

SOUTHWESTERN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
April 15, 2026

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

**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 5:30 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 Briley Fix from the Junior High School and Ryan Wildman from the High School.

Mrs. Haehl recognized the students of the month from the Elementary School. These students included: Mia Crum, Emma Campbell, Cameron Simpson, Ellison Spangler, Selene Crum, Ryder Hansford, Julianna Schell.

Dr. Wilkins also recognized Derrek Tennell for receiving the Advanced Individual Award from the Indiana Association of School Boards.

**II. Agenda Modifications**

None

**III. Public Comments**

None

**IV. Consent Items and Claims**

**A. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting**

Mr. Simpson moved and Mr. Blue seconded. Carried 6-0.

**B. Approval of accounts payable vouchers**

Mr. Blue moved and Mrs. Newkirk seconded. Carried 6-0.

**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. 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 Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in the amount of \$300 for the Spartan Food Pantry.
  - c. Donation from Top Crop for FFA in the amount of \$500 for FFA.
  - d. Donation from the Beta Phi Chapter of PSI IOTA XI Sorority for \$50 for the Elementary school.

Mrs. Newkirk moved and Mr. Blue seconded. Carried 6-0.

**B. Recommend to approve payment to Tecton Construction Management (Quality Plumbing & Heating) in the amount of \$33,253.25 for Southwestern Consolidated GO Bond Project.**

Mr. Stamper moved and Mr. Simpson seconded. Carried 6-0.

**C. Recommend to approve payment to Tecton Construction Management in the amount of \$25,400.00 for Southwestern Consolidated GO Bond Project.**

Mr. Stamper moved and Mr. Thomas seconded. Carried 6-0.

**D. Recommend to approve out of state field trip for Senior class of 2026 to go to Kings Island in Mason, OH on 5/8/26.**

Mr. Simpson moved and Mrs. Newkirk seconded. Carried 6-0.

**E. Other**

Board members received a copy of the overtime report.

**VII. Reports and Presentations**

Mr. Taylor Meredith presented to the board members the details of the Southwestern High School Teacher Appreciation Fund. He explained that this initiative was started by an alumni, Rex VanGordon, who was working with the Blue River Community Foundation and the Southwestern Alumni Association to implement. Mr. Meredith explained that through this fund, each teacher at the Jr/Sr high school would receive funds at the beginning of each school year to spend for their classroom. The fund would initially be set up to last for the following twenty years. As an incentive for people to donate, any donation made before the end of April would be matched by Jerry and Faye Petro. The goal at this time is to collect \$200,000 to fund the project.

Dr. Wilkins thanked Mr. Meredith for his involvement in the project. Mrs. Newkirk mentioned that elementary teachers receive funds each year from the Elementary PTO.

**VIII. Personnel**

**A. Leaves/Resignations/Terminations**

- a. Resignation of Katelyn Clark as 3rd grade teacher effective August 1, 2026.

Mrs. Newkirk moved and Mr. Stamper seconded. Carried 6-0.

**B. Recommendations to Hire**

- a. Recommend to hire Eric Akintemi as long term substitute for Chemistry starting 3/23/26 at \$100 for first 15 days and daily rate for 1st year masters for remaining day.

Mr. Stamper moved and Mr. Simpson seconded. Carried 6-0.

b. The following coaches will be retained in the position from the previous year:

- i. Leslie Parker as JR High Girls Track Coach at \$1150
- ii. Brittany Butterfield as JR High Boys Track Coach at \$1150
- iii. Sydney Abbott as Boys Varsity Golf Coach at \$2300
- iv. Brian Ebersold as Varsity Girls Tennis Coach at \$2484
- v. Brett Andrews as Varsity Boys Track Coach at \$2484
- vi. Kendall Mangrum as Varsity Girls Track Coach at \$2392

Mr. Simpson moved and Mr. Blue seconded. Carried 6-0.

#### **IX. Superintendent Comments**

Dr. Wilkins congratulated Mr. Tindall and Mrs. Haehl for completing the Indiana Principal Leadership Institute program. He also recognized Britany Taylor, Caleb Tennell, Matt Campbell, and Becky McInerny for their help to the principals during this process. He also congratulated the elementary staff for being recognized at the Literacy Achievement Celebration. Dr. Wilkins pointed out that Southwestern Elementary was one of only three schools in the state that had a one hundred percent IREAD passing rate. The ceremony had been attended by Mrs. Haehl, Mrs. Goh, Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Fiesbeck.

Dr. Wilkins stated that he had attended a portion of the recent 4th grade overnight field trip to the Flat Rock YMCA Camp. He said that the students were very engaged in the activities offered and it had been a great learning experience for all who attended. He thanked Mrs. Barlow and Mrs. Taylor for organizing the field trip.

Dr. Wilkins reminded everyone that the school musical, The Addams Family, would be held the following weekend and encouraged everyone to attend. He also thanked the board members for moving the board meeting date for April.

#### **X. Board Member Comments**

Mr. Blue thanked Mr. Meredith for his involvement with the Southwestern High School Teacher Fund. He also congratulated the principals on their accomplishments. Mrs. Newkirk thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**XI. Adjournment**

Mr. Deater adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

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