

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH

Assembly/School Board Liaison Committee Meeting

December 20, 2022

Assembly Chambers

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Member Robbins at 12:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were:

School District

Nicole Anderson, Regular Member
Paul Robbins, Jr, Regular Member
Stephen Bradford, Alternate Member
Michael Robbins, Superintendent
Crystal Vail, School Board Clerk

Ketchikan Gateway Borough

Jeremy Bynum, Regular Member
Austin Otos, Regular Member
Grant EchoHawk, Borough Alternate Member
Cynna Gubatayao, Assistant Manager
Charlanne Thomas, Finance Director
Glenn Brown, Borough Attorney
Kacie Paxton, Borough Clerk

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

District Plan for Paying the Current Deficit and Monthly Claims in the Health Insurance Fund

School Board members discussed the difficulty the School District would have taking over payments to health insurance in January 2023 and the impact that budget adjustments mid fiscal year could have on students and schools. Assembly members questioned the district's ability to pay actual costs and requested a FY 23 budget to be posted to the public to better understand the impacts of budget adjustments. Alternate member Bradford stated the expectation was for the district to increase health care funding in FY 24.

Timeline for District Implementation of a Plan to Change the Business Method for Payment of Monthly Claims

The committee discussed the timeline of recent communication between district and borough staff including the request of district staff to begin taking over health care direct payments beginning July 1, 2023. Borough Attorney Brown and Acting Manager Gubatayao discussed future Borough actions including submitting a budget appropriation to the Assembly for introduction on January 3, 2023, and working with the District on a new Memorandum of Agreement moving forward.

Chair Robbins invited a show of hands to support moving the date of implementation of the District direct payment plan from January 1, 2023, to July 1, 2023.

THREE MEMBERS SHOWED SUPPORT for recommending the change of date to July 1, 2023.

Potential Amendments to the 1999 Agreement Between the Borough and District

The consensus of the committee was that the 1999 Agreement should be updated at the recommendations of staff following upcoming Borough and District meetings.

Staff Reports and Communications

There were no reports given.

Confirmation of Host and Meeting Schedule:

The next committee meeting was scheduled for January 24th 2023, with the Borough hosting.

The topics scheduled for discussion at the next meeting were:

- Continuation of discussion regarding School District Health Insurance Fund Deficit
- Review of joint resolution urging increased State Education Funding – *School Board request*

Committee Member Comments

Member Bynum stated his appreciation for the continued open and clear communication. He stated he would send a follow-up request to Borough staff with questions for the District.

Member Echohawk encouraged continuance of ongoing open and clear communication between the Borough and School District.

Member Bradford noted the initial need to convene the committee to start the discussion regarding the deficit in the health insurance fund, and stated the communications should now go through the staff with reports to the Assembly and School Board.

Member Bynum relayed that the Assembly members on the committee were providing the committee reports to the Assembly at each meeting. Chair Robbins commented that the School Board members also were reporting back to their body.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.