

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting March 11, 2024
6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, March 11th, 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, 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 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), Jamie Courville (Building 4 Principal), Kristen Guidoni (Band teacher), and Bailey Vercruyssen (Building 3 teacher). Community members present included Jonathan Karlen (State Representative for House District 96). There were up to 16 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonathan Karlen was in attendance and provided a brief update of legislation in Helena.

HEEA

Kristen Guidoni represented the HEEA and provided a brief update. She thanked the retirees on behalf of the HEEA for their service to the District.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Rich Thornock recognized Kristen Guidoni: After attending a concert, he noted the students clearly enjoyed working with her.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-Regular Meeting 2-12-2024

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the February 12th, 2024 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier 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 February 2024 claims. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for February 2024.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the February 2024 Student Activities Report. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. 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 Mr. Hunter Winn, custodian, effective April 5, 2024 and Lisa Cardin, custodian, effective May 31, 2024 (letters included in 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, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. 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. Audrey Falldorf to be a paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATIONS:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the resignation of Mrs. Karen Peterson, 5th grade teacher (retirement), Mr. Russ Parish 8th grade teacher (retirement), and Ms. Abigail Schuh, Kindergarten teacher, effective June 7th, 2024 (all letters included in Board Packet). There was no discussion on this item. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE RE-HIRING CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the rehiring of the following administrators for the 2024-2025 school year:

- Ms. Julia McCarthy-McClaverty, Principal Building 2
- Mr. Chris Clevenger, Principal Building 1
- Ms. Tiffany Hobbs Principal, Building 3
- Mr. Brent Heist Assistant, Principal Building 3
- Mr. Jamie Courville, Principal Building 4
- Dr. Erin Ellis, Director of Curriculum and Assessment
- Mr. Brendan Brown, Director of Special Education

There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

SABBATICAL EXTENSION CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve a sabbatical extension for the 2024-2025 school year for Ms. Colleen Davies (letter included in Board Packet). There was a brief discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

SUMMER SCHOOL STAFFING CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the following staff to teach summer school: Jamie Courville (Administrator), CJ Brandt, Addison Chamberlain, Holly Marr, Tyler Glenn, Vanessa Walsh (Teachers) and Angie Hill (Administrative Assistant). There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

Montana Cooperative Services (MCS) Group Membership Consideration:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve membership in the Montana Cooperative Services Group. This entity combines the purchasing power of 27 states in order to offer direct purchasing services from vendors. MCS eliminates the time and money associated with the traditional bid process to offer competitive pricing directly to their members. The membership fee will be waived for the 23-24 school year. Annual membership is \$1,200.00. There was a brief discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting

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

ADOPT RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO IMPOSE CHANGE IN LEVIES:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to adopt the following “Resolution of Intent to Impose Change in Levies” (full resolution in Board Packet). As an essential part of its budgeting process, the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees is authorized by law to impose levies to support its budget. The Board of Trustees estimates the following increases/decreases in revenues and mills for the funds noted below for the next school fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2024, using certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year as provided to the district.

Therefore, the Hellgate Elementary School District No. 4 adopts the Resolution of Intent to Impose Change in Levies for the 2024-2025 school year this 11th day of March, 2024.

REQUIRED 20-9-116. MCA NOTICE (MILLS CALCULATED USING PRIOR YEAR TAXABLE VALUE):

Fund	<u>23-24 Actual Levies</u>		<u>24-25 Projections</u>				Est. Annual Tax Impact \$100K home	Est. Annual Tax Impact \$200K home
	\$	Mills	\$	Mills	Change \$	Change Mills		
Transportation	\$ 1,114,363	17.65	\$ 1,569,443	\$ 25	\$ 455,080	7.20	\$ 9.72	\$ 19.44
Bus Depreciation	\$ 10,843	0.17	\$ 10,843	\$ 0	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Tuition	\$ 370,221	5.86	\$ 575,000	\$ 9	\$ 204,779	3.25	\$ 4.39	\$ 8.78
Adult Ed	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -
Technology	\$ 100,000	1.58	\$ 100,000	\$ 2	\$ -	(0.02)	\$ (0.03)	\$ (0.06)
Building Reserve Permissive	\$ 124,823	1.98	\$ 123,740	\$ 2	\$ (1,083)	(0.02)	\$ (0.03)	\$ (0.06)
Grand Total	\$ 1,720,250	27.24	\$ 2,379,026	37.65	\$ 658,776	10.41	\$ 14.05	\$ 28.10

This notice must also document the District’s use of the Building Reserve State Major Maintenance levies and associated funding. This year, the District expects to use those proceeds to partially fund ongoing capital improvements approved by the Board on March 11, 2024 and operational costs of school safety. The District estimates this funding structure will generate approximately \$185,000 during the 2024-25 school year, with zero net cost increase from 2023-24 to the local taxpayers.

All estimates are based on the current year’s taxable value with no increase, as required by state law. If the District’s taxable value increases as expected, the mill and taxpayer cost increase will be less than presented here. These estimates are preliminary and changes are expected before the final budgets are set in August. Please contact the District Office at (406) 728-5626 if you have questions or need additional information. Therefore, the Hellgate Elementary School District No. 4, adopts the above notice of estimated changes in permissive levies for the 2024-2025 school year this 11th day of March 2024.

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

ACCEPT FISCAL AUDIT FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to accept the audit for the 2022-023 school year that was conducted by Mr. Donald Davies, CPA, PC and Lisa A. Petrescu, CPA (complete audit report is available on the district website as well as upon request). There was brief discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rod Sharkey, Tom Cook, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

TRACK COACHES CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of the following staff members to be track coaches for the 2023-22024 school year.

Head Coaches: Dale Asanovich and Adelle Donohue

Assistant Coaches: Shane Byers, Sammy Rasmussen, Taylor Nordby, Tyler Lind, Angela Piazzola and Emily Jones

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

APPROVE THE SCHOOL SUBSTITUTE LIST:

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Open Enrollment Update: 46 students currently have submitted applications

Successful completion of One Book, One Read Event: Superintendent Blakely provided an update of the success of the project. Will consider doing another project similar in the future

Hellgate Middle School Orchestra: The Orchestra played the National Anthem at the Men's Griz game on 2-22-24

Mass Band Festival March 13-14, 2024: Superintendent Blakely noted this was a success

Washington DC Trip update: 40 students/4 chaperones will be attending: Ms. Diehl, Ms. Capp, Ms. Guioni and Ms. Brandt

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports at this meeting.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Building 1: Chris Clevenger provided a brief overview of the upcoming events happening in Building 1: Spring orders, science fair, and field trips.

Building 2: Julia McCarthy-McLavery expressed her appreciation to everyone who helped make One Book One Community a success. She noted a few other upcoming events in Building 2.

Building 3: Tiffany Hobbs gave an update of activities in Building 3: Concert season has begun, Active 6 (YMCA program) field trips, and the new playground.

Building 4: Jamie Courville referenced his report in the Board Packet.

Special Education: Brendan Brown provided an update of the Special Education Department to the Trustees.

Curriculum: Erin Ellis presented an overview of the District's current curriculum and testing assessments that are in progress. She presented a DIBELS and MAP student data update.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Evaluation of Superintendent and District Clerk

Superintendent Blakely requested a closed session for the Superintendent and District Clerk evaluations. Board Chair McLaughlin granted the request and called for a closed session of the board, “The next matter to come before the Board for consideration is a personal matter and in this connection it has been determined as follows: (1) that the matter of individual privacy is involved, (2) that such privacy demands protection of the individual for the sake of reputation and otherwise that little, if anything could be gained by publicly disclosing the information to be discussed, & (3) that the demand of individual privacy, in this matter clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.” Guests were excused from the meeting. The Trsutees, Superintendent and District Clerk remained for the evaluations. The meeting was closed at 6:45 p.m.

Executive Session

The Board came out of executive session at 8:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk