

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting May 13, 2024
6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, May 13th, 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, Tom Cook and Jacquelyn Ryan. Trustee Rod Sharkey was absent. 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), Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), Kristen Guidoni (Teacher), Zach Cain (Maintenance Director), Dale Asanovich (Technology Director) and Adelle Donahue (Teacher). Community members present: Chelsea Wittmann and Christine Kowalski (Youth Crisis Response), Kayla Kallas (Parent), Taylor O'Connell (Parent) and Dolly Blatam (Parent). There were up to 23 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

CANVASS OF ELECTION RESULTS

Tom McLaughlin Mr. Rich Thornock filed unopposed for the two seats open for the May 7th School Trustee Election. Therefore, in accordance with state law, the election was cancelled and both were declared elected by acclamation by the Missoula County Elections Office. Superintendent Molly Blakely swore in the two trustees for their new three-year term.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Superintendent Molly Blakely called for nominations for Board Chairman. Lori Christensen nominated Tom McLaughlin. The nomination was seconded by Kallie Gatzmeier. There were no other nominations. Tom McLaughlin was declared elected as Board Chairman.

Superintendent Molly Blakely called for nominations for Board Vice-Chairman. Lori Christensen nominated Rich Thornock. The nomination was seconded by Tom Cook. There were no other nominations. Rich Thornock was declared elected as Board Vice-Chairman.

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to re-hire Justine Reese as the District Clerk/Business Manager. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Lori Christensen, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan and Kallie Gatzmeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christine Dewalsky and Chelsea Wittmann introduced the Mobile Crisis Diversion Program, a grant funded program that assists in deescalating student situations when needed.

Kayla Kallas, Dolly Blatam and Taylor O'Connell presented to the Trustees their concern for Hellgate Elementary reducing the district's nursing staff to one nurse, for the 24-25 school year.

HEEA

Kristen Guidoni represented the HEEA. She noted Teacher Appreciation week was amazing and students and staff are looking forward to the spring time of year.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Superintendent Blakely recognized Kristen Guidoni on her recent successes: Swingin' Sweets, a fundraiser for band students and Kristen's Montana Teach of the Year nomination.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING 4-08-2024

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the April 8th, 2024 regular meeting. There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzmeier. Voting in favor of the motion

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

REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS-APRIL 2024

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the April 2024 claims. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. There was brief discussion regarding curriculum purchases. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for April 2024.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the April 2024 Student Activities Report. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan 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 the following certified staff for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Ms. Chris Eichert: Middle School Math Teacher
- Ms. Jasmine Talbert: Special Education Preschool Teacher
- Ms. Tieghe Cudahy: School Counselor
- Ms. Holly Whitmore: Third Grade Teacher
- Ms. Madison Kowal: Fourth Grade Teacher
- Ms. Sheyla Gallagher: Sixth Grade Teacher
- Ms. Marissa Bartolic: Third Grade Teacher
- Ms. Georgina Kepferle: Sixth Grade Teacher

There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan 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 Ms. Kendra Fullbright, 7th-8th grade ELA teacher and Ms. Anika Melzer-roush, 6th grade teacher, effective June 7, 2024 (resignation letters available in full board packet.) There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED STAFF HIRING CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the hiring of Heidi Carstens-Bennett to be a paraprofessional in our Early Literacy Program for the 2024-2025 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, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OFFICE CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to adopt a resolution granting the Missoula County Elections Office authority to conduct Hellgate Elementary school elections for the 2024-2025 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, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

EARLY LITERACY CURRICULUM ADOPTION CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the adoption of a new Early Literacy Program curriculum (The Teaching Strategies Creative Curriculum) that will be implemented during the 2024-2025 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, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REUNIFICATION CONTRACT WITH MISSOULA AIRPORT CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the extension of our contract with the Missoula County Airport Authority to be a reunification location between both entities (full contract available in board packet). There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

ESSER EXPENDITURE CONSIDERATIONS:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the utilization of ESSER funding to purchase the following:

- Dishwasher: \$63,000
- Building 1 Entryway Access: \$36,000
- Scissorlift: \$11,500
- Building 3 HVAC Update: \$79,932
- Building 3 Boiler Purchase: \$300,000
- Chromebooks (Building 3 & 4): \$162,000
- Newline Boards (Building 3 & 1): \$79,000 (\$20,500 will be paid for by the Innovative Tax Credit)

Zach Cain provided an overview to the Trustees of the need for the purchases presented. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

SCHOOL SUBSTITUTE LIST:

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New elective course in grades 4th-6th: Tiffany Hobbs provided a background of the need for the new course 'Campus Connections'. Practical arts will no longer be offered to 5th grade students as an elective. Music courses and Campus Connections will replace practical arts.

Town Pump Grant-Library: Ms. Deb Westrom was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Town Pump to operate the library throughout the summer.

AgWest Grant-Garden: Ms. Adelle Donahue was awarded \$3,000 from AgWest Farm Credit, to purchase supplies for the school garden. She noted Russ Parrish donated materials to the garden project that will allow the walkways to be ADA compliant.

OPI Project AWARE Grant: Superintendent Blakely was awarded \$2,000 from OPI. The funds are to be utilized to pay for Professional Development in August 2024.

PAX Grant: Each building will receive \$2,392 for the upcoming school to continue PAX implementation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports at this meeting.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Building 1: Chris Clevenger Teacher appreciation week was successful and very rewarding. Chris Clevenger noted how generous the community was.

Building 2: Julia McCarthy-McLavery informed the Trustees her students are in the middle of testing. She is encouraged by what she has seen in testing results so far.

Building 3: Tiffany Hobbs noted there are quite a few activities and concerts that are coming up.

Building 4: Jamie Courville was absent.

Special Education: Brendan Brown informed the Trustees 15 students participated in Special Olympics.

Erin

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be June 10th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk