

VARIANCES TO STANDARDS APPLICATION

Initial Application (two years)

Purpose: **ARM 10.55.604(1)** "A local board of trustees may apply to the Board of Public Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement a variance to a standard or a section of standards, excluding standards stating statutory criteria, standards pertaining to educator licensure or endorsement, and content standards as defined by the Board of Public Education and provided in guidance from the Superintendent of Public Instruction."

DUE DATES (check one)

- First semester implementation; first Monday in March
 Second semester implementation; first Monday in July
-

COUNTY: Missoula

DISTRICT: Hellgate Elementary School District

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Intermediate School/Grades 4-6

1. Standard(s) for which a variance is requested, e.g., 10.55.709. If there is a program delivery standard, be sure to list it as well, e.g., 10.55.1801.

10.55.709 (Library Media Services K-12)

- 2. Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.**

At the February 13, 2023 regularly scheduled school board meeting for the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees, in an open meeting format, school trustees, school administrators, teachers, and classified school personnel, as well as local community stakeholders (parents as well as taxpayers) were provided the opportunity to hear the school district's position on why the variance request was being put forth as well as given the opportunity to engage in conversation on the merits of that request. See the attached school board meeting agenda as well as the unofficial school board meeting.

- 3. Provide evidence that local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.**

At the February 13, 2023 regularly scheduled school board meeting for the Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees, in an open meeting format, school trustees, school administrators, teachers, and classified school personnel, as well as local community stakeholders (parents as well as taxpayers) were provided the opportunity to hear the school district's position on why the variance request was being put forth as well as given the opportunity to engage in conversation on the merits of that request. See the attached school board meeting agenda as well as the unofficial school board meeting.

4. **Attach Board of Trustee meeting minutes that show the Board of Trustees adopted the application for a variance at an official, properly noticed meeting.**
5. **Describe the variance requested.**

Hellgate Elementary is respectfully requesting that the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Board of Public Education grant the school district a variance to standard 10.55.709 (Library Media Services K-12).

Currently, the school district, for its 1,505 K-8 students, has two certified librarians on staff, both who have their master's degrees, as well as two library para-professionals. One of the paraprofessionals has been a long-time 2nd grade teacher and requested to work in the library, as she is interested in pursuing her library endorsement. The other paraprofessional is a long-time employee of the school district who has held several classified employment positions in the school district.

Hellgate Elementary does understand that, when looking at the face of standard 10.55.709, our current library staffing arrangement is not what the standard states. However, the school district also believes that Hellgate Elementary is unique compared to other Montana

6. **Provide a statement of the mission and goals of this proposed variance.**

As with all things that Hellgate Elementary embarks on with respect to the education of its K-8 students, it is the mission of the school district to provide an educational learning environment that supports and sustains academic achievement, academic excellence, and life-long learning for all students. In partnership, is the vision of the school district that each student be actively involved in their learning, motivated for the future, and prepared to successfully embrace future opportunities and meet future academic, social, and emotional challenges.

Hellgate Elementary believes that its current library staffing configuration with two licensed and endorsed librarians working hand-in-hand with two library paraprofessionals, all on one campus, and collaboratively helping each other in all buildings whenever the need arises, keeps the school district true to its mission and vision.

Due to the fact that we are an independent elementary school district, we have the ability to be flexible in space and staff utilization as well as be supportive of staff collaboration, integration of content, and application of new concepts in safe and inviting space for students. We have a robust technological infrastructure in place in each school, as well as in each school library, that allows for the multiple configurations to become the constant

7. List specific measurable objectives that demonstrate the proposed variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).

I believe that the accreditation standards, including those involving library media specialist standards per enrollment numbers, have been put in place to maximize opportunities to enhance student achievement. Hellgate Elementary certainly does not object to the rationale behind the standards as they have been crafted. However, the current approach does not take into account the unique features that exist in various school districts across the state of Montana. Especially, for a school district like Hellgate Elementary where all of our educational units are located on one campus, much like a small college or a community college schematic design. Thus, the reason the school district is asking for a variance to the library media specialist standard.

By any reasonable measure, Hellgate Elementary students compete and compare favorably with other Montana students in terms of academic, social, and emotional achievement and development. On the academic side, Hellgate Elementary students achieve at a high rate in comparison to other Montana students whether the comparisons be on the Smarter Balanced Assessment or on local assessments, such as the NWEA Measurement of Academic Progress, DIBELS, or EdReady program assessments.

On the social and emotional learning front, Hellgate Elementary, with its current professional educator staffing program, has been a leader in developing and

8. What data or evidence will be gathered to document progress toward meeting the measurable objectives?

Hellgate Elementary will utilize quantitative data gathered from a variety of assessments to document progress toward meeting measurable objectives in terms of student academic achievement. Assessments including the Smarter Balanced Assessment and our local assessments of the NWEA Measurement of Academic Progress, DIBELS, MobyMax, Fast Forward program assessments, and the Montana Digital Academy EdReady program assessments will be utilized. In addition, authentic classroom assessments will be used to gather the necessary documentation to indicate whether or not the school district is meeting its district measureable goals. With regards to qualitative data, the school district will gather necessary information from the administration of the school district's Student School Community Perception survey which will seek to measure student feelings, perceptions, and comfort levels as a student in the school community.

Again, the school district is looking for a two year variance to the standard in order to continue with its current library staffing pattern, which allow the school district the time to assess its staffing input patterns in relations to its student academic and social emotional development outputs and adjust accordingly based on the results of its quantitative and qualitative student data.

9. Describe how and why the proposed variance would be:

a. Workable.

The school district, comprised of 1,505 K-8 students, has two certified librarians on staff, both with master's degree, as well as two library para-professionals. One of the paraprofessionals has been a long-time 2nd grade teacher in the school district and requested to work in the library as she is interested in pursuing her library endorsement. The other paraprofessional has held several classified employment positions within the school district. At this point in time, the school district believes that the staffing arrangement has proven to be manageable, effective, and efficient in meeting the school districts library specialist needs.

Respectfully, Hellgate Elementary does understand that, when looking at the face of standard 10.55.709, our current library staffing arrangement is not what the standard states. However, the school district also believes, as previously stated, that Hellgate Elementary is unique compared to other Montana school districts and other school building configurations. Currently, all four educational buildings that house students are located on a 43 acre campus, with most of the campus area being devoted to green space. All four buildings that house children for educational purposes are separated by no more than 100 to 150 yards. Therefore, Hellgate Elementary is asking for the

b. Educationally sound.

Hellgate Elementary believes that its current library specialist staffing configuration is educationally sound for those students in grades K through 3rd, which are the grades most impacted by the staffing pattern.

As previously stated, Hellgate Elementary will use quantitative data gathered from a variety of assessments in order to document progress toward meeting measurable objectives in terms of student academic achievement. Assessments such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment and our local assessments such as the NWEA Measurement of Academic Progress, DIBELS, MobyMax, Fast Forward program assessments, and the Montana Digital Academy EdReady program assessments provide a significant amount of data. In addition, authentic classroom assessments will be utilized to gather the necessary documentation to indicate whether or not the school district is meeting its district measureable goals. In addition, on the qualitative side, the school district will gather necessary data from the administration of the school district's Student School Community Perception survey which will seek to measure student feelings, perceptions, and comfort levels as a student in the school community.

- c. Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.2101.**

Separate from the variance request for standard 10.55.709, Hellgate Elementary is in compliance with all other Montana Office of Public Instruction and Montana Board of Public Education program accreditation standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.2101. Moreover, the school district is committed to ensuring that its library specialist staffing configuration not diminish the non-negotiable core value that district curriculum be aligned with state content program standards and state content-specific grade level learning progressions.

- d. Where applicable, aligned with content standards under ARM Chapters 53 and 54.**

Apart from the variance request for standard 10.55.709, Hellgate Elementary is in compliance with all other Montana Office of Public Instruction and Montana Board of Public Education content accreditation standards under ARM Chapter 53 (Content Standards) and 54 (Content Standards and Performance Descriptors) and is committed to ensuring that its library specialist staffing configuration positively interfaces across all curriculum areas to provide the necessary educational support to maximize opportunities for Hellgate Elementary students to be academically, socially, and emotionally successful.

Question 5:

Hellgate Elementary is respectfully requesting that the Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Board of Public Education grant the school district a variance to standard 10.55.709 (Library Media Services K-12).

Currently, the school district, for its 1,505 K-8 students, has two certified librarians on staff, both who have their master's degrees, as well as two library para-professionals. One of the paraprofessionals has been a long-time 2nd grade teacher and requested to work in the library, as she is interested in pursuing her library endorsement. The other paraprofessional is a long-time employee of the school district who has held several classified employment positions in the school district.

Hellgate Elementary does understand that, when looking at the face of standard 10.55.709, our current library staffing arrangement is not what the standard states. However, the school district also believes that Hellgate Elementary is unique compared to other Montana school districts and other school building configurations. Currently, all four educational buildings that house students are located on a 43 acre campus, with most of the campus area being devoted to green space. All four buildings that house children for educational purposes are separated by no more than 100 to 150 yards. Theoretically, if the buildings were connected by a walkway, a breeze way, or by brick and mortar, the school district could conceivably look at standard 10.55.709 and be much close

Question 6:

As with all things that Hellgate Elementary embarks on with respect to the education of its K-8 students, it is the mission of the school district to provide an educational learning environment that supports and sustains academic achievement, academic excellence, and life-long learning for all students. In partnership, is the vision of the school district that each student be actively involved in their learning, motivated for the future, and prepared to successfully embrace future opportunities and meet future academic, social, and emotional challenges.

Hellgate Elementary believes that its current library staffing configuration with two licensed and endorsed librarians working hand-in-hand with two library paraprofessionals, all on one campus, and collaboratively helping each other in all buildings whenever the need arises, keeps the school district true to its mission and vision.

Due to the fact that we are an independent elementary school district, we have the ability to be flexible in space and staff utilization as well as be supportive of staff collaboration, integration of content, and application of new concepts in safe and inviting space for students. We have a robust technological infrastructure in place in each school, as well as in each school library, that allows for the quality of instruction to become the constant quantity and for time to become the variable quantity through smaller, more intimate learning environments.

Hellgate Elementary does not believe that its current library staffing configuration, placed into service because of our unique campus design, deters in any way from our successful educational philosophy of instruction. We begin each school year with an end product in mind in how we can best serve the need of students. Though our library solution may not fit the traditional description in standard 10.55.709,

our library solution has helped support two of the school district's non-negotiable core beliefs – (1) every child must meaningfully graduate from Hellgate Elementary, and (2) all of our students must have the skill set to find ways to succeed in the ever-changing global society and economy.

Question 7:

I believe that the accreditation standards, including those involving library media specialist standards per enrollment numbers, have been put in place to maximize opportunities to enhance student achievement. Hellgate Elementary certainly does not object to the rationale behind the standards as they have been crafted. However, the current approach does not take into account the unique features that exist in various school districts across the state of Montana. Especially, for a school district like Hellgate Elementary where all of our educational units are located on one campus, much like a small college or a community college schematic design. Thus, the reason the school district is asking for a variance to the library media specialist standard.

By any reasonable measure, Hellgate Elementary students compete and compare favorably with other Montana students in terms of academic, social, and emotional achievement and development. On the academic side, Hellgate Elementary students achieve at a high rate in comparison to other Montana students whether the comparisons be on the Smarter Balanced Assessment or on local assessments, such as the NWEA "Measurement of Academic Progress", DIBELS, or EdReady program assessments.

On the social and emotional learning front, Hellgate Elementary, with its current professional educator staffing program, has been a leader in developing and promoting an educational delivery system that takes into account three non-negotiable principles to assist our students in developing into emotionally healthy and productive human beings: (1) we believe that equality of educational opportunity is a fundamental right for all children; (2) we demonstrate, on a daily basis, the moral and political will to do the right thing by children, all children; (3) we strive to understand both the science of teaching and the art of teaching by building positive connections and relationships with our students.

Question 8:

Hellgate Elementary will utilize quantitative data gathered from a variety of assessments to document progress toward meeting measurable objectives in terms of student academic achievement. Assessments including the Smarter Balanced Assessment and our local assessments of the NWEA "Measurement of Academic Progress", DIBELS, MobyMax, Fast Forward program assessments, and the Montana Digital Academy "EdReady" program assessments will be utilized. In addition, authentic classroom assessments will be used to gather the necessary documentation to indicate whether or not the school district is meeting its district measurable goals. With regards to qualitative data, the school district will gather necessary information from the administration of the school district's "Student School Community Perception" survey which will seek to measure student feelings, perceptions, and comfort levels as a student in the school community.

Again, the school district is looking for a two year variance to the standard in order to continue with its current library staffing pattern, which allow the school district the time to assess its staffing input patterns in relations to its student academic and social emotional development outputs and adjust accordingly based on the results of its quantitative and qualitative student data.

Question 9 a:

The school district, comprised of 1,505 K-8 students, has two certified librarians on staff, both with master's degree, as well as two library para-professionals. One of the paraprofessionals has been a long-time 2nd grade teacher in the school district and requested to work in the library as she is interested in pursuing her library endorsement. The other paraprofessional has held several classified employment positions within the school district. At this point in time, the school district believes that the staffing arrangement has proven to be manageable, effective, and efficient in meeting the school districts library specialist needs.

Respectfully, Hellgate Elementary does understand that, when looking at the face of standard 10.55.709, our current library staffing arrangement is not what the standard states. However, the school district also believes, as previously stated, that Hellgate Elementary is unique compared to other Montana school districts and other school building configurations. Currently, all four educational buildings that house students are located on a 43 acre campus, with most of the campus area being devoted to green space. All four buildings that house children for educational purposes are separated by no more than 100 to 150 yards. Therefore, Hellgate Elementary is asking for the variance to standard 10.55.709 not because it objects to the accreditation standard for library specialists, but because of its unique physical demographic characteristic of having all of its educational buildings located on one campus, much in the pattern of a community college or a small college campus.

Question 9 b:

Hellgate Elementary believes that its current library specialist staffing configuration is educationally sound for those students in grades K through 3rd, which are the grades most impacted by the staffing pattern.

As previously stated, Hellgate Elementary will use quantitative data gathered from a variety of assessments in order to document progress toward meeting measurable objectives in terms of student academic achievement. Assessments such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment and our local assessments such as the NWEA "Measurement of Academic Progress", DIBELS, MobyMax, Fast Forward program assessments, and the Montana Digital Academy "EdReady" program assessments provide a significant amount of data. In addition, authentic classroom assessments will be utilized to gather the necessary documentation to indicate whether or not the school district is meeting its district measurable goals. In addition, on the qualitative side, the school district will gather necessary data from the administration of the school district's "Student School Community Perception" survey which will seek to measure student feelings, perceptions, and comfort levels as a student in the school community.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Tom McLaughlin

Board Chair Signature: *Tom McLaughlin* Date: 2-15-23

Superintendent Name: Dr. Molly Blakely

Superintendent Signature: *Molly Blakely* Date 2-20-23

Mail the signed form to:

**Accreditation and Educator Preparation Division
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501**

OPI USE ONLY

Superintendent of Public Instruction: _____ Date _____

Approve Deny

Board of Public Education Chair _____ Date _____

Approve Deny

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Tom McLaughlin

Board Chair Signature: *Tom McLaughlin* Date: 2-15-23

Superintendent Name: Dr. Molly Blakely

Superintendent Signature: *Molly Blakely* Date: 2-20-23

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Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501**

OPI USE ONLY

Superintendent of Public Instruction: *Elsie Arntzen* Date: 5/2/23
 Approve Deny

Board of Public Education Chair: *Madalyn Zunlan* Date: 5/12/23
 Approve Deny

early retirement incentive offer. There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

ACCEPT CERTIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation of Mr. Tom Keiser, 6th grade teacher at the conclusion of the 2022/2023 school year. There was a no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Diane Beck. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

CLASSIFIED RETIREMENT INCENTIVE CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to offer a one-time retirement agreement opportunity for Mr. Bruce Parks, Hellgate Elementary Director of Facilities/Maintenance Supervisor in accordance with the district's early retirement incentive. Mr. Bruce Parks has worked for Hellgate Elementary for the past 19 1/2 years and I am respectfully requesting that the school board approve the same insurance package offered to certified staff. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE SCIENCE FAIR COACHES:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Ms. Devon Honzel and Ms. Laci Willett to be the coordinators of the Science Fair for grades 2 and 3 and Ms. Katie Matthews for grades 4-6 for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the item. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CERTIFIED STAFF HIRING SY 23-24:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Mr. Lucas Bewley to conduct his school psychologist internship at Hellgate Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was brief discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CLASSIFIED STAFF RESIGNATION:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the resignation of Alexandria Hanson, paraprofessional, effective January 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the resignation of Erika Kirst, food service employee, effective January 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to accept the resignation of Mr. Bruce Parks as the Director of Facilities/Maintenance Supervisor at Hellgate Elementary effective June 9, 2023. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE CLASSIFIED STAFF HIRES:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Rebekah Mickel, paraprofessional, effective January 16, 2023. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the hiring of Megan Matteo, paraprofessional, effective February 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE BUS ROUTE MILEAGE CHANGE SY 22-23:

A motion was made by Rod Sharkey to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve the adjusted Hellgate Transportation school bus route mileage for the 2022/2023 school year (see board packet for full details). The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER ACCREDITATION VARIANCE REQUEST FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL (BLDG 3):

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to authorize the superintendent to submit an accreditation variance waiver (for two years) to the Montana Office of Public Instruction to standard 10.55.604 (Variances to Standards) and 10.55.709 (Library Media Services, K-12)(see packet for full detail). The motion was seconded by Rod Sharkey. There was brief discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT FOR SY 22-23:

A motion was made by Lori Christensen to approve the superintendent's recommendation to offer an Individual Transportation Contract (TR-4) to the parent/guardian of a student who requires transportation per the student's IEP. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was brief discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER MTSBA MEMBERSHIP FOR SY 23-24:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the superintendent's recommendation to authorize Hellgate Elementary to renew the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA) membership for the 2023-2024 school

year. The annual membership dues for Hellgate Elementary to renew membership with MTSBA will be \$9,453.00, a 2.3% increase from last year's dues. The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. There was no discussion on the topic. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER SY 23-24 CALENDAR:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the superintendent's recommendation to approve one of four calendar options for the 2023-2024 academic year (options attached and data from staff survey attached). The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. There was discussion on the topic related to the 4 options presented. Katy Reddy spoke on behalf of the HEEA and the teachers' feedback. Erin Ellis spoke on behalf of the Calendar Committee. Superintendent Blakely answered questions related to the 4 options presented. The adopted calendar was **HESD OPTION #1** (see full board packet for detail). Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE SUBSTITUTE LIST

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the proposed substitute list for the 2022-2023 school year. There was no discussion on the item.

Afzal, Zaima	Schatz, Sara
Keeling, Malia	Guga, Anna
Akane, McKenna	Smith, Gary "Scooter"
Kerns, Drue	Harper, Joshua
Arlint, Elisabeth	Smith, Michelle
Loyson, Shelley	Harper, Zachary
Arnold, Fred	Spletto, April
McLaverty, Annie	Harris, Laurie
Curry, Taina	Vidlak, Jaaden
Merkley, Maria	Hitt, Heather
Deden, Alexis	Werner, Tara
Miller, Michelle	Johnson, Candy
Dennis, Sarah	Whitney, Kristen
Minckler, Kimberly	Johnston, Lexi
Devlin, Sherry	Woods, Hilary
Morton, Melissa	Kahle, Kim
Erskine, Sandra	Kallas, Kayla
Polanchek, David	
Finnerty, Ashley	Total Count: 38
Powers, Desiree	
Grados, Shelley	

The motion was seconded by Kate Walker. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Diane Beck, Tom Cook, Rod Sharkey, Kate Walker and Lori Christensen. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Missoula Children's Theatre presenting Hercules, March 6-10, 2023 at Hellgate Elementary: Superintendent Blakely discussed the upcoming theatre presentation and noted students and staff would be participating in the production.

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) January 30-31, 2023: A company from Helena that completed a walk-through of the campus' safety protocols. REMS will provide Superintendent Blakely with a full report once completed.

Innovative Educational Program Tax Credit, \$65,000: Hellgate Elementary received donations from four very generous community members for a total of \$65,000. These funds will be allocated towards technology improvements. Superintendent Blakely provided a background of the Tax Credit program.

5 Valleys Honor Band; \$2,100 grant: Superintendent Blakely provided a background of the opportunity. Kristen Guidoni spoke on behalf of the program: 100 students in total auditioned, 45 were selected, and half of the selection were Hellgate Elementary students.

Robotics Program: There was recognition of Jordan Capp and great efforts put forth related to the Robotics Tournament that was held at Hellgate Elementary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee Reports discussed.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Trustees reviewed the monthly report of building Principals and listened to updates and staff recognitions from Building Principals: Julie McCarthy-McLavery (Building 2), Chris Clevenger (Building 3), and Damian Droessler (Building 1).

NEXT MEETING DATE:

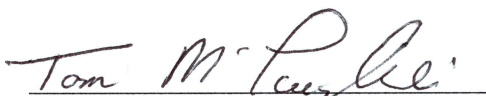
The next regular meeting of the Board will be March 13th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.


PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tiffany Manthie spoke on behalf of the PTA. Tiffany provided an update of PTA projects that are on-going: STEM night/Planetarium presentation at the end of March, the Talent Show in April, and the Fun Run in May.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.


Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair


Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk