past practice of the structure of School Board Listening Sessions. Members O'Bryan and Gubatayao discussed the types of events they would like to see available for the community to approach board members. With no objections, the board agreed to schedule the first listening session of 2023-24 at the next regular meeting.

c. Paraprofessional Positions District wide

President Bradford opened the conversation clarifying that the board supported the Superintendent's plan to continue hiring paraprofessionals until positions are filled, not to reduce the amount of paraprofessionals district wide. He summarized the comments made during public comment and replied that the negotiated agreement between the district and bargaining unit had recently been approved. Board Members discussed issues that they have been approached with including rate of pay, level of training, working outside of their hired assignment based on building needs and potentially reviewing the Special Education Audit results to see if the district was lacking in any certain areas of paraprofessional support. Member Gubatayao asked the board to consider offering incentives for paraprofessionals to further their education and become certified teachers. Special Education Director Sally Stockhausen reported there are 116 students who qualify for special education services. She said that the staff available are being creative with coverage for services until more staff are hired. She told the board of a Type I certificate available through DEED which is an incentive for paraprofessionals to earn their teaching degree while working as a paraprofessional. Board members and Superintendent Robbins continued the discussion suggesting that some information about paraprofessionals and the Type I certificate be shared with the community as well as the importance of the role of a paraprofessional in a school district. Board members asked the Superintendent to provide an update at the next meeting on the status of hiring paraprofessionals for this school year.

BOARD COMMENTS

Member Robbins, Jr expressed his gratitude to Superintendent Robbins for a successful time together on the board.

Member O'Bryan commented on her experience at Fawn Mountain's Open House. She announced to families to apply for a program to receive free or reduced internet services through Ketchikan Public Utilities.

Member Gubatayao expressed her thankfulness to Superintendent Robbins and First Student Transportation manager Michael Johnson for working hard for the district's success. She commented that she was looking forward to the work session on MTSS and hoped it would increase awareness of the various struggles students encounter.

Student Member Gosnell commented on her excitement to learn as she serves as the student representative on the board.

Clerk Treasurer Anderson commented on the importance of the CTE program in the district and commended the district for holding on to the program.

Vice President Sanderson echoed the comments made by Clerk Treasurer Anderson

President Bradford reminded Student Member Gosnell that the student opinion is an important voice and will be heard by the board. He also thanked staff for reaching out to board members and giving input on the paraprofessional issues facing the district.

ADVANCE PLANNING

School Board regular meeting and work session with Michael Cron on MTSS Wednesday September 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers

School Board regular meeting Wednesday October 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers.

With no objections, ADJOURNMENT at 7:33 p.m.

BOARD PRESIDENT

Stephen Bradford