

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

Assembly/School Board Liaison Committee Meeting

April 6, 2023

Assembly Chambers

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robbins, Jr. at 12:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

School District

Nicole Anderson, Regular Member
Paul Robbins, Jr, Regular Member
Stephen Bradford, Alternate Member
Michael Robbins, Superintendent
Daniel Schuler, Business Manager
Crystal Vail, School Board Clerk

Ketchikan Gateway Borough

Jeremy Bynum, Regular Member
Austin Otos, Regular Member
Cynna Gubatayao, Assistant Manager
Charlanne Thomas, Finance Director
Jenni Fox, Borough Deputy Clerk

Members not in attendance: Grant Echohawk, Borough Alternate Member

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

School Board FY'24 Operating Budget

Through discussion, the Liaison committee confirmed with Superintendent Robbins that the presentation included in the committee meeting packet was the same as presented at the last School Board meeting and that the next step in the budget process would be published in the next School Board regular meeting packet. The committee agreed to place this item on the next agenda as Unfinished Business.

Health Insurance Deficit Repayment Plan

The Liaison committee agreed on ideas of budget priorities including rebuilding the fund balance and forming an effective repayment plan to reduce the district's health insurance debt balance. Ideas of charging interest or a penalty on unpaid debt were considered for discussion at a future meeting. The committee agreed that the repayment plan would depend on the amount of additional funding coming from the state which will be announced mid-May. The district members were confident that any fund increase to the district from the state would be prioritized to include repayment of health insurance debt balance to the borough. The committee agreed to give their respective staff direction to continue working together to develop a long-term repayment plan considering the variables discussed.

Possible increase in Borough contribution based on BSA increase

The Liaison committee discussed the formula involved to determine the contribution from the borough to the district. Assistant Borough Manager Gubatayao clarified some details involving borough property taxes. Through discussion, the intent of the item placed on the agenda was clarified, it was not to gauge intent or willingness to increase contributions but was intended to gauge staff's feelings about funding to the cap knowing of a possible BSA increase. Member Bynum stated it was too soon to determine those details and the committee agreed to bring it to a future meeting after the BSA announcement.

The committee scheduled its next meeting for May 25, 2023 with the Borough hosting.

Staff Reports and Communications

No reports were given.

Committee Member Comments

Member Bynum reiterated his belief that a multi-year repayment plan involving changing financial conditions should be a priority moving forward.

Chair Robbins, Jr. stated his appreciation for the evolution of discussions surrounding the health care deficit and repayment. His feeling is now that both bodies will be able to work together to create plans that will be mutually beneficial.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.