

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING and WORK SESSION
Special Meeting of
May 13, 2024
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in a regular session on the 10th day of April 2024, 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 President Stephen Bradford, Clerk-Treasurer Nicole Anderson, Members Judy Leask Guthrie, Katherine Tatsuda and Melissa O'Bryan. Vice President Keenan Sanderson appeared telephonically. Member Tom Huette was absent.

Administrative staff present included Deputy Superintendent Melissa Johnson, Business Manager Daniel Schuler, Director of Student Support Michael Cron, and School Board Clerk Chloe Hall.

President Bradford started the special meeting by sharing that the special meeting was called to discuss taking action which would result in issuing layoff notices to a portion of certificated staff and 5 administrators, which by law, must be given out by May 14, 2024. He added that the action being considered was in response to the possibility that additional funding would not be available from the Governor nor the Borough.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There were no objections to the agenda as presented.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Kayla Livingston, Principal at KCS, shared her concerns with district money being spent on certain programs instead of keeping staff in the schools. She asked the Board to investigate other areas they can tighten up, to help keep staff in the schools.

Christy Johnson, Ketchikan resident, voiced her concerns on how information about the KGBSD budget is shared with the public.

Taylor Lee, Ketchikan resident, and a district parent, shared concerns for the programs that would be lost at KCS, and the problems that would arise from losing the annex building due to the potential cuts.

Elliott Lee, student at KCS, shared how much he enjoys the art and music programs at his school.

David Dentinger, Ketchikan resident, talked about how cutting programs such as music would cause a ripple effect on our students, taking away some student's reason to show up to school.

Ali Ginter, Ketchikan resident, voiced her concerns about the transparency of the district's budget.

Edna Sivertson, Ketchikan resident, voiced that she thinks our district's students are behind the rest of the students in the nation. She shared concerns with the district budget.

Jolene Thomas, teacher at FME, shared her concerns about the programs that will be cut and how the information of the budget cuts was shared out.

Brianna Thomas, Sophomore at Ketchikan High School, shared a letter Skyelynn Evans, 4th grader at FME had written about the budget cuts.

Rebecca Bowlen, teacher at Ketchikan High School, urged everyone to work together for the students of the community.

Jerry Pierce, paraprofessional at Ketchikan High School, stated he echoed everything said by Rebecca Bowlen.

Becky King, teacher at KCS, shared concerns about potential cuts to programs and staff.

Brita Alander, Ketchikan resident, voiced her concerns about the potential cuts, and the homeless population within our district.

Meri Miller, teacher at Ketchikan High school, voiced the importance of programs that encourage students to go into trades.

Lindsey Johnson, Ketchikan resident, praised a few district teachers for their hard work. She shared her concerns for the teachers getting pink slips, and the ones left who would potentially be stuck with larger class sizes.

Sophia Pilgrim, Sophomore at Ketchikan High School, shared concerns with the potential budget cuts and thanked her teachers during her time in the district.

Rebekka Esbjornson, Ketchikan resident, voiced concerns about potentially cutting the Middle School music teaching position.

Jeff Karlson, Ketchikan resident, advocated for a strong music program within the district.

Ayme Zantua, Ketchikan resident, spoke about the importance of the Sped Preschool program within the district.

Katrina Monta, Teacher at PHE, urged the Board to make sure pink slipped teachers get placed back into their own classrooms, if they are recalled.

Paula DeAngeles, Teacher at FME, shared her concerns with the potential budget cuts to staff and programs throughout the district.

Myrna Johansen, Ketchikan resident, commented on the importance of programs in the district, such as the preschool program.

Steve Thomas, Ketchikan resident and former teacher, spoke about the importance of vocational programs within the district.

Ginger McCormick, Ketchikan resident, voiced her concerns on the importance of art and music programs in the district.

Lisa DeLaet, Ketchikan resident, shared her thoughts on the importance of Native arts and music programs in the district.

Misty Hancock, teacher at PHE, shared she hopes the board looks out for the staff and students in the district.

Jermey Byrum, Ketchikan resident and Borough Assembly Member, spoke on the misinformation being passed around. He spoke on the budget and district needs moving forward.

Lee Green, Ketchikan resident, spoke as a concerned parent about the potential of programs that will be cut from the district and shared a letter from his daughter about her love for the music pro

Torah Harding-Laman, Ketchikan resident, emphasized the importance of Music programs in the district.

Terri White, Ketchikan resident and teacher at KHS, commented on the importance of programs such as after school tutoring and preschool.

Kelly Smith, Ketchikan resident and Activities Director at KHS, spoke on the funding activities in our district.

Judith Green, Ketchikan resident, spoke on the importance of the Music program in the district.

Nick Pader, Ketchikan resident and teacher at KHS, spoke on KGBSD communicating the budget with the Borough.

Krystle DeCoursey, Ketchikan resident, urged the district to make cuts to the budget anywhere but with staff.

Amanda Kiley, Ketchikan resident, urged the board to fully fund the preschool program.

Darla Dubry, Ketchikan resident, commented on fully funding the preschool program.

Rick Collins, Ketchikan resident, urged the board to not stop seeking additional funding from the State level.

Chloe Beach, 7th grade student at SMS, shared her experience with the middle school music program.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion for the Board of Education to ratify and adopt the KGBSD Reduction in Force plan for certificated staff.

M/S: ANDERSON/GUTHRIE

ROLL CALL:

6 YES- SANDERSON, TATSUDA, GUTHRIE, O'BYRAN, ANDERSON, BRADFORD

MOTION APPROVED

DISCUSSION

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Vice President Sanderson shared his condolences that the Board is in this position.

Member O'Bryan spoke on fixing the bigger picture and urged parents to reach out to her if they need help emailing legislation.

Member Tatsuda shared that she would continue working to put the district in a better position moving forward.

Member Guthrie urged community members to contact legislation and attend School Board meetings going forward, to ensure the Board is hearing parent and student voices when making their decision.

Member Anderson thanked everyone who had the courage to stand up and speak at the meeting.

President Bradford shared his thoughts on the RIF plan.

ADVANCE PLANNING

- a. School Board Finance Committee meeting On Wednesday, May 15 & 29, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office, Rm 319 White Cliff
- b. School Board regular meeting and/or work session Wednesday May 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers

ADJOURNMENT at 9:15 p.m.


BOARD PRESIDENT
Stephen Bradford