

SOUTHWESTERN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
March 11, 2026

Members Present: John Blue, Jonathan Deater, Blake Newkirk, Dustin Simpson, Brad Stamper, Derrek Tennell, and Daryl Thomas
Member Not Present:

I. Call to Order

A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

Mr. Deater called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Southwestern Consolidated Administration building. He led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

B. Welcome, introductions and recognitions

Dr. Wilkins welcomed everyone in attendance.

Mr. Tindall recognized the Jr/Sr High School students of the month. These students included Isabella Purdue from the Junior High School And Rylee Williams from the High School.

Mrs. Haehl recognized the students of the month from the Elementary School. These students included:

Avianna Williams, Caroline Coffey, Kaiden Carlton, Anthony Whitehouse, Colby Routier, Alaina Hansford, and Tristan Whitehouse.

II. Agenda Modifications

Adding a field trip for the band to under new business.

III. Public Comments

Mr. Kyle Barlow spoke to the board members concerning the current vacancy in the chemistry department. He stated that he felt the online courses currently being used for chemistry classes was not sufficient to prepare students for post secondary education. Mr. Barlow asked for parents to be kept informed about the future of the chemistry department. Mr. Edward Comstock introduced himself to the board and community members. He stated that he was running for office at the state house in district 73. Mr. Comstock wanted to let everyone know that he supported small schools and was very impressed with Southwestern Consolidated School District.

IV. Consent Items and Claims

A. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting

B. Approval of accounts payable vouchers

Mrs. Newkirk moved and Mr. Tennell seconded both items A and B. Carried 7-0.

V. Business and Financial Reports

A. Financial and Cafeteria Reports

B. Extracurricular Account Report

Mr. Deater informed the board that the financial reports were in their packets. No questions were asked regarding the report.

VI. Hearing on Superintendent's Contract as published in the paper February 28, 2026.

Dr. Wilkins discussed the changes being made to his current contract.

A. Public Comments

None

VII. New Business

A. Recommend the acceptance of donations and grants.

- a. Donation from Mt. Auburn Christian Church in the amount of \$50 for the Spartan Food Pantry.
- b. Donation from Treva Whitis in the amount of \$50 for the Spartan Food Pantry.
- c. Donation from Shelby County CO-OP in the amount of \$150 for FFA Department.
- d. Donation from Hope United Methodist Church in the amount of \$278 for the Spartan Food Pantry.
- e. Donation from SCUFFY in the amount of \$350 for Southwestern Elementary "Project Clothes for Kids."
- f. SWHS was awarded a Project Lead The Way startup grant for PLTW Biomedical Sciences Pathway in the amount of \$50,000 and will be paid in two installments of \$25,000 over the next two years.

Mr. Simpson moved and Mr. Tennell seconded. Carried 7-0.

B. Recommend to approve out of state field trip for Small Engines Team to go to Mid-America Trucking Show in Louisville, KY on 3/27/26.

Mr. Tennell moved and Mr. Stamper seconded. Carried 7-0.

C. Recommend to approve out of state field trip for 5-12 grade band, choir and spartanette members to go to Kings Island in Mason, OH on 5/27/26.

Mrs. Newkirk moved and Mr. Blue seconded. Carried 7-0.

Recommend approval on May 1, 2026 for the band to travel to Indiana State University and then to St. Louis for an overnight trip.

Mr. Tennell moved and Mr. Stamper seconded. Carried 7-0.

D. Recommend to approve payment to Tecton Construction Management (Quality Plumbing & Heating) in the amount of \$12,511.83 for Southwestern Consolidated GO Bond Project.

Mr. Tennell moved and Mr. Blue seconded. Carried 7-0.

E. Recommend to approve payment to Tecton Construction Management in the amount of \$20,300.00 for Southwestern Consolidated GO Bond Project.

Mrs. Newkirk moved and Mr. Stamper seconded. Carried 7-0.

F. Recommend to approve Out of District enrollment policy and form for 26-27 school year.

Mr. Simpson moved and Mr. Blue seconded. Carried 7-0.

G. Recommend approval of superintendent contract.

This is with the stipulation added that the superintendent will not receive an increase if the teachers do not receive an increase for that year.

Mr. Tennell moved and Mr. Blue seconded. Carried 7-0.

H. Other

Board members received a copy of the overtime report.

VIII. Reports and Presentations

None

IX. Personnel

A. Leaves/Resignations/Terminations

- a. Accept resignation of Angela Marquart effective 3/20/2026
Mrs. Newkirk moved and Mr. Tennell seconded. Carried 7-0.

B. Recommendations to Hire

None

IX. Superintendent Comments

Dr. Wilkins thanked Mr. Meredith for the recent update on the ILEARN ELA checkpoint scores. He stated that 33% of 8th graders are above proficiency and 28% are at proficient level. This means a 61% proficiency rating which is above state average. He thanked Mr. Oswalt for all of his hard work with these students.

Dr. Wilkins updated the board on the recent career fair that had been held in the fieldhouse with 26 vendors present. He stated that the students had been engaged and did a great job. He reported that the goal from Mrs. Stegner is to eventually reach 50 vendors. He thanked Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Dunigan for their help.

Dr. Wilkins had sent out a message concerning the Parent University videos that were available on parent square. These videos cover topics that could be useful to parents in navigating school information. He also mentioned that spring break would be the following week and that Friday March 13th would be an elearning day.

Dr. Wilkins offered condolences to the family of Nicole Mays. He thanked the entire Southwestern community for all of the help they had provided. He informed everyone that there would be fund raisers at both school buildings after spring break to help the family.



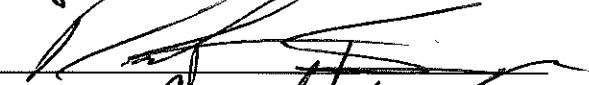
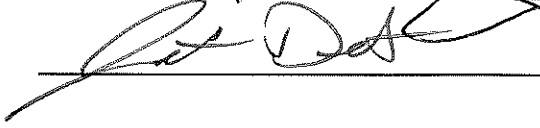
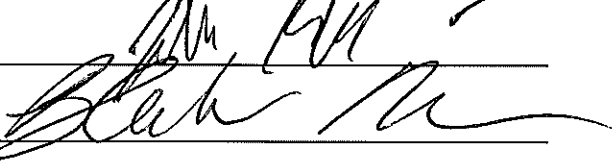
X. Board Member Comments

Mr. Thomas and Mr. Simpson offered condolences to the Mays family. Mr. Blue offered continued thoughts and prayers for the Mays family and support from the community and school district. Mrs. Newkirk stated that she was impressed with

how quickly the entire community reached out to help the Mays family during this time. She also stated that while at the career fair all of the vendors were impressed with the Southwestern students. Mrs. Newkirk thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Stamper, Mr. Tennell, and Mr. Deater offered their condolences to the Mays family. Mr. Deater also congratulated Dr. Wilkins on his new contract and thanked him for his hard work for the school district.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Deater adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

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