

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting July 14, 2025

6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, July 14th, 2025. The meeting was held in-person. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Tom McLaughlin. Trustees participating were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Beth Herron, Kallie Gatzemeier, and Scott Rouse. Trustee Jacquelyn Ryan was absent. Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating included, Erin Ellis (Curriculum Director). Community members included Megan Powell (Parent), and Frank Hughes (Parent). There were up to 11 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Hughest formerly requested the Trustees consider his out of district students for the upcoming school year.

HEEA

There was no HEEA update.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

There was no recognition at the meeting.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING 6-09-2025

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the June 9th, 2025 regular meeting. There was no discussion on the topic. The motion was seconded by Scott Rouse. 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.

REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS-JUNE 2025

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the June 2025 claims. There were clarifying questions from the Trustees. The motion was seconded by Beth Herron. 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.

REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for June 2025.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Kallie Gatzemeier to approve the June 2025 Student Activities Report. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Beth Herron. 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.

CERTIFIED HIRING CONSIDERATIONS:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of Ms. Tatum Egan, 6th grade teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Scott Rouse. 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.

RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Tom Cook to approve the resignation of Ms. Barbara Naperalsky, paraprofessional,

effective June 12, 2025 and Mr. Porter Martin-Weston, custodian, effective July 9, 2025 (letters included in official 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, Rich Thornock, Tom Cook, Kallie Gatzemeier, Beth Herron, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

HIRING OF CLASSIFIED STAFF CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of the following for the 2025-2026 school year: Ms. Darla Heist, part-time roving substitute; Ms. Aubrey Brady, full-time roving substitute; Ms. Tansi Daugherty, paraprofessional. There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Beth Herron. 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.

COMPENSATED ABSENCE FUND TRANSFER:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to authorize the District Clerk to transfer up to \$49,734.62 to fund 121 (Compensated Absence Fund) from fund 101 (General Fund) effective June 30, 2025 (full detail available in official board packet). There were clarifying questions addressed. The motion was seconded by Scott Rouse. 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.

MULTIDISTRICT FUND TRANSFER CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to authorize the District Clerk to transfer up to \$175,000 to fund 182 (Interlocal Agreement Fund) from fund 101 (General Fund) effective June 30, 2025. Background: **20-3-363, MCA.** Hellgate Elementary and Frenchtown School District entered into a Multidistrict Agreement Contract effective terms beginning July 1, 2024 and expiring June 30, 2027. There was brief discussion and clarifying questions answered regarding the item. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. 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.

OPEN ENROLLMENT ACCEPTANCE:

A motion was made by Kallie Gatzemeier to approve the following students for enrollment at Hellgate Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year (list available in board packet). There were clarifying questions addressed. The motion was seconded by Beth Herron. 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.

OPEN ENROLLMENT DENIED/WITHDRAWN:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to deny the following students for enrollment at Hellgate Elementary for the 2025-2026 school year (list available in board packet). There were clarifying questions answered related to the timeline of the process. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. 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.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

AgWest Farm Credit Donation: The local AgWest Farm Credit donated \$3,600 to the Hellgate Garden Fund to support the project.

Rotary Club Donation: The local Rotary club hosted the In-Tune event and raised funds to donate to school music programs. They donated \$2,520 to the Hellgate music department to offset instrument rental fee costs.

Property and Liability Insurance: There was a decrease of 3% for the School Year 25-26 Property and Liability Insurance expense. Superintendent Blakely thanked Zach Cain for doing an outstanding job maintaining the

grounds, building and equipment. Rich Thornock requested an inspection of a specific door in building three, that does not close well and may pose a safety risk.

Reunification Drill: On September 29th district staff will be participating in a Reunification Drill with the Missoula Airport.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports at the meeting.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Building 1: Absent

Building 2: Absent

Building 3: Absent

Building 4: Absent

Special Education: Absent

Curriculum: No Report

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting and annual budget meeting of the Board will be August 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk