

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR meeting of  
December 9, 2020  
Remotely held via videoconferencing platform**

**CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL**

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 9th day of December, 2020, with Board Members participating remotely via the videoconferencing platform WebEx.<sup>1\*</sup> Due to technical difficulties with the streaming/broadcasting equipment, the meeting start was delayed from the usual call to order time of 6:00 p.m. Board President Kim Hodne called the meeting to order at 6:09 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 Member Henry Clark was also present.

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

After a quorum was established, President Kim Hodne explained to those attending the virtual WebEx-held meeting that technical issues were preventing live web streaming and cable television broadcasting through which the meeting would normally also be presented. He said the meeting would be recessed until these issues could be resolved. First, student Board member Henry Clark was invited to speak.

Henry Clark spoke in remembrance of fellow Ketchikan High School student Christian Albright, who had unexpectedly passed away.

**Recess and resumption of meeting**

Board President Hodne called for a recess of the meeting at about 6:11 p.m. At 6:45 p.m., with the streaming issues still unresolved, President Hodne called the meeting back into session for the Board to attend to non-action items on the agenda.

**INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Member Diane Gubatayao spoke briefly about some training resources available to Board members on subjects such as childhood trauma, grief, and emotional challenges.

Board Member Sonya Skan said that Ms. Gubatayao would lead meetings of the Native Education Committee until she was able to do so. She also briefly commented on future consultation meetings with Ketchikan Indian Community's Tribal Council.

Board Member Nicole Anderson reported that the insurance committee met on November 19, and discussed the committee's membership.

**CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION - Claims of November 12, 2020 and Claims of November 25, 2020**

Business Manager Katie Parrott responded to some comments and questions from Board Member Gubatayao regarding legal fees shown on the claims, and also any efforts for local purchase of supplies.

**Web Streaming begins**

At this point in the meeting, the web streaming equipment was again working, and Board President Hodne called for Citizen Remarks.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1\*</sup> Meeting "location" was remote via WebEx video conferencing, due to an increased COVID-19 community alert level.

<sup>2</sup> Citizens were asked to sign up to present via WebEx, or to provide written comments to be read aloud by the clerk.

### **Citizen Remarks**

Darryl Simons spoke about a grant targeting tribal youth substance abuse which the Ketchikan Indian Community's behavioral health department had received three years ago. Mr. Simons, who works for that department, reported briefly on past grant activities and ideas for future focuses. He said the coalition overseeing the grant welcomes other participants, including non-tribal members.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Beth Lougee first asked student member Henry Clark to provide his report.

*Student Member's Report:* Henry Clark announced that Kayhi was hosting a virtual drama, debate and forensics tournament that weekend. Teams from all over Southeast, from Homer, and a team in Canada would be participating. In addition, the ACDC team (Academic Decathlon) was participating in a virtual meet the same weekend. Henry also announced memorial plans being made in remembrance of Christian Albright. He also commented positively on students at Kayhi returning to a 100% schedule after several weeks.

### *Superintendent Beth Lougee*

Superintendent Beth Lougee first commented on the hire of a former student by the Information Technology department. The student had been trained for the technical job through a new Kayhi program taught by IT department employee Matt Beimler. Ms. Lougee then reported on some actions being taken in the district as a result of a district-wide security assessment conducted in November. These include: easier access for principals to their school's security camera footage; upgrades to door security systems; and providing the Ketchikan Police Department with maps of the schools. In addition, completion of the district's comprehensive safety plan is targeted for January.

Superintendent Lougee noted that in addition to providing its annual report that evening, the Tongass School of Arts and Sciences was requesting approval of the renewal of the school's 10-year contract. The school plans to submit its contract renewal application to the State Education Board for its March 2021 meeting. The current TSAS contract expires in June 2021. Ms. Lougee also noted that an annual meeting between the School Board and the TSAS Academic Policy Committee is being suggested for some time in January.

