

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special meeting of December 27, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in special session on the 27th day of December, 2019, in the Ketchikan Borough Assembly Chambers. Board Vice 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 Vice-President Bridget Mattson; Clerk-Treasurer Diane Gubatayao; Board Members Sonya Skan, Rachel Breithaupt; Leslie Becker; and Jordan Tabb.

Administrative staff present were: Business Manager Katie Parrott and Clerk to the Board Kerry Watson. Superintendent Beth Lougee participated telephonically as she was out of town.

Presiding Officer Bridget Mattson read the policy regarding special meetings and briefly provided the rationale for that evening's meeting.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Cheryl Yeisley stated it was important to find the right person for the position of Superintendent. She said she was of her Aleut descent and commented on prejudice. She also expressed concerns with special education and with district hiring decisions. She concluded by asking the Board to take the proper time to hire the right person.

Bob Hewitt said he brought the perspective of a long tenure working for the school district under a number of superintendents. He is now working for Beth Lougee overseeing a teacher mentor program. He praised her work ethic and dedication and also the manner in which she oversaw last year's investigation of a former teacher. Mr. Hewitt recommended the Board take action to negotiate a three-year contract with Ms. Lougee.

Rebecca Bowlen said that scheduling the special meeting during the district's Winter Break could be perceived as not being transparent with the public or with Superintendent Lougee who was out of town. She stated that Board members need to prove they are not on the body to be self-serving; and indicated that some were using social media improperly and in conflict with being a public official. Ms. Bowlen additionally cautioned against overstepping the role of a School Board member.

Brief recess

A brief recess was called for about 5 minutes when an issue was reported with the televising of the meeting.

Motion to accept the resignation of Matt Eisenhower from the Board, effective December 18, 2019.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: BECKER

Discussion

Board Member Diane Gubatayao spoke positively of working alongside Matt Eisenhower on the Board. She said he had stepped up to seek another term on the Board in an attempt to help during events which occurred in 2018. She commended the level of experience he brought to the Board.

Board Member Jordan Tabb also expressed his appreciation for Board President Eisenhower's service. He noted his helpfulness to him as a new Board member.

Board Member Rachel Breithaupt commented on the difference in tone that Mr. Eisenhower brought as president, specifically to the negotiations ongoing at the time.

Board Member Sonya Skan also stated she was pleased to have worked on the Board with Mr. Eisenhower.

ROLL CALL

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

Motion to declare a vacancy on the Board.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: BECKER

Discussion

There was some discussion on publicizing of the vacancy and the process for making the appointment.

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION PASSED

There was some discussion as to when to try to seat a new member within the 30-day requirement.

Motion to enter Executive Session

Motion to enter into executive session to the extent provided by AS 44.62.310 and Board Bylaw 9321.

Moved by: SKAN; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Executive Session

The Board entered executive session at 6:34 p.m. At 7:22 p.m., the Board came out of executive session briefly for the presiding officer to inform the public that the Board needed about 10 more minutes of closed session. The Board then re-entered executive session.

Resuming of regular session

At about 7:35 p.m., the Board came out of executive session and back into regular session.

Presiding Officer Mattson stated that the Board had consulted during executive session with Lon Garrison of the Association of Alaska School Boards on a few questions; but no action was taken.

Motion that the Board declare its intent to enter into contract negotiations with the interim superintendent.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: BREITHAUPT

Discussion

Board Member Skan stated that she had been asking for a process all along and there had not been one. She stated she supported her fellow board members but would vote against the motion because of her principles.

Board Member Gubatayao stated that she had tried to be open-minded, but was feeling accused of already having her mind made up. She noted her past experience in Superintendent searches, her involvement with the decision to hire Ms. Lougee as interim superintendent; and also her work with Ms. Lougee when she had been the curriculum director. She concluded by stating that she feels the Board has failed somehow.

Board Member Tabb commented on recent discussions regarding hiring processes that are inclusive and that give members of the community the opportunity to share input. He said he wants to ensure that going forward the Board is developing processes for the retention, hiring and management of the Board's sole direct responsibility - the Superintendent. Mr. Tabb said the deliberation was difficult, but Board members are acting in good faith and in the best interest of the community and students.

Ms. Breithaupt referenced her regret in not taking action on this matter in August. She stated she would never vote to enter into negotiations with a superintendent if she hadn't received references from people she trusted deeply who worked closely with that individual. Ms. Breithaupt also commented that she had not ignored concerns which had been brought to the Board, but would address them directly with Ms. Lougee.

ROLL CALL

**BREITHAUPT, BECKER, TABB, MATTSON - AYES
SKAN, GUBATAYAO - NAYS**

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MOTION PASSED

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. Without no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the January 15, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD
Bridget Mattson