

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING and WORK SESSION
Meeting of February 12, 2025
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 12th day of February 2025, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Michelle O'Brien 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:

Present members included President Michelle O'Brien, Vice President Jordan Tab, Members Judy Leask Guthrie, Tom Heutte, Keenan Sanderson, Ali Guthrie, and Student Member Lilly Pader. Member Katherine Tatsuda had an excused absence.

Administrative staff present included Superintendent Michael Robbins, Business Manager Daniel Schuler and Guest School Board Clerks Kacie Paxton and Nicole Anderson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to Withdrawal of Item 11b Executive Session to discuss Board and Superintendent Relations, and remove item 5a ELL Committee report, to replace it with with a Legislative fly in report.

M/S: Tabb/Heutte

Discussion:

President O'Brien shared that the Board recieved input from staff that they had not received enough information about the executive session, and asked to have it removed.

ROLL CALL:

Pader(Preferentail), Sanderson, Ginter, Tabb, Heutte, Guthrie, O'Brien

(7-0) MOTION PASSES

The agenda was approved as modified.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Elizabeth Peratovich Day

President O'Brien shared a proclamation for Elizabeth Peratovich Day.

National School Counseling Week

President O'Brien shared a proclamation for National School Counseling Week.

APPROVED MINUTES

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Black History Month

President O'Brien shared a proclamation for Black History Month.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

President O'Brien shared a proclamation for Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

CITIZEN REMARKS

Jasmine Pattison, distributed report entitled Red Tide KGBSD, reported on concerns about District staff.

William Urquhart, Director, UAS Maritime Campus, Training, technical work while gaining college credit and professional certifications. Read student testimonial Elisha Nieshe about her experience in the CNA program.

Al Jacobson, School District Director of Maintenance, advocated for Option 2, the consolidation plan, as it preserved jobs and programs.

David Garcia, counselor, foster parent, shared story of students sent home from school without being suspended, which he characterized as a violation of rights. Urged that policies be followed.

Robin Anderson, discussed previous school projects when students were displaced such as White Cliff, Schoenbar, and the high school. Suggested the Valley Park school building be closed instead of Point Higgins.

Tracy Benner, parent of Point Higgins students, opposed closing the Point Higgins Elementary School.

Mischa Chernick, distributed a packet containing a petition and letters; and discussed the termination of District employee.

Catlin Jacobson, librarian, on behalf of four school librarians, read letter regarding the crucial role in library services for literacy.

Heather Dickerson, parent of home school students, discussed cuts to the Fast Track program and urged support for the program.

Rick Dormer, Kayhi principal, urged School Board to keep experienced administrators in place.

Darby Mainardi, parent, opposed closing Point Higgins School and requested Point Higgins be removed from the restructuring proposal.

Kelsey McNeill, resident, discussed the level of misinformation about the budget circulating in the community, and opposed the school specialization proposal.

Elysia Aldridge, parent, discussed the effect that elimination of elective classes has had on her children.

President O'Brien read a letter submitted by Tiffany Cook into the record. The letter opposed the restructuring plan. The letter suggested work sessions be held for the sharing of ideas from the community.

The Board entered into a recess from 7:09 - 7:15

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

School Board Policy Committee

APPROVED MINUTES

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Member Gitner shared that the policy committee had met and reviewed several policies that will be brought before the whole board.

Legislative Fly In

Member Heutte discusses the yearly event organized by ASB, which supports school districts in the state. The event includes visits to state senators and representatives to discuss education issues, primarily funding. Superintendent Robinson and Heutte met with various officials and heard impactful student testimonies on House Bill 69. Legislators expressed urgency for early action on the bill, aiming for passage by mid-March, suggesting plans based on a \$680 increase in BSA.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION:

Claims of January 24, 2025

January Board Financial Report

Superintendent Robbins and Business Manager Schuler responded to questions on the claims.

CLAIMS APPROVED

REPORTS

STUDENT REPORT

As the second semester progresses, students are engaged in new classes and activities. Both basketball teams will compete against Juneau Douglas soon. The Jazz band performed in Juneau, and the Kayhi Drama Kings will present "A Midsummer Night's Dream" this weekend. Next Friday, the annual job fair will connect students with local businesses for summer job opportunities, alongside class activities planned for sophomores and juniors. The following day, a Valentine's Day dance is scheduled. The outdoor classroom project, honoring Sue Stone, is nearing completion with help from Mr. Lindquist and his students. The Student Life Committee is working to improve the school environment, and mental health exit tickets are being introduced for student support.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Robbins provided report on recent district activities. Robbins highlighted the Legislative Fly-in, sharing about his time spent there. Robbins also thanked school counselors for all of their hard work, and recognized Jen Kloxin for a bike program she started at Houghtaling Elementary. Robbins also informed the board that he will be distributing information to the board, regarding the annual evaluation of the Superintendent. Robbins ended his report by sharing that Schoenbar Principal, Sheri Boehlert, had won Principal of the year for the State of Alaska.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Motion to approve the ratification of ELL School Board committee assignment
- b. Motion to approve offering the position of Food Service Manager to Carrie Davis for the 2024-25 school year.
- c. Motion to approve a joint Resolution of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School Board Calling on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska to Increase the Base Student Allocation (BSA)

M/S: Sanderson/Tabb

ROLL CALL:

YES - Padar, Heutte, Ginter, Guthrie, Sanderson, Tabb, O'Brien

(7-0) MOTION PASSES

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NEW BUSINESS

Red Line Budget Assuming \$5,960 BSA with No Additional State Funding

Motion to approve the creation of a Point Higgins Elementary School closure plan for School Year 2025-2026

M/S: Sanderson/Tabb

Discussion: Business Manager Daniel Schuler gave a presentation on budget options. Ginter recommended looking at plan to close TSAS, but Robbins stated attorney opinion that it would be extremely difficult to close a charter school. Robbins explained that the motion on the table would begin the effort to start a process to develop a plan for the closure of the school. The process for closing a school would include meetings with neighborhoods and affected schools, including an extensive period of time to hear comments of all involved. Heutte opposed the motion, sharing he believed 680 BSA would be funded.

ROLL CALL:

NO Pader (preferential), Guthrie, Heutte, Ginter, Tabb, Sanderson, O'Brien

(0-7) MOTION FAILS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion for the Board of Education approve the restructuring of grade levels K-6 at Houghtaling Elementary, Point Higgins Elementary and Fawn Mountain Elementary for School Year 2025-2026

M/S: Sanderson/Tabb

DISCUSSION:

Member Ginter shared her opposition to the proposed plan. Vice President Tabb shared that this is the best of bad options. Sanderson commented on the need for systematic change, and the need to alleviate the stress for the community and of staff, and agreed with Tabb that this is the best of bad options. Member Ginter asked for cost savings on options.

ROLL CALL:

Student Member Pader abstained from voting

YES - Sanderson, Tabb, Guthrie, Heutte, O'Brien

NO - Ginter

(5 - 1) MOTION PASSES

The Board entered into recess from 8:15-8:25 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Extra Duty Contract Negotiations

Motion for the Board of Education enter into an executive session pursuant to BP 9321 on matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the school district.

M/S: Tabb/Heutte

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ROLL CALL:

Tabb, Sanderson, Heutte, Ginter, Guthrie, O'Brien

President O'Brien shared that no action had been taken in executive session.

Motion to exit executive session

Sanderson/Guthrie

ROLL CALL:

Heutte, Ginter, Guthrie, Tabb, Sanderson, O'Brien

Entered at 8:29 p.m.

Exited at 8:44 p.m.

BOARD COMMENTS

Sanderson shared that he appreciates our staff for their hard work despite limited resources. We've made tough decisions, hoping for House Bill 69 to pass.

Tabb reminded everyone that the board acknowledges concerns about personal actions, and cited board policy and Alaska statute for guidance. Tabb urged others to review policies for further questions.

Ginter thank Mr. Robbins and Mr. Schuler for their work and asked clarifying questions about the preschool program. Ginter shared that as the board moves forward with the school spealization, she hopes theywill hold listening sessions to engage with the community.

Guthrie shared that she is trying to remain positive about the decisions, even though they are difficult decisions.

President O'Brien shared that she wanted to apologize for any confusion caused by a previous statement in the media about there not being a vote. O'Brien stated her personal feeling, however, the item was on our agenda, and a motion was made and seconded, leading to a vote. O'Brien apologized if she had upset anyone in the community.

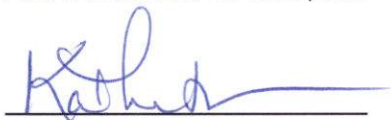
ADVANCE PLANNING

School Board ELL Committee Meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at Kayhi

Borough Assembly/School Board Liaison Committee meeting Tuesday, February 26, 2025 in the Borough Assembly Chambers

School Board Regular meeting and/or work session Wednesday February 26, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers

ADJOURNMENT at 8:53 p.m.



BOARD PRESIDENT
Katherine Tatsuda



Board Vice President
Jordan Tabb



Clerk Treasurer
Tom Heutte

APPROVED MINUTES

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