

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR meeting of
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
Remotely held via Webex video conferencing platform¹

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 10th day of February, 2021, participating remotely via the videoconferencing platform WebEx. Board President Kim Hodne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present on the videoconference to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board President Kim Hodne; Vice President Sonya Skan; Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; Board Members Diane Gubatayao; Jordan Tabb; Paul Robbins Jr. and Nicole Anderson.

Student Braxton Zink participated as the student representative, filling in for Henry Clark.

Administrative staff present via videoconference included: Business Manager Katie Parrott; and Board Clerk Kerry Watson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda of the February 10, 2021 regular meeting.

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

ROLL CALL

Student Member Braxton Zink (preferential vote) – AYE

ANDERSON, SKAN, TABB, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, ROBBINS JR. HODNE – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Proclamation – Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month – A proclamation for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, provided by Women in Safe Homes, was read. JD Martin, WISH prevention and education coordinator, briefly commented on teen dating violence statistics. She also announced that WISH had started a peer education program to address teen issues such as dating violence.

Board Member Diane Gubatayao thanked Ms. Martin for bringing the issue forward and spoke about some programs that WISH provides in the schools.

Other Public Recognition

President Hodne recognized Katie Parrott and Board members for their work on a letter advocating for vaccinations to be opened up for teachers. He indicated that the Ketchikan advocacy had influenced the decision for a vaccination tier to open statewide to teachers and other school staff. The tier was to open the following day.

CITIZEN REMARKS ²

Written comments submitted by Starla Agoney were read. Ms. Agoney wrote about the Title VI Ketchikan Native Education Parent Committee and its efforts. One of KNEPC's current activities is encouraging more completion of the 506 forms that determine funding for the Title VI grant. She also wrote about programs funded through the grant - the cultural coordinator position; and two preschools. Lastly, Ms. Agoney asked that Elizabeth Peratrovich Day be added to the district's school calendar.

¹ The meeting was held virtually due to an increase in the community's COVID risk level to High and resulting closure of the Assembly Chambers to governmental meetings.

² Citizens were invited to submit written comments to be read aloud by the Board Clerk at the meeting.

Ketchikan's COVID risk level

Abner Hoage, incident commander with the Emergency Operations Center, provided an update on the COVID-19 situation in Ketchikan. Only two COVID positive cases had been announced that day, which was a good trend from what had been the case in recent days, he said. However, in the past seven days, there had been 30 cases in Ketchikan, which is rather high for the community, he said. Mr. Hoage said a positivity level of 2 to 3 percent led to Ketchikan's community risk level being at "Level 3 - High," which in turn resulted in the district raising its school risk level. Based on Ketchikan's daily case averages, he advised it was most likely the risk level would not drop to Level 2 until about February 23. Mr. Hoage answered some follow up questions from the Board.

Information and Reports from Board Members

Policy Committee: Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. reported on the last policy committee meeting which had occurred in January. The committee reviewed several policies in the student section, including Board Policy 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention which was on the agenda that evening. He noted additional information which the committee is seeking regarding some of the policies. Mr. Robbins Jr. said the committee plans to meet monthly, with its next review focused on policies in the 1000 Community series. Board Member and policy committee member Gubatayao added some comments regarding at-risk youth, which was the topic of one of the reviewed policies.

Ms. Gubatayao referred to training offered to Board Members, including one on trauma informed schools. She also noted she is participating in a monthly training regarding FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). She also commented on Ms. Agoney's written comments and the 506 Form.

Claims for Information – Claims of February 5, 2021. Business Manager Katie Parrott answered questions regarding claims for Fast Track internet reimbursement costs; and for school climate/culture improvement activities at Schoenbar Middle School.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Member's Report: Student Braxton Zink provided the student report, filling in for Henry Clark. He commented briefly on the 50/50 schedule at Kayhi; in which one half of the high school students attend school in person on Monday and Wednesday with the other half going on Tuesday and Thursday. On Friday, students work at home asynchronously. Reporting on extracurricular activities, Braxton noted the basketball games had been cancelled that weekend, and the next planned games are in Sitka the following weekend. In addition, the debate team would be participating virtually at the state tournament that weekend.

Point Higgins Elementary School Annual School Report: Point Higgins Elementary School Principal Steven McLaren spoke first about the school's enrollment and attendance in this unusual year. The school has 253 students this year as compared to 305 students at the end of last year. He noted that Point Higgins' enrollment last year was the third highest enrollment of all the district's schools. Mr. McLaren also reported that 21 new students had enrolled at Point Higgins since November, and 10 of those were brand new to the district. Some specifically moved to Ketchikan from other areas in Alaska because the district was offering in person schooling. Mr. McLaren said there had been only one student positive COVID case this year, although some students have had to be out of school on quarantine due to being close contacts of parents or others. Students missing school due to quarantine probably affected the attendance rate of 92.3 percent this year, compared to 94.6 last year, he said. Principal McLaren said that Point Higgins has been able to operate much as in a normal year, keeping all students at the one physical location, with social distancing, masking and cohorts in place. The principal also commented that the school is functioning with the same roof and carpet as when it opened in 1986, and commended the district maintenance department for that fact.

Assistant principal Dan Olson highlighted the academic progress of Point Higgins students despite the pandemic's effect on instruction. Students have done a good job of keeping up with reading and math skills, he said. The just completed AimsWeb progress monitoring assessment showed that students needing additional help had decreased by 10 to 15 percent, he said. Mr. Olson added that 21 students at the school this year had

improved academically to the point of no longer needing additional RTI services. Lastly, Mr. Olson recognized the schools' being ranked number one for its size in the state's Healthy Futures Challenge. This challenge required the students to do a certain amount of daily exercise each month. He also reported on the school's performance in the district Battle of the Books: the third/fourth-grade placed second and the fifth/sixth-grade team finished third.

Student Member Braxton Zink was excused from the meeting.

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

Motion to approve revisions to Board Policy 5141.52 - Suicide Prevention in second reading.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Public Hearing/Board Discussion

There were no public comments nor Board discussion.

ROLL CALL

ROBBINS JR., GUBATAYAO, SKAN, TABB, ANDERSON, MATTSON, HODNE – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of February 10, 2021, consisting of the approval of the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2021, and the emergency special meeting minutes of February 4, 2021.

- a. *Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2021.*
- b. *Motion to approve the emergency special meeting minutes of February 4, 2021.*

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

ROLL CALL

ROBBINS JR., GUBATAYAO, SKAN, TABB, ANDERSON, MATTSON, HODNE – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve the sabbatical for Todd Henke for the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: MATTSON

Discussion

Several Board Members commented positively on Mr. Henke's sabbatical plans and for the detail he provided in his application. The training he planned to attend and share with students upon his return included home construction and crafting a custom acoustic guitar. Several board members also commented positively on the skills being in the career and technical education path.

Ms. Parrott answered some questions regarding the sabbatical plan, including course offerings during Mr. Henke's absence, and contractual and financial considerations of the sabbatical.

ROLL CALL

ANDERSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., SKAN, MATTSON, HODNE – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to approve the 2021-2022 school year calendar

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

Discussion

Board Member Skan referred to Ms. Agoney's request that Elizabeth Peratrovich Day be listed on the district's school calendar. It was noted that the recognition had been included on this calendar.

ROLL CALL

TABB, ANDERSON, MATTSON, SKAN, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., HODNE – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCUSSION

Initial FY 22 budget discussion – Business Manager Katie Parrott shared documents and information regarding the preliminary work and projections factoring into the FY 22 budget. In addition to enrollment projects and anticipated state and local funding, she also commented on the Local Education Fund and the Health Insurance Reserve fund. Ms. Parrott said that public budget hearings will be scheduled, and that a budget survey will be released soon. There were questions and brief discussion by the Board.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Gubatayao commented on WISH's programs in the schools, and its new peer education program. She encouraged fellow board members to review the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Board Member Nicole Anderson stated she'd been excited to read the Anchorage Daily News article about the opening of a vaccination tier to teachers. She congratulated the Point Higgins' Battle of the Books teams for their performances.

Board Member Bridget Mattson expressed appreciation to teachers and staff for their work, especially those at the 50/50 level. She expressed regret for the postponing of events due to the increased risk level, such as the district-wide spelling bee and Kayhi's Mary Poppins play.

Board Member Jordan Tabb commented on how advocacy had led to the vaccination tier opening for teachers. The public should not be shy about advocating to the Board, he said; including subjects such as the budget. He noted the upcoming budget hearings.

Board Member Paul Robbins stated his appreciation for Ms. Parrott in assuming the additional role of acting superintendent. He also thanked the Board Clerk for her work with meeting logistics.

Board Member Sonya Skan commented on being back at Board meetings. She added that her thoughts are with Superintendent Lougee and also for the community at the higher risk level.

Mr. Hodne echoed concerns and thoughts for Ms. Lougee. He said he is excited about teachers getting the opportunity for vaccination and thanked the Board and Ms. Parrott for their advocacy.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the February 24/25, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Kim Hodne