

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees

Special Meeting April 21, 2026

12:00 p.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in special session on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. The meeting was held in-person. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Tom McLaughlin. Trustees participating were: Rich Thornock, Jacquelyn Ryan, Beth Herron, Tom Cook and Scott Rouse. Trustee Kallie Gatzemeier was absent. Superintendent Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating included Brent Heist (Building 1 Principal), Tiffany Hobbs (Building 3 Principal), Julie McCarthy-McLverty (Building 2 Principal), Jamie Courville (Building 4 Principal), Zach Cain (Facilities Director), Garry Glenn (Maintenance), Kelsey Salmela (Payroll Clerk), Salisha Tennison (SRO), Diane Thornock (paraprofessional). Community members in attendance included: Kim Bennett (community member). There were up to 18 total guests/participants in the meeting, in-person.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Thornock read a letter addressed to the board of Trustees.

HEEA

No update.

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

There was no recognition at this meeting.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Roof Update: Building 3-Intermediate Grade Building: Zach Cain provided an update on the suspected source of a building leak and reviewed preventative measures that have been implemented in Building 3. He reported that ServPro will complete mitigation work during the summer and confirmed there is currently no moisture present in the walls. An industrial hygienist has been contacted and will conduct an inspection and air quality test to ensure the safety of the occupants. He noted there is no immediate concern and emphasized that the issue will be addressed through a structured, multi-year funding and recovery plan. He also provided an overview of air quality conditions, stating that each room is equipped with an air purifier and the affected area is fully isolated. Efforts to locate the source of the leak in Building 3 are ongoing. He presented visuals of the space that had been impacted by the roof leak. Gary Glenn reported the leak has been ongoing, dating back 5+ years.

Superintendent Blakely addressed the process of mold and moisture remediation and acknowledged there is water damage and the source is to be determined. Board discussion followed. Rich Thornock expressed concern regarding transparency and questioned why the issue is now being addressed. Superintendent Blakely responded with the proposed plan to replace the roof and remediate the water damage maintaining that transparency has been the objective and priority throughout the planning process.

Additional conversation occurred between the Board and Superintendent. A second air quality test was requested, Scott Rouse recommended waiting for the inspection and air quality report before determining whether additional reporting or action is needed.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next regular meeting of the Board will be May 11, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kim Bennett commented on the water damage presented during discussion.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/Clerk