

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING and WORK SESSION  
Meeting of  
Wednesday January 25, 2023  
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 25<sup>th</sup> Day of January 2023, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Stephen Bradford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Scouts BSA Pack #4 Arrow of Light led a flag ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Nicole Anderson; Board Members Diane Gubatayao, Tom Heutte, Melissa O'Bryan, Paul Robbins, Jr. and Student Member Jack Zink.

Administrative staff present included Deputy Superintendent Melissa Johnson, Interim Business Manager David Means, and School Board Clerk Crystal Vail. Superintendent Robbins appeared telephonically.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no objections to the agenda as presented.

Mr. Bradford noted why the Borough District MOA Regarding District Health Insurance Deficit draft was not on the agenda of this meeting and stated his expectation was that it would be ready for approval by the Board at the Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regular meeting.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION**

None.

**CITIZEN REMARKS**

Robb Arnold, citizen, expressed his concerns about the upcoming district budget. He asked questions about the process of deciding what cuts to make. He asked the board if administration costs could be lower? He suggested keeping the front line workers and reduce administration costs. He advocated for career technical education programs.

**INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:**

Member Gubatayao reported the progress revising the Borough/District joint resolution regarding the base student allocation (BSA) and stated she anticipates a draft will be ready for the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vice President Sanderson and Member Gubatayao discussed what a good time frame is to visit Juneau and speak to the legislature about the BSA, stating March would be a good time to go and bring the joint resolution.

**CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION:**

Claims of January 20, 2023- claims approved as presented.

Gubatayao commented on the cost of electricity and heat for Kayhi alone. She wanted to make the community to be aware of the true costs to run buildings in the district.

**STUDENT MEMBER REPORT:**

Student Member Zink reported upcoming activities and events, including Debate, Basketball, Drama and Winter Ball. He reported a donation by Safeway to the Kayhi Lady King Softball Team.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

Superintendent Robbins gave a preliminary report of budgetary assumptions for FY24.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2023
- b. Motion to approve the special meeting minutes of January 18, 2023
- c. Motion to approve the purchase of licenses and license support from Vmware and Veem to support the district server/storage needs.

M/S: HEUTTE/ANDERSON

ROLL CALL:

7 YES- ZINK (preferential,) GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS, JR., HEUTTE, O'BRYAN, ANDERSON, SANDERSON, BRADFORD

CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Motion to approve the contract with Schmolck Mechanical Contractor regarding Kayhi Phase two, Boiler 1 replacement.

M/S: GUBATAYAO/ANDERSON

Board Discussion:

Member Robbins requested a detailed breakdown of pricing on projects with large costs.

Member Gubatayao asked if this project would be part of the CIP fund, Superintendent Robbins indicated that it would be part of the CIP funds.

Member Anderson asked if there was any savings data from the previous Boiler 2 replacement, Superintendent Robbins stated he would find the information and share it with the Board.

ROLL CALL:

7 YES- ZINK (preferential,) HEUTTE, SANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, ANDERSON, ROBBINS, JR., O'BRYAN, BRADFORD

MOTION APPROVED

- b. Motion to approve the 2023- 2024 District School Year Calendar.

M/S: SANDERSON/ANDERSON

Board Discussion:

Member O'Bryan commented she liked the amount of responses. Member Gubatayao brought back her concern for elementary conferences being too early in October. Curriculum Director Alonso Escalante discussed with Board Members reasons for keeping the conferences on the scheduled dates, stating schools are generally flexible and can accommodate families with multiple children. Mr. Escalante explained the factors considered when the calendar committee creates a schedule.

ROLL CALL:

7 YES: ZINK (preferential,) ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, O'BRYAN, SANDERSON, ROBBINS, JR., HEUTTE, BRADFORD

MOTION APPROVED

## **WORK SESSION:**

Motion to enter a work session with Matt Lewis, Vice President, Employee Benefits and Gary Baldrige, Executive Vice President, Employee Benefits, of USI Insurance Services to discuss District Health Insurance.

M/S: ROBBINS, JR., HEUTTE  
NO OBJECTIONS TO ENTERING THE WORK SESSION.

The Board was in work session from 6:55 p.m. until 7:51 p.m.

During the work session, USI Insurance Services representatives, Matt Lewis and Gary Baldrige, spoke to the Board of their responsibilities as advocates for the Borough and School District when dealing with health insurance. They explained the processes USI uses to determine their recommendation for health insurance funding each fiscal year.

Board members asked questions and discussed with Mr. Lewis and Mr. Baldrige the recommended path the district take moving forward regarding health insurance costs.

The Board took a 6-minute recess when the work session ended.

## **DISCUSSION**

### a. District FY 24 Budget

Board Members and Superintendent Robbins discussed FY24 budget concerns and the possibility of cutting 57 positions which would have an approximate 3 million dollar fiscal impact on the district budget. They discussed the reduction strategy and stated the reductions would be made district wide, not only in teaching staff. Superintendent Robbins explained how he and the business manager met with each building principal to prepare them for changes in FY24.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a. Motion to enter Executive Session regarding labor negotiations with KLO, a matter the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district.

M/S: ROBBINS, JR./SANDERSON

ROLL CALL:

6 YES- HEUTTE, ROBBINS, JR., O'BRYAN, GUBATAYAO, ANDERSON, SANDERSON

1 NO- BRADFORD

MOTION APPROVED

- ~~b. Motion to enter Executive Session to receive advice from counsel regarding employment practices and hiring, which is covered by attorney-client privilege.~~

Executive session (b.) was cancelled due to unavailability of the district's attorney at that time.

The Board was in Executive Session from 8:36 p.m. until 8:51 p.m.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Member O'Bryan thanked district and borough staff for making hard decisions. She reminded eligible community members to apply for the KIC housing voucher.

Robbins reminded the community that the school board wants to make the best possible decisions for the school district. He stated that making informed and educated decisions is the goal moving forward.

Heutte commented on the FY24 budget and thanked district staff for the work they have done so far concerning the budget.

Member Gubatayao emphasized that the budget proposals are preliminary and conservative. She also commented on her plan to campaign to encourage the legislature to increase educational state funding.

Member Anderson, thanked district staff and USI for working together to provide a better understanding of the health care situation. She also thanked Scouts BSA Arrow of Light Pack for coming to the meeting and thinking of the school board as a resource to meet their requirements.

Member Sanderson addressed a comment that he heard during public testimony, encouraging the public to come to meetings with helpful comments and ideas for solutions. He stated he will also be involved in advocating to legislature for increased state funding.

### **ADVANCE PLANNING**

a. School Board regular meeting February 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers.

b. Future meeting with KIC

President Bradford commented that he has been communicating with KIC President Norm Skan and they were able to schedule a meeting the next week.

Member Sanderson commented that the Native Education committee working to set a meeting.

With no objections, ADJOURNMENT at 9:01 p.m.

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BOARD PRESIDENT  
Stephen Bradford