

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING of January 15, 2025
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 15th day of January 2025, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Michelle O'Brien 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 Michelle O'Brien, Vice President Jordan Tabb, Members Keenan Sanderson, Tom Heutte, Katherine Tatsuda, Judy Leask-Guthrie, Ali Ginter and Student Member Lillian Pader.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ROLL CALL

YES - Tabb, Heutte, Guthrie, Sanderson, Tatsuda, O'Brien YES

NO - Ginter

(7-1) Agenda approved

Motion to amend agenda to move the Student Report

M/S: Guthrie/Tatsuda

Roll Call

Tabb, Guthrie, Ginter, Sanderson, Tatsuda, Heutte, O'Brien

(7-0) MOTION PASSES

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

a. Titan Linne- Wrestling State Champion

President O'Brien shared a proclamation congratulating Titan his State Wrestling Championship.

b. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

President O'Brien shared a proclamation in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Student Report

The last few weeks have been focused on Christmas break, giving students a chance to rest before finals this week. While some rested, others stayed busy with activities. The Clarke Cochrane Christmas Classic was a success, featuring performances from various teams and had a great turnout. Basketball season is ongoing, with both teams participating in several tournaments. This weekend, the Lady Kings play Juneau Douglas at Kayhi And their NOSB team competes in Juneau. The academic decathlon team recently competed in a state scrimmage, and drama debate and forensics will also compete in Sitka next week. The environmental club held a movie night during break to raise awareness about plastic waste. This week concludes Kayhi finals, and the quarter ends on Friday. To celebrate, the dance committee is hosting a homecoming dance. Pader shared that January will be busy for basketball, dance, and cheer teams, so check the Kayhi website for game updates.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Penny Leighton, a member of the English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force, discusses the task force's activities and concerns about the support for ELL students. Leighton requests board members to support the task force to enhance the English language program for ELL students and ensures their involvement in educational planning.

Kaitlyn Anderson, a former student at Kayhi, spoke on a personnel issue. Anderson thanked the Board for listening.

Sydney Hartley, parent of students in the district, expresses concern about the two proposals for the 2025-2026 school year due to budget cuts. Hartley references specific educational requirements and emphasizes access issues for families and the importance of maintaining educational staff.

Bett Union-Jackuback- Ketchikan resident, spoke about a personnel issue. She urges the school board to ask tough questions about the situation and expresses her concerns about how the situation was handled.

Ann Graham, Ketchikan resident, spoke on a district personnel issue.

David Licon Jr., Ketchikan resident, emphasizes the need for dedicated leaders, who selflessly serve the community. He urges a review of existing protocols and calls for courageous, humble leadership in line with Martin Luther King's ideals.

Sheri Boehlert, principal at Schoenbar Middle School, spoke briefly about the budget process the board is facing. Boehlert shared that this is her thirty-second budget cycle in the district. Administrators know the needs of their students and staff, and urged the board to consider their recommendations seriously, and to make their decisions in a timely manner. Boehlert added that early planning is crucial for accommodating new staff and shifting schedules.

Maria Miller, Ketchikan resident, expresses her frustration and disappointment over the dismissal of a district teacher.

Mischa Chernick, Ketchikan resident, addresses the school board regarding the dismissal of a district teacher. Chernick provided the board with a petition regarding the dismissal of district staff member with 640 signatures.

Jeremy Muzart, Ketchikan resident, shared his views on the dismissal of a district teacher as a loss for both the school and the community, and questions how the board intends to support and invest in the youth.

Caitlyn Jacobson, Kayhi librarian, spoke on the budget cuts being a tough time for many, and recognized that the superintendent and admin face hard jobs with challenging decisions. Jacobson shared that it is crucial to listen to teachers and paraprofessionals, as their voices are important too. Jacobson urged the board to ask difficult questions.

Rebecca Leach, Ketchikan resident, expresses hope for the reinstatement of a teacher no longer with the district, and urges the board and administration for better communication concerning the students' needs.

Jeremy Yoder, Ketchikan resident, urges the school board to reconsider actions regarding the dismissal of a district teacher, emphasizing the need for a positive educational environment. Yoder presented the board with a letter from Christa Bruce.

Laurie Gilette, Ketchikan resident, urges for a review of the decision regarding the dismissal of a district teacher.

Kelly Thynes, Ketchikan resident, emphasized the community's support for a dismissed district teacher and the need for fair treatment.

Andrew Spokley, Ward Cove resident, expresses strong support for dismissed teacher, highlighting character and contributions to the community. Spokley requests that the school board take action to support the dismissed teacher during this complicated situation.

Anne Lucas, Ketchikan resident and former teacher, echoed the thoughts of previous speakers, urging the board to correct the situation regarding the dismissal of a district teacher.

Larry Parrott, Ketchikan resident, urges the board to reconsider decisions made regarding the dismissal of a district teacher.

Alan Hauan, a former educator in Ketchikan, speaks on behalf of a teacher dismissed by the district, sharing personal experiences with the former teacher.

Leigh Woodward, teacher at KCS, shared that she is part of the ELL task force and is enjoying her involvement. She urged that the ELL committee not be disbanded, emphasizing that they have just begun their important work.

The board entered into an at ease from 7:03 p.m. - 7:10 p.m.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

ELL Task force- Member Tom Heutte shared an update on the ELL Task Force, sharing that Last year, community members and retired teachers raised concerns about support for English language learners (ELL) in the district. A suggestion to form a task force to address these issues received unanimous support from board members. The task force has made good progress and submitted recommendations to the superintendent, including a recommendation to revise the existing plan filed with the State Department of Education and update related language in board policy. Heutte discussed that the task force may work more effectively as an advisory committee to the superintendent, or an official committee of the board. Moving forward, there is a consensus to maintain focus on improving ELL support and regular updates and accountability mechanisms are recommended to ensure progress on these goals.

Superintendent Robbins shared updates on the progress on the short term goals presented by the ELL Task Force, and shared how the district has started implementing some recommendations.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION:

Claims of December 13, 2024; Claims of December 23, 2024; December Board Financial Report

CLAIMS/REPORTS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORTS

Audit Report Update

Business Manager Daniel Schuler gave a report that outlined the process of working with DEED to assess available cap room from previous fiscal years for an in-kind contribution to address a self-insurance note receivable. After about four months, DEED agreed to the plan. The borough passed an ordinance that allowed a reduction in the note receivable for health insurance. Discussions led to the decision to recognize the revenue for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The finalized audit will be sent to DEED, although the deadline was

APPROVED MINUTES

January 15, 2025

missed, there are no cash flow issues because the borough's funding has already been received. The audit will proceed without further complications.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Robbins' report covered the exploration of school specialization and a comparison of district administration levels between Kodiak and Ketchikan. The Superintendent's report outlined essential factors for decision-making regarding school specialization and district administration. Robbins shared that details will be available online for further review. Robbins highlighted recent events, such as the NYO event in Ketchikan, which demonstrated significant community and student engagement.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Motion to approve memorandum of agreement with Ketchikan Gateway Borough, regarding management and funding for replacement of the Schoenbar partial siding replacement, Valley Park Playground Replacement and Replacement of boiler NO. 3 at Ketchikan High School.
- b. Motion to approve the offering of a certified contract to Debra Robinson-Carlson for the 2024-25 school year.
- c. Motion to approve offering FY 26 contracts to certificated administrators and tenured teachers, tenured counselors, special education teachers, and special service staff for the 2025-2026 school year

M/S: SANDERSON/GUTHRIE

ROLL CALL:

YES - SANDERSON, GUTHRIE, GINTER, TABB, TATSUDA, HEUTTE, O'BRIEN YES

NO – GINTER

(6-1) CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

The Board entered into an at ease from 8:08 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Motion to convene in Executive Session pursuant to BP 3921, to discuss a matter which the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district.

M/S: Guthrie/Sanderson

ROLL CALL

Heutte, Tatsuda, Tabb, Ginter, Sanderson, Guthrie, O'Brien

TIME ENTERED: 8:16

TIME EXITED: 8:34

President O'Brien stated that no action had been taken in the executive session,

- b. Motion to convene back into Executive Session pursuant to BP 3921, to discuss a matter which the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district.

M/S: Sanderson/Guthrie

ROLL CALL

Tabb, Ginter, Tatsuda, Heulette, Guthrie, Sanderson, O'Brien

APPROVED MINUTES

January 15, 2025

TIME ENTERED: 8:34

TIME EXITED: 8:45

President O'Brien stated that no action had been taken during the executive session.

Motion to exit executive session:

M/S: Guthrie/Sanderson

ROLL CALL

Tatsuda, Guthrie, Sanderson, Tabb, Heutte, Ginter, O'Brien

Executive session ended at 8:46 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

DISCUSSION

a. FY26 budget

Business Manager Daneil Schuler gave a presentation that focused on the fiscal year 2026 budget. Due to state funding uncertainties, the projections were based on current figures. Two options, regarding staffing adjustments were discussed. Board members emphasized the need for effective communication and transparency about financial challenges, and shared plans for a joint budgeting session with the borough assembly that is scheduled for next week.

****PUBLIC HEARING** POLICY**

Motion to enter *PUBLIC HEARING** POLICY

M/S: Sanderson/Tatsuda

ROLL CALL

Guthrie, Tabb, Heutte, Ginter, Sanderson, Tatsuda, O'Brien

President O'Brien gave a brief overview of the policies up for revision, and opened the floor for any public comment on any of the proposed revisions. No community members came forward to speak.

a. Motion to revise BP 3440 Capitalization, in the first reading.

M/S: Sanderson/Tabb

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL

Ginter, Heutte, Guthrie, Tabb, Sanderson, Tatsuda, O'Brien

(7-0) MOTION PASSES

b. Motion to revise BP 3460 Periodic Financial Reports, in the first reading.

M/S: Sanderson/Tabb

APPROVED MINUTES

January 15, 2025

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL

Tatsuda, Guthrie, Ginter, Heutte, Sanderson, Tabb, O'Brien

(7-0) MOTION PASSES

c. Motion to revise BP4262.8 Bereavement Leave, in the first reading.

M/S: Sanderson/Guthrie

Discussion: None

ROLL CALL

Guthrie, Heutte, Ginter, Tabb, Tatsuda, Sanderson, O'Brien

(7-0) MOTION PASSES

BOARD COMMENTS

Tatsuda shared that she will be traveling to Juneau with Superintendent Robbins and will meet with senators and representatives, and coordinate appointments to advocate for BSA increases. Superintendent Robbins and Tatsuda discussed bringing students in the future, but it's not possible this time.

Tabb emphasized the hard work of everyone involved in building the budget, despite limited resources and urged anyone unhappy with the budget to contact legislators for support. Tabb spoke on the need for increased funding to improve education, and encourage proactive communication with decision-makers to foster positive change.

Ginter asked clarifying questions on administrators contracts. Superintendent Robbins informed her he would look into the specifics of the contracts and provide details in an upcoming update.

Superintendent Robbins thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and everyone that had helped out with local Native Youth Olympics.

ADVANCE PLANNING

School Board Native Education Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. 615 Stedman Joint Meeting/Work Session with Borough Assembly Friday, January 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers

School Board Regular meeting Wednesday January 29, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers

School Board Regular meeting Wednesday February 12 & 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers

ADJOURNMENT at 9:28 p.m.



BOARD PRESIDENT
Katherine Tatsuda



Board Vice President
Jordan Tabb



Clerk Treasurer
Tom Heutte