

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR meeting of  
Wednesday, March 10, 2021

*Remotely held via WebEx video conferencing platform*

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

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 10th day of March 2021, participating remotely via the videoconferencing platform WebEx. Board President Kim Hodne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present on the videoconference 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. Student member Henry Clark was also present.

Administrative staff present via videoconference included: Business Manager Katie Parrott; and Board Clerk Kerry Watson.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion to approve the agenda of the March 10, 2021 regular meeting.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ANDERSON

**ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE**

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

***MOTION PASSED***

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

Diane Gubatayao congratulated Thierry Oyedeji, a Houghtaling Elementary student, for winning the district-wide spelling bee for the third year in a row. She also recognized boys' basketball coach Eric Stockhausen, stating he'd become the winningest coach in Kayhi history.

Board President Kim Hodne thanked Board Member Nicole Anderson and staff for combined efforts toward ensuring spectators could attend the recent basketball games at Kayhi.

**CITIZEN REMARKS**

No citizens had signed up to speak nor were any written citizen comments submitted.

**INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Ms. Gubatayao announced a mental health first aid training was being held for staff that weekend, cooperatively provided by the Wellness Coalition and the school district. She recognized Jennifer Karlik and Cole Maxwell for being the instructors.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Student Member's Report:**

Student Member Henry Clark reported on some activities related to the Region V competitions. He said the pep band might have a chance to play at that Saturday's basketball games. The dance and cheer teams will be adjudicated through virtual means. He also commented that he has heard quite a few students may be out of school the first week after spring break due to their schedules and having to quarantine.

### **Houghtaling Elementary School Annual Report:**

Houghtaling Elementary School Principal Michael Cron reported on the successes and challenges of this year for the school. Mr. Cron opened by providing some demographics on the school, which is the oldest elementary still open in Ketchikan. Houghtaling has about 360 students this year, with 82 staff members and 23 classrooms. Principal Cron described some of the changes the school made to provide for safe spacing and other COVID protocols. These included: adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> grade; expanding a few other grades; adding more paraprofessional help; moving the two preschools to Kayhi; and re-assigning the librarian to the classroom. With these changes and due to larger size classrooms, Houghtaling was able to ensure this year that there are no more than 16 students per room, said the principal. Mr. Cron also described the strict student pod structure being utilized from when students enter and exit the building, and even for recess.

Principal Cron shared and commented on the school's AimsWeb scores for this year. While noting areas of concern, he also noted the rate of growth for students this year has been high. Every grade has increased faster than the national average this year, he said. Mr. Cron also showed some data on cohorts at the school over the past three years, concluding they have improved on their scores. He noted it will be interesting to see how the COVID cohorts do in future years.

Mr. Cron noted one of the challenges this year has been an increase in chronically absent students to about 40 percent, which is about 20 percent more than normal. Meanwhile, a success has been the climate at the school, reported both Mr. Cron and Dean of Students Meredith Lundamo. Ms. Lundamo described the cohesive, family-type units of pods lending itself to more relationship building and to less behavior referrals. For example, there were 300 referrals in 2019, and less than 50 referrals so far this year, she said.

Lastly, Principal Cron reflected on how some of the successful changes made this year due to COVID, might be continued into the future such as maintaining smaller classroom sizes.

### **Break**

The Board took a break in its meeting from 7:03 to 7:13 p.m.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Acting Superintendent Katie Parrott updated the Board on the district's quarantining and COVID testing protocols for students and staff. She noted the rules had been instituted with feedback from the Board. She also remarked that the district is looking ahead, post Spring Break, and trying to ensure that students can be in school for 100 percent capacity for the last 2 months.

Business Manager Parrott shared the results from the budget survey next. She said that more people responded to the budget survey this year than last, and there was an increased response from parents. The survey included a section on COVID-related actions, with respondents, in part, being asked where future COVID-relief funding should be expended.

Ms. Parrott then provided a comprehensive report on all aspects of the school district's budget. This included how the district is funded; the outlook for the local appropriation from the Borough; and a breakdown of the district's operating fund. Ms. Parrott also shared details on enrollment trends, pointing out that the student count drives education funding. She also said that the budget will come before the Board for two hearings in April, prior to its adoption. It must be submitted to the Borough by May 1.

**Claims of March 5, 2021 for Information** - There were no questions.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Board Member Gubatayao requested removal of consideration of administrative contracts from the Consent Calendar.

### **Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of March 10, 2021, consisting of the following:**

- a. *Motion to approve the special meeting minutes of February 18, 2021.*
- b. *Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 24-25, 2021.*
- c. *Motion to adopt Resolution 21-02 regarding the designation of Hazardous Routes.*
- d. *Motion to approve a long-term substitute teaching contract with John Ole Sullivan.*

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

### **ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE**

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

**MOTION PASSED**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Motion to approve administrative contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: MATTSON

#### Discussion

Board Member Gubatayao asked several questions regarding administrative contracts, including if administrators' assignments could change before next school year. Business Manager Parrott answered that situation was possible. The administrators' bargaining group, Ketchikan Leadership Organization, will begin negotiating with the district later this month, she said. The action before the Board that evening was essentially to ratify that administrators are being offered contracts. If there are salary increases as a result of a KLO successor agreement, those would be incorporated into the individual's contracts, she said. It was noted that the building principals at the charter schools are recommended by the Academic Policy Committee of each school. Those recommendations had been provided with the materials for this action item.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE**

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

**MOTION PASSED**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Motion to approve the charter school MOA, as presented.**

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: MATTSON

#### Discussion

Ms. Gubatayao thanked Ms. Parrott for her work on updating the Memorandum of Agreement.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE**

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

**MOTION PASSED**

### **Motion to approve the contract extension with Brian Adams for school psychology services for the 2021-2022 school year, as presented.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

Discussion

There was no discussion.

**ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE**

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

**MOTION PASSED**

**DISCUSSION**

Budget priorities - Board members reflected on and discussed the upcoming budget.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Ms. Mattson expressed appreciation to teachers and administrators for their work this year. She noted that last year, school never re-started after spring break. She also commented on the perseverance of the students involved in the Kayhi musical, who would be performing that weekend.

Ms. Gubatayao remarked on the extra effort students put into various competitions such as ACDC, the spelling bee, and Battle of the Books; and stated appreciation for the staff supporting those students.

Henry Clark remarked on the impact that the arts and extracurricular activities can have on a student's high school career.

Board Member Robbins Jr. said that Board members, including himself, should not have been reading and receiving texts during Board meetings, referring to the previous Board meeting. There is a process for public comment and public input, he said.

Board Member Tabb noted that COVID vaccinations are now available to all Alaskans over 16 years of age, and that vaccination clinics will be offered in Ketchikan.

Ms. Skan stated she enjoyed hearing about the budget survey responses. She also commented on Ketchikan students being able to be in school.

Mr. Hodne said that he enjoyed the Board and its discussions.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

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

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BOARD PRESIDENT  
Kim Hodne