

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL meeting of
Monday, January 31, 2022
5:30 p.m.
*Meeting held virtually via Zoom videoconference***

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in special session on the 31st day of January, 2022, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Stephen Bradford called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The following members were present on the videoconference to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board President Stephen Bradford; Board Vice President Keenan Sanderson; Board Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; and Board Members Diane Gubatayao; Jordan Tabb; Paul Robbins Jr.; and Nicole Anderson. Student Board Member Braxton Zink was also present.

Board Clerk Kerry Watson and Human Resources Manager Tiffany Batura were also present.

Purpose of special meeting

President Stephen Bradford stated that the purpose of the special meeting was for initial interviews of the three finalists for the permanent superintendent position. Those finalists were: Dr. Greg Fowler, Melissa Johnson, and Michael Robbins. Thirty-five minutes were allotted for each candidate's interview.

Dr. Greg Fowler, who would be interviewed first, is an interim superintendent and principal at the Rite of Passage Southwest Leadership Academy in Phoenix, Arizona. The second finalist to be interviewed, Michael Robbins, is the site administrator/principal of the Nelson Island School in Toksook Bay, Alaska. Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District's interim superintendent Melissa Johnson would be the final candidate interviewed.

President Bradford stated that after that evening's interviews, the Board anticipated inviting all the candidates to Ketchikan the following week for in-person interviews and meetings with staff, stakeholders, parents and other members of the community. He gave a summary of the anticipated schedule for that process on February 8 and 9, 2022. Mr. Bradford said it was possible the Board would be ready to decide on Ketchikan's next superintendent at its regular meeting on the evening of February 9. However, a special meeting of the Board had been scheduled for Thursday, February 10, 2022, for that purpose; allowing time for the Board to consider feedback from the community and stakeholders in making its decision.

The interviews then began, at about 5:40 p.m. At the outset of each interview, President Bradford asked for the finalist to provide a summary of their background and qualifications to be the superintendent of the Ketchikan district. Board members then took turns asking the interviewee questions regarding: why they would be successful as superintendent in Ketchikan; how they would deal with competing priorities such as negotiating with a bargaining unit and students needing disciplinary action; and to describe a situation in which they'd taken a significant disciplinary action on a student. There were also specific questions asked of each individual finalist, based on information gleaned from their resume. At the end of each finalist's interview, the individual was invited to ask questions of the Board.

The last interview concluded at about 7:20 p.m., after which the following motion was made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter an executive session to discuss the candidates, which is a matter of personnel, that may tend to prejudice the character of those discussed.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

ROLL CALL

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

MOTION PASSED UANIMOUSLY

The Executive Session began at about 7:20 p.m. with Ms. Batura attending with the Board. The session ended at about 7:26 p.m.

Motion to remove the action item at the next regular meeting (February 9, 2022) to choose the Superintendent, so that the Board may take the proper amount of time to review and consider the input that would be received that day from stakeholders and the public.

Moved by: ROBBINS; Second by: SANDERSON

Discussion

It was pointed out because the February 9, 2022 meeting agenda had not been finalized or published yet, the motion wasn't technically necessary. However, Board members expressed agreement on allowing time to fully consider the input of the public and stakeholders regarding making a superintendent selection. The candidates would be meeting with stakeholders on February 8 and 9 and it would be difficult to adequately receive and review feedback from those groups, explained President Bradford. It was further expressed and agreed that the Board should delay its decision until a special meeting scheduled for February 10, 2022.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION

Motion to go forward with all three candidates for the interview, community forum and stakeholder process (in person).

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ANDERSON

MOTION APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION

Board Member Bridget Mattson, who had been serving as the liaison for the superintendent search process, briefly explained what was being planned for the in-person superintendent finalist schedule and stakeholder input process.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the February 23, 2022 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Stephen Bradford