

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR meeting of
November 11, 2020
Remotely held via videoconferencing platform

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 11th day of November, 2020, with Board Members participating remotely via videoconferencing.^{1*} 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: Beth Lougee, Superintendent; Business Manager Katie Parrott; Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante; and Board Clerk Kerry Watson. Building principals and department directors were also in attendance on the Zoom meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda of November 11, 2020.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: ANDERSON

Motion to amend the agenda to move item "11a." to follow Public Recognition because the subjects go along with each other. (11a.-regarding indigenous land acknowledgement)

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) - AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Native American/Alaska Native Heritage Month: President Kim Hodne read a proclamation recognizing the American Indians and Alaska Natives. In part, the proclamation stated that American Indian and Alaska Native students represented 34 percent of the district's student population. In addition, it included the statement that Alaska Natives have inhabited the land for 10,000 years, including in the Southeast Alaska area.

Motion that the Board of Education approve instituting the following acknowledgement as a customary occurrence at its regular meetings: "The Board of Education would like to respectfully acknowledge the traditional first people of this land in Ketchikan, the Tongass Tlingit people."

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

Discussion

Board Member Diane Gubatayao, who originally proposed the land acknowledgment to the Board, thanked her peers for their support. She thanked Richard and Willard Jackson of the Tongass Tribe for their guidance in helping put together the statement. She briefly commented on the significance of the acknowledgement.

^{1*} Meeting "location" was remote via ZOOM video conferencing, due to an increased COVID-19 community alert level.

Board Member Sonya Skan also thanked Mr. Jackson, adding that when he spoke to the Native Education Committee he had acknowledged that the Tlingit, the Haida, and the Tsimshian had all traveled this land for thousands of years.

Board President Hodne also expressed appreciation, saying the acknowledgment was a long time in coming and he hoped it would continue with succeeding school boards.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC RECOGNITION - continued

President Hodne recognized that it was Veterans Day and extended his gratitude to those who have served or are serving in the military. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, he said.

CITIZEN REMARKS^{2* *}

Written comments submitted by Cynthia Bonville for “Citizen Remarks” were read aloud. She wrote about local educators and elders from whom she learned she’d learned about the indigenous people. Ms. Bonville, a 1990 Ketchikan High School graduate, particularly noted her appreciation for the late Tlingit elder Esther Shea.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

President Hodne stated he'd made Board committee assignments, but they were not set in stone. He asked that Board members contact him with any concerns on their committee assignment.

CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION -There were no questions or comments regarding the claims of October 30, 2020.

Student Member's Report

Student representative Henry Clark commented briefly on the adjustment of moving to the 50 percent schedule at school, with its mix of in-school and asynchronous learning. He also reported both ACDC and the debate team were both having virtual meets that weekend.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Beth Lougee began her report by describing positive highlights which she said had occurred in the last two weeks despite the COVID situation. She said the transition from a low to medium risk school plan had gone smoothly, due to pre-planning and communication, and that teachers and students rose to the challenge of adjusting. Some of the positive occurrences she noted were that:

- The district had its first ever virtual band concert, and due to that platform, family members across the country were able to log on and watch;
- The Ketchikan Community Foundation has provided a \$5,000 "Alaska Can Do" grant which will be used to pay down school lunch debt incurred by students in the 2019-20 school year.

She also recognized Derek Meister and Brian Adams for their work as school psychologists in the district, as it was “School Psychologists Week.”

Board President Hodne asked for an update on the community and school risk level. Superintendent Lougee said she is hearing that things are looking better across the island. The district, however, is proactively planning in the event that the risk level goes higher, she added.

^{2* *} The public was invited to submit written comments via email, with the understanding that the comments would be read aloud by the Board Clerk at the video conferenced meeting

FY 21 revenue report

Business Manager Katie Parrott spoke about the district's revenue for FY 21, which is based on the student count conducted in October. A budget revision based on the enrollment will be brought to the Board in December. Ms. Parrott noted that although the average daily membership (ADM) had gone down, enrollment in correspondence school increased concurrently. The combination of the increase in the correspondence population, application of a state hold harmless provision, plus several unexpected intensive needs students who transferred into the district, provides a net increase to the district of about \$816,000.

Business Manager Parrott said that those funds will help with some unique situations that occurred with the budget this year, including the Governor's veto of supplemental funds and the district's health insurance fund liability. Ms. Parrott also reviewed the projected revenue with the Board as well. She noted the request of the borough revenue would remain the same as last year.

Tribal Scholars/Cultural Program/Diversity Report

The Tribal Scholars program and the programs provided by the cultural coordinator in the district were the focus of the next reports. Tiffany Pickrell, the lead teacher for Tribal Scholars, spoke about the program for indigenous students which is provided through Ketchikan Indian Community. Native languages and culture are emphasized along with core academics. This year there are 18 students, grades 10 through 12, with six of them seniors on track to graduate this year, reported Ms. Pickrell. In addition to instruction through KIC and the district, the students also have the opportunity to earn college credit through the University of Alaska, Southeast.

Cultural coordinator for the district, Teresa Varnell, shared her plans to incorporate initiatives regarding tribal values, language, and cultural connections. Ms. Varnell, who formerly taught in the classroom for the district, said her position was created last year in collaboration with the Title VI Committee and in consultation with the Organized Village of Saxman and Ketchikan Indian Community. Regarding the tribal values, Ms. Varnell explained that these are beliefs that apply universally, such as having respect for yourself and for others, and it is her hope the district will adopt the values. She spoke of the success of the language initiative which was begun last year in collaboration with KIC language experts. For the third initiative of cultural connections, Ms. Varnell described how quick cultural facts could be taught and learned and gave some examples. She also reported that the Totem Heritage Center wants to create digital lesson units that the school district could use, focusing initially on third grade.

Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante then presented a Diversity Report for 2019-2020, which included student demographic data ranging from attendance, to graduation rates, and performance on state assessments. The report will be posted on the Native Education Parent Committee page of the school district's website.

****PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY****

Motion to approve revisions to the Personnel policy, Board Policy 4000 - Concepts and Roles in second reading.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: MATTSON

Public Hearing/Board discussion

There were no public comments regarding the policy nor was there Board discussion for this second hearing.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 28, 2020

- Motion to approve the emergency special meeting minutes of November 4, 2020.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of November 11, 2020.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: ANDERSON

ROLL CALL

**Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE
ANDERSON, SKAN, ROBBINS JR., GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, TABB, HODNE - ALL AYES
MOTION PASSED**

DISCUSSION

Audit: Business Manager Parrott reviewed the audit's management letter with the Board. There were no findings. Each Board member will be provided a hard copy of the full audit report.

Board committee assignments: Board President Hodne invited discussion on the committee assignments. Board Member Robbins Jr., suggested assigning a longer-term board member to the Liaison Committee. Mr. Hodne said he explain his rationale with Mr. Robbins Jr. privately.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Nicole Anderson expressed appreciation for the Tribal Scholars Program and for Ms. Varnell's work. She also said she was glad to hear the audit went smoothly.

Ms. Gubatayao said that evening had been an exciting celebration of Alaska Native Heritage Month, and cited the reports that evening and the adoption of the indigenous land acknowledgement.

Henry Clark expressed he was pleased with anything good happening right now, such as being able to attend school.

Mr. Tabb extended appreciation for the cultural education programs highlighted that evening and efforts to bring cultural teachings and tribal values into the district. He also commented on his own children's excitement with the ability to learn about Native customs and traditions.

Mr. Robbins Jr. said he continues to appreciate the work being done to keep students in front of their teachers safely as much as is possible.

Ms. Mattson expressed thanks to the superintendent, and teachers for their jobs educating students this year. She also stated appreciation for the communication from the superintendent and school principals when COVID cases had effected schools. In addition, she thanked that evening's presenters; and expressed appreciation to the veterans on the Board for their service.

Ms. Skan expressed appreciation to veterans and especially those serving on the School Board. She said whatever the district does for the good of any students is good for all of its students.

Mr. Hodne thanked those who had presented at the meeting that evening. He said the special Board meeting to discuss the Board evaluations of the Superintendent would be postponed until the Board can meet in person, with a decrease in the COVID levels.

ADVANCE PLANNING/ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded, and with no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the December 9, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD
Kim Hodne