

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees
Special Meeting May 18, 2026
11:30 a.m.

OPENING

The Board of Trustees of Hellgate Elementary School District #4 met in special session on Monday, May 18, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was held in person. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman, Tom McLaughlin. Trustees in attendance were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock, Beth Herron, Scott Rouse, Kallie Gatzemeier (virtual), Jacquelyn Ryan. Trustees absent were Tom Cook. Superintendent Molly Blakely and District Clerk Justine Reese were present for the meeting. District staff participating were Anne Maloney (Admin Assistant). There were up to 9 total guests/participants in the meeting.

CANVASS OF ELECTION RESULTS

Hellgate Elementary Board of Trustees had two trustee seats up for election in 2026. Three candidates filed for the two seats open for the May 5th, 2026 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 Kallie Gatzemeier and Jacquelyn Ryan as the two candidates with the highest number of votes. Superintendent Blakely swore in Jacquelyn Ryan for the three-year term, and Kallie Gatzemeier was sworn in in person on May 22, 2026.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Superintendent Blakely called for nominations for Board Chairman. Jacquelyn Ryan nominated Tom McLaughlin. The nomination was seconded by Beth Herron. 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 Jacquelyn Ryan. The nomination was seconded by Scott Rouse. Scott Rouse noted for the minutes that nomination was based on merit of the nominated trustee alone. There were no other nominations. Jacquelyn Ryan was declared elected as Board Vice-Chairman.

A motion was made by Scott Rouse to approve the re-organization of the Hellgate Board of Trustees effective May 18, 2026. The motion was seconded by Beth Herron. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock Jacquelyn Ryan, 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 18, 2026. The motion was seconded by Scott Rouse. Voting in favor of the motion were: Tom McLaughlin, Rich Thornock Jacquelyn Ryan, Kallie Gatzemeier, 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 8, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Tom McLaughlin, Board Chair

Justine Reese, Business Manager/District Clerk