



HELLGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DISTRICT NO. 4
2385 FLYNN LANE
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59808
(406)728-5626 FAX (406)728-5636

September 12, 2019

City Development Services
Attn: Ms. Jenny Baker
Missoula City Hall
435 Ryman Street
Missoula, Montana 59802

Dear Ms. Baker:

It has come to my attention that periodically comments are made about Hellgate Elementary and the school district's ability or lack of ability to accommodate more students that may enroll in the school district because of the proposed re-zoning of the 57.5 acres east of Flynn Lane.

As Superintendent of Hellgate Elementary, I believe the following to be true in terms of student enrollment and the school district's ability to accommodate more students. Currently, the school district enrollment stands at 1,545 students (Kindergarten through 8th Grade). The completion of the new middle school, that opened on August 28, 2019, has increased the school district's capacity to comfortably accommodate another 250 students which would push the student enrollment to approximately 1,800 students (Kindergarten through 8th Grade). If "push came to shove", the school district, on its 43 acre campus, could accommodate an additional 200 students which would push the school district's student enrollment to around 2,000 students.

Should student enrollment approach 2,000 students, thus placing approximately 500 students in each building, it would be crowded. No question about that. However, the school district has done this in the past, before the new middle school was built, with each of the three school buildings housing close to 500 students in each building. Ideally, I would like the school district to stay within the 1,800 student level but there is room to accommodate more students above that number, if necessary.

Should you need any further information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me at (406) 728-5626.

Sincerely,

Douglas Reisig, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Hellgate Elementary
2385 Flynn Lane
Missoula, Montana 59808