

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR meeting of  
Wednesday, June 8 , 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 8th day of June 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 Vice President Keenan Sanderson; Board Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; and Board Members Diane Gubatayao; Paul Robbins Jr.; and Jordan Tabb. Board Member Nicole Anderson was absent and excused.

Administrative staff present included Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson; Business Manager Katie Parrott; Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante; and Maintenance Director Al Jacobson.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.**

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

President Stephen Bradford read a proclamation regarding June as PRIDE Month.

Board Member Diane Gubatayao stated her congratulations to the Lady Kings Softball team who won the state championship.

**CITIZEN REMARKS**

There were none.

**INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no reports.

**CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION** - *Claims of May 13, 2022; and Claims of May 27, 2022.*

Board Member Gubatayao asked some general questions regarding Fast Track budgeting; student activities' allocations and equity; and about reimbursement for the free school lunch program. Business Manager Katie Parrott and Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson responded.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Superintendent's Report:**

Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson referred the Board to her written report in the Board packet; and thanked the Board for allowing her to be the interim superintendent. Ms. Johnson commented that in addition to the girls' softball team winning state, other local teams should be recognized for their achievements. She noted that the baseball team placed fourth at state; that both boys' and girls' soccer teams were able to compete at state; and that a number of track and field athletes also competed at state. She described her pleasure with the Ketchikan High School and Revilla Alternative School graduations and said that incoming superintendent Michael Robbins had accompanied her to the events. Lastly, she commented that the end of the school year had been very busy and exhausting for administrators.

**\*\*PUBLIC HEARING - POLICY\*\***

**Motion to approve revisions to Board Policy 4218 - Personnel: Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action in second reading.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: TABB

Public Hearing

No public members commented.

Board discussion

There was no discussion.

**ROLL CALL**

**ROBBINS JR; TABB, MATTSON, GUBATAYAO; SANDERSON, BRADFORD - ALL AYES**

***MOTION APPROVED***

**Motion to approve revisions to Board Policy 4112.8- Personnel: Employment of Relatives in first reading.**

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Public Hearing

No members of the public commented.

Board discussion

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. explained that an Association of Alaska School Boards' template for this policy came to the Board at its last meeting. However, in looking at the policy, the Board decided to send it back to the policy committee, due to concern that the proposed policy was lacking some pertinent language from previous policy versions. Policy committee member Mr. Robbins Jr. said that the policy committee has melded the AASB version and earlier district policy language in the proposal now before the Board.

Mr. Bradford stated that because the proposed changes were significant enough, the policy is being considered to be in first reading again.

**ROLL CALL**

**GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, TABB, SANDERSON, BRADFORD – ALL AYES**

***MOTION PASSED***

**Motion to approve a new Board Policy 4262.7 – Coaching/Chaperone Leave in first reading.**

Moved by: SANDERSON; Second by: MATTSON

Public Hearing

There was none

Board Discussion

Mr. Sanderson stated that he is a chaperone/coach for the National Ocean Sciences Team at the high school. However, he added he did not believe he had a conflict in regards to voting on this policy as he is not an employee of the district and doesn't receive compensation for his volunteer coaching duties.

Board President Bradford agreed that Mr. Sanderson had no conflict.

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. explained that this policy proposal was provided by the Interim Superintendent. Although leave had been provided in the past for these groups, there has not been a policy in place to address leave for such circumstances.

He also stated that some clarifying language for a portion of the proposed policy had been suggested by the Board Clerk, which he said he would like to put forth as an amendment.

**Motion to amend the proposed policy by deleting the last sentence and replacing it with: “An employee requesting coaching/chaperone leave should submit the request to the Superintendent or designee.”**

Moved by: ROBBINS JR; Second by: MATTSON

Discussion

Ms. Mattson asked if the proposed amendment language was appropriate to cover both coaching and chaperone leave, as the two were handled slightly differently. Interim Superintendent Johnson explained briefly why the language would suffice.

**Amendment Roll Call**

**SANDERSON, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, BRADFORD – AYES**

**AMENDMENT APPROVED**

**ROLL CALL on Main Motion (approval of policy)**

**SANDERSON, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, BRADFORD – ALL AYES**

**MOTION PASSED**

**CONSENT CALENDAR of June 8, 2022**

- a. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 13, 2022.
- b. Motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 27, 2022.
- ~~e. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2022.~~
- d. Motion to approve a contract for school psychology services for the 2022-2023 school year with Brian Adams.
- e. Motion to approve a contract for speech pathology services for the 2022-2023 school year with Lindsay Hargis.
- f. Motion to approve a contract for speech pathology services for the 2022-2023 school year with Lianna Bodine.
- g. Motion to approve a contract for speech pathology services for the 2022-2023 school year with Naomi Updike.
- h. Motion to approve a contract for BCBA services for the 2022-2023 school year with Access Behavioral Services.
- i. Motion to approve a lease agreement with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough.
- j. Motion to approve application to the federal ESEA Title Grant(s) (ESEA Consolidated, IEA, School Improvement).

**Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of June 8, 2022.**

Moved by: TABB; Second by: ROBBINS Jr.

It was noted that Item “c” - the regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2022 - had been pulled from the Consent Calendar as the draft minutes were not completed.

Ms. Gubatayao asked that Item “j” – the consideration of applications to ESEA Title Grants - be pulled and considered under “Unfinished Business.”

**ROLL CALL on remainder of Consent Calendar**

**GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, TABB, SANDERSON, BRADFORD – ALL AYES**

**MOTION PASSED**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*(Transferred Consent Calendar Item “j”)*

**Motion to approve application to the federal ESEA Title Grants, ESEA Consolidated, IEA and School Improvement Grants.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: SANDERSON

### Discussion

Ms. Gubatayao asked how the various uses proposed for each grant had been determined, such as the expenditure for a graduation specialist listed under one of the grants.

Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson responded that Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante had worked together with incoming superintendent Michael Robbins on these grant application proposals as the grants were for next school year. She asked that the two of them speak to the Board.

Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante addressed the rationale for the graduation specialist, as Ms. Gubatayao had referred to that particular position. When funds became available under the Title IV grant, a graduation specialist was suggested by Mr. Robbins, as it was a position that had been used successfully in his previous district. Mr. Robbins explained how he envisioned this person's role. In addition to targeting students who might be behind in credits as they are progressing through school; the graduation specialist would also make connections with students who are chronically absent, he said.

Ms. Gubatayao commented that the Schoenbar mentoring program that the Board had recently heard a presentation on might fit well under one of these grants in the future.

Board Member Mr. Robbins Jr. asked about the committees who had input into the grants. Mr. Escalante said that for the Title VI grant (Indian Education Act), a parent committee, which includes some educators, provides the input on use of the grant funds. The committee has prioritized the Native preschools and the cultural specialist for the grant funds, he said.

Ms. Mattson asked if there had been consultation with tribal governments for the Title grants. Ms. Johnson said that had occurred as part of the government to government consultations with the tribal government.

Ms. Gubatayao noted that, in regards to the IEA grant, both Saxman IRA Council and Ketchikan Indian Community had been contacted for input by the IEA parent committee.

### **ROLL CALL**

**TABB, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, ROBBINS JR., SANDERSON, BRADFORD – ALL AYES**

### ***MOTION PASSED***

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Motion to approve the FY 24 Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District to be submitted to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: TABB

### Discussion

Board Member Gubatayao asked how the projects on the Capital Improvement Plan were prioritized and selected for listing.

Interim Superintendent Johnson responded briefly regarding prioritization of the capital projects. If it is more critical for a project to be addressed earlier than what was originally projected on the CIP schedule, such as the Schoenbar gym floor, it can be moved up, she said. She also commented on a Point Higgins renovation project which is scheduled for 2026, which provides more time to provide for its projected \$6 million funding, she said. Ms. Johnson also noted that capital projects have to be on this list if the district is to receive capital improvement plan funds for them.

Ms. Gubatayao then commented on federal infrastructure funds coming to the Borough, and asked if that might impact the school district. Ms. Johnson said if there are any funds available, she is sure that she and the maintenance and facilities director Al Jacobson will be on top of it.

Maintenance Director Jacobson further explained the CIP process. He noted that the district uses Southeast Regional Resource Center for preparing its CIP applications, which have to be submitted to the state by a certain date.

**ROLL CALL**

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

***MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Motion to approve a revision to the FY 23 operating fund budget in the amount of \$42,430,034**

Moved by: SANDERSON; Second by: MATTSON

**Discussion**

President Bradford stated that this budget revision reflects the reduced amount that the district is receiving as a local contribution from the Borough.

Business Manager Katie Parrott added that this budget does include a small increase in funding that came through at the very end of the legislative session through the Alaska Reads Act. A provision in that act provided for a small increase in the BSA (base student allocation), equating to about \$156,000 for Ketchikan. Ms. Parrott pointed out that the Act may also include some unfunded mandates. The district administration is proposing to assign this funding to the classified instructional area of the budget. She noted that the district is also in negotiations with that bargaining unit.

