

SOUTHWESTERN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
February 12, 2025

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

I. Call to Order

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

President Tennell called the meeting to order at 7:33 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.

Students of the Month for December and January from the Jr/Sr High School were presented to the board members by principal John Tindall.

These students included:

December students of the month: Angus Taggart and Adalyn Brewer

January Students of the month: Kori Raisor and Emma Bonebrake

Blue River Career Center: Kyndra King

IASP Rising Star Award Winners, Levi McInerny, Cecil Newton, Andrew Pile, and Claire Utley.

Students of the month from the Elementary School were presented by principal Beth Hoeing. These students included:

Landry Ramey, Augreigh Brumley, Reygan Higgins, Gemma Burkitt, Stefan Cucuruz, Roman Hagler, Sam Wilkinson, Abel Tobias, Hank Shields, Selene Crum, Everett Scott, Audacity Hancock, Bailey Burcham, Wyatt Smith, Sydney Bandy, Jenson Tennell, and Marshall Weinantz.

Also recognized were the 5th grade girls basketball team. This team had an undefeated season and represented Southwestern at the Shelby County Champions. These athletes included Jada Tennell, Ezri Garcia, Harlow Shuppert, Addi Banter, Thea Fiesbeck, Bailey Burcham, and Kinsley Chaney. Mrs. Hoeing noted that this team had been coached by Bethany Shuppert.

Mrs. Hoeing explained that January had been School Board Appreciation Month. Due to the inclement weather during the January meeting, the student council were now presenting them a banner that had been signed by all of the elementary students. On behalf of the students, she thanked them for all of their hard work and commitment to the students.

II. Agenda Modifications

Items G and H were added under new business.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Consent Items and Claims

A. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting

B. Approval of accounts payable vouchers

Mr. Stamper moved and Mr. Simpson seconded for both items A and B.
Carried 6-0.

V. Business and Financial Reports

A. Financial Report

Dr. Wilkins 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 Casey Pruitt in the amount of \$250.00 for the Angel Fund.

c. Donation from Varner & Treva Whitis in the amount of \$50.00 for the Spartan Food Pantry.

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

B. Recommend the second reading of policies submitted by Church, Church, Hittle & Antrim.

Policy number:

C125-Admission to Corporation (Legal Settlement)

Dr. Wilkins explained that there would be two dates each year, one for each semester. These dates would change from year to year depending on factors such as the count date. He stated that the exact dates would be posted on the school website and reported to the DOE each year.

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

C. Recommend to approve the Washington D.C. Band trip 3/12/2026 - 3/18/2026.

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

D. Recommend to approve Moake Park Group's Southwestern Consolidated MEP assessment and master plan.

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

E. Recommend approval of IASBO Annual Conference in Fort Wayne overnight for Jamison Wilkins, Jessica Blackwell, and Bonnie Thopy 5/7/2025 - 5/9/2025.

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

F. Recommend approval for out of state field trip to Chicago on 5/1/2025 for grades 8-12 Band and Spartanette students.

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

G. Recommend approval for out of state field trip to Louisville Convention Center for FFA students on 2/13/2025.

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

H. Recommend to pay Building Envelope Consultants \$11,090.00 for Roof Moisture Analysis.

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

I. Other

Overtime report

VII. Reports and Presentations

None

VIII. Personnel

A. Leaves/Resignations/Terminations

a. Accept the resignation of Michelle Kightlinger as Speech Facilitator as of 1/13/2025.

b. Accept the resignation of Cory Brand as Head of Maintenance as of 2/4/2025.

c. Accept the resignation of Randy Toloday as Data Manager as of 2/14/2025. Mr. Simpson moved and Mr. Stamper seconded. Carried 6-0.

B. Recommendations to Hire

a. Recommend to hire Kayla Meyer as Preschool Aid not to exceed 29 hours per week.

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

b. Recommend to hire Daryl Thomas as volunteer 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach.

Mr. Simpson moved and Mr. Deater seconded. Carried 5-0-1.

Mr. Thomas abstained.

IX. Superintendent Comments

Dr. Wilkins showed the board a presentation that reflected the ADM trends for the last five years at Southwestern CSD. He explained that student counts are reported each year in October and February. Using data from the last five years Dr. Wilkins had identified the direction of enrollment for the entire corporation as well as the Elementary and Jr/Sr High school separately. He pointed out that the newest count from February the district was down 29 students since the fall count. He explained that it is not unusual for the spring counts to be slightly lower, but this year was more so than most years. He pointed out that the current numbers were equivalent to counts for spring of 2023. Dr. Wilkins explained that the loss of students would impact the funding received from the state.

Dr. Wilkins discussed the trend showing at the elementary level and noted that even though we are down 14 students from the fall, the overall number of students is still the second highest reported since February 2021. Mrs. Hoeing stated that the loss of students was mostly caused by families that had moved out of district.

Dr. Wilkins mentioned that the loss of students at the Jr/Sr High school was more concerning to him than the elementary. He stated that since the fall the student count was down by 16 students. He stated that the number of students at this school had steadily decreased since 2021. Dr. Wilkins did point out that the

biggest loss had been in the upper grades and that there had not been any midterm graduates. Mr. Tindall explained to the board that the majority of the students who had left, had transferred to online schooling. Many of these were in an effort to avoid the new attendance laws that are being enforced by Southwestern Schools.

In reference to the fiscal implications, with the loss of 29 students the second semester, Southwestern will lose around \$104,798 from what had been anticipated. Dr. Wilkins stated that the focus now needs to be on keeping the students who are already enrolled at Southwestern.

X. Board Member Comments

Mr. Thomas explained that he had recently attended the ISBA academy for new board members. He stated this had been very insightful and that a lot of valuable information had been shared. Mr. Thomas thanked Ms. Britney Taylor and the elementary student council for the sign they had made for the board members that had been signed by all elementary students. He also thanked all of the families for supporting their students who had been recognized that evening, Mr. Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the elementary students for the sign.

Mr. Blue stated that he has also attended the ISBA new board member conference and found it very informative. He also thanked the elementary students for the sign.

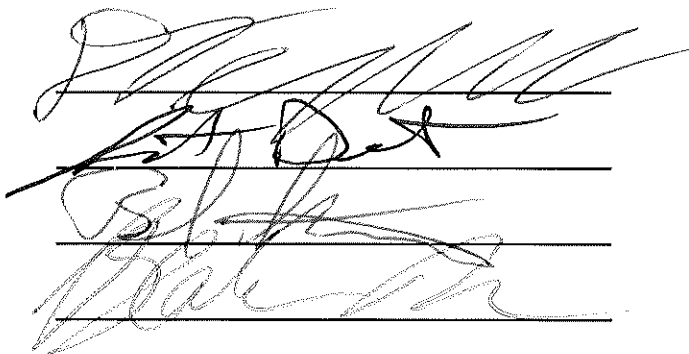
Mr. Deater mentioned that he had also learned a lot at the ISBA new member training and that he was looking forward to implementing what they had learned in the near future.

Mr. Tennell who had also attended the ISBA conference, stated that the entire board had been 100% ISBA trained. He thanked the elementary students for the banner. Mr. Tennell also remarked in response to the information shared by Dr. Wilkins, that change within the corporation takes time and that no one should be discouraged.

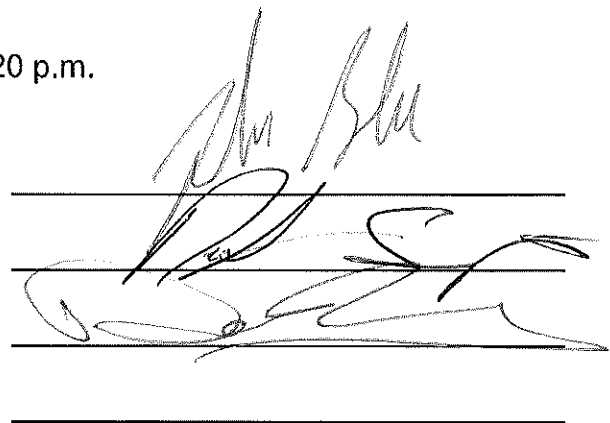
Dr. Wilkins explained that a community survey had been sent out on social media and asked community members to complete the form to give their opinions about the school and where it was headed. The deadline for the survey was March 1, 2025.

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Tennell adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.



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SOUTHWESTERN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE SESSION
February 12, 2025
7:00 PM

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

The board met in executive session before the regular session. The only items
discussed were as advertised.

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