

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting January 13, 2025

6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 2025. The meeting was held in-person. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Tom McLaughlin. Trustees participating were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Lori Christensen, Rod Sharkey, Jacquelyn Ryan and Kallie Gatzemeier. Superintendent Molly Blakely was absent from the meeting. District Clerk Justine Reese was present for the meeting. District staff participating included Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), Brent Heist (Bldg. 3 Assistant Principal), Brendan Brown (Spec.Ed. Director), Jamie Courville (Bldg. 4 Principal), Chris Clevenger (Bldg. 1 Principal), and Julia McCarthy-McLavery (Bldg 2. Principal), Haley Patzner (Teacher), and Kristen Guidoni (Teacher and HEEA representative). Community members in attendance included: Megan Powell (parent). There were up to 17 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Cook notified the Trustees that Missoula County Public Schools is looking for a Hellgate Elementary board representative, and to reach out to him if interested.

HEEA

Kristen Guidoni represented the HEEA and provided a brief update, noting the HEEA consolidated a negotiation committee.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

There was no recognition at this meeting.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING 12-09-2024

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

REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS-DECEMBER 2024

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

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the December 2024 Student Activities Report. 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, Lori Christensen, Rod Sharkey, Jacquelyn Ryan, and Kallie Gatzemeier. 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 Addie Wood to be the part-time Campus Connect instructor and Kurt Wambaugh to be a paraprofessional, effective January 6, 2025. There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Lori Christensen, Rod Sharkey, Jacquelyn Ryan, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to accept the resignation of Drekin Kelly, paraprofessional and Campus Connect instructor, effective December 20, 2024 (resignation included in official board packet). There were no questions regarding the item. The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Lori Christensen, Rod Sharkey, Jacquelyn Ryan, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to accept the resignation of Brayden Byrne, school nurse, effective January 31, 2025 (resignation included in official 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, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Lori Christensen, Rod Sharkey, Jacquelyn Ryan, and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

COACHING HIRING CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the hiring of the following individuals to coach girls basketball:

8A Head Coach: Taylor Nordby

8B Assistant Coach: Shane Byers

7A Head Coach: Tyler Lind

7B Assistant Coach: Vanessa Walsh

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Building a Professional Cybersecurity Workforce Grant award: Superintendent Blakely applied for a grant and was recently awarded the opportunity for the district to participate in a Cybersecurity Workforce.

Missoula Electric Cooperative 2K per building: The district was awarded \$2,000 per building with the intent to support students in the classroom.

OPI Accreditation Climate Surveys: An annual requirement for school districts, the surveys will be sent out in the near future.

January 29th 2025, Public Education Advocacy for Legislative session in Helena: Superintendent Blakely and many other educators throughout the state will participate in the legislative session on January 29th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports at the meeting.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Building 1: Chris Clevenger thanked the music teachers for the successful holiday program season. Students are preparing for The Living Statues presentation. MAST testing mid-year assessments are coming up.

Building 2: Julia McCarthy-McLavery report that January is a busy month for grades PK-1. Thank you to the music teachers who coordinate the holiday programs. District volunteers raised \$11,000 to support health care costs for a student from building two.

Building 3: Brent Heist provided a brief update for Building three, reporting a great holiday program season.

Building 4: Jamie Courville recognized a successful Toys for Tots donation after hosting the annual dodge ball tournament. He also reported the Hellgate boys basketball season finished up and they did well.

SPED: Brendan Brown thanked Haley Patzner for a great job leading the LifeSkills course; the program was recently awarded \$1,300.

Curriculum: Erin Ellis thanked the music teachers for presenting such a successful holiday program season.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be February 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk