

Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District

333 Schoenbar Rd. • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Ph. (907) 247-2109 Fax: (907) 247-3820

Elizabeth Lougee, Superintendent • Katie Jo Parrott, Business Manager

Catherine Alilin, Human Resources • Terri Crofcheck, Special Services • Alonso Escalante, Curriculum



November 5, 2020

Mr. Eric Stone
KRBD Community Radio
1101 Copper Ridge Lane
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Dear Mr. Stone:

We are in receipt of your public records request submitted October 29th, 2020. We have determined that there are no public records to release to you at this time. Specifically:

In response to your request for ballots cast by school board members for School Board President and Clerk-Treasurer, these were cast as part of a secret ballot process, and are not subject to release.

In response to your request for any information that shows which school board member voted for each candidate for School Board President and School Board Clerk-Treasurer, we cannot provide any public record that shows which school board member voted for each candidate because such a document, record, or information does not exist.

The vote for which you are requesting information was a vote to organize the School Board in relation to the officer positions. This was conducted by secret ballot, allowable under Alaska Statute and a recognized prior practice of the district.

The State of Alaska Administrative Procedure Act Chapter 62 Article 6 Open Meetings of Governmental Bodies, Sec. 44.62.310(a) states the following:

Except when voice votes are authorized, the vote shall be conducted in such a manner that the public may know the vote of each person entitled to vote... This section does not apply to any votes required to be taken to organize a governmental body described in this subsection.

Please also see this excerpt from the State of Alaska's Open Meetings Act guidance document below:

Is secret ballot voting allowed under the act?

Almost always, no. In addition to requiring that deliberations of a governing body be open to the public, the act also requires that the vote shall be conducted in such a manner that the public may know the vote of each person entitled to vote, including meetings conducted by teleconference. The one exception is organizational meetings of a governing body to elect members to various offices, which are exempted from the requirement that the vote of each member be made public (AS 44.62. 310(a)) (emphasis added).

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Please let me know if you have any further questions about this matter, or if you would like to request any additional public records from the district.

Sincerely,

Katie Parrott, Business Manager
(907) 247-2116