

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR meeting of
Wednesday, January 12, 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 12th day of January 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; Board Members Diane Gubatayao; Jordan Tabb; and Nicole Anderson. Board Vice President Keenan Sanderson and Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. participated via teleconference.

Student Board Member Braxton Zink was present in person.

Administrative staff present included Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson; Business Manager Katie Parrott; and Board Clerk Kerry Watson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved without objection.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Student Board member Braxton Zink was recognized and congratulated for his selection to the U.S. Senate Youth Program as Alaska's 2022 representative.

CITIZEN REMARKS

There were no citizen remarks.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson reported on her latest communication with the Association of Alaska School Boards regarding the permanent superintendent search process. Applications were being accepted through January 18, 2022; and although only two had been submitted so far, the AASB expects more based on interest, she said.

Board Member Diane Gubatayao reported briefly on the previous night's Ketchikan Native Education Parent Committee (KNEPC) meeting.

CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION - December 23, 2021

Business Manager Katie Parrott and Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson provided information on the E-rate program and staff attendance at an AVID conference, respectively, in response to questions from Board Member Gubatayao. Both items were referenced on the claims.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Member's Report

Student Member Braxton Zink said that the Clarke Cochrane basketball tournament over Christmas break was successful, raised morale, and was beneficial for the community. He reported on several upcoming activities, including the basketball teams' schedules; and that AcDc (Academic Decathlon) would be participating in a virtual state scrimmage that coming weekend. Braxton also noted that with Ketchikan remaining at a community COVID high risk level, masks continue to be mandated in school. Coming out of winter break, Kayhi experienced the highest number of absences yet this school year, he added. The senior also commented on student stress with first semester finals occurring this week.

Superintendent's Report

Interim Superintendent Johnson noted that due to inclement weather conditions school start times were delayed on the first day back from winter break; and one school day had to be canceled altogether.

Ms. Johnson then reported on several COVID response actions being taken by the district:

- A drive up COVID testing program had begun for staff, students and their families, occurring every Sunday at Houghtaling;
- A COVID-case dashboard has been launched on the district website, which will show the reported COVID cases in the district and how many reported at each school;
- The district is adapting its protocols to reflect the change in CDC guidelines for isolation for those testing positive from 10 days to 5 days;
- Results of the district's COVID survey had been provided to Board members and will soon be shared out to stakeholders soon.

Health insurance deficit: Business Manager Parrott updated the Board on efforts related to the large deficit in the district's health insurance program reserve fund. More than \$1.7 million of the deficit can be attributed to COVID-related costs, she said. During a recent health insurance committee meeting, it was suggested that the health insurance task force be started up now. Ms. Parrott briefly explained the origin and purpose of the task force, which was begun in partnership and agreement with the Ketchikan Education Association; and which had not been due to restart until next year. She noted that other school districts are also experiencing high insurance costs due to COVID.

Ketchikan Charter School report

Ketchikan Charter School Principal Kayla Livingston presented the school's annual report, highlighting what makes the school unique, and changes which have occurred this year. The charter school follows the Core Knowledge curriculum; caps its class sizes; and has a solid RTI program, she said. This year marked the renewal of another 10-year contract for Ketchikan Charter School, Ms. Livingston noted; and an expansion to provide a full-day preschool for four-year-olds. A long-term lease was initiated with Holy Name and its facility is now housing the preschool through second grades. Third through eighth-grade students attend at the Valley Park campus. In addition, this year the school's music program resumed as did a robotics program; and a middle school basketball program was started. Ms. Livingston also reported that this year is the first time the school has more than 200 students.

The KCS principal shared MAP math and reading test results from this past fall, noting the students at almost all grade levels had lost academic ground due to the pandemic. For example, this year's KCS second-graders were in kindergarten when the pandemic hit and they lost a third of their school year, stated Principal Livingston. A district-wide lack of paraprofessionals means the special education and RTI programs aren't as strong as they should be, she added.

Ms. Livingston also reported on progress on short and long-term goals for the school. One of the achieved goals was the installation of a buzz-in system for the school's entrance. The lease with Holy Name freed up classroom space at the school's main campus, enabling a long-term goal for a band/music room. Expanding the school's offerings to include preschool was also a long-term goal.

Board Member Mattson said she was excited that Ketchikan Charter School was able to add a preschool. After a short discussion, a date for an upcoming work session of the Board and KCS was agreed upon.

****PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY** - Procedure (1) Citizens may give public comment regarding the subject of the hearing; (2) the public hearing is closed; (3) opportunity for Board discussion and decision.

Motion to approve revisions to Board Policy 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment in second reading.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Public Hearing/Board discussion

There was no public comment nor discussion by the Board.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - AYE

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT CALENDAR of January 12, 2022.

a. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 15, 2021.

b. Motion to approve out-of-state travel for the baseball team to travel to Florida at the end of March.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of January 12, 2022.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ANDERSON

MOTION APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the request from Tongass School of Arts and Sciences APC to have autonomy from the COVID protocols to follow District policy or CDC guidelines which are more restrictive

Moved by: TABB; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. first stated he found it unfortunate that a school would choose to be more restrictive with COVID protocols, when more vaccines are available and current COVID variants are less harmful. However, he then said, charter schools offer varying educational options in a school district and he supports TSAS in having that choice.

Board Member Mattson asked if this request came from the school's APC (Academic Policy Committee), parents or administration, and if there were any legal issues that the Board needed to consider.

Superintendent Johnson said that the school's request was in line with the Alaska statute on charter schools, which allows for a school to seek an exemption from a district's requirements.

Ms. Gubatayao also asked about the genesis of the issue, and requested that the APC president address the questions.

Tina Peckham, TSAS APC president, accompanied by TSAS principal Scott Huff, came to the podium to respond. She noted first that the school has been in support of the district's Start Strong COVID mitigation plan, but concerns had come up with some of the modifications to protocols. Most recently, the concern was with the test to stay program and possible testing in lieu of quarantining, said Ms. Peckham. She indicated that other protocols, such as using an annex to provide more spacing of students, had enabled TSAS to keep its students in school. Due to the concern with the test to stay program, TSAS had asked the district about the school using different protocols, she said.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - AYE

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to approve the Emergency Connectivity Fund award in the amount of \$384,051.20.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: MATTSON

Discussion

Ms. Mattson stated appreciation to Mr. Whicker, district technology coordinator, and to district technology staff for their diligence in seeking grants to provide for technology needs. She commented, for the public's benefit, that the grants will enable augmenting purchases for the district.

Ms. Gubatayao said there had been a goal to replace outdated Chrome books and other technology for staff. She also stated her appreciation to those responsible for the grant.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) - AYE

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

MOTION PASSED

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Student Disciplinary Matter

Motion to move into executive session to discuss a student disciplinary matter in which the Board is acting as an adjudicatory body performing a quasi-judicial function, as provided for by Board Bylaw 9321 and AS 44.62.310.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

There was no objection to the motion to enter an executive session.

The Executive Session began at 6:55 p.m. The session ended at 7:05 p.m. and the Board re-entered regular session. President Bradford noted that if any action on the student disciplinary matter needed to be made in open session.

Motion to affirm the district administration's recommendation in the student disciplinary matter, #22-01.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

ROLL CALL

MATTSON, GUBATAYAO, ANDERSON, SANDERSON, TABB, BRADFORD - AYES

ROBBINS - ABSTAIN

MOTION APPROVED

Board Member Robbins explained his abstention was due to not being able to attend the disciplinary hearing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Negotiations with TLSO

Motion to move into executive session to discuss labor negotiations with the Technology Labor Staff Organization, a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district, as provided for by Board Bylaw 9321 and AS 44.62.310.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: GUBATAYAO

There was no objection to the motion to enter an executive session.

The Executive Session began at 7:07 p.m. The session ended at 7:36 p.m. and the Board re-entered its regular session.

DISCUSSION

School Board self-assessment: A summary had been provided to the Board. It was suggested the self-assessment be reviewed in conjunction with consideration of Board goals.

Drug abuse/overdose issues: Ms. Gubatayao briefly noted current efforts of the PIERS task force; and suggested looking at the district's curriculum efforts regarding drug prevention.

ADVANCE PLANNING

Upcoming worksessions with each of the charter schools were noted. President Bradford said he will be working on setting up government to government meetings with tribal organizations. Board members agreed on the date of Thursday, January 27 for reviewing of superintendent applications with the AASB.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Gubatayao stated she looks forward to studying the results of the district survey regarding COVID and its implications for school operation.

Mr. Sanderson wished good luck to the Kayhi students in taking their finals.

Ms. Mattson first thanked Superintendent Johnson and district staff for being timely in the handling of snow and ice situations affecting school operation. She said that school district staff are going above and beyond in their jobs in dealing with the omicron and delta variants impact and she is grateful.

Mr. Tabb encouraged anyone interested to apply for the district's openings for educational support professionals and substitute teachers.

Mr. Zink expressed thanks to Mr. Sanderson for his comments regarding finals. He acknowledged it is a stressful week for most students, and for seniors applying for colleges. He encouraged his fellow students to hang in there.

Board President Bradford echoed Ms. Mattson in appreciation of staff. He said he appreciates those who are helping students grow and learn every day, and that the community appreciates it as well.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. With no objections expressed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the January 26, 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Stephen Bradford