

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting August 14th, 2023
6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, August 14th, 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, Kallie Gatzemeier, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen and Jacquelyn Ryan. Trustee Rod Sharkey was absent for the meeting. Superintendent Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating were Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), Katy Reddy (teacher and HEEA Co-President), Chris Clevenger (Building 1 Principal), Tiffany Hobbs (Building 3 Principal), Julie McCarthy-McClaverty (Building 2 Principal), Jamie Courville (Building 4 Principal), and Brendan Brown (Special Ed. Director). There were no additional community members present. There were up to 15 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this meeting.

HEEA

Katy Reddy provided a brief update to the Trustees. The HEEA is looking forward to the new school year, and welcoming new teaching staff.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Tom McLaughlin recognized Tiffany Hobbs as the new Principal for Building 3. Superintendent Blakely recognized Zach Cain and the custodial/maintenance department for their great efforts in maintaining the grounds and preparing them for the school year.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the July 10th, 2023 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-Special Meeting

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the July 19th, 2023 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS

There was brief discussion about the warrants and a few clarifying questions. A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the July 2023 claims. The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for July 2023.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the July 2023 Student Activities Report. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom

McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE 2023-2024 FINAL BUDGETS

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the following Hellgate Elementary Final 2023-2024 Budget, with the understanding that the Hellgate Elementary District Clerk/Business Manager shall have the ability to slightly adjust the final budget totals once all final financial data has been sent to the school district from state and county financial department sources. Full detailed information available in Board Packet. District Clerk, Justine Reese presented the 22-23 TFS and 23-24 Budget information to the Trustees. There was minimal discussion between the Trustees on the item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT TRUSTEES FISCAL SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to accept the Trustees Fiscal Summary Report for the 2022-2023 school year. Full detailed information available in the Board Packet. District Clerk, Justine Reese presented the 22-23 TFS and 23-24 Budget information to the Trustees. There was minimal discussion between the Trustees on the item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE NEW SCHOOL BOARD POLICY NUMBERS

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the new school board policy numbers that are now aligned with The Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA). Full Board Policy available on district website and Administration Building. There was no discussion between the Trustees on the item. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE HIRING CLASSIFIED STAFF:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the hiring of Kara Green, Shesten Pallister, and John Ruud to be paraprofessionals for the 2023-2024 school year. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE HIRING CERTIFIED STAFF:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the hiring of Addison Chamberlain to be a first grade teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to accept the resignation of Ms. Halden Sharkey, effective August 1, 2023 and Ms. Katherine Matthews, effective August 2, 2023. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE 23-24 STIPENDS

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the stipends of various extra-curricular activities for the 2023-2024 school year (full list available in Board Packet). There was brief discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Copper League: The fiduciary management for Copper League will be moving from Hellgate Elementary to Frenchtown School District, due to Damian Droessler (previous Copper League Director) no longer employed at Hellgate Elementary. Aaron Griffin (Principal at Frenchtown) will be the Copper League Director. The remaining Copper League fund balance will be sent to Frenchtown School District, \$7382.50.

Proposed 600+ Building Project: Superintendent Blakely provided an update of a new housing project, the Icon Apartment Homes at Dougherty Ranch, within Hellgate's boundaries. There was discussion on the enrollment impact a building project like this could have on Hellgate. Superintendent Blakely intends to continue attending City Council meetings related to the building project. Trustee, Jacquelyn Ryan inquired about the district's decision to not purchase land in the past, in anticipation of enrollment growth due to new housing structures. Board Chair, Tom McLaughlin provided a brief overview of why it was not necessary at the time. Overall, there is not a structure concern as Hellgate historically has been proactive about growth preparation and will continue to strategize.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports at this meeting.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Building 1: Chris Clevenger provided an update on how summer school went. He reported it was beneficial overall.

Building 2: Julie McCarthy-McLavery reported she is happy to be back.

Building 3: Tiffany Hobbs did not have a report.

Building 4: Jamie Courville did not have a report.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be September 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk