

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

### **OPENING**

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The meeting was held in-person. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Tom McLaughlin. Trustees participating were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. Trustee Diane Beck was absent for the meeting. Superintendent Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating were Brent Heist (Assistant Principal for Building 3), Chris Clevenger (Building 3 Principal), Julie McCarthy-McLavery (Building 2 Principal), Damian Droessler (Bldg. 1 Principal), Kelsey Salmela (payroll clerk), Dale Asanovich (IT Director), Brittany Paulin (paraprofessional) Catie Cook Dennehy (counselor) and Sara Bermingham (teacher and HEEA co-president). The following individuals were community members/parents in the district: Tiffany Manthie (PTA President/parent), Hilary Woods (parent/substitute), Kallie Gatzemeier (trustee candidate/parent), Jacquelyn Ryan (trustee candidate/parent) were also in attendance. Andrew Koenig and Libby Schneider represented Camp Paxson. There were up to 25 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Libby Schneider from Camp Paxson provided a presentation on the benefits to students that Camp Paxson has. Libby answered questions the board had. There was brief discussion. The board was in support of moving forward with the logistic planning.

### **HEEA**

Sara Bermingham provided an update of the HEEA. She announced that the HEEA was endorsing Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan as trustee candidates. Sara also stated the HEEA's support for changing Health Insurance Providers.

### **RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF**

There were no recognitions.

### **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

### **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the minutes from the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

### **REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS**

There was brief discussion about the warrants. A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the March 2023 claims. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

### **REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS**

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for March 2023.

### **REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the March 2023 Student Activities Report. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**REQUEST TO DISPOSE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to allow Hellgate Elementary to destroy school district records in accordance with the Montana Local Government Retention and Disposition Schedule for school districts (MCA 20-1-212). There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**REQUEST TO DISPOSE OF NON-REPAIRABLE/OBSOLETE ITEMS:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to adopt a resolution (enclosed in your packet) to allow the district to dispose of obsolete, unusable equipment, materials, textbooks, library books, and property that no longer are utilized by Hellgate Elementary. There was a no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**REQUEST TO ACCEPT THE FISCAL AUDIT FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to accept the audit for the 2021-2022 school year that was conducted by Mr. Donald Davies CPA, PC, and Lisa A. Petrescu, CPA. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**REQUEST TO APPROVE MIGRATION TO CLOUD-BASED SERVICES:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to accept the approval of a contract with K-12 Montana, Inc. effective May 1, 2023-June 30, 2024 for the systematic migration from the server to cloud-based services. Dale Asanovich presented the benefits of the services, there was brief discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook,

**REQUEST TO CONSIDER HEALTH INSURANCE CHANGE:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to table the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the health insurance quote presented by the health insurance carrier Joint Powers Trust, for the 2023-2024 school year (full details in board packet).

*Background: Historically, Hellgate Elementary has contracted with Montana Unified School Trust (MUST) to provide the district offered health insurance coverage through Blue Cross Blue Shield. Over the past three years the district has experienced an average increase of ~4% per school year in health insurance rates. MUST released the district's 2023-2024 rates at the end of March, with an overall rate increase of 14% compared to the 2022-2023 school year rates. This will increase employee contributions anywhere from 25% to 51% (subject to plan and participation details). The district also has a long-standing partnership with Payne West to broker health insurance carriers and solicit insurance quotes from reliable and qualified vendors. It was requested by the district that Payne West seek out comparable health insurance carriers that are able to provide similar or equivalent coverage as MUST currently provides. Joint Powers Trust (JPT) supplied the most competitive health insurance coverage and rates. The average impact to employees will be a decrease of 9-13% from current rates, in individual's monthly contributions (subject to plan and participation details). JPT operates in a similar manner as MUST, in that the health insurance program the district is considering is pool-funded. JPT is different in a variety of ways compared to MUST, but the most prominent difference is JPT's health insurance provider is EBMS. The district has completed extensive research into the ensuring the coverage will be a similar/equivalent product. The MUST and JPT quotes have been included in the board packet, along with a cost comparison between the 22-23 school year and the rate changes anticipated. There was brief discussion on the topic and a decision to call a Special Meeting later in the week (04/13/23). The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.*

**REQUEST TO CHANGE LANGUAGE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK:**

A motion was made by Kate Walker to accept the change in the language in the middle school handbook from:

**Current Language:**Page 12 Student Agenda

Inappropriate Display of Affection: Students are asked to refrain from inappropriate displays of affection towards other students. Students choosing not to adhere to this request may be subject to disciplinary action.

**New Language:**Page 12 Student Agenda

Inappropriate Display of Affection: Students are asked to refrain from inappropriate displays of affection towards other students. **Examples are handholding, kissing and close physical contact.** Students choosing not to adhere to this request may be subject to disciplinary action.

There was brief discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE HIRING CERTIFIED STAFF:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire the following teachers for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Ms. Emily Botkin 6th Grade
- Ms. Katelyn Springer Special Education
- Ms. Vanessa Walsh 6th Grade
- Ms. Kali Renfro 6th Grade
- Mr. Tyler Glenn 4th Grade
- Ms. Abigail Racicot TBD
- Ms. Haley VonGoedert Special Education

The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE HIRING CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Kate Walker to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Ms. Holly Whitmore for a second grade long-term substitute position for a maternity leave (August 2023-January 2024). The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT HIRING CLASSIFIED STAFF CONSIDERATIONS:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Mr. Zachary Cain as the Director of Facilities and Operations, effective May 22, 2023 for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kate Walker to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire Amanda Pham to be the middle school administrative assistant for the 2023-2024 school year and Ms. Aubrey Carey to be a paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE RESIGNATION CLASSIFIED STAFF:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to accept the resignation of Ms. Jennifer Martin, custodian, effective April 28, 2023. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LIST:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the updated substitute list for the 2022-2023 school year (an increase of 8 from previous month!).

The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was brief discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Afzal, Zaima      | Maplethorpe, Emilee   |
| Akane, McKenna    | McLavery, Annie       |
| Arlint, Elisabeth | McNally, Anna         |
| Arnold, Fred      | McWilliams, Alexis    |
| Curry, Taina      | Merkley, Maria        |
| Deden, Alexis     | Miller, Michelle      |
| Dennis, Sarah     | Minckler, Kimberly    |
| Devlin, Sherry    | Mitchell, Nichole     |
| Erskine, Sandra   | Morton, Melissa       |
| Finnerty, Ashley  | O'Keefe, Kaitlyn      |
| Glenn, Tyler      | Olson, Olivia         |
| Gordon, Megan     | Pham, Amanda          |
| Grados, Shelley   | Polanchek, David      |
| Guga, Anna        | Powers, Desiree       |
| Harper, Joshua    | Renfro, Kali          |
| Harper, Zachary   | Robertson, Lisa       |
| Harris, Laurie    | Schatz, Sara          |
| Hitt, Heather     | Smith, Gary "Scooter" |
| Johnson, Candy    | Smith, Michelle       |
| Johnston, Lexi    | Spletto, April        |
| Joskow, Ariane    | Springer, Katelyn     |
| Kahle, Kim        | Vidlak, Jaaden        |
| Kallas, Kayla     | Werner, Tara          |
| Keeling, Malia    | Whitney, Kristen      |
| Kerns, Drue       | Woods, Hilary         |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Klucewich, Jacqueline<br>Koch, Kenneth<br>Lindstrom, Amanda<br>Loveall, Kelsey<br>Loyson, Shelley | Total: 55 |
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### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Monthly Sunshine Club newsletters (full detail included in Board Packet):* Superintendent Blakely provided the Trustees with an overview of the Sunshine Club that Dr. Erin Ellis does monthly. This is one way the district is encouraging networking throughout campus.

*OPI Accreditation Report:* The Trustees reviewed the accreditation report and certificates from OPI. There were no major deviations found.

*STEM Night:* Superintendent Blakely gave an update of how the PTA STEM Night went, and it's success. There were between 300-400 participants.

*Summer School June 19<sup>th</sup>-July 20<sup>th</sup> 2023:* Superintendent Blakely reviewed the upcoming summer school dates, time, and location. The plan is to send out ~140 student letters, the district expects good participation in the program.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no Committee Reports discussed.

### **PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

Trustees reviewed the monthly report of building Principals and listened to updates and staff recognitions from Building Principals: Julie McCarthy-McLaverty (Building 2), Chris Clevenger (Building 3), Damian Droessler (Building 1), and Jamie Courville (Building 4).

### **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be May 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

The upcoming Special Meeting was called for April 13, 2023 and 12:00p.m. noon.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Superintendent Blakely provided the Trustees with an overview of the most recent lockdown, and the feedback received from district staff and parents.

Kallie Gatzemeier introduced herself as a Trustee Candidate in the upcoming election on May 2, 2023. She provided a brief background of herself and discussed benefits she can contribute to the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees.

Jacqueline Ryan introduced herself as a Trustee Candidate in the upcoming election on May 2, 2023. She provided a brief background of herself and discussed benefits she can contribute to the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees.

Tiffany Manthie provided a PTA report of recent events both past and upcoming.

### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.