

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting September 9, 2024

6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, September 9th, 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, Jacquelyn Ryan and Rod Sharkey. Superintendent Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating included Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), Brendan Brown (Spec. Ed Director), Brent Heist (Bldg. 3 Assistant Principal), Julia McCarthy-McClaverty (Bldg. 2 Principal), Chris Clevenger (Bldg 1 Principal), Jamie Courville (Bldg. 4 Principal), Kelsey Salmela (Payroll Clerk) and Zach Cain (Maintenance Director). Community members included Jonathan Karlen (House Rep. District 96). There were up to 17 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonathan Karlen was in attendance to see if the Trustees had any concerns they wanted to pass along to him.

HEEA

There was no representation from the HEEA at the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

There was no recognition at the meeting.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING 8-12-2024

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the August 12th, 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, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS-AUGUST 2024

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the August 2024 claims. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. There clarifying questions from the Trustees. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for August 2024.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the August 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, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION APPROVAL

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the resignation of Ms. Sara Triphan, paraprofessional, effective August 20, 2024 (letter included in board packet). There 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, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. 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 Ms. Alysa Cooper, Bus Aide, Ms. Brandi Thompson, custodian, and Ms. Madison Courville and Ms. Lauren Dunlap, as paraprofessionals for the 2024-2025 schoolyear. 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, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED STAFF HIRING CONSIDERATION

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the hiring of Ms. Shaine Junso to be a 7th grade teacher for the 2024-2025 school year. There was brief 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, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

COACHING STIPEND APPROVAL CONSIDERATION

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the coaching stipends for the 2024-2025 school year (see full list in board packet). There was brief discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Lori Christensen, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

HIRING OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR COACHES

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the hiring of the following coaches for the 2024-2025 school year (see full list 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, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

SPORTS OFFICIALS HIRING CONSIDERATION

A motion was made by Jacquelyn Ryan to approve the hiring of Abigail Jones (non MOA) to be an official for sporting events for the 2024-2025 school year. 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, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT CONSIDERATION

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve an Individual Transportation Contract (TR-4) to the guardian of a student who requires transportation per the student's IEP for the 2024-2025 school year. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were:

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

CROSSING GUARD AND BUS AIDE HOURLY COMPENSATION CONSIDERATION

A motion was made by Jacquelyn Ryan to approve the hourly compensation rate of \$16.00 per hour for crossing guards and bus aides for the 2024-2025 school year. 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, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

SUBSTITUTE APPROVAL LIST CONSIDERATION

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the attached list of substitutes for the 2024-2025 school year (see full list in 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, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Montana Teacher of the Year: Jordan Capp (Hellgate Elementary 5th grade teacher) was nominated for the Montana Teacher of the Year Award.

Stuart Armstrong Donation: Donated benches to the Hellgate school garden.

Vendor Donations: Panera, Big Sky Commerce, Summit Beverage, and Mary Mountain Cookies all donated snacks/meals during professional development days.

Unified Champion Donation: Donated \$4,500 to the special education department.

Gianforte Foundation: Hellgate was awarded curriculum through the Gianforte Foundation-Hellgate Elementary was the only school in the State to receive the grant.

Gianforte cell phone let: Governor Gianforte sent out a letter to Montana schools encouraging schools to have a stance against cell phones built into their school policy. There was a lengthy discussion on what this could look like at Hellgate Elementary. The Trustees requested the recommended policy be adopted at the next regular board meeting.

Enrollment update: Enrollment is the same as it was last year, including the Early Literacy Program students.

New SRO: The new School Resource Officer has been a great addition to Hellgate Elementary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports at the meeting.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Building 1: Chris Clevenger provided the Trustees with an update of the school year. He was appreciative of the remodel/renovation of the front entryway that took place over the summer.

Building 2: Julia McCarthy-McLverty provided the Trustees with an update of the school year. The Early Literacy Program is new to Building two this year and all teachers have gone above and beyond.

Building 3: Brent Heist provided an update to the Trustees. Building three is excited for the new year and the great group of students in the building.

Building 4: Jamie Courville provided the Trustees with an update-the school year has been going well so far.

Special Education: Brendan Brown provided the Trustees with an update of the school year.

Curriculum and Assessment: Erin Ellis informed the Trustees that OPI will be auditing the MAST testing.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be October 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk