

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Meeting of
Wednesday February 8, 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 8th Day of February 2023, 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 Nicole Anderson; Board Members Diane Gubatayao, Tom Heutte and Melissa O'Bryan. Member Paul Robbins, Jr. and Student Member Jack Zink had excused absences.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Bradford made a request to remove item 8 e. from the Consent Calendar and move it to Unfinished Business, making it item 9 a.

There were no objections to the agenda as modified.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Board President Bradford read proclamations for Black History Month, National School Counselor's Week and Elizabeth Peratrovich Day.

Member Gubatayao gave recognition to Schoenbar Honor Roll students.

CITIZEN REMARKS

President Bradford referred to the discussion item about TSAS Request for Reimbursement, reminding those coming forward for citizen remarks that the Board would not take any action at this meeting regarding this item and for confidentiality purposes, for any citizen wishing to make remarks please refrain from using names of employees in their remarks. He also addressed the New Business item approval of the District Reduction In Force Plan, stating that cuts will include all departments, not only teachers. He then stated the reasons he was going to recommend the approval of the RIF be postponed until the meeting of February 22, 2023.

Tina Peckham, from the APC at TSAS addressed the charter school budget and expenditures, speaking specifically about a TSAS teacher who provided Special Education services and how the APC believes the salary of this teacher should be paid for by district funds rather than out of the TSAS budget. Near the end of her comments, she asked the Board to bring a motion to their next meeting regarding reimbursement from the District to TSAS for funds that were spent from their charter school budget.

Scott Brandt- Erickson, Ketchikan resident, spoke about the MOA between the Charter Schools and the District. He gave some history about the committee which originated the MOA and the modifications the committee made with Board approval. He commented on his recommendation to the APC if the district is unable to reimburse the charter school and suggested the creation of a dispute resolution process to add to the MOA.

Paul Hook, Ketchikan resident, expressed his concerns about the health insurance fund deficit process taking too long to resolve. He referenced the funding that was mentioned by the district to be applied toward the health insurance fund deficit which was applied elsewhere and asked where the funds were spent. He concluded with his hope for mechanisms to be put in place for this not to happen in the future.

Frankie Urquhart, parent and teacher in the district, expressed her opinion of the Reduction In Force Plan. She stated her appreciation of President Bradford's clarification at the beginning of the meeting regarding the RIF plan.

With some questions and answers, Ms. Urquhart and the Board discussed the number of positions which may be cut district wide, in all departments. President Bradford explained the RIF's language was focused on teaching staff because of State and bargaining unit requirements.

Alex Pennino, KHS track and field coach, gave some details about the out of state travel he was requesting approval from the Board in the Consent Calendar.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Vice President Sanderson reported on the Native Education Committee meeting. Vice President Sanderson was appointed as chair. He gave a synopsis of the discussion items that included more frequent land acknowledgment, Elizabeth Peratrovich day, and a potential culture bearer participating in graduation. Member Gubatayao spoke about trauma surrounding boarding schools and possible training for the district in that subject.

Member Gubatayao voiced her concerns convening the Finance committee as related to the budget. She expressed her opinion that board members should be receiving monthly fund balance reports in addition to the claims reports. She referred to past practice of holding a joint session with borough and district to go over the different aspects of the budget.

President Bradford suggested the Finance committee meet before the next meeting and they can be placed on the next agenda for discussion and potential four-hands direction from the board.

CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION:

Claims of February 3, 2023- claims approved as presented.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Robbins gave a report which included School Board Appreciation Month, an update on district maintenance projects and the RIF plan. He stated the focus on teaching positions in the RIF is a state and bargaining unit requirement. He spoke of the Legislative Fly-In coming up and the government meetings he had in preparation for this trip. He concluded with information about his exploration into the Reads Act and the district's compliance.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 25, 2023
- b. Motion to approve April 2023 out of state travel for KHS Track and Field.
- c. Motion to approve revision to the approved Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Fund Budget
- d. Motion to approve the MOA Regarding District Health Insurance Fund Deficit.
- e. ~~Motion to approve School Board Resolution 23-01/Borough Resolution 2982 Calling on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska to Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA.)~~

M/S: GUBATAYAO/HEUTTE

ROLL CALL:

6 YES- GUBATAYAO; ANDERSON; HEUTTE; O'BRYAN; SANDERSON; BRADFORD

CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVED AS STATED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Bradford gave the Board a recap of the Borough's amendments to the Joint Resolution and the appropriate procedure for motions moving forward with this subject.

- a. Motion to approve School Board Resolution 23-01/Borough Resolution 2982 Calling on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska to Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA.)

M/S: GUBATAYAO/ANDERSON

Member Anderson made the following motion:

"Motion to amend the original motion and approve School Board Resolution 23-01-Substitute, a joint resolution with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly, Calling on the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Alaska to Increase the Base Student Allocation."

M/S: ANDERSON/HEUTTE

DISCUSSION:

Vice President Sanderson asked a question for clarity, asking if the statements in Recital C. an amendment by the Borough, were factual.

Member Gubatayao answered that her worry about the clause was based upon the sensitive nature of the Legislature and them possibly being offended by the language.

With more discussion between board members, it was stated that if increases in state allocations were made to any Rural Education Attendance Area (REAA) in the state, it was not tied to the rate of inflation as the amendment in Recital C was written. Board members agreed it was important to create a document with facts.

Member Gubatayao then made the following motion:

"Motion to amend School Board Resolution 23-01-Substitute, Recital C. to read "WHEREAS, the funding for school districts in organized boroughs has only nominally increased during the last decade, the legislature has routinely increased the funding to Rural Education Attendance Areas (REAs;) and"

M/S: GUBATAYAO/SANDERSON

ROLL CALL:

6 YES- O'BRYAN; GUBATAYAO; ANDERSON; SANDERSON; HEUTTE; BRADFORD

MOTION APPROVED

President Bradford referred the Board back to the original motion to approve the School Board Resolution 23-01-Substitute.

Vice President Sanderson requested the Board consider changing the dollar amount requested from \$1000 to \$1250 as to the most recent recommendation by House Bill 55.

After Board discussion, the following motion was made:

"Motion to amend Recital L to add the wording after Alaska Senate Bill 52 "or \$1250 recommended by House Bill 65."

M/S: ANDERSON/SANDERSON

DISCUSSION:

Member Heutte commented on this process showing the difficulties of 2 bodies trying to simultaneously update a document and he is worried more amendments could cause further divergence from the goal of the document. Vice President Sanderson explained his reasoning for bringing up the possible amendment.

ROLL CALL:

3 YES- O'BRYAN; ANDERSON; SANDERSON

3 NO- HEUTTE, GUBATAYAO; BRADFORD

MOTION FAILED

President Bradford again called the Board back to the "Motion to approve School Board Resolution 23-01-Substitute as amended in Recital C."

ROLL CALL:

6 YES- ANDERSON; HEUTTE; GUBATAYAO; O'BRYAN; SANDERSON, BRADFORD

MOTION APPROVED

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Motion to approve the District Reduction In Force Plan.

M/S: HEUTTE/ANDERSON

DISCUSSION:

President Bradford explained his reason for wanting to wait until the next meeting to approve the RIF plan, stating his wish for the district to make a finding of the number of decreased student enrollment to approve the RIF according to board policies as well as giving the public a chance to ask questions before board approval.

Superintendent Robbins discussed meeting with KEA leaders and partnering with them to help understanding of this document district wide.

President Bradford invited Sarah Campbell, KEA President, to speak about the district RIF plan.

Ms. Campbell shared her experience visiting schools with Superintendent Robbins, speaking with teachers and answering questions about the RIF plan.

Member Gubatayao asked if early retirement incentives had been considered. Ms. Campbell answered the goal was to keep everyone and all options will be explored.

President Bradford expressed his hope for an increase in BSA, stating the board will still have to make some difficult and responsible decisions regardless of the actions of Legislature.

Member Gubatayao made the following motion:

"Motion to postpone the approval of the District Reduction In Force Plan to the February 22, 2023 board meeting."

M/S: GUBATAYAO/SANDERSON

No further discussion.

ROLL CALL:

6 YES- O'BRYAN; ANDERSON; SANDERSON; GUBATAYAO; HEUTTE; BRADFORD

MOTION APPROVED

President Bradford asked the board if there were any objections to reordering the discussion items. The board had no objections and asked for a short recess before the discussions began.

The Board took a 5-minute recess from 7:28-7:33 p.m.

DISCUSSION

- b. TSAS Request for Reimbursement

Superintendent Robbins gave some background on the District's decision regarding the use of SPED funding for a specific TSAS teacher. Board members asked questions to Superintendent Robbins and Deputy Superintendent Melissa Johnson about the details of the request from TSAS and the way the district made the determination not to reimburse. They discussed what certifications are available and how certifications are

earned. Member Gubatayao reminded the board of the budget contributions required to the district from charter schools. Board Members referenced communication between both parties attorneys and DEED. At the end of the discussion Member Gubatayao proposed creating a motion to bring to the February 22, 2023 meeting.

a. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

President Bradford referred to the paperwork included in the meeting packet before Member Gubatayao began the discussion. Member Gubatayao and Superintendent Robbins both expressed their opinion of the importance of considering ACEs in schools and how they can affect learning and long-term health. The Board asked how students were identified as being affected by an ACE and discussed with Superintendent Robbins and Deputy Superintendent Johnson how the process may happen in schools including re examining the Code of Conduct to align with best practice.

Member Gubatayao asked for ACEs to be brought to the board as a work session.

BOARD COMMENTS

Member Gubatayao commented on the importance of increased funding through the BSA. She stated her intention to engage students and parents to advocate for increased education funding from the Legislature.

Member Heutte commented on how the RIF plan was confusing for some because of the focus on teaching positions and suggested better communication would help create more understanding.

Clerk-Treasurer Anderson urged the community to reach out to legislation to encourage increased educational funding from the State of Alaska.

Vice President Sanderson recognized his former school counselor Mr. McClory and thanked him for his guidance. He told the board about a National Ocean Science Bowl event February 23, 2023 at 5:30 at the Discovery Center where team members will present their projects.

President Bradford notified the board of the status of the independent audit of district medical claims. He explained that the auditor had completed the assignment given to her and to investigate the findings she would need approval to provide further services. The board had no objections to the auditor doing further investigation on discrepancies in the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 claims compared to the Borough's report.

Member Gubatayao suggested contacting the Borough to have board participation in work sessions concerning budgets.

ADVANCE PLANNING

- a. School Board Listening Session Sunday 2/12 (Cape Fox) from 9:00-11:00 a.m. with Keenan Sanderson and Tom Heutte
- b. School Board regular meeting and/or work session February 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers.
- c. Finance committee will schedule a meeting for the next week.

With no objections, ADJOURNMENT at 8:16 p.m.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Stephen Bradford