

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting May 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, May 12th, 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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Rod Sharkey, and Lori Christensen. Trustee, Kallie Gatzemeier was absent. Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating included Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), Brent Heist (Bldg. 3 Assistant Principal), Tiffany Hobbs (Bldg. 3 Principal), Julia McCarthy-McLavery (Bldg 2. Principal), Jamie Courville (Bldg 4. Principal), Kathleen Ormesher (Teacher), Jackie Lippert (Teacher), Kirstie Hartwell (Psychologist) and Sara Bermingham (Teacher). There was a reporter from the Missoulian Newspaper. There were up to 17 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

HEEA

Kristen Guidoni represented the HEEA and provided a brief update to the Trustees.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

The Board recognized the following retirees for their accomplishments and wished them well: Kathleen Ormesher, Shirley Edwards, Chris Clevenger, Jackie Lippert and Kirstie Hartwell. The Board thanked the two board members who will no longer be on the Hellgate Board of Trustees: Rod Sharkey and Lori Christensen. Tom McLaughlin thanked both of them for their years of service to Hellgate.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING 4-14-2025

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2025 regular meeting. 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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS-APRIL 2025

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the April 2025 claims. There were clarifying questions from the Trustees. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for April 2025.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the April 2025 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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATIONS:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the hiring of the following staff for the 2025-2026 school year: Ms. Conley Doyle, School Psychologist, Mr. Rob Lloyd, Industrial Arts, Ms. Lauren Dunlap, Special Education/Life Skills

There clarifying questions 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, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

LONG-TERM MATERNITY SUBSTITUTE CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey motion to approve the hiring of Ms. Brynn Appel to be a long-term maternity substitute for 3rd grade and Ms. Tatum Egan to be a long-term maternity substitute kindergarten, effective August 25, 2025. 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, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENT:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the retirement of Ms. Jackie Lippert, effective June 12, 2025 (see attached). 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, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED STAFF NON-RENEWAL:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the Superintendent's recommendation for the non-renewal of Ms. Marissa Bartolic, a nontenured 3rd grade teacher, effective June 12, 2025 (pursuant to 20-4-206 MCA). There was a correction to the date in the original agenda item, otherwise no discussion. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Jacquelyn Ryan, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the resignations of the following certified staff members, effective June 12, 2025 (see attached letters): Ms. Anastasia Plympton, speech-language pathologist, Ms. Chris Eichert, Title Math Middle School teacher, Ms. Kylyn Rogers. Title I teacher. 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, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

QUIZ BOWL ADVISOR CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the hiring of Ms. Margaret Finlay to be the Quiz Bowl advisor for the 25-26 school year. There was brief 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, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

HIRING OF CERTIFIED STAFF MEMBERS SY25-26:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of the certified and specialist staff listed for the 2025-2026 school year (see full lists 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, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

HIRING OF CLASSIFIED STAFF MEMBERS SY25-26:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of the following members of the classified staff for the 2025-2026 school year (see full list 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, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD POLICY 2140 AMENDMENT CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve an amendment to school board policy #2140 (attached) to include: *Have information available about nicotine addiction services and referrals to tobacco cessation programs to students and staff.* With the inclusion of this information, Hellgate Elementary will be recognized by the Office of Public Instruction as a Montana Tobacco Free School District of Excellence, as we already meet the other criteria for this designation. 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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM PURCHASE:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the purchase of a new Social Studies curriculum for grades 3 through 8. The curriculum was selected by a curriculum committee and meets the content standards required by the state of Montana. The curriculum materials were made available for all stakeholders to review and view. 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, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CONTINUATION OF SERVICES WITH MISSOULA COUNTY ELECTIONS OFFICE:

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 2025-2026 school year (see attached). 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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH HELLGATE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to to approve the tentative agreement with the certified bargaining unit, Hellgate Elementary Education Association. 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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen and Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Election Information: The General Fund and Building Reserve Safety Levies were disapproved by the voters

Accreditation: The Accreditation report has been completed and Hellgate Elementary received high scores in all categories

Spirit Squad: Superintendent Blakely requested an agenda item in June to implement a Spirit Squad for students to participate in at Hellgate Elementary

Staff Negotiations: Very productive and efficient, two meetings were completed

Special Education Director: Brendan Brown was awarded Montana's Special Education Director of the Year. There will be an assembly on his behalf May 15th, at 10:00 a.m.

Increase in fees: Superintendent Blakely discussed the cost burden to the district to allow extra-curricular athletics/activities. There will be an agenda item in June requesting an increase from \$40 per student (regardless

of activities) to \$75 per student (excluding Gymnastics participants who will continue \$40 per student). There will be no increase in meal prices for student/adult breakfast and lunch. There will be an agenda item in June requesting an increase in online fee payments from \$1.50 per transaction to 3.5% per transaction. Currently the district is absorbing \$1,800 in fees that were not covered by the \$1.50 transaction fee.

Pacific Steel and Recycling: Hellgate Elementary brought in 5,323 pounds with over 256 entries

Missoula Gives: Donations received \$740.00

Graduating Class of 2025: List available in the official board packet

Teacher Appreciation Week: Thank you to the PTA for all the work they did to celebrate the Teachers

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports at the meeting.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Building 1: Absent

Building 2: Building two will greatly miss the retirees and appreciated all their years of service. DIBELS testing started and MAPS testing is ongoing.

Building 3: Building three celebrated appreciation all month long. There will be an immunization clinic scheduled for students.

Building 4: 8th grade graduation will be June 11th.

SPED: Absent

Curriculum: Reviewed ongoing testing throughout the district.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be June 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk