

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting October 14, 2024

6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, October 14th, 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, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan and Rod Sharkey. Trustee Lori Christensen was absent for the meeting. Superintendent Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating included Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), Julia McCarthy-McClaverty (Bldg. 2 Principal), Chris Clevenger (Bldg 1 Principal), Tiffany Hobbs (Bldg. 3 Principal), Jamie Courville (Bldg. 4 Principal), Amanda Pham (Bldg. 4 admin. assistant), Catie Cook (Bldg. 2 counselor) and Kristen Guidoni (HEEA Co-President and Teacher). Community members included Jonathan Karlen (House Rep. District 96), Joelle Menke, Ashley Powell, John Powell, Kaleighann Powell, Angella Wickman, Jakonie Wickman, Siena Dudils-Laney, Anna Gannett, and Megan Powell. There were up to 25 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonathan Karlen was in attendance and thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to utilize the Middle School library.

HEEA

Kristen Guidoni represented the HEEA and provided a brief report.

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 9-09-2024

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the September 9th, 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, 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-SEPTEMBER 2024

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the September 2024 claims. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. There clarifying questions from the Trustees. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, 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 September 2024.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

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

UPDATED CELL PHONE USE POLICY:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to adopt the cell phone policy from the 2024-2025 Student Handbook to be the new school board policy #3630. As part of this update, students will be required to keep their cell phones in their lockers during the school day and will not have access to them, except in specific cases, such as for medical reasons (students with diabetes) or for special class projects where a phone or device is necessary. The theme will be "Away For The Day" (survey results and updated policy included in official board packet). There was discussion on the topic including public comment from the participants in the audience. Clarifying questions were asked by both Trustees and community members and were addressed by Superintendent Blakely and other members of the Hellgate administration team. There were three emails addressed to the trustees on behalf of parents in the Hellgate community (full correspondence available in the official board packet). The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDENDUM TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY #3141 CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve an addendum to School Board Policy #3141 to clarify the provisions for students currently enrolled at Hellgate Elementary who reside within the school boundaries (full policy available in the official 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, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW AUDITOR HIRING CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the hiring of Ross Stalcup, CPA, PC to be the auditor for fiscal year 2024 with an option to extend to audit fiscal year 2025 and 2026. Justine Reese provided an overview of the Request for Proposal process that was completed. The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the resignation of Ms. Dawn Plymale, paraprofessional, effective October 1, 2024 and Brandi Thompson, custodian, effective October 2, 2024 (letters included in official 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, 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 Rod Sharkey to approve the hiring of Ms. April Spletto as a paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year effective October 3, 2024. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

TERMINATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF:

A motion was made by Jacquelyn Ryan to approve the termination of Mr. Julian DeFelice as a paraprofessional, effective September 25, 2024. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Tom Cook.

Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

COACHING HIRING CONSIDERATION

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of the following coaches for boys basketball:

Head Coach 8th A = Taylor Nordby

Head Coach 7th A = Shane Byers

Assistant Coach 8th =Tyler Glenn

Assistant Coach 8th B = Chris Bosshardt

Assistant Coach 7th B = Dale Asanovich

Assistant Coach 7th B = Tyler Lind

There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, 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 to approve the hiring of the following new substitutes for the 24-25 school year:

Charlene Bullen

Erika Furey

Jennifer Merkel

Zane Holland

Kimberly Hernandez

Dexter Crago

Jensen Logan- Nurse Sub

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

OUT-OF-DISTRICT TRAVEL CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve out-of-district travel for members of the 8th grade band to participate in the 2025 Northwest Division Conference (bands from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming) in Spokane, Washington in February, 2025. There was brief discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE HELLGATE TRANSPORTATION BUS ROUTE MILEAGE:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the adjusted Hellgate Transportation school bus route mileage for the 2024-2025 school year (full detail available in official 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, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Pump Grant: The district received \$2,000.00 for the Robotics program and \$5,000.00 for playground equipment.

Montana School Psychologist of the Year: Ms. Kirstie Hartwell was a Montana School Psychologist of the year recipient.

COPS School Safety grant: The district received a Federal grant totaling almost \$200,000 to fund technological safety improvements over the next three years.

Innovative Tax Credit Donation: The district received \$10,000 from local donors when 'put back' credits from the 2024 Innovative Tax Credit became available.

ReStyle Donation: \$5,000.00 was donated to the school garden program.

Reporting Protocols: Brief overview of current reporting protocols.

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 reported the walk-to programs are in place and students are excited for Halloween celebrations.

Building 2: Julia McCarthy-McLavery provided the Trustees with an update of the school year. She provided an update of fall fundraisers that are ongoing to support new playground equipment.

Building 3: Tiffany Hobbs provided an update to the Trustees. She provided an overview of testing that has occurred in the building.

Building 4: Jamie Courville provided the Trustees with an update-fall sports are finishing up.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be November 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk