

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting November 10, 2025

6:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in regular session on Monday, November 10th, 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, Beth Herron, Kallie Gatzemeier, Tom Cook and Scott Rouse. Trustee Jacquelyn Ryan was absent. Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating included, Brendan Brown (Special Services Director), Tiffany Hobbs (Principal Building 3), Haley Patzner (Dean of Students, Building 3), Brent Heist (Principal Building 1), Jamie Courville (Principal Building 4), Julie McCarthy-McLavery (Principal Building 2). There were no community members in attendance. There were up to 14 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HEEA

There was no report at this meeting.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

The Board recognized Jamie Courville as he participated in the National Principal Conference in Washington DC.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Trustees reviewed the monthly newsletter from OPI.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING 10-13-2025

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the minutes from the October 13th, 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, Kallie Gatzemeier, Beth Herron, Tom Cook, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF THE WARRANTS-OCTOBER 2025

A motion was made by Scott Rouse to approve the October 2025 claims. There were clarifying questions from the Trustees. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Beth Herron, Tom Cook, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

REVIEW OF BUDGET REPORTS

Trustees reviewed the budget reports for October 2025.

REVIEW OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the October 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, Kallie Gatzemeier, Beth Herron, Tom Cook, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

RESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Beth Herron the retirement of: Jeanne Buckley, paraprofessional, effective November 30, 2025 and resignation of Ann Pfaff, custodian, effective November 7, 2025 (letters attached). There was no discussion on the item. The motion was seconded by Tom Cook. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Beth Herron, Tom Cook, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

HIRING OF COACHING STAFF CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Rich Thornock to approve the hiring of the following; Reya Kanyange, custodian, effective October 21, 2025; and Mark Brady, custodian, effective November 10, 2025. 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, Kallie Gatzemeier, Beth Herron, Tom Cook, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

HIRING OF CERTIFIED STAFF CONSIDERATION:

A motion was made by Tom Cook motion to approve the hiring of Ms. Lindsey DePuydt to conduct WIDA testing, effective November 1, 2025. There was brief discussion on the topic including clarification on significant changes. The motion was seconded by Kallie Gatzemeier. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Kallie Gatzemeier, Beth Herron, Tom Cook, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SUBSTITUTE LIST FOR THE 25-26 SCHOOL YEAR:

A motion was made by Kallie Gatzemeier to approve new substitutes for the 2025-2026 school year: Emily Covington, Millie Belcourt, Stella Liska, Barb Naperalsky, Mari Neibergs-Sub Nurse, Jessica Reichert, Sub Nurse. 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, Kallie Gatzemeier, Beth Herron, Tom Cook, and Scott Rouse. Voting against the motion were none. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Update on County Banking: Superintendent Blakely and Justine provided an update of the next steps in the process.

Criminal History Record Audit: The District just completed a Criminal History Record Audit and passed with no concerns.

Survey Results from Bridged Health Alliance: Superintendent Blakely reviewed the staff survey results gauging interest in the new State Health Insurance Trust for school districts. Bridged has announced Allegiance was awarded the third-party administrator contract for the Trust. Bridged is requiring a commitment to the Trust by mid-December 2025 with an effective date of July 1, 2026.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports at the meeting.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS

Building 1: Brent Heist reported that special education staff continue to do excellent work. The school has welcomed a significant number of foster students recently.

Building 2: Julie McCarthy-McLavery shared that things are going well but busy, with parent-teacher conferences coming up. Veterans Day is tomorrow, classroom lessons will be centered around that observance.

Building 3: Tiffany Hobbs noted that the 5th grade classes visited the public library and the Missoula Art Museum and represented the school very well. About 40 students participated in the Griz Kid program and attended a Griz football game recently. Staff are preparing for upcoming parent-teacher conferences.

Building 4: Jamie Courville noted fall sports just finished up. The Missoula Repertory Theatre performed Jabberdoggy for students. MAST testing is nearing completion.

Special Education: No update

Curriculum: No update.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be December 8th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk