

# Southern Local Board of Education

## Board Of Education Meeting Notes

Regular Meeting - May 12, 2026 - 6:00 pm - High School Media Center

Meeting Overview	Meeting Overview
Call to Order	6:00 pm
Board Members Present	Jeremiah Cole, Jean Pastore, Frank Shagnot, Liz Weston, Scott Hart
Adjournment	11:06 pm
Next Regular Meeting	June 9, 2026 at 6:00 pm

### I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm in the High School Media Center.
- Roll call recorded Jeremiah Cole, Jean Pastore, Frank Shagnot, Liz Weston, and Scott Hart as present.
- Initial status recorded in the source minutes: Cole - Yes; Pastore - Yes; Shagnot - Yes; Weston - Yes; Hart - Yes.

### II. Adoption of Minutes

- Action taken to waive the reading of the minutes.
- Moved by Frank Shagnot; seconded by Liz Weston.
- Vote recorded: Pastore - Yes; Shagnot - Yes; Weston - Yes; Cole - Yes; Hart - Yes.

### III. Reception of Visitors

- Visitor participation was governed by Board of Education Policy 0169.1, including a five-minute limit per speaker and a thirty-minute total limit unless extended by board vote.
- Marjorie Hiller
- Ashley Farnsworth
- Donna Hart
- Lisa Pitts
- Regina Utt
- Steph Sevek
- Ron Sines
- Natasha McCulley
- Chris McCulley
- Kya McCulley
- Nancy Saling
- Shannon Lucas
- Joe Lucas
- Katie Barcus
- Bill Barcus
- Natasha Grim
- Grant Robertson
- Jesse Johnson
- Brandee Wilson

- Jessica Coleman
- Jeff Haugh
- Kip Dowling
- Kristy Sampson
- Eric Sampson
- Charles Puckett
- Diane Meister
- Antonio Pastore
- Kimberly Adams
- Josh Manist
- Robert Marra

### **Concerns Over Proposed Special Education Program Cuts**

- Parents of special-needs students, including a child with autism, shared heartfelt testimonials about their children's progress and the critical role of consistent, supportive programming.
- Parents expressed deep concern about proposed cuts to special education services and emphasized the potential negative impact on student communication, safety, emotional well-being, and continued progress.
- Questions raised to the board included the specific programs and number of students affected, staff impacted by the proposed cuts, budget figures and decision-making criteria, compliance with IDEA and the provision of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), alternatives explored before cuts, and comparisons to other funding priorities such as athletics.
- Parents stressed the importance of routine, trusted relationships, and stability for special-needs students and urged the board to consider the real-life consequences of program changes beyond budget numbers.

### **IV. Recognition**

- Bus driver Melanie Glosser was recognized for handling a medical crisis on the school bus while keeping all students safe. The board expressed appreciation for her efforts and dedication.

### **V. Treasurer's Report**

- Financial report presented for approval of bills, transfers, and/or advances as submitted by the Treasurer.
- Budget Impact and Legislative Factors: Board members acknowledged significant financial challenges due to legislative changes, including House Bill 186, which will reduce district funding by \$1.5 million over four years. The failure and subsequent passing of levies were noted as indicators of public sentiment on spending.
- Moved by Frank Shagnot; seconded by Liz Weston.
- Vote recorded: Shagnot - Yes; Weston - Yes; Cole - Yes; Pastore - Yes; Hart - Yes.

### **VI. Reports and Updates**

- Career Center Report - referenced on the agenda.
- Elementary Principal Emily Smith reported that field days and field trips were taking place, the annual school-wide picnic was scheduled for May 27, and the administration would grill lunch and dress as minions in recognition of students meeting their American Heart Association goal. The elementary school also planned a petting zoo on May 27 as the fourth nine-week attendance reward.

- Middle School Principal Jordan Wrask reported upcoming activities: sixth grade field trip to Highlandtown on May 13; seventh and eighth grade field trip to the Challenger Learning Center at Wheeling University on May 19; junior high awards on May 20; PBIS school picnic on May 22; and Kennywood trip on May 26.
- Athletic Director Robert Shansky reported postseason and program updates for softball, baseball, track, volleyball, football, and junior-high athletics. He also welcomed Berlin Western Reserve into the EOAC and reviewed senior class officers, class information, and key senior dates through graduation on May 24, 2026.
- Special Services Director Andy Vulgamore reported that the R.A. Horn Award Ceremony would be held May 27 at 1:30 pm in the high school gymnasium. The award recognizes exemplary students with disabilities, and twenty-one Southern Local students were nominated this year.

## VII. Superintendent's Report

- Mr. Cunningham congratulated the elementary and junior-senior high schools for major progress in reducing chronic absenteeism.
- District cumulative chronic absenteeism was reported as 37% last year. This year, the junior-senior high school improved from 42.85% to 18.7%, and the elementary school improved from 31.8% to 11.3%.
- The senior class parade was scheduled for Thursday, May 21, at 5:00 pm.
- Staff will have summer book study opportunities for enrichment and CEUs, with several book options planned.

## VIII. Formal Actions and Recorded Votes

In the far-right Outcome column, each entry lists the action result and the vote of each board member. The sequence and wording below preserve notable numbering or wording issues from the source minutes where relevant.

Item	Recommendation / Action	Motion	Outcome (with individual votes)
26-084	Approve Kennedy Lewis as a substitute paraprofessional and teacher for the 2025-2026 school year.	Moved: Jeremiah Cole Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-085	Approve then and now purchase orders as approved by the Treasurer (Attachment A).	Moved: Jean Pastore Second: Liz Weston	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-086	Approve policies 3440, 4440, 6423, 6424, 6460, 6465, 5112, 6220, 6320, 6325, 6425, 7540.09, 8500, 4162, 4162.01, 8600, 8600.04, 8640, 8650, 1422, 3122, 4122, and 5517. This was the second reading.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Liz Weston	Approved - Second Reading Vote: Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-087	Approve PBIS Rewards field trip to Kennywood Amusement Park on May 26, departing 9:00 am and returning 8:00 pm.	Moved: Jean Pastore Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-088	Approve MH Unit field trip to Living Treasure Wild Animal Park on May 13, departing 9:00 am and returning 2:00 pm.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jean Pastore	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-089	Approve Spanish Club field trip to Kennywood Amusement Park on May 23, departing 10:00 am and returning 6:00 pm.	Moved: Jean Pastore Second: Liz Weston	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-090	Approve the staffing agreement with Utica Shale for maintenance stipends. <b>Discussion:</b> All costs are billed back to Utica Shale	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Liz Weston	Approved Vote: Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-091	Approve maintenance stipends for Utica Shale employees Matt Gates, John Wright, and Nick Woods. <b>Discussion:</b> The employees completing the Maintenance Stipends	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Liz Weston	Approved Vote: Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-092	Approve Utica Shale contracts: Laura Krulik - 5-year; Carter Hill - 5-year; Ashley Cannan - 1-year; Mariah Hart - 1-year; Jesse Mahan - 3-year; George Whittaker - 1-year; Nick Woods - 3-year. <b>Discussion:</b> 100% paid for by the Shale Academy	Moved: Jean Pastore Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Abstain

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26-093	Approve a one-year contract for Marjorie Hiller as Central Administrative Technology Specialist.	Moved: Scott Hart Second: Liz Weston	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-094	Approve Elizabeth Sevek as volunteer volleyball coach for the 2026-2027 school year.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Liz Weston	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-095	Approve Joseph Lucas as Junior High Football coach for the 2026-2027 school year.	Moved: Liz Weston Second: Jean Pastore	Approved Vote: Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-096	Approve Sheakley as workers compensation servicer effective January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved Vote: Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-097	Approve one-year teaching contracts for Jennifer Hitt and Kristina Napierkowski. <b>Discussion:</b> Mrs. Pastore asked if the teachers were certified and Mr. Cunningham answered that she is our current art teacher now.	Moved: Scott Hart Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-098	Approve three-year teaching contracts for Heather McCartney, Holly Davis, Jackie Collins, Elizabeth Sevek, Sara Harris, Heather Henderson, Michele Skinner, and Brian Eastham. <b>Discussion:</b> Board asked what subjects the teachers currently teach	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Liz Weston	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-099	Approve Natasha McCulley, Mikey Peters, Kate Spahlinger, and Scott McNeil as full-time substitute teachers in the district for the 2026-2027 school year.	Moved: Scott Hart Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-100	Approve supplemental contracts for Josh Manist and Sebastian Bach for the Cyber Security Plan. <b>Discussion:</b> Mrs. Pastore compliment Mr. Manist on a job well done.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved Vote: Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-101	Approve a two-year contract for Melanie Glosser, bus driver, and Lindsay Ingledue, cafeteria worker.	Moved: Jeremiah Cole Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-102	Approve the list of graduates (Attachment B).	Moved: Jeremiah Cole Second: Jean Pastore	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
Forecast	Approve the five-year forecast as presented by the Treasurer (Attachment C), pending review. <b>Discussion:</b> Treasurer recommended tabling the forecast as there were impending changes to the budget.	No final motion recorded for approval	Tabled
26-103	Approve the retirement of Nancy Sakely, elementary school teacher, at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Sakely taught at Southern Local for twenty-seven years. <b>Discussion:</b> Board thanked Mrs. Sakely for all her work over the years	Moved: Scott Hart Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved Vote: Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-104	Approve the retirement of Jim Reese, elementary school teacher, at the end of the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Reese taught at Southern Local for thirty-eight years. <b>Discussion:</b> Board thanked Mr. Reese for all his work over the years	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-105	Accept the resignation of Andrew Vulgamore as Director of Special Education and reemploy him as an Intervention Specialist in K-12 for the 2026-2027 school year. <b>Discussion:</b> Community asked if the resignation was due to programs cuts. Answer no	Moved: Jeremiah Cole Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-106	Approve resolution authorizing participation in cooperative purchasing programs of the Ohio Schools Council, including authorizing the Superintendent to initial the Agreement and Bylaws and the Treasurer to pay the annual fee. <b>Discussion:</b> This is the consortium for the summer roofing project to obtain reduced pricing	Moved: Jeremiah Cole Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Hart: Yes

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26-107	Approve job descriptions for Elementary Attendance Secretary, Elementary Secretary, High School Secretary, High School Attendance Secretary, Bus Driver, Shale Cafeteria Worker, Cafeteria Worker/Cashier, Cafeteria Worker, Head Cafeteria Worker, Mechanic Helper/Sub Bus Driver, Mechanic/Sub Bus Driver, Paraprofessional, CBS, Custodian, Flex Custodian, Head Custodian, and Maintenance Assistant (Attachment D). <b>Discussion:</b> Mr. Cunningham thanked OAPSE for their time in updating the descriptions. It has been a long time since they were updated.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Liz Weston	Approved Vote: Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-108	Approve a summer school stipend of \$1,500.00 for staff serving as summer school instructors and guidance staff, to be paid from Title I funds.	Moved: Liz Weston Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-109	Accept the resignation of Alyssa Lockhart as high school yearbook advisor for the 2026-2027 school year. <b>Discussion:</b> Mr. Cunningham will talk to Mrs. Lockhart about possibly continuing	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jean Pastore	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-110	Approve the K-12 Forecasting Program Agreement. <b>Discussion:</b> Treasurer explained that this is the consulting company for financial purchased services.	Moved: Liz Weston Second: Jean Pastore	Approved Vote: Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-111	Approve the administrative salary schedule for FY27 (Attachment E).	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved Vote: Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-111	Approve Fernando DeChellis as Varsity Assistant Football Coach for the 2026-2027 school year. <b>Discussion:</b> Mrs. Pastore asked if the season has started and offseason conditioning has	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved Vote: Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-112	Approve Mark Soukup as Varsity Assistant Football Coach for the 2026-2027 school year.	Moved: Liz Weston Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-113	Approve Thomas Terdina as Junior High Football Coach for the 2026-2027 school year. <b>Discussion:</b> Mrs. Pastore asked when the season started and conditioning started. Mrs. Pastore also inquired about licensure for coaches and Mr. Cunningham answered that all coached on the agenda were properly licensed and he removed two from the request that were not.	Moved: Liz Weston Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-114	Approve Todd Reed and Brandon Bach as Volunteer Football Coaches for the 2026-2027 school year.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved Vote: Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-115	Approve a one-year contract at Step 0 for Kyle Miller as kindergarten teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. <b>Discussion:</b> Mrs. Pastore is the teachers certified and Mr. Cunninham answered yes.	Moved: Liz Weston Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-116	Approve a two-year contract for Ron Sines as Southern Local Indian Academy Student Success Advisor/Curriculum Administrator. <b>Discussion:</b> Mr. Cunningham stated it would be fantastic to bring Mr. Sines back.	Moved: Scott Hart Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-117	Approve the administrative salary schedule for FY12 (Attachment E), as written in the source minutes.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Liz Weston	Approved Vote: Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-118	Approve Food Service stipends for Chasity Sloan and Carla Phenicie in the amounts of \$6,000 and \$3,000 for extra duties. <b>Discussion:</b> Mr. Cunninham stated that this was for the extra duty the two employees have done with ordering and providing Shale lunches. This is totally funded by Shale.	Moved: Liz Weston Second: Frank Shagnot	Approved Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes
26-119	Enter executive session for matters required to be kept confidential by federal law or rules or state statutes, specifically regarding public employee or official employment, discipline, and compensation.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved - Executive Session Entered Vote: Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Weston: Yes; Hart: Yes

Item	Recommendation / Action	Motion	Outcome (with individual votes)
<b>Return / Adjournment</b>	Returned from executive session at 11:05 pm. Roll call upon return: Shagnot - Here; Weston - Here; Cole - Here; Pastore - Here; Hart - Here. Adjourned at 11:06 pm.	Moved: Frank Shagnot Second: Jeremiah Cole	Approved - Meeting Adjourned Vote: Weston: Yes; Cole: Yes; Pastore: Yes; Shagnot: Yes; Hart: Yes