

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SPECIAL meeting of
Thursday, July 1, 2021
12 p.m.**

Ketchikan Borough Assembly Chambers

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in special session on the 1st day of July 2021, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board Vice President Diane Gubatayao called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

The following members were present to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board Vice President Diane Gubatayao; Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; Board Members Jordan Tabb (*arrived at 12:08 p.m.*); Paul Robbins Jr.; Nicole Anderson and Douglas Gregg. Board President Kim Hodne participated via teleconference.

Board Clerk Kerry Watson was also present.

CITIZEN REMARKS

There were no citizen remarks.

FINALIST SELECTION PROCESS

Board Vice President Diane Gubatayao, presiding over the Board meeting, introduced JoAnn Henderson, with the Association of Alaska School Boards, as the consultant who would lead the Superintendent Search meeting process that day. Ms. Gubatayao said she needed to notify the Board of an issue related to the search, but wanted to wait until Board Member Jordan Tabb arrived at the meeting. She turned over the meeting to Ms. Henderson.

Ms. Henderson provided the Board with an overview of the purpose of that day's meeting. The Board would determine the process for the superintendent finalist interviews as well as the process for involving the community and stakeholders. Deciding on interview questions and reviewing the candidate applications to winnow down to finalists would take place in executive session, she noted.

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr., asked why the selection of interview questions would be in executive session. Ms. Henderson explained that the finalists would all be asked the same questions in the interviews. However, by not disclosing the questions in open session ahead of time, the potential candidates would not be able to prepare for them. Several Board members commented in support of that rationale.

Board Member Tabb arrived at that point at 12:08 pm. Ms. Gubatayao then related that at 10:30 a.m. that morning she had received a formal written public records request from the Ketchikan Daily News for copies of the 12 applications submitted for the Superintendent position. The request referenced an Alaska Supreme Court decision from 1982, she said. Ms. Gubatayao said she had consulted with both the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Attorney and with Lon Garrison, AASB's executive director. She said that the Board needed to comply with the request, but that the superintendent candidate applications are the property of AASB. The Board would need to send a letter to the AASB requesting that the records be released, she added. Personal information would be redacted from the applications first. President Kim Hodne said he'd also had a conversation with Borough Attorney Glenn Brown that day about the request.

The meeting then continued, with discussion of potential dates to bring finalists to town, after the Board confirmed its intent for in person interviews. A lengthy discussion took place regarding: possible dates, including the potential for doing so over the Blueberry Festival weekend; the process for the interviews; and the process for involving the stakeholders and community.

After almost an hour of discussion, the following motion was made:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion to enter into executive session to compare and contrast the applications for the position of Superintendent for the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District, a subject that could tend to prejudice the character and reputation of any person.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: ANDERSON

ROLL CALL

TABB, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, ANDERSON, GREGG, HODNE, GUBATAYAO - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

It was noted that Ms. Henderson would be in the executive session with the Board.

The executive session began at approximately 1:20 p.m. and ended at approximately 3:07 p.m.

BOARD STATEMENT

After the Board returned to open session, Vice President Gubatayao read a statement on behalf of the Board. The Board was unable to move forward with three top candidates from the current pool of applicants, she said; and would re-open the application process in the fall.

Motion to suspend the current process for finding a superintendent until this fall, as described.

Moved by: ROBBINS JR; Second by: MATTSON

ROLL CALL

ANDERSON, TABB, ROBBINS JR., GREGG, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, HODNE - ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Gubatayao noted that because of that decision, the other items listed on the agenda would not occur (selecting finalists, and reviewing the board role prior to interviews.)

Board Member Mattson said that the Board had also agreed to give direction to compose a letter to AASB asking it to release the candidates' names to the Board, so the Board could then release them to the press. Vice President Gubatayao stated that she and President Hodne would compose the letter.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board Clerk Treasurer Mattson thanked Ms. Henderson for conducting the process and to those individuals who submitted applications. She stated that the Board had made it a priority to have a competitive and public process. Suspending the process would allow the Board to select three candidates from a future hiring pool which was larger and during a more regular schedule of hiring, she said. Ms. Mattson also commented in appreciation of her fellow Board members and the process. She said she is grateful for the interim superintendent who is moving forward with plans for re-starting school in the fall.

Board Member Gregg stated that the Board had wanted to move forward with three candidates, and that it was a difficult decision, but the right decision. He also commented that having an interim superintendent and administrators in place allows the district to move forward and to select a superintendent at a later date.

Ms. Anderson thanked Ms. Henderson for leading the process, and said she concurred with the comments already made.

Mr. Robbins Jr. indicated the Board had laid a good groundwork for what will occur when the search process resumes, as well as coming to the consensus to suspend the process to obtain a larger pool and ensure a more competitive process. He also thanked his fellow Board members, noting some may not be on the Board when the process resumes.

Ms. Gubatayao also thanked Ms. Henderson and the AASB. In addition, she thanked the applicants for their time spent in submitting the applications. In addition, she thanked her fellow Board members for what had been accomplished that day.

Mr. Hodne thanked the Board as well for its commitment and said he felt the right thing had been done that day. He thanked Ms. Henderson for guiding the Board through the process.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment. With no objection expressed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Minutes approved as distributed at the July 14, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Kim Hodne