# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**To:** Scott Bowlen, Managing Editor, Ketchikan Daily News; Eric Stone, KRBD

**From:** Diane Gubatayao, School Board member

**Date:** 3/15/2023

**Re:** Response to Formal Complaint

I believe that one of the most fundamental responsibilities of a School Board member is fiduciary and, therefore, we have the responsibility to critically review and examine the proposed 2023-24 budget. The Board members were informed that we face a $3 million shortfall and must consider eliminating 47 positions district wide. In fact, at the February 22nd Board meeting the Board regrettably, but necessarily, passed a Reduction In Force plan that affects our teaching staff. It was legitimate and reasonable to question all positions in the context of our budget crisis - which includes our indebtedness to the Borough regarding insurance claims. It is well known that I was the lone opposition vote a year ago to the establishment of the position of Assistant Superintendent for that very reason of financial sustainability, and because of the tradeoffs it imposed for funding other positions. In addition, no staff had been hired for the position yet. Further, I could not vote to create the second most powerful position in the District without a job description.

The intent of my actions at the February 22nd meeting was to bring the position of the Deputy Superintendent forward for full Board discussion and review; an effort to be transparent. My concerns were always regarding the position and not the person. In fact, when it was time to word the motion for the Executive Session, which was supposed to occur on the March 8th meeting, I requested from the Board President that the wording be about financial ramifications for the District. Unfortunately, the Board has not had an opportunity to discuss the position to this day.

I stand by my actions. I do not intend to resign my position as a School Board member and believe that my actions were undertaken in the best interests of the District and our students.

Respectfully,

Diane Gubatayao