

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting March 13th, 2023
6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, March 13th, 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, Diane Beck, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. 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-McLaverty (Building 2 Principal), Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), and Brendan Brown (Special Education Director), Kristen Guidoni (Music Teacher). Tiffany Manthie (PTA President and parent) was also in attendance. There were up to 16 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tiffany Manthie provided an update of PTA events that are coming up in the next few months: Planetarium observation, STEM night, Talent Show, and other events.

HEEA

Kristen Guidoni represented the HEEA and provided a brief update of current events including the overall positive moral throughout the district.

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 February 13th, 2023 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Diane Beck. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, 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 discussion about the warrants. A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the February 2023 claims. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, 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 February 2023.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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

HIRE ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL/RESTRUCTURING:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to hire the following administrative personnel for the 2023/2024 school year and to approve the following administrative restructuring:

- Ms. Julia McCarthy-McLavery: Hellgate Elementary Principal Grades PreK-1
- Mr. Damian Droessler: Hellgate Elementary Principal Grades 2-3
- Mr. Chris Clevenger: Hellgate Elementary Principal Grades 4-6
- Mr. Brent Heist: Hellgate Elementary Vice Principal Grades 4-6 /Director of Student Services
- Mr. Jamie Courville: Hellgate Elementary Principal Grades 7-8
- Mr. Brendan Brown Director of Special Education
- Mr. Dale Asanovich: Director of Technology
- Dr. Erin Ellis: Director of Curriculum and Assessment
- Ms. Donna Smith: Administrative Assistant/Curriculum and Assessment

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

ACCEPT HIRING CERTIFIED STAFF CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to hire Ms. Mikel Hoffman as a Special Education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. 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, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to provide Ms. Colleen Davies a leave of absence for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation of Ms. Emily Lake, 5th grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Diane Beck. There was no discussion on the item. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RESIGNATION CLASSIFIED STAFF:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the resignation of Kali Stubbs, paraprofessional, effective January 30, 2023 and Begaiym (Becca) Suranova, paraprofessional, effective February 23, 2023. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE HIRING CLASSIFIED STAFF:

A motion was made by Kate Walker to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Michael Bremmer, paraprofessional, effective March 6, 2023. 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, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT HIRING OF TRACK COACHING STAFF:

A motion was made by Kate Walker to approve the superintendent's recommendation to hire the following individuals as track coaches for the 2022-20223 school year:

Head Coach – Dale Asanovich
Head Coach – Adelle Donohue

Assistant Coach – Shane Byers
 Assistant Coach – Taylor Nordby
 Assistant Coach – Nick Weller
 Assistant Coach – Tyler Lind
 Assistant Coach – Bailey Verduyssen
 Assistant Coach – Angela Piazzola

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

ADOPT RESOLUTION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent’s recommendation to adopt the following “Resolution of Intent to Impose Change in Levies”:

As an essential part of its budgeting process, the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees is authorized by law to impose levies to support its budget. The Board of Trustees estimates the following increases/decreases in revenues and mills for the funds noted below for the next school fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2023, using certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year as provided to the district.

Therefore, the Hellgate Elementary School District No. 4 adopts the Resolution of Intent to Impose Change in Levies for the 2023-2024 school year this 13th day of March, 2023.

REQUIRED SB307 NOTICE (MILLS CALCULATED USING PRIOR YEAR TAXABLE VALUE):

Fund	2022-23 Actual Levies		2023-24 Projections						
	\$	Mills	\$	Mills	Change \$	Change Mills	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$100K home	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$200K home	
Transportation	\$ 1,595,154	32.78	\$ 1,630,675	\$ 34	\$ 35,521	0.73	\$ 0.99	\$ 1.98	
Bus Depreciation	\$ 10,843	0.22	\$ 10,843	\$ 0	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	
Tuition	\$ 500,000	10.27	\$ 513,842	\$ 11	\$ 13,842	0.29	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.78	
Adult Ed	\$ -	-	\$ 4,500	\$ 0	\$ 4,500	0.09	\$ 0.12	\$ 0.24	
Technology	\$ 100,000	2.05	\$ 100,000	\$ 2	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	
Building Reserve Permissive	\$ 126,663	2.60	\$ 124,473	\$ 3	\$ (2,190)	(0.04)	\$ (0.05)	\$ (0.10)	
Grand Total	\$ 2,332,661	47.92	\$ 2,384,333	48.99	\$ 51,672	1.07	\$ 1.45	\$ 2.90	

This notice must also document the District’s use of the Building Reserve State Major Maintenance levies and associated funding. This year, the District expects to use those proceeds to partially fund ongoing capital improvements approved by the Board on March 13, 2023 and operational costs of school safety. The District estimates this funding structure will generate approximately \$186,000 during the 2023-24, with zero net cost increase from 2022-23 to the local taxpayers.

All estimates are based on the current year’s taxable value with no increase, as required by state law. If the District’s taxable value increases as expected, the mill and taxpayer cost increase will be less than presented here. These estimates are preliminary and changes are expected before the final budgets are set in August. Please contact the District Office at (406) 728-5626 if you have questions or need additional information.

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

APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LIST:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the updated substitute list for the 2022-2023 school year (an increase of 11 from previous month!).

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

Afzal, Zaima	Loyson, Shelley
Akane, McKenna	Maplethorpe, Emilee
Arlint, Elisabeth	McLavery, Annie
Arnold, Fred	McWilliams, Alexis
Curry, Taina	Merkley, Maria
Deden, Alexis	Miller, Michelle
Dennis, Sarah	Minckler, Kimberly
Devlin, Sherry	Morton, Melissa
Erskine, Sandra	O'Keefe, Kaitlyn
Finnerty, Ashley	Pham, Amanda
Glenn, Tyler	Polanchek, David
Gordon, Megan	Powers, Desiree
Grados, Shelley	Renfro, Kali
Guga, Anna	Schatz, Sara
Harper, Joshua	Smith, Gary "Scooter"
Harper, Zachary	Smith, Michelle
Harris, Laurie	Spletto, April
Hitt, Heather	Springer, Katelyn
Johnson, Candy	Vidlak, Jaaden
Johnston, Lexi	Werner, Tara
Joskow, Ariane	Whitney, Kristen
Kahle, Kim	Woods, Hilary
Kallas, Kayla	
Keeling, Malia	Total Count: 47
Kerns, Drue	

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Complimentary trip to Washington DC: Superintendent Blakely updated the board about Ms. Diehl's trip to Washington DC. The trip provided Ms. Diehl with hands-on experience of what the group of 8th grade students will be experiencing when they visit Washington DC in June 2023.

Missoula Children's Theatre presenting Hercules, March 6-10, 2023 at Hellgate Elementary: Superintendent Blakely discussed the theatre production and the success of it. There were ~65 Hellgate Elementary students that participated in the production.

Para-Professional Pay Matrix Increase: Superintendent Blakely presented the current steps matrix, along with 3 other hourly pay increase recommendations. The discussion was focused on the matrix that provided a \$0.30 increase per step. Superintendent Blakely also notified the trustees that there would be no pay differential between para-professionals with or without degrees and there would be no freezing of wages at a specific step. The change will take effect July 1, 2023. This change will effect both current para-professionals and newly hired para-professionals.

Irish Woman of the Year: Superintendent Blakely recognized Ms. Julie McCarthy-McClaverty for being awarded Irish Woman of the Year.

Camp Paxson 2023-24: Superintendent Blakely and Building Three Principal, Chris Clevenger, met with two representatives from Camp Paxson and discussed the potential for Hellgate Elementary students to participate in a two night, three day stay. Superintendent Blakely stated that there are many unknown logistics at the moment, but Camp Paxson staff would appreciate time at the next Board Meeting to discuss with the trustees what the camp has to offer. The trustees were very interested, and Camp Paxson staff members will be in attendance at the April Board Meeting.

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). Brendan Brown (Special Education Director) provided an update of the district-wide Stride Challenge.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be April 10th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

CLOSED SESSION: Evaluation of Superintendent and District Clerk

Superintendent Blakely requested a closed session for the Superintendent and District Clerk evaluations. Board Chair McLaughlin granted the request and called for a closed session of the board: The next matter to come before the Board for consideration is a personal matter and in this connection it has been determined as follows: (1) that the matter of individual privacy is involved, (2) that such privacy demands protection of the individual for the sake of reputation and otherwise that little, if anything could be gained by publicly disclosing the information to be discussed, & (3) that the demand of individual privacy, in this matter clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure. Guests were excused.

The Board moved to executive session at 6:35 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 8:05 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.