**ROLL CALL**

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

***MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Motion to approve the application to the ARPA: Evidence-Based Comprehensive Afterschool Programs, as presented.**

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: GUBATAYAO

**Discussion**

Ms. Johnson stated that if the district's grant application is approved, most of the \$550,000 in funds will be used for K-6th grade after school reading programs due to the Alaska Reads Act. The grant will supply stipends for teachers and paraprofessionals to work with students who are struggling with reading. Ms. Johnson said that there are four areas that applicants could target, so the grant application focused on other areas to a lesser extent as well. The district will be informed on July 1 if it was successful.

**ROLL CALL**

**GUBATAYAO, SANDERSON, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, TABB, BRADFORD – ALL AYES**

***MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Memorandum of Agreement with Ketchikan Indian Community.**

President Bradford spoke to this item, which was on the agenda as an action item. He said the MOA was a result of government to government meetings between the School Board and Ketchikan Indian Community Tribal Council. Mr. Bradford said he didn't think the Board was ready for any action on this MOA as there were some areas that needed further discussion. He asked the Board to authorize him to have further discussion with the Ketchikan Indian Community Council President on this MOA, as he was not yet prepared to sign it on behalf of the Board.

Ms. Gubatayao stated this was the first time she'd seen this proposed MOA and she would like more time to study it as well; so she was in agreement. Ms. Mattson stated she'd heard the MOA discussed, but had not

seen it earlier either. She added that much of the MOA is codifying discussions between the two bodies, such as how often the groups would meet together.

There was some more discussion on various areas of the MOA, with Boardmembers bringing up areas that needed to be clarified.

Ms. Gubatayao commented that the Board had not yet met with the Saxman IRA. She also suggested Board members should read the federal ESEA law.

There was no objection to the Board President meeting with the KIC Tribal Council president regarding the MOA, before it is brought back to the Board.

## **DISCUSSION**

*Drug abuse/overdose issues* – Mr. Tabb referred to some situations regarding overdoses and Narcan of which he had personal knowledge. He'd like to see increased training for the use of Narcan and its availability in the school buildings. Interim Superintendent Johnson said that Narcan training had been provided at the secondary level and kits are available at those schools. Ms. Gubatayao said that the Wellness Coalition is sending eight students to a national training regarding prevention of drug abuse, suicide issues and other issues.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

**Motion to enter an executive session regarding negotiations with the Education Support Professionals, a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

### **ROLL CALL**

**ROBBINS JR., GUBATAYAO, SANDERSON, TABB, MATTSON - AYE**

**BRADFORD - NAY**

**5-1**

**MOTION PASSED**

It was noted that incoming superintendent Michael Robbins would be present in the executive session. After approximately a five-minute break, the Board entered its executive session at about 7:02 p.m. It lasted until about 7:34 p.m. at which time the Board came back into regular session; and the following motion for another executive session was made.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion to enter executive session for an evaluation of the Interim Superintendent, a subject that may tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.**

Moved by: TABB; Second by: MATTSON

### **ROLL CALL**

**GUBATAYAO, SANDERSON, TABB, MATTSON, BRADFORD – AYES**

**ROBBINS JR. – NAY**

**5-1**

**MOTION PASSED**

The Board entered this executive session at approximately 7:37 p.m. The session ended at 8:09 p.m. Back in its regular session, Board President Bradford stated that there would be no action. He made the following motion for a third executive session.

**Motion to enter an executive session regarding a personnel matter, a subject that may tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.**

Moved by: BRADFORD; Second by: MATTSON

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ROBBINS JR. - NAY**

**5-1**

***MOTION PASSED***

The Board entered the executive session at 8:11 p.m. The session ended at 8:30 p.m.

Back in its regular session, Board President Bradford stated that there was no action as a result of the executive session regarding a personnel matter.

**ADVANCE PLANNING:** Upcoming meetings were noted.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Tabb simply thanked his fellow board members for their participation and added that he hopes for a great summer ahead.

Ms. Mattson commented regarding the evaluation of the interim superintendent. She stated that the School Board enters executive session for evaluation due to the possibility of prejudicing the reputation and character of that individual. She stated that Melissa Johnson was handed an "herculean" task of calming down the district and bringing its students into as normal of a school year as possible. Ms. Mattson described some of the situations Ms. Johnson dealt with during the school year. She pointed to the success of ending this year with in-person high school graduations, the success of the multiple sports and activities teams; and that "normal" activities have occurred. She concluded that in her opinion Ms. Johnson had more than exceeded the directives of the School Board for the year; and she was very grateful.

Ms. Gubatayao commented on her gratefulness and pleasure with the in-person high school graduations, with activities resuming, and with students earning scholarships. A sense of normalcy is resuming, she said.

President Bradford closed by declaring: "It's good to be a King."

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no objection to a motion to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.