

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR meeting of  
October 28, 2020  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers**

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

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 28rd day of October in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Bridget Mattson 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 Bridget Mattson; Vice President Sonya Skan; Clerk-Treasurer Diane Gubatayao; Board Members Jordan Tabb, Paul Robbins Jr.

Student Member Henry Clark was also present.

Administrative staff present included: Beth Lougee, Superintendent; Business Manager Katie Parrott; and Board Clerk Kerry Watson. Several building principals and department directors were also in attendance.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

Newly elected School Board members Diane Gubatayao, Paul Robbins Jr., Nicole Anderson and Kim Hodne took the Oath of Office as delivered by Board President Bridget Mattson. Each of them signed the oath and took a seat at the Board tables.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

**Election of the President of the Board**

Superintendent Beth Lougee invited nominations for the office of Board President.

**Jordan Tabb** was nominated for that position by Bridget Mattson. **Kim Hodne** was nominated for that position by Diane Gubatayao. There were no further nominations for that office.

Board Members cast their votes by confidential written ballot. The votes were tallied by Board Clerk Kerry Watson and verified by Superintendent Lougee.

**Kim Hodne** received the majority of votes in the secret balloting, securing the position of **President**.

**Vice President of the Board**

Mr. Kim Hodne, now presiding, invited nominations for the office of vice president.

**Sonya Skan** was nominated for that office by Diane Gubatayao. There were no other nominations.

**Ms. Skan** was declared the **vice president**.

**Clerk-Treasurer of the Board.**

President Hodne opened nominations for the office of Clerk-Treasurer.

**Bridget Mattson** was nominated for the office by Paul Robbins Jr. **Diane Gubatayao** was nominated for the office by Sonya Skan.

Boardmembers cast their votes by confidential written ballot. **Bridget Mattson** received the majority of votes in the secret balloting, securing the position of **Clerk-Treasurer**.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

### **Motion to approve the agenda of the regular meeting of October 28, 2020.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: SKAN

## **ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION PASSED**

## **PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

*Red Ribbon Week:* Carlos Weimer accepted the Red Ribbon Week proclamation from the School Board and spoke about some of the week's activities. Mr. Weimer is the coordinator for the drug free communities program at the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition.

Board Member Diane Gubatayao thanked district schools for participating in Red Ribbon Week activities.

## **CITIZEN REMARKS**

Sharyl Yeisley presented a "vote of no confidence" petition to the School Board and said she was asking the Board to take action.

Gloria Burns first introduced herself by her Haida name, and stated she is the granddaughter of Dolores Churchill, and daughter of Holly Churchill, and the aunt to many students in the district. She thanked the previous Board for its work in developing a relationship on a leadership level with Ketchikan Indian Community. Ms. Burns encouraged the district to look into various grant opportunities and resources through KIC and Sealaska to expand educational opportunities. She also reminded the Board that there are three recognized tribes in the area.

Jeff Williams asked that the school district's business practices for purchasing locally be revised. He said he works at a local office supply store, and indicated the district has been purchasing items recently from Amazon, that his store could have supplied. He listed the benefits of purchasing locally versus from the online company.

Student Tristan Nelson stated he was at the meeting to pass his government class by doing his civic engagement requirement.

Student Gabriel Tabb also stated he was in attendance for his civic engagement for his government class.

## **INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Vice President Sonya Skan reported on that day's Native Education Committee meeting. Several members of the Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Council attended in addition to the three school board committee members. The committee went over an MOU from the KIC Tribal Council, which will later be referred to the full School Board. The committee also discussed acknowledgment by the School Board of the traditional indigenous land.

The District Safety Committee, in a meeting the previous evening, had reviewed safety plans, discussed an upcoming safety assessment, and identified policies relating to safety which were overdue for review, reported Board member Jordan Tabb. Superintendent Lougee provided some more information on the upcoming safety analysis.

Board member Bridget Mattson stated that the district's calendar committee met via Zoom on October 26 to review a draft 2021-2022 calendar.

**Claims for Information – October 16, 2020** – Past clerk treasurer Diane Gubatayao asked for the year-to-date amount for legal fees. Business Manager Katie Parrott said she would figure that information and provide it to the Board.

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**Student Member Report:** Henry Clark, student representative on the Board, was invited to give his report first. He said that more than 100 kids were out of school at Kayhi the previous week due to quarantines and/or being sick, due to a positive case at the school. Students are now trickling back, he said. Quite a few staff members were out as well, he said. He also expressed gratitude that paper towels had been reinstalled in the school’s bathrooms.

### **Superintendent**

Superintendent Beth Lougee welcomed the two new Board members, Mr. Kim Hodne and Ms. Nicole Anderson.

She reported on and expanded on areas noted in her written report, including that:

- Parent teacher conferences held October 12-16 had strong attendance, higher than usual due to being held via Zoom;
- A medical support team has been initiated and includes two local physicians, and representatives from Ketchikan Public Health, Ketchikan Emergency Operations Center, Alaska State Physician, the district nurses, and other school district representatives. Superintendent Lougee explained the team’s purpose.
- The two curriculum areas for review in the 2020-2021 school year are world languages, library/information literacy, and secondary language arts. The library specialists have asked for their curricular area to be postponed until next year, as three of the five librarians are working as classroom teachers this year, due to the COVID situation.
- District administrative committees - safety, transportation, calendar, insurance and wellness - have all held initial meetings.
- An evaluation committee has been formed to review the teacher evaluation document.

Superintendent Lougee had also provided enrollment information in her written report. She pointed out that virtual school enrollments had dropped, but those students were coming back into the district’s brick and mortar schools. As of October 23, the district enrollment was 2,166 kindergarten through twelfth-grade students.

Superintendent Lougee provided each Board member with binders with district information, and information pertinent to their role on the Board.

## **\*\*PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY\*\***

### **Motion to approve revisions to Personnel policy, Board Policy 4020 - Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace in second reading.**

Moved by: ROBBINS; Second by: MATTSON

### **Public Hearing**

No public spoke for the public hearing.

### **Board Discussion**

Mr. Hodne asked questions about a section being proposed for removal, which referred to a drug and alcohol free workplace awareness program.

Policy committee member Paul Robbins Jr. said it was a redundancy in the policy. There was more discussion regarding that area.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Motion to approve the revisions to Board Policy 3540 - Transportation in second reading.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

Public Hearing

There was no public comment.

Board Discussion

Mr. Robbins Jr. said that the policy committee had recommended changing the term "handicapped" to students "with disabilities."

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Motion to approve the revisions to Board Policy 5131.3 - Bus Conduct in second reading.**

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: MATTSON

Public Hearing

No public commented.

Board Discussion

Mr. Robbins Jr., explained why language was recommended for change.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Motion to approve revisions to Board Policy 4000 - Personnel Concepts and Roles in first reading.**

Moved by: TABB; Second by: MATTSON

Public Hearing

There was no public comment.

Board Discussion

Policy committee member Bridget Mattson said that legal counsel had recommended some revised wording in this policy regarding the Board's role in hearing employee grievances. She provided a brief explanation. There was more discussion.

**ROLL CALL**

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

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. *Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 14, 2020.*
- b. *Motion to approve the hire of Kimm Schwartz as a district-wide nurse, starting full-time December 1, 2020.*
- c. *Motion to approve the hire of Sherity Kelly as a district-wide nurse, starting full-time November 30, 2020.*

### **Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of October 28, 2020**

Moved by: TABB; Second by: GUBATAYAO

## **ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION PASSED**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Motion to approve the MOA with Ketchikan Gateway Borough regarding the approval and funding of the Fire Panels Project as presented.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

#### Discussion

There were some comments on the necessity for the memorandum of agreement.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION PASSED**

### **Motion to approve the purchase of replacement port switches, wireless access points, power supply, and accessories from Presidio Network Solutions in the amount of \$86,857.83.**

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: GUBATAYAO

#### Discussion

Superintendent Lougee explained that the purchases are mainly replacements and back up for switches and equipment that is being used in the annexes. The IT equipment will come back to the district, once the annexes are no longer used. It was noted that \$14,831 of the total \$86,857.83 expenditure was being provided from CARES Act funds.

## **ROLL CALL**

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

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

**MOTION PASSED**

## **DISCUSSION**

Acknowledgement of indigenous land: Ms. Gubatayao described her proposal to acknowledge the traditional people of this area.

New Board member orientation – Discussion of a future work session for Boardmembers to learn together, potentially in January.

Superintendent evaluation scheduling – Board agreed to hold a special meeting on November 12 to discuss its evaluations. Board members will submit their individual evaluations for collation to President Hodne.

Student health screening and requirements for returning to school - Ms. Gubatayao explained why she'd brought this topic forward. Superintendent Lougee explained the screening protocol. Better communication between schools and parents and also to students on this issue was recommended.

### **Break in meeting**

The Board took a break in its meeting at 8:08 p.m. about 10 minutes before continuing the agenda with Board Member Comments.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Mr. Robbins Jr., made a statement acknowledging the Tongass Tlingit people as the first people of the Ketchikan area. He also commented that as a reminder that if parents have concerns about issues such as the health screenings and requirements for returning to school, their first contact should be the principal.

Ms. Gubatayao thanked those who had voted for her, stating she feels honored and privileged and looks forward to working with all the board.

Ms. Anderson thanked the community for their vote of confidence in her, and said she hopes to serve those constituents well over the next year. She also said that the schools are doing well with the health screenings, and they are proactive measures.

Henry Clark thanked the Board for working hard and for listening to community members when they bring concerns to the Board. He stated appreciation for the teachers who he said are working doubly hard now with online and in-person classes.

Ms. Mattson echoed Henry's thanks to the teachers, especially recognizing the Kayhi teachers as that is where her students attend. She noted the teachers' double-duty for students who are quarantined, teaching both in person and reaching out to students at home.

Ms. Skan welcomed the new Board members and also congratulated the re-elected Board members, noting that Ms. Gubatayao had secured her seat with a "landslide." She thanked Ms. Mattson and Ms. Gubatayao Bridget for their previous service as officers of the Board. She also said being on the Board had been a privilege and noted she had one more year of her term.

Mr. Hodne congratulated Ms. Anderson for being elected to the Board, and also Mr. Robbins Jr. and Ms. Gubatayao. He thanked Ms. Mattson for her job as previous President, stating that the president's seat is a difficult one. He added that he appreciates the opportunity to sit as the president and has great aspirations and hopes for the Board, and ultimately for the students. Kids first is his mantra, he said.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to enter Executive Session for the subject of Superintendent/Board Relations, a subject that tends to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

#### **Discussion**

Mr. Hodne said he was opposed to the executive session because of transparency. He questioned the subject of Superintendent/Board Relations. He said that as a Board member he wanted the discussion in public and had that right since the Board was listed as part of the subject for the session.

Mr. Tabb indicated he understood the discussion to be between the Board as a whole, not as any individual board members. Mr. Robbins Jr. recommended entering the executive session, and if any of the discussion was not appropriate for a closed session, the Board could come back into open session.

Superintendent Lougee said that as she was part of the subject of the executive session, she also could request to have the discussion as one either in public or private. She requested the discussion be held in executive session.

Mr. Hodne asked Ms. Lougee some more questions regarding the intent of the proposed executive session.

**ROLL CALL**

**ROBBINS JR., SKAN, TABB, ANDERSON, MATTSON - AYES**

**GUBATAYAO, HODNE - NAYS**

**5-2**

***MOTION PASSED***

The Board and Superintendent entered the executive session at about 8:34 p.m. The executive session ended at 9:08 and the Board re-entered the regular session.

President Hodne stated that no actions were taken.

**ADVANCE PLANNING**

The upcoming Association of Alaska School Boards annual conference was noted. Mr. Robbins Jr., volunteered to be the Board's designee for voting at the AASB's resolution committee at the conference.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

*Minutes approved as distributed at the November 11, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Education.*

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PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Kim Hodne