

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting May 8<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, May 8<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), Julia McCarthy-McLavery (Building 2 Principal), Damian Droessler (Bldg. 1 Principal), Jamie Courville (Bldg. 4 Principal), Zachary Cain (incoming Director of Facilities), Brendan Brown (Special Education Director), Katy Reddy (teacher and HEEA co-president), Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), and Sara Bermingham (teacher and HEEA co-president). The following individuals were community members/parents in the district: Jonathan Karlin (House District 96 representative), Kallie Gatzemeier (trustee candidate/parent), Jacquelyn Ryan (trustee candidate/parent) were also in attendance. There were up to 21 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The trustees welcomed and congratulated Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacqueline Ryan as the unofficially newly elected trustees for the 2023-2026 term. Jonathan Karlin gave a brief introduction of the current legislation that is finishing up in Helena. Superintendent Blakely introduced the new Director of Maintenance, Zachary Cain. He provided a brief introduction of himself and was welcomed by the Trustees.

### **HEEA**

Katy Reddy reported that the negotiations were finalized between the HEEA and Hellgate Elementary. She notified the Trustees that the HEEA voted in favor of the new contract and were overall pleased with the negotiation process. She also congratulated the two trustee candidates on their success in the election.

### **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 April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regular meeting. 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. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the minutes from the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 special meeting. 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. 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 April 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 April 2023.

### **REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the April 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.

### **HIRING CERTIFIED STAFF CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire the following teachers for the 2023-2024 school year: Ms. Emilee Maplethorpe, Kindergarten and Ms. Megan Mateo, Special Education. There was no discussion on the topic. 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 CLASSIFIED STAFF:**

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the hiring of Brylea Beya to be a paraprofessional for the 2023-2024 school year. There was no 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.

### **CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATION CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following list of students as the graduation class of 2023 (see Board Packet for full details). There was brief discussion on the item. 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.

### **HEEA CONTRACT CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve a two-year collective bargaining agreement with the Hellgate Elementary Education Association. Key salary and benefit changes in the agreement, from the previous agreement, with the HEEA include: (see Board Packet for full details). There was brief discussion on the topic. 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.

### **ESSER FUNDS BUDGET AMENDMENT:**

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to allocate \$130,000 of ESSER funding from the ESSER III Base facilities project to support the purchase of Chromebooks.

*[Background: The school district will be following Board Policy 7012 -sealed bids procedure to procure approximately 490 Chromebooks in order to stay current with technology and to continue to provide uninterrupted education to students. The goal is to have the Chromebooks purchased and functioning before the beginning of school year 2023-2024.]*

Superintendent Blakely provided a background of the need for Chromebooks district-wide. There was additional conversation on the item. 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.

### **ACCEPT HIRING GROUP CERTIFIED STAFF CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the offering of certified/administrative staff employment contracts to those individuals whose names appear on the list entitled, Certified Staff Rehire Recommendations for the 2023/2024 School Year (see Board Packet for full detail). There was no discussion on the item. 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. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT HIRING CLASSIFIED STAFF CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the offering of classified employment contracts to those individuals whose names appear on the list entitled, Classified Employees Recommended for Rehire for the 2023/2024 School Year (see Board Packet for full detail). 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.

**ACCEPT HIRING SUMMER SCHOOL STAFF CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to hire the following staff for our 2023 summer school program (June 19-July 20).

- Ms. Carmen Brandt: Teacher
- Mr. Michael Straw: Teacher
- Ms. Laci Willett: Teacher
- Ms. Holly Marr: Teacher
- Ms. Olivia Moore: Teacher
- Mr. Chris Clevenger: Administrator
- Ms. Angie Hill: Administrative Assistant

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, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE RESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the resignation of Mr. Brett Eells, Special Education teacher effective June 8, 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, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE NON-RENEWAL OF CERTIFIED STAFF:**

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to non-renew a nontenured teacher, Ms. Hannah Hughes, Special Education teacher effective June 8, 2023, (pursuant to 20-4-206 MCA) Notification of Non-tenure Teacher Reelection -- Acceptance -- Termination

**20-4-206. Notification of non-tenure teacher reelection -- acceptance -- termination.**

- (1) The trustees shall provide written notice by June 1 to each non-tenure teacher employed by the district regarding whether the non-tenure teacher has been reelected for the ensuing school fiscal year. A teacher who does not receive written notice of reelection or termination is automatically reelected for the ensuing school fiscal year.
- (2) A non-tenure teacher who receives notification of reelection for the ensuing school fiscal year shall provide the trustees with written acceptance of the conditions of reelection within 20 days after the receipt of the notice of reelection. Failure to notify the trustees within 20 days constitutes conclusive evidence of the non-tenure teacher's non-acceptance of the tendered position.
- (3) Subject to the June 1 notice requirements in this section, the trustees may non-renew the employment of a non-tenure teacher at the conclusion of the school fiscal year with or without cause.**

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.

**APPROVE RESIGNATION CLASSIFIED STAFF:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the resignation of Ms. Kathryn Rowley, paraprofessional, effective June 8, 2023 (she will be student teaching with us in the fall of 2023), Ms. Jennifer Del Gaudio, paraprofessional, effective April 19, 2023, Lamar Rase, paraprofessional, effective June 8, 2023, and Ms. Ashley Smith, food service employee, effective April 28, 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, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**INCREASE IN SCHOOL MEAL PRICE CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to increase the cost of school breakfast to \$2.25 (increase of 25 cents) and to increase the cost of school lunch to \$3.25 (increase of 25 cents) for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. There was brief discussion on what the current free and reduced percentage of the district was, and how to increase it. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**SPORTS PARTICIPATION FEE CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to assess an activity participation fee of \$25.00 for grades K-5 and \$40.00 for an activity participation fee for grades 6-8.

Language in the handbook will read:

A participation fee will be assessed to ALL students participating in school sports activities (cross country, football, gymnastics, wrestling, basketball, volleyball, track, drama, robotics, and soccer). Any student unable to pay the participation fee due to financial constraints is encouraged to contact the activities director or school counselor to make arrangements for an alternative method of payment.

*Hellgate Elementary School District will make every effort to ensure that no student is prevented from participating in activities due to financial constraints.*

The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Superintendent Blakely provided the current cost to the district to offer athletics and extra-curricular activities. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

**ARTEMIS ROADS HUB EVENT AT MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to allow a team comprised of four 5th grade students and one 5th grade teacher to travel to Bozeman, Montana for the MSU Academic Technology and Outreach ROADS (Rovers, Observation and Drone Survey) event. Teams from around the state will share their ROADS projects and Hellgate Elementary had a team who qualified. This event will occur on Friday, May 19, 2023. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. There was a question on the transportation and district cost; the district will incur no costs on this field trip. The trustees requested to review Board Policy 2075 (Field Trips) and recommend it be updated during the next Board Policy review session. 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 Rich Thornock to approve the updated substitute list for the 2022-2023 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.

Afzal, Zaima	
Akane, McKenna	Maplethorpe, Emilee

Arlint, Elisabeth	McLavery, Annie
Burmeister, Ava	McNally, Anna
Deden, Alexis	McWilliams, Alexis
Dennis, Sarah	Merkley, Maria
Devlin, Sherry	Miller, Michelle
Erskine, Sandra	Minckler, Kimberly
Finnerty, Ashley	Mitchell, Nichole
Glenn, Tyler	Morton, Melissa
Gordon, Megan	O'Keefe, Kaitlyn
Guga, Anna	Olson, Olivia
Harper, Joshua	Pham, Amanda
Harper, Zachary	Powers, Desiree
Harris, Laurie	Renfro, Kali
Hitt, Heather	Robertson, Lisa
Johnson, Candy	Schatz, Sara
Johnston, Lexi	Smith, Gary "Scooter"
Joskow, Ariane	Smith, Michelle
Kahle, Kim	Spletto, April
Kallas, Kayla	Springer, Katelyn
Kerns, Drue	Vidlak, Jaaden
Klucewich, Jacqueline	Werner, Tara
Koch, Kenneth	Whitney, Kristen
Lindstrom, Amanda	Woods, Hilary
Loveall, Kelsey	
Loyson, Shelley	
	Total: 51

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*Washington Foundation Grant, 40K!* Superintendent Blakely notified the Trustees that she had applied for a grant to purchase playground equipment for Building 3 and was notified that the Foundation had accepted and awarded Hellgate Elementary \$40,000. The district will be receiving the funds over the next two years.

*Solar Panel Analysis:* Superintendent Blakely informed the Trustees that she will be receiving a cost analysis of implementing Solar Panels throughout the district.

*Insurance Open Enrollment:* Superintendent Blakely gave an update of how the Insurance Open Enrollment was going. She noted that so far everything was running smoothly.

### **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: Julia McCarthy-McLavery (Building 2), Chris Clevenger (Building 3), Damian Droessler (Building 1), and Jamie Courville (Building 4). Brendan Brown (SPED Director) notified the Trustees that Hellgate students had recently participated in the Special Olympics held at Big Sky High school on May 5, 2023.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be June 12, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

The upcoming Special Meeting was called for May 18, 2023 at 12:00p.m. noon.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Superintendent Blakely presented Trustee Kate Walker with an appreciation plaque for the many years Kate has participated on the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees. All the Trustees thanked Kate for her time, and wished her well.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

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Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk