

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING and WORK SESSION  
Meeting of  
Wednesday March 22, 2023  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers**

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

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in a regular and work session on the 22<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2023, 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: Present members included Board President Stephen Bradford, Vice President Keenan Sanderson, Clerk-Treasurer Nicole Anderson, Members Diane Gubatayao, Tom Heutte, Paul Robbins, Jr., Melissa O'Bryan and Student Member Jack Zink.

Administrative staff present included Superintendent Michael Robbins, Deputy Superintendent Melissa Johnson, and School Board Clerk Crystal Vail.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Member Gubatayao made a request for discussion item a. to be broken into two parts; a. letter from KIC and d. complaint against board member. Vice President Sanderson requested the two items be listed as a. and b. since they were risen from the same issue. The modified agenda was approved.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

None presented.

**CITIZEN REMARKS**

Tim Livingston, husband to Kayla Livingston, KCS principal, expressed his intent to file a complaint against the Superintendent. Board President Bradford gave counsel of the proper complaint process.

Hannah Romiskey, Ketchikan resident and former school board member, commented on past practices of the school district when significant budget cuts had to be made. She referred to the budgeting process used in the past and the relationship with the Borough as a funding partner. She asked the Board to focus on what is educationally important for students to succeed.

Paul Hook, Ketchikan resident, expressed his support for Board Member Gubatayao regarding the complaint against a board member. He continued by expressing his disappointment with the district's handling of funds concerning district health care.

Tom Guthrie, Ketchikan resident, commented on the importance of the Native community being represented in the school district and for the community to unite for the benefit of all children.

Jason Gubatayao, Ketchikan resident, read a written statement concerning the view on accusations of a board member being discriminatory. He stated he had addressed the KIC Tribal Council, requesting they revise the letter of concern. He asked the Board and Tribal Council to focus their energy on the important work that lay ahead regarding the district budget.

Judy Leask Guthrie, Ketchikan resident, commented on the letter from KIC Tribal Council and her feelings about other citizen comments regarding discrimination and grandstanding. She stated her understanding is that the letter of concern was based on personnel issues, not discrimination.

Lori Ortiz, Ketchikan resident, retired KGBSD teacher, commented on the need for a Special Education Director for the district. She advocated for a local Special Education Director to fill the needs of the Special Education program.

**INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:**

Member Gubatayao reported she had attended LIO to testify on House Bill 65 with other testifiers from across the state. She also reported her attendance of an AASB webinar on how schools are implementing trauma informed practices and urged board members to take it.

#### **CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Claims of March 17, 2023- claims approved as presented.

#### **STUDENT MEMBER REPORT:**

Student member Jack Zink reported the latest sports and activities at Kayhi, including out of state trips for Drama, Softball, Baseball and Close-Up. He also stated that the SBA had drafted a letter to the Legislature advocating for an increase in the BSA for 2023.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

Superintendent Robbins reported that Alonso Escalante accepted the Human Resources Director position and they had posted a Special Education Director position to be filled. He gave an update on preschool and the status of the ADM funding. He gave an update on the Reads Act and the implementation of Instructional coaches in the district to support the Reads Act.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 8, 2023
- b. Motion to approve the contract for Hollis Hiatt as Occupational Therapist, district wide, for the remainder of the 22-23 school year.
- c. Motion to approve Resolution 23-03 regarding Hazardous Bus Routes for the 23-24 school year.

M/S: SANDERSON/HEUTTE

ROLL CALL:

7 YES- ZINK (preferential vote,) SANDERSON, HEUTTE, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS, JR., O'BRYAN, ANDERSON, BRADFORD

CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED

The Board took an at ease for about 8 minutes.

With no objections, the Board entered a work session at 7:01 p.m.

#### **WORK SESSION**

- a. FY'24 Operating Budget  
Superintendent Robbins presented a slideshow on the FY'24 Operating Budget. The Board and Superintendent discussed details of the presentation and the Board asked questions about the next steps in the budgeting process.

Vice President Sanderson followed up with comments on a survey he had conducted while attending high school which gauged students' views on mental health resources in Kayhi.

The work session ended at 7:52 p.m.

#### **DISCUSSION**

- a. Letter from KIC

President Bradford proposed to the Board with their direction that he would respond to President Skan on behalf of the board. He spoke of what he intended to include in the letter and asked the board for any other suggestions. The board spoke about thanking KIC for voicing their concerns, dealing with their concerns appropriately, welcoming KIC input on school district issues and scheduling a government-to-government meeting.

- b. Complaint Against a Board Member

President Bradford suggested the board make a motion to enter an executive session, stating that the Board bylaws are unclear on how to handle such a matter. The subject of the complaint, Member Gubatayao, requested the discussion be held in public versus executive session. The complainant, Deputy Superintendent Johnson requested her end of the discussion be held in executive session.

There were no objections to carrying out a split discussion.

Through discussion between Member Robbins, Jr. and President Bradford, it was clarified that the board would not make any decisions on disciplinary action at this meeting and if there were action to be taken it may be scheduled as a Special meeting. There were mixed opinions on whether the disciplinary action would be a public or executive session. Members Robbins, Jr. and Gubatayao expressed their favor of a public meeting. President Bradford clarified that because of the complainant's request for executive session, any discussion of the complainant would happen in executive session and any discussion of the board member's actions would be discussed in public.

There were no objections to considering a motion to enter an executive session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

-Motion to enter executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.

M/S: SANDERSON/HEUTTE

ROLL CALL:

7 YES- ZINK (preferential,) ANDERSON, HEUTTE, GUBATAYAO, O'BRYAN, ROBBINS, JR., SANDERSON, BRADFORD

The Board was in executive session from 8:06 to 8:50 p.m.

The Board entered public discussion regarding the complaint against Member Gubatayao.

President Bradford read a portion of the complaint which included email communications between him and Member Gubatayao. She explained her rationale behind the actions she took which lead to the complaint filed against her. Member Gubatayao read a statement that she prepared to the public. When finished, she and the board further discussed her actions leading to the complaint. After more questions, explanations, and discussion the board agreed by a show of hands to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m.

It was suggested by Member Robbins, Jr. to proceed with some form of discipline for ignoring directions given by the Board President and for allegedly violating the Open Meetings Act.

The Board reviewed and discussed the suggested forms of discipline from the complaint before making a motion:

Motion for the Board to issue a letter of censure for Board Member Gubatayao for violations of policy and authority as discussed.

M/S:ROBBINS, JR./SANDERSON

DISCUSSION:

Member O'Bryan referenced the AASB policy on issuing a letter of censure, commenting that because the School Board did not have a policy on the issuance of such a letter, contacting counsel and AASB would be best to ensure moving forward with the proper procedure.

Member Robbins amended the Motion to:

Motion to have a discussion at the next meeting of April 12, 2023 on the issuance of a letter of censure to Diane Gubatayao for multiple violations of policy and authority.

M/S: ROBBINS, JR./SANDERSON

ROLL CALL:

7 YES: HEUTTE, ROBBINS, JR., O'BRYAN, GUBATAYAO, ANDERSON, SANDERSON, BRADFORD  
MOTION PASSED

### **Tribal Compacting with KIC**

Member Gubatayao reminded the board that Ketchikan School District has been chosen as a pilot district for Tribal Compacting in the state of Alaska. President Bradford asked the Board if there were any objections to him reaching out to President Skan for the two bodies to meet to discuss the Tribal Compacting and other issues. The board discussed previous meetings of KIC and the School Board and questioned if Saxman would be involved in the future Tribal Compacting.

Member O'Bryan suggested asking Sonja Skan to present Tribal Compacting to the board including the impacts it will have on the district.

### **Superintendent 360 Evaluation responses**

Member Robbins, Jr. explained the process of gathering data regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation and formulating the charts based on the received responses. He stated that the individual comments were not going to be released publicly and were available to the board members. The survey received 95 responses out of approximately 350 sent out. Board members commented on their observations of Superintendent based on the survey results they received.

Board members were directed to complete their part of the Evaluation and submit them to the Board Clerk. After compiling the results they will be available to the Board for discussion at the meeting of April 12, 2023.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Member Sanderson expressed his disagreement of a public comment, talked about his grandfather's recent passing and reported the NOSB team traveling to Fairbanks.

President Bradford reported that the concerns and issues with TSAS concerning Special Education have been resolved. He also acknowledged receipt of a letter from the KCS Principal to the Board concerning preschool programming in the district.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

- a. School Board Listening Session Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup> (Cape Fox,) with Board members Heutte and Robbins, Jr. from 9-11 a.m.
- b. Saxman IRA Council and School Board Joint meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. at Saxman City Hall, not televised.
- c. Assembly/School Board Liaison Committee Meeting request to be scheduled between the meetings of April 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- d. School Board regular meeting and/or work session April 12 and 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers.

With no objections, ADJOURNMENT at 10:22 p.m.

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BOARD PRESIDENT  
Stephen Bradford