Superintendent Lougee also briefly reported on: a review of the certificated employees' evaluation process; postponement of the NAEP federal student assessment; and the district's stance to keep with current quarantining protocol on advice of the district's medical team consultants.

### *Business Manager's Report:*

Business Manager Katie Parrott provided information for the FY '21 budget revision, which was an action item later in the meeting. She first reviewed how the student count (regular students, intensive special needs students, and correspondence students) generates state funding to the district through a funding formula. She also explained a sheet included in the board packet showing a revenue comparison with the district's revised revenue for the upcoming fiscal year. One of her comments was that the district is not requesting additional revenue from the Borough this year, but that the true cost of in-kind contributions was a bit more than projected. While the district usually has a fund balance, Ms. Parrott also said that administration is recommending not relying on a fund balance for FY '21 due to uncertainty. She noted that the charter schools will be able to have a carry over and explained how that occurred. Lastly, Ms. Parrott explained that the Borough was essentially the district's treasury. As such, the district needs to request an increase in "expenditure authority" if the district's revenue and expenditures ends up more than what was previously authorized by the Borough. She referred the Board to the sheet included in the packet showing the original approved budget amounts and the revised amounts based on changes in revenue from local, state, and federal sources. The Borough would be asked to authorize the district to expend \$46.7 million for FY '21, said Ms. Parrott.

### *Break*

A break of about 10 minutes was called during the meeting before the TSAS report was given.

**Tongass School of Arts and Sciences Annual Report**

Tongass School of Arts and Sciences Principal Scott Huff presented the school's annual report for the 2019-2020 school year. Noting that he was not the principal last year, Mr. Huff said he had enjoyed learning more about the school while going through the report. With PowerPoint slides and photos, he illustrated examples of school goals and student goals, and commented on the indicators the school uses to measure those goals. The student goals were focused on the following areas: student academic achievement; in-depth knowledge; individual interests and talents; and diversity. Regarding the student academic goal, the principal reported that the TSAS students performed well in math on the PEAKS testing, and curricular changes are being made to address the lower performance level in English. He also noted that a science curriculum was piloted last year and is being implemented this year. For another student goal of diversity, the learning of words and phrases in Tlingit, and Haida and Tsimshian last year was highlighted. The school goals which Principal Huff also spoke about were on: Highly Effective Teaching; School Community; Parent Involvement; and Community Connections. An observation was made that COVID had impacted the school's emphasis in these areas.

Mr. Huff invited questions on the charter application process or on the annual report. There were none. There was a brief follow up question by President Hodne about the impact of COVID-related changes to the school's atmosphere.

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

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

Moved by: TABB; Second by: MATTSON

**Motion to postpone the voting and the public hearing on this policy until the January meeting, and to defer this to the policy committee for review.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: ROBBINS JR.

**Discussion**

Board Member Jordan Tabb commented that policies routinely receive several readings when they come before the Board. He encouraged the first reading of this policy to be held that evening.

Board Member Bridget Mattson agreed; and added that the Superintendent had requested the Board consider these revisions. The policy committee still has a chance to review the policy, she said.

Ms. Gubatayao said bringing the policy to the Board directly had bypassed the policy committee review which had been the procedure. Postponement would also allow for community members in the mental health field to review the policy, she said.

Superintendent Lougee was asked if there was a rush for passage of the policy revisions. She commented on the suggestions for the revisions as coming from the school psychologist and a pediatrician. She brought it forward due to students dealing with stress and the COVID situation, she said.

Board Member Paul Robbins Jr. commented in support of keeping with prior process for policy review. In the meantime, counselors would not be in how they would deal with students, he said.

Mr. Hodne stated support for postponement to allow the policy committee to provide input.

**ROLL CALL**

**Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – ABSTAIN**

**SKAN, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, HODNE - AYES**

**TABB - NAY**

**6-1**

**MOTION PASSED**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

- Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 11, 2020.

**Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of December 9, 2020, consisting solely of the regular meeting minutes of November 11, 2020.**

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: TABB

**ROLL CALL**

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) – AYE

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

**MOTION PASSED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Motion that the Board of Education approve the 10-year charter school contract with Tongass School of Arts and Sciences, as presented.**

Moved by: GUBATAYAO; Second by: TABB

Discussion

Board Member Gubatayao mentioned working on a committee in the past that had reviewed and updated the school's contract with the district. She stated she strongly supports a contract for the next 10 years.

Mr. Robbins also stated his support for approving the school's contract renewal for another 10 years. He said he and his family had researched the school when they decided to move to Ketchikan, and decided to enroll his child there.

Ms. Mattson asked if there were any reasons that the Superintendent or Business Manager knew of for not renewing the contract. Superintendent Lougee responded no, and said she strongly supported its approval.

President Hodne also referenced working on a committee to refine the contract. His daughter had attended TSAS, he said.

Board Member Tabb also applauded the TSAS program and stated his support for the contract approval. He commented that he has three proud Thunderbirds in his family.

Ms. Gubatayao commented on the school's independent decision-making, which she said is a model governance program for a school.

**ROLL CALL**

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) - AYE

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

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion to approve a budget revision totaling \$603,935 for the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget and request expenditure authority of \$46,697,952.**

Moved by: ROBBINS JR.; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

President Hodne invited Business Manager Parrott to comment. Ms. Parrott said that the district will proceed cautiously and conservatively with its budget through the end of the year. The district will be strategic in its use of the funds, she said. She added that the district expects to spend less than its expenditure authority.

**ROLL CALL**

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) - AYE

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

***MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

**Motion that the Board of Education, through the authority provided in BP 9314, temporarily suspend the following provision of BP 6146.1 (High School Graduation Requirements): "Additional requirements include 100 hours of work experience or community service and participation in the WorkKeys or ACT or SAT assessment." This temporary suspension will only continue through June 30, 2021.**

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: ANDERSON

**Discussion**

In answer to several Board members' questions, Superintendent Lougee explained that students could still take the SAT or ACT or WorkKeys; however, the requirements would be suspended for this next school year.

Mr. Hodne stated that he didn't like to see requirements suspended, but he understood the process.

Student Henry Clark asked why the work experience and volunteer hours requirement couldn't be reduced rather than suspending the requirement completely.

Superintendent Lougee said that the school counselors had made the recommendation, but she would look into the rationale.

**ROLL CALL**

Student Member Henry Clark (preferential vote) - AYE

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

***MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY***

**DISCUSSION**

*Board Committees* – Brief discussion of Board committees and meeting schedules.

*Protocols for student activities* – Discussion as to varying protocols for student activities and possible Board involvement.

**BOARD COMMENTS**

Ms. Gubatayao expressed thanks to students and teachers for their tolerance with this year's challenges. She said she hopes all have a restful holiday with time to renew.

Ms. Mattson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and said she hopes the New Year is a happy one for the community.

Henry Clark asked for continued vigilance regarding communication with students. He added he looks forward to being back to school 100 percent at Kayhi. He thanked teachers for their hard work. Henry commented he'd attended TSAS from preschool through sixth-grade. Lastly, he also wished everyone a good Christmas.

Ms. Anderson expressed condolences to the Albright family, saying they are in her thoughts and prayers. She said the community is doing exceptionally well with the circumstances due to COVID. Ms. Anderson also encouraged adults to use positive language when speaking to children about school situations and changes.

Ms. Skan commented on this year being hard, but resulting in more time spent with family. She also extended wishes for a good Christmas and New Year.

Mr. Hodne said he appreciated the Board and commented on the community being brought closer together through the situation with COVID. He stated that the Board's actions are ultimately for the kids, and everything needs to be done through that lens.

Mr. Robbins Jr. commented on the importance of parents and other stakeholders with concerns with a school issue speaking first to the school principal, who is the appropriate administrator.

**ADVANCE PLANNING/ADJOURNMENT**

After upcoming meetings were noted, a motion was made and seconded for adjournment. With no objection expressed, the meeting was adjourned at about 9:14 p.m.