

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Regular meeting of October 23, 2019**

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

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2019, in the Ketchikan Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Matt Eisenhower 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: Board President Matt Eisenhower; Board Vice-President Sonya Skan; Clerk-Treasurer Diane Gubatayao; Board Members Bridget Mattson; Rachel Breithaupt; Leslie Becker; and Jordan Tabb. Student Member Brendan Roof was also present.

Administrative staff consisted of Beth Lougee, Superintendent; Katie Parrott, Business Manager; and Clerk to the Board Kerry Watson.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

*Red Ribbon Week*

Reed Harding of the Wellness Coalition's Substance Abuse Task Force presented Board members with red ribbons and a flyer about Red Ribbon Week. He spoke briefly on Red Ribbon Week activities he'd been involved with at Houghtaling Elementary and Kayhi; and commented on opioid use. He stated his statistics show that 1 in 10 youths in Ketchikan have been involved in opioids in the last 30 days. Events such as Red Ribbon Week help raise awareness of these issues, he said. Board President Matt Eisenhower read the Ketchikan Gateway Borough's proclamation of October 23 to 31, 2019 as Red Ribbon Week.

**Suspend rules**

**Motion to suspend rules to adjust the agenda.**

Moved by: EISENHOWER; second by; MATTSON

President Matt Eisenhower said he wanted to adjust the agenda to move up a discussion regarding a MOU with Ketchikan Indian Community. He had asked Borough Attorney Glenn Brown to provide comment on the MOU and Mr. Brown's time at that night's meeting was limited.

**ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Brendan Roof (preferential vote) - AYE**

**BECKER, SKAN, TABB, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, BREITHAUPT, EISENHOWER - ALL AYES**

***MOTION PASSED***

**Public Recognition *continued***

*Principal Recognition Month*

Superintendent Beth Lougee said it is appropriate to thank school principals in public for their dedication and hard work as October is Principal Recognition Month. In 2013, Governor Parnell had declared the month's recognition and his proclamation was included in the Board packet.

Board Member Diane Gubatayao said that "Steps for Change" was occurring that evening to commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The event acknowledges that it takes an individual experiencing domestic violence 7 or 8 tries to break away from the situation, she said. Sonya Skan explained that those participating in the event walk around the track at the Gateway Recreation Center for the "steps."

**CITIZEN REMARKS**

Two Schoenbar Middle School students, Jared Rhoads and Bree Johnson, expressed their disappointment that Ms. Karen Lane had been dismissed as the school's cross-country coach, and also the manner in which that dismissal had allegedly occurred. Both students praised her work as a coach and said she should be retained.

## **INFORMATION & REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

*Policy committee* - Board Member Gubatayao said the policy committee had discussed the high school graduation requirements policy at its last meeting. The policy was on that night's agenda for discussion.

*Board Committee appointments* - A list of Board appointments was distributed. President Eisenhower asked committee chairs to bring back specifics on their particular committee to the December meeting, i.e. the committee's charge, life of the committee and frequency of meetings.

**CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION – October 18, 2019** - There were no questions or comments.

## **DISCUSSION - Item moved up on the agenda**

*MOU from Ketchikan Indian Community*: Discussion was held regarding a Memorandum of Understanding from the Tribal Council of Ketchikan Indian Community and proposed changes drafted by the School Board's Native Education committee. In part, the MOU addresses collaboration in providing educational opportunities to students and working toward increasing the graduation rate, and recommends including tribal officials or designees on school district hiring committees. Borough Attorney Glenn Brown had reviewed the original MOU and the committee's proposed revisions and offered his analysis to the Board. The School Board then discussed the MOU at some length.

At the end of the discussion, President Eisenhower suggested sending the revised draft back to the Tribal Council for its consideration. It will be recommended that a separation exit clause be added to the MOU. Mr. Eisenhower also suggested that Borough Attorney Brown should review the MOU again for certain situations, such as what would occur if there was not a hiring committee used to hire for a position.

Superintendent Lougee remarked on the collaboration of KIC and the school district and stated she'd met with KIC Tribal Council President Norman Skan. She said a Board representative needs to be part of the government to government consultation going forward.

## **REPORTS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS – SUPERINTENDENT/STAFF**

Superintendent Beth Lougee:

Superintendent Beth Lougee spoke briefly about some of the district activities highlighted in her written report, then said she'd asked each of the central office directors to speak about their departments.

Curriculum Director

Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante updated the Board on the IXL software, recently approved by the Board, and the Collaborative Classrooms English/Language Arts pilot. Regarding the latter, he said teachers were very enthusiastic about the curriculum. Some current ELA curriculum does not align with the standards, he said. This generated some discussion and questions from the Board about state standards and alignment.

Mr. Escalante also commented positively on the work of the Title VI committee and the cultural resources program.

## **Break**

A break was called from 7:15 to about 7:20 p.m. to provide for high school government students in the audience to leave the meeting.

Meeting resumed - Special Services Report

Terri Crofcheck, Special Services Director, spoke about October being the busiest month for her department due to the student count. Ms. Crofcheck anticipated 100 or 101 students would be counted as intensive needs students on the official count day that Friday, less by a few students from last year's 105.

In answer to a Board member's question about contracted services, she said speech therapy services are a little stretched; however, the recent addition of another contractor and a third speech paraprofessional has helped. More than 200 students receive speech services, said Ms. Crofcheck.

Mentor Program

Bob Hewitt was up next to speak about the mentor program he is overseeing, developed by Superintendent Lougee. His official role is principal mentor but he is also overseeing the teacher mentor/mentee program. Twenty-four new teachers (in their first, second or third-year of teaching) are being mentored by 17

experienced teachers. Mr. Hewitt described how the program works, and stated he's received very positive feedback from the new teachers.

Director of Maintenance Richard McAlpin was not available for a report.

Student Board Member: Student Board Member Brendan Roof first reported on the attendance at the parent teacher conferences at Kayhi, marking the end of the first quarter. He said that Kayhi Principal Jason House reported that about 266 families attended the conferences. A large number of students attended the conferences on behalf of themselves as well, said Brendan. He also highlighted several activities of the Student Body Association. Lastly, he commented on his regret at missing the visit of Haida master weaver Delores Churchill to his Alaska Studies class. Board Member Sonya Skan added that Mrs. Churchill had turned 90 years of age that very day.

Student/Superintendent Committee: A student was not available to report at the meeting on this committee. However, Superintendent Lougee reported that the committee had determined through a recent student survey that vaping was not as much of an issue as they had predicted.

Katie Parrott, Business Manager: Business Manager Katie Parrott briefly reported on: the ongoing preparation for the software migration in the business department, which included closing the department on some Wednesdays; that the audit was wrapping up; and that the fiscal year had ended with a surplus. This surplus made possible the action item on the agenda that evening to put money towards the deficit in the health insurance reserve pool.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- *Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 9, 2019.*

#### **Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of October 23, 2019.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: BECKER

### **ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Brendan Roof (preferential vote) - AYE**

**SKAN, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, BREITHAUPT, BECKER, TABB, EISENHOWER - ALL AYES**

**MOTION PASSED**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Motion to approve recommendations of the Health Insurance Task Force**

Moved by: BREITHAUPT; Second by: BECKER

#### Discussion

Ms. Gubatayao asked if mental health issues were considered by the Health Insurance Task Force.

Task Force Member Bridget Mattson said that the Task Force's charge was to attempt to reduce the cost of the district's health insurance, so it did not look at that issue. However, the task force's recommendations do address some areas outside of that scope, she noted.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Brendan Roof (preferential vote) - AYE**

**GUBATAYAO, BERITHAUPT, MATTSON, TABB, SKAN, BECKER, EISENHOWER - ALL AYES**

**MOTION PASSED**

#### **Motion to approve a supplemental contribution to the district's Health Insurance Reserve Fund in the amount of \$877,407**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: BECKER

#### Discussion

Business Manager Parrott provided background on this agenda item. The school district has ended the year in a strong fiscal position, so Ms. Parrott is recommending this contribution to lessen the large deficit in insurance reserve fund held by Borough. Over the past years, contributions have not kept up with claims, with high cost claims increasing the deficit.

Mr. Eisenhower pointed out the district's health insurance reserve fund has had a deficit for many years. Ms. Parrott concurred and said that this infusion won't completely eliminate the deficit, but will decrease it.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Brendan Roof (preferential vote) - AYE**

**BECKER, TABB, MATTSON, BREITHAAPT, GUBATAYAO, SKAN, EISENHOWER - ALL AYES**

**MOTION PASSED**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Board Policy 6146.1 - High School Graduation Requirements - Various aspects of the requirements have been discussed by the district, by parents, and by the policy committee. Superintendent Lougee said the policy will continue to be discussed and it may be next Spring before any proposed changes come back to the Board.

Board Committee assignments – Discussed under Board Reports.

MOU from Ketchikan Indian Community. Discussion had already taken place.

#### **CITIZEN REMARKS**

There were none.

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Gubatayao asked for a future report on technology needs in the district, explaining she'd heard that some staff are using 10-year-old computers.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION - Negotiations with Special Service Providers**

**Motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss negotiations with the Special Service Providers, a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

#### **ROLL CALL**

**SKAN, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, BREITHAAPT, BECKER, TABB, EISENHOWER - ALL AYES**

**MOTION PASSED**

The Board entered the Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. Superintendent Lougee, Business Manager Parrott, and district administrator Alonso Escalante also attended the Executive Session.

#### **Reconvene into Regular Session**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:20 p.m. and reconvened in regular session.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upcoming meeting dates were noted, and then a motion was made and seconded for adjournment. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21.

*Minutes approved as distributed at the November 13, 2019, regular meeting of the Board of Education.*

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PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD  
Matt Eisenhower