

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

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, February 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-McLavery (Building 2 Principal), Damian Droessler (Building 1 Principal), Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), Brendan Brown (Special Education Director), Kristen Guidoni (Music Teacher) and Katy Reddy (8th grade teacher and HEEA representative). Tiffany Manthie (PTA President and parent) was also in attendance. There were up to 18 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HEEA

Katy Reddy represented the HEEA and provided a brief update and spoke about the calendar options that would be presented later in the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Julie McCarthy-McLavery recognized the trustees on behalf of Building 2.

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 January 9th, 2023 regular meeting. 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. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS

There was minimal discussion about the warrants. A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the January 2023 claims. 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. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for January 2023.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the January 2023 Student Activities Report. 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. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENTS:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation of Ms. Carla Clement and Ms. Nancy Aitken-Nobles, 1st grade teachers; Mr. Joe Powers, 4th grade teacher; and Ms. Jonna Brandt, Director of Assessment, in accordance with the district's recently approved

early retirement incentive offer. 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 CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation of Mr. Tom Keiser, 6th grade teacher at the conclusion of the 2022/2023 school year. There was a no discussion on the item. 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. The motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED RETIREMENT INCENTIVE CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to offer a one-time retirement agreement opportunity for Mr. Bruce Parks, Hellgate Elementary Director of Facilities/Maintenance Supervisor in accordance with the district's early retirement incentive. Mr. Bruce Parks has worked for Hellgate Elementary for the past 19 1/2 years and I am respectfully requesting that the school board approve the same insurance package offered to certified staff. 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.

APPROVE SCIENCE FAIR COACHES:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Ms. Devon Honzel and Ms. Laci Willett to be the coordinators of the Science Fair for grades 2 and 3 and Ms. Katie Matthews for grades 4-6 for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. 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 CERTIFIED STAFF HIRING SY 23-24:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Mr. Lucas Bewley to conduct his school psychologist internship at Hellgate Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year. 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, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CLASSIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the resignation of Alexandria Hanson, paraprofessional, effective January 26, 2023. 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, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the resignation of Erika Kirst, food service employee, effective January 27, 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.

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation of Mr. Bruce Parks as the Director of Facilities/Maintenance Supervisor at Hellgate Elementary effective June 9, 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 CLASSIFIED STAFF HIRES:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Rebekah Mickel, paraprofessional, effective January 16, 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.

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Megan Matteo, paraprofessional, effective February 27, 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 BUS ROUTE MILEAGE CHANGE SY 22-23:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the adjusted Hellgate Transportation school bus route mileage for the 2022/2023 school year (see board packet for full details). 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.

CONSIDER ACCREDITATION VARIANCE REQUEST FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (BLDG 3):

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to authorize the superintendent to submit an accreditation variance waiver (for two years) to the Montana Office of Public Instruction to standard 10.55.604 (Variances to Standards) and 10.55.709 (Library Media Services, K-12)(see packet for full detail). 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.

APPROVE INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT FOR SY 22-23:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to offer an Individual Transportation Contract (TR-4) to the parent/guardian of a student who requires transportation per the student's IEP. 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, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER MTSBA MEMBERSHIP FOR SY 23-24:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the superintendent's recommendation to authorize Hellgate Elementary to renew the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) membership for the 2023-2024 school

year. The annual membership dues for Hellgate Elementary to renew membership with MTSBA will be \$9,453.00, a 2.3% increase from last year's dues. 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.

CONSIDER SY 23-24 CALENDAR:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve one of four calendar options for the 2023-2024 academic year (options attached and data from staff survey attached). The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. There was discussion on the topic related to the 4 options presented. Katy Reddy spoke on behalf of the HEEA and the teachers' feedback. Erin Ellis spoke on behalf of the Calendar Committee. Superintendent Blakely answered questions related to the 4 options presented. The adopted calendar was **HESD OPTION #1** (see full board packet for detail). 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 Rich Thornock to approve the proposed substitute list for the 2022-2023 school year. There was no discussion on the item.

Afzal, Zaima	Schatz, Sara
Keeling, Malia	Guga, Anna
Akane, McKenna	Smith, Gary "Scooter"
Kerns, Drue	Harper, Joshua
Arlint, Elisabeth	Smith, Michelle
Loyson, Shelley	Harper, Zachary
Arnold, Fred	Spletto, April
McLaverty, Annie	Harris, Laurie
Curry, Taina	Vidlak, Jaaden
Merkley, Maria	Hitt, Heather
Deden, Alexis	Werner, Tara
Miller, Michelle	Johnson, Candy
Dennis, Sarah	Whitney, Kristen
Minckler, Kimberly	Johnston, Lexi
Devlin, Sherry	Woods, Hilary
Morton, Melissa	Kahle, Kim
Erskine, Sandra	Kallas, Kayla
Polanchek, David	
Finnerty, Ashley	Total Count: 38
Powers, Desiree	
Grados, Shelley	

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.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Missoula Children's Theatre presenting Hercules, March 6-10, 2023 at Hellgate Elementary: Superintendent Blakely discussed the upcoming theatre presentation and noted students and staff would be participating in the production.

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) January 30-31, 2023: A company from Helena that completed a walk-through of the campus' safety protocols. REMS will provide Superintendent Blakely with a full report once completed.

Innovative Educational Program Tax Credit, \$65,000: Hellgate Elementary received donations from four very generous community members for a total of \$65,000. These funds will be allocated towards technology improvements. Superintendent Blakely provided a background of the Tax Credit program.

5 Valleys Honor Band; \$2,100 grant: Superintendent Blakely provided a background of the opportunity. Kristen Guidoni spoke on behalf of the program: 100 students in total auditioned, 45 were selected, and half of the selection were Hellgate Elementary students.

Robotics Program: There was recognition of Jordan Capp and great efforts put forth related to the Robotics Tournament that was held at Hellgate Elementary.

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-McLavery (Building 2), Chris Clevenger (Building 3), and Damian Droessler (Building 1).

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be March 13th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tiffany Manthie spoke on behalf of the PTA. Tiffany provided an update of PTA projects that are on-going: STEM night/Planetarium presentation at the end of March, the Talent Show in April, and the Fun Run in May.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk