

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees
Special Meeting May 21st, 2025
12:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in special session on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. The meeting was held in person. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Tom McLaughlin. Trustees in attendance were: Tom McLaughlin, Tom Cook, Kallie Gatzemeier and Rich Thornock. Trustees absent were Rod Sharkey, Lori Christensen, and Jacquelyn Ryan. Superintendent Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating were Dana Schatz (Admin Assistant) and Brendan Brown (Special Education Director). Scott Rouse and Beth Herron were present at the meeting as incoming trustees. There were up to 10 total guests/participants in the meeting in-person.

CANVASS OF ELECTION RESULTS

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees ran two voted levies in the May 6th 2025 School Election: General Fund (\$200,000) and Building Reserve Fund-Safety and Security (\$271,900). The voters disapproved the two levies. Four candidates filed for the three seats open for the May 6th, 2025 School Election. Current trustees and the Election Administrator/District Clerk reviewed and certified the Canvass of Votes and Declaration of Results presented by the Missoula County Elections office declaring Beth Herron, Scott Rouse, and Tom Cook as the three candidates with the highest number of votes. Superintendent Blakely swore in the three trustees for their three-year term.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Superintendent Blakely called for nominations for Board Chairman. Tom Cook nominated Tom McLaughlin. The nomination was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. There were no other nominations. Mr. McLaughlin was declared elected as Board Chairman.

Superintendent Blakely called for nominations for Board Vice-Chairman. Tom McLaughlin nominated Rich Thornock. The nomination was seconded by Tom Cook. There were no other nominations. Rich Thornock was declared elected as Board Vice-Chairman.

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the re-organization of the Hellgate Board of Trustees effective May 21, 2025. The motion was seconded by Rich Thornock. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Kallie Gatzemeier, Beth Herron, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve the Re-Hire of District Clerk/Business Manager:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to re-hire Ms. Justine Reese as the Hellgate Elementary District Clerk/Business Manager for a one-year term, effective May 21, 2025. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Tom Cook, Beth Herron, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at the meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the board will be June 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/District Clerk