

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR meeting of  
Wednesday, May 11, 2022  
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 11th day of May 2022, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Stephen Bradford 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 Stephen Bradford; Board Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; and Board Members Diane Gubatayao; Paul Robbins Jr.; Jordan Tabb; and Nicole Anderson. Board Vice President Keenan Sanderson participated telephonically, (connecting to the meeting at 6:30 p.m. during the Superintendent's Report.) Student Board Member Braxton Zink was also present for the meeting.

Administrative staff present included Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson; Business Manager Katie Parrott; and Schoenbar Middle School Principal Sheri Boehlert.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

*Student Representative Braxton Zink:* Braxton Zink was recognized for his contributions as the student representative on the School Board. Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson spoke about the qualities that Braxton brought to the role. She described him as speaking up during a year of turmoil, even if he held an unpopular opinion. She said he had been gracious with those who didn't agree with him, but had held firm to his views. Braxton exemplified what leadership is for both the students and community, said Ms. Mattson.

Braxton responded to thank her for the comments.

*Other Recognition:* Recognition was given for Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month as well as Teacher Appreciation Week, which is celebrated the first week of May. Board Member Diane Gubatayao read a proclamation she'd written for Teacher Appreciation Week, and Braxton added his thanks to the teachers he'd had during his schooling. School Principals' Day (May 1) was also noted.

ASAA Gold Pass Awardee John Brown - Recognition was given for former Kayhi coach John Brown for receiving the ASAA Gold Pass award. The Alaska Student Activities Association's pass is awarded to notable individuals who have contributed significantly to high school activities in Alaska for at least 20 years. Mr. Brown was a four-time Kayhi basketball state high school champion and a basketball coach for 15 years or more at Kayhi. He still mentors and coaches youths early in the morning at the Recreation Center, stated Board President Stephen Bradford.

2022 Retirees: Lastly, President Bradford saluted the 244 years of combined service to the district by the teachers and classified staff who are retiring this year. They are: Sharon Creasy, Melissa Klepser, Susan Webb, Valerie Brooks, Carol Stanton, Penny Ranniger, Kerry Watson, Susan Johnson, Lori Ortiz.

Ms. Gubatayao noted that Rotary Interact has raised \$2,000 to make special kits for foster children, in conjunction with Carmel Anderson's art exhibit regarding the theme of foster care.

**CITIZEN REMARKS**

Justin Breese stated that he was speaking to the Board for the third time regarding a list of tribal values which are posted in district schools; and specifically in reference to the posted tribal value of "reverence for our creator." The district administration has provided him a form for reconsideration of teaching materials to register

Interim Superintendent Johnson commented that Ketchikan is hosting the track and field regional competition on May 20-21, with all Southeast schools competing, and volunteers were needed.

#### Schoenbar Middle School Report

Schoenbar Middle School Principal Sheri Boehlert focused much of her school's report on its teacher mentoring program led by retired teacher Taylor McKenna. Ms. Boehlert stated that she felt a mentoring program was necessary at Schoenbar as there was no longer a district-wide mentoring program and the school had nine teachers who were either first-year teachers or were new to Schoenbar. In addition, Principal Boehlert said she had no assistant principal to assist her in supervising the staff. Ms. McKenna spoke about the mentoring program, which was informed by research and experts in the field of instructional coaching philosophy. Ms. Boehlert said she and Ms. McKenna envisioned the mentoring program to be more than was offered in the past, for it to be progressive and cutting edge.

Ms. Boehlert said she hopes to continue a mentoring program next year at Schoenbar, when she will have an assistant principal and dean of students on staff.

In the school report, Principal Boehlert also updated the Board on the 2021-2022 school year at Schoenbar, including the following:

- Current enrollment for the school is 246 students, fairly evenly split between 117 eighth-graders and 129 seventh-graders; and 127 female students to 119 males. Enrollment for next year is projected to be about 270 students.
- The school has 23.5 FTE (full time equivalent) staff, which in addition to classroom teachers includes library staff, specialists and a dean of students.
- Attendance is a concern with some students having 30 to 50 absences. Ms. Boehlert speculated some absences are due to families who are still not comfortable sending their children to school. Schoenbar will be focusing on getting kids back into the actual school building and stressing the importance of being in the classroom, she said.
- Findings from the almost 200 responses to the School Climate and Connectedness Survey were also covered. Connectedness was the biggest area of growth for students, while for staff it was in social-emotional learning. Ms. Boehlert said the staff SEL rating might be attributed to a "character strong" program being used in homerooms. One of the areas for improvement stemming from the survey will be getting more kids involved in school decision making, she said.

Principal Boehlert also described this year's course schedule which returned to that of the more traditional pre-COVID schedule. She described the differences between offerings for seventh and eighth-grade students, with the latter having more elective choices, for one. Some new programs this year for enrichment offerings included a cooking class taught by one of the Filipino teachers and a special project provided for under a cooperative grant with the Cook Inlet Tribal Council. The latter provided for a "fab lab" - a digital fabrication resource center. Middle school sports also resumed this year and students in those activities were able to travel.

The popular seventh-grade camping trip and the eighth-grade survival trip also resumed, with the seventh-grade event starting just that day. This year, the school added "day trips" for the students who were not able to participate in the camping trip for various reasons, said Principal Boehlert. The trips also evolved this year to incorporate more curricular areas and staff, beyond science, she said.

The Schoenbar Middle School report lasted about 40 minutes, ending at 7:25 p.m.

#### **Break**

The Board took a five-minute break after the school report before continuing its meeting.

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

#### **Motion to approve revisions to Board Policy 4218 - Personnel: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action in first reading.**

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: GUBATAYAO

#### **Public Hearing**

No members of the public commented.

#### **Board discussion**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion to approve the application to the Title I, Part D, Subpart B Neglected & Delinquent Youth Competitive Grant, as presented.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ANDERSON

Discussion

Ms. Gubatayao asked if this was a new grant, and also commented on the wording of its title.

Business Manager Parrott stated that the name of the grant was the official federal title for this program under Title I. She said it is a newer grant, but that the district may have applied for it in the past. The grant's purpose is to serve youth served by the district who are in in-patient residential situations and in the juvenile justice system.

**ROLL CALL**

***Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) – AYE***

**SANDERSON, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, TABB, BRADFORD - ALL AYES**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion to approve July 13, 2022, November 9, 2022, and December 14, 2022, as regular meeting dates for the School Board.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

Discussion

There was no Board discussion.

**ROLL CALL**

***Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - AYE***

**BRADFORD, SANDERSON, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, ANDERSON - ALL AYES.**

**MOTION PASSED**

*(Clerk's note: President Bradford explained prior to the motion regarding the July, November and December meeting dates that a Board Bylaw specifies that these months' meeting dates need to be determined, as the Board could choose to hold only one meeting during these months. A second meeting could always be added, if necessary during these months, he added.)*

**Motion to accept the recommendation on Student Disciplinary case #22-02.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

There were no comments.

**ROLL CALL**

***Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - AYE***

**TABB, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, GUBATAYAO ANDERSON, SANDERSON - AYES**

**BRADFORD - NAY**

**6-1**

Board President Bradford stated that the 6-1 vote affirmed the recommendation of the hearing officer regarding this matter.

**Motion to accept the hearing decision on Student Disciplinary case #22-03.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: ANDERSON

supports and fund-raises for its debate tournaments. The same happens with other activities and sports as well, he added. Braxton said the Board and community is consistent in its support of its students.

Mr. Bradford thanked the administration for organizing a recent training with the First Alaskans, stating it was a valuable session. He also expressed his appreciation to the tribal council members who came and shared their insights.

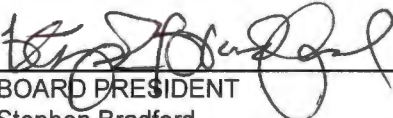
**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Regarding negotiations with SSPK (Special Services Professionals of Ketchikan)**

No motion was made to enter into executive session, as a tentative agreement was pending with the SSPK, and the Board concurred it would wait until the May 26 meeting for its consideration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no objection to a motion to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the May 11, 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Education

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
BOARD PRESIDENT  
Stephen Bradford