

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting December 11, 2023
6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, December 11th, 2023. The meeting was held in-person. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Tom McLaughlin. Trustees participating were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Kallie Gatzemeier, Rich Thornock, , Rod Sharkey and Lori Christensen (joined the meeting later in the evening). Trustee Jacquelyn Ryan was absent. Superintendent Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating were Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), Tiffany Hobbs (Building 3 Principal), Julia McCarthy-McClaverty (Building 2 Principal), Brendan Brown (Special Ed. Director), Jamie Courville (Building 4 Principal), Chris Clevenger (Building 1 Principal), and Anne Maloney (HR Administration). Community members present were: Jonathan Harlen (State Representative for House District 96), Jeremy Westhoff (parent) Noah (6th grade) and Maddux Westhoff (3rd grade), Erica Ihde (parent), Henry (6th grade) and Ansel (3rd grade) Ihde, and Keegan Goodian (6th grade). There were up to 15 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A group of Hellgate Elementary students presented the Trustees with proceeds, totaling \$2,005.00, from their Hot Chocolate stand sales. The group of students consisted of: Noah and Maddux Westhoff, Henry and Ansel Ihde, and Keegan Goodian. The students explained the funds were earned by selling hot chocolate and other goodies over the course of a few weeks. They mentioned there was great support from their friends and family to make the hot chocolate stand successful. They would like to see the funds donated to students who need monetary assistance during the holidays. The Trustees were incredibly appreciative of the donation and thank each student for their hard-work and selflessness.

HEEA

There was no representation from the HEEA at the meeting.

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 11-13-23

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the minutes from the November 13th, 2023 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS

There was brief discussion about the warrants and a few clarifying questions. A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the November 2023 claims. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, 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 November 2023.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the November 2023 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, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

EARLY LITERACY TARGETED INTERVENTION PROGRAM

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the implementation of an Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Program, per HB 352, for the 2024-2025 school year (see board packet for full detail). Superintendent Blakely gave a background on the program. There was brief discussion between the Trustees on the item. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING GRANT APPLICATION

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the process to apply for a transformational learning grant through the Office of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 school year (funding will be for four consecutive years). Superintendent Blakely provided an overview of the grant and discussed the goals of the grant funding. There was brief discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

DRAMA COACHES HIRING CONSIDERATION

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the hiring of the following staff to direct our drama production for the 23-24 school year:

Director:

- Randi Ruhkamp

Assistant Directors:

- Ashlyn Schatz-Eason
- Chris Bosshardt
- Emilee Cooper

There was brief discussion on the student participation in the program. Overall, there is a similar student enrollment in the Drama program between this year and last year. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE SCHOOL SUBSTITUTE LIST

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the following to be substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year (total of 39) (full list available 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, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, and Rod Sharkey. The motion carried unanimously.

TERMINATION CONSIDERATION OF CERTIFIED STAFF MEMBER

Deeming the rights of the individual outweigh the right of the public to know, Board Chair Tom McLaughlin called for an executive session of the Board, “The matter before the Board today is a hearing on the recommendation to terminate a certified employee. I will now close the public portion of this meeting to convene in executive session because I have determined that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure.” The meeting was closed at 6:28 p.m. All members of the audience were excused, Trustees remained present and Trustee Lori Christensen joined the meeting at this time.

Executive Session

The board came out of executive session at 6:39 p.m.

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to accept the Superintendent’s recommendation to terminate a certified staff member, effective immediately. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Rod Sharkey and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

\$1,000.00 Robotics grant received from Recycling Works: Ms. Capp recently received a grant from Recycling Works.

Can the Cats Food Drive collected 1,541 pounds of food: Brian Hall manages the Can the Cats Food Drive and this year 1,541 pounds of canned food was collected and donated to the Food Bank

Ronan and Arlee drummers and dancers presentation: Ronan and Arlee high school students performed traditional dancing and drumming presentations for all students at Hellgate Elementary on November 21st.

Missoula Symphony Pops Concert at UM: There were 16 Hellgate students made up the entire cello section and 7 high school students were previous Hellgate Elementary students.

Orchestra played at the Missoula Library: The Hellgate Elementary orchestra performed at the Missoula Library on December 2nd.

\$2,500.00 received anonymously donated by 10 Hellgate Elementary families: A group of 10 Hellgate families generously donated \$2,500 to assist students in paying for meal charges

Boyce Lumber wood donation for school garden: Zach Cain was able to secure a large donation from Boyce Lumber to build the raised beds for the school garden.

Hellgate Transportation possible buyout: Harlow's bus service is interested in purchasing Hellgate Transportation. Board Chair Tom McLaughlin, Superintendent Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese will be meeting with the company representatives 12/13/23 for additional information.

School Board Elections 2024: Two chairs are up for re-election this coming May: Board Chair Tom McLaughlin and Rich Thornock. Candidates may submit their Declaration of Intent and Oath of Candidacy form beginning 12/14/2023.

New District Website: The new district website is set to go live after the new year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports at this meeting.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Building 1: Chris Clevenger recognized Kate Singleterry (3rd grade teacher) for her hard work in making the Veteran's Day Program a success. He noted the Griz basketball game was a huge success.

Building 2: Julie McCarthy-McLavery thanked the Trustees for considering and approving the Early Intervention Reading Program and is excited to begin the process. She noted her building and building 4 will be teaming up to decorate gingerbread houses. She noted there was a great group of parents that have spent hours on helping prepare for the decorating.

Building 3: Tiffany Hobbs was absent for this portion of the meeting.

Building 4: Jamie Courville informed the Trustees of the upcoming Toys for Tots dodge-ball tournament and other events happening in grades 7-8.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be January 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.