

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting April 8, 2024  
6:00 p.m.

### **OPENING**

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The meeting was held in-person. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Tom McLaughlin. Trustees participating were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Trustees Tom Cook and Jacquelyn Ryan were absent for the meeting. Superintendent Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating were Tiffany Hobbs (Building 3 Principal), Brendan Brown (Special Ed. Director), Chris Clevenger (Building 1 Principal), Julia McCarthy-McLavery (Building 2 Principal), Jamie Courville (Building 4 Principal), Brent Heist (Assistant Principal Building 3), Jordan Capp (Teacher), Adelle Donahue (Teacher), and Kate Gundlach (Teacher). Community members present included Brenda Shunick. There were up to 17 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Adelle Donahue and Kate Gundlach presented the progress and the goals of the school garden.

### **HEEA**

There was no representation at the meeting.

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

There were no recognitions at the meeting.

### **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

### **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING 3-11-2024**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 regular meeting. There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

### **REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS-MARCH 2024**

There was brief discussion about the warrants and a few clarifying questions. A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the March 2024 claims. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

### **REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS**

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for March 2024.

### **REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the March 2024 Student Activities Report. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

### **BIG SKY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE WALK CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to disapprove an event in which former Hellgate Elementary students who will be graduating from Big Sky High School come to school to do a "graduation/remembrance walk" through all four buildings. Brenda Shunick presented background on the request to the Trustees. There was concern for the safety of Hellgate students as the walk would occur during a regular school day. The Trustees were not in favor of the walk after voicing concerns of safety and logistics. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLASSIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the resignation of Ms. Rose Comstock, food service, effective March 26, 2024 and Waika Ham Young, custodian, effective April 9, 2024, and Judy Selvest, paraprofessional, effective March 15, 2024 and Brande Newlon, paraprofessional, effective March 7, 2024 (see letters in board packet). There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**CERTIFIED STAFF HIRING CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of:

- Ms. Cailen Bosch to be a speech-language pathologist for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Mr. Brandon Ihde to be a Special Education teacher for the 2024-2025 school year.

There was no discussion on this item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the resignation of the following certified staff members, effective June 7, 2024 (see letters in board packet).

- Ms. Joanna Johnson, school counselor
- Ms. Ashley Hofland, 4th grade teacher
- Ms. Kali Renfro, 6th grade teacher
- Ms. Emilee Cooper, 4th grade teacher
- Ms. Edie Callison, 6th grade teacher

There was no discussion on this item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLASSIFIED STAFF HIRING CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of Thomas Kramer, custodian, Drekin Kelly, paraprofessional and Clarise Sviatko and Jenna Farragher as part-time EL tutors for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. There was no discussion on this item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**CERTIFIED STAFF REHIRING CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the offering of certified staff and specialists employment contracts to those individuals whose names appear on the list entitled: Certified Staff and Specialists Rehire Recommendations for the 2024-2025 School Year (see full list in board packet). There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLASSIFIED STAFF REHIRING CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the offering of classified staff employment contracts to those individuals whose names appear on the list entitled: Classified Staff Rehire Recommendations for the 2024-2025 School Year (see full list in board packet). There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR HIRING CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of the following staff for our extended school year program during the summer of 2024:

- Haley VonGoedert--Teacher
- Jade Brooks--para (Braille)
- Kami Bourke--para
- Ashlyn Schatz--para (Braille)
- Kendall Alley-(SLP)

There was a brief discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the request for Ms. Hayley Blankers, 4th grade teacher, to take a leave of absence for the 2024-2025 school year. There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF REVISION TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 3110:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the revisions to school board policy 3110 which now includes language for students enrolling in the four-year old literacy intervention program (see full detail in board packet). There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 2165:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve school board policy 2165 which pertains specifically to students enrolling in the four-year old literacy intervention program (see full detail in board packet). There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITION OF CLASS SIZE LIMITATIONS TO INTEGRATED STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the addition of our approved class size limitations and life skills program enrollment limitations (board approved on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 school board meeting) to our Integrated Strategic Action Plan. There was brief discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**ESSER FUNDS PURCHASE: HAND SANITIZER DISPENSERS:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the purchase of new hand sanitizer dispensers for the district. The cost will be approximately \$14,000.00 and will be purchased utilizing ESSER funding. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Rich Thornock 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 item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

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

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to adopt a resolution (available in the board 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 no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE THE SCHOOL SUBSTITUTE LIST:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the following to be substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year (total of 46, full list available in board packet). There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

*National Presidential Nominee:* Ms. Jordan Capp was selected as Montana’s state level finalist for the National Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (notification letter available in board packet). Superintendent Blakely provided a background of the prestigious award. Ms. Capp thanked the Trustees’ support of the Robotics program and the STEM opportunities in the district.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no committee reports at this meeting.

**PRINCIPALS’ REPORTS**

Building 1: Chris Clevenger reported the Solar Eclipse provided many educational opportunities for the students in Building 1 and noted the upcoming end of year assessments that were about to begin.

Building 2: Julia McCarthy-McLavery informed the Trustees she was preparing for the early literacy program screening day. She thanked the Building 2 staff for supporting a student experiencing hardships.

Building 3: Tiffany Hobbs reported she was excited the students were playing on a brand-new playground.

Building 4: Jamie Courville referenced his report in the Board Packet.

Special Education: Brendan Brown thanked the Trustees for hiring the special education staff and was grateful the department was fully staffed for the upcoming school year.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

---

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

---

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk