

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting February 12, 2024  
6:00 p.m.

### **OPENING**

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The meeting was held in-person. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Tom McLaughlin. Trustees participating were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Jacquelyn Ryan, Rod Sharkey and Lori Christensen. Superintendent Molly Blakely was present for the meeting and District Clerk Justine Reese was absent. District staff participating were Erin Ellis (Curriculum Coordinator), Tiffany Hobbs (Building 3 Principal), Brendan Brown (Special Ed. Director), Chris Clevenger (Building 1 Principal), Julia McCarthy McLaverty (Building 2 Principal), Brent Heist (B3 Assistant Principal), Anne Maloney (HR Administration), Josh Eaton (teacher), Sara Bermingham (HEEA) and Kristen Guidoni (teacher). There were up to 18 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this meeting.

### **HEEA**

Sara Bermingham was present to discuss the 24-24 academic calendar. Survey was conducted with members and 90% of surveyed teachers selected Option 1.

### **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 1-8-2024**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2024 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier. Lori Christensen and Jacquelyn Ryan. 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 January 2024 claims. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

### **REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS**

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for January 2024.

**REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

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

**LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE HIRING CONSIDERATION**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the hiring of Ms. Ava Burmeister, Ms. Holly Whitmore, Mr. Drekin Kelly and Ms. Desiree Powers to be long term substitutes for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. 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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the request of Mr. Joshua Eaton to take a one year leave of absence for the 2024-2025 school year. Per code 10.6 of the CBA, which states tenured employees may complete an application for a formal leave of absence for the following year in writing at least 45 calendar days before the end of the school year. There was a very brief 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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**PARAPROFESSIONAL HIRING CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the hiring of Bella Currie as a paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. There was no discussion on this item. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**SCIENCE FAIR HIRING CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the hiring of Science Fair Coordinators: Building 1 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Heide Armstrong and Julie deArrieta, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Laci Willett. Building 3: Edie Callison and Kali Renfro. There was no discussion 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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**WRESTLING COACHES HIRING CONSIDERATION**

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the hiring of the following staff to be coaches for Wrestling for the 23-24 school year: Head Coach: Mike Plautz, Assistant Coaches: Jason Brunner, Eric Forde and Drekin Kelly. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**RENEW MEMBERSHIP IN MONTANA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION (MTSBA):**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the renewal of the Hellgate Elementary membership in the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA) for the 2024-2025 school year. The annual membership fee will be \$9882.00, a 4% increase from the previous year. There was a brief discussion on what MTSBA provides.

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

**COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND GAP ANALYSIS RESULTS:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the results from the Office of Public Instruction of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and the GAP analysis report completed by the district leadership team. A discussion was held regarding what the reports show. Reports show strengths and weaknesses. The results will help construct our ISAP goals document for OPI. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**OPEN ENROLLMENT DATE CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the dates for Open Enrollment (HB 203) beginning Friday, February 16, 2024 and concluding on Friday, March 15, 2024. A brief discussion was held on how the application process works. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF NEW SCHOOL BOARD POLICY PER HB 203 REQUIREMENTS:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve new school board policy for policy 7008 and policy 3141 pursuant to the requirements of HB 203, effective July 1, 2024. A brief discussion was held on the procedure and tuition. The motion was seconded by Lori Christensen. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLASS SIZE LIMITATIONS FOR GRADES K-8 and SPECIAL EDUCATION LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM CONSIDERATION:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve class size limitations and reserved spaces for grades K-8 in order to ensure in-district students are guaranteed entrance to Hellgate Elementary after the passage of HB 203. Class sizes shall adhere to the state regulations of: K -2nd - no more than 20 students per classroom, 3rd-4th - no more than 28 students per classroom, 5th - 8th - no more than 30 students per classroom. In addition, three spaces per section in each grade level will be reserved for in-district students. For students in Special Education in grades 3rd - 8th grade who qualify for our Life Skills program there will be a maximum of 13 students enrolled in the program. In addition, three spaces will be reserved for in-district students. Discussion was held on class size, transportation, staff members with students need to apply, and the application procedure. Applications will be accepted during the enrollment period, and will be time stamped and numbered, are able to request records. Need to apply each year. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2024-2025:**

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve one of two calendar options for the 2024-2025 academic year. A brief discussion was held on the differences of the two options. Option 1 was chosen. The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen 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 46) (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, Jacquelyn Ryan, Lori Christensen and Rod Sharkey. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mayor Davis visitation for MLK Day- will also read for One Book One Read project.

Tax Incentive Program \$20,500.00

Montana Art Council grant for \$2500.00 for Honor Band- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from all over try out. 80 kids tried out, 45 selected for band, 30 are Hellgate students.

String Ensemble performed National Anthem at Lady Griz game on Jan. 25th

Robotics Qualifying Tournament: 7 out of 11 Hellgate Teams qualified for State Tournament

March Data Share from Dr. Ellis

Montana Masonic Foundation \$4539.00 (start Robotics in 2nd and 3rd grade)

Money raised for Robotics

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

There were no committee reports at this meeting.

**PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**

Building 1: Chris Clevenger noted that his building had great turn out for PT Conferences. OBOR project is going well, having good conversations with students about the book.

Building 2: Julie McCarthy McLaverty noted PT Conferences went well, and ½ day Friday for conferences is well received by staff.

Building 3: Tiffany Hobbs noted that PT Conferences went well-very busy. Looking for volunteers for recess.

Building 4: Jamie Courville was absent.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:24pm.

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Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

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Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk