

SOUTHMORELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

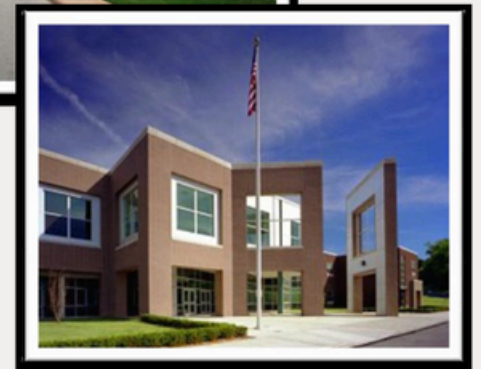


SCHOOL BOARD MEETING UPDATE - APR 2025

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Samuel Accipiter
John Eutsey
Catherine Fike
Duane Frund, President
Stephanie Geyer, Vice-President
Richard Grabiak
Nicole O'Rear
Scott Olsen
Brian Shipley

Dr. Jason A. Boone, Jr., Superintendent
Russell Lucas, Solicitor
Pamela Mondock, Business Manager/
Transportation Director/Treasurer
Lorie McTavish, Board Secretary



Contact Us :

Important Reminder:

*All Meeting Agendas and Minutes Can Be
Accessed From Our District Website!
Next Board meeting is scheduled for
May 22, 2025*



724-887-2010



2351 Route 981, Alverton, PA 15612



www.southmoreland.net

"Cultivating Lifelong Learners Ready For An Ever-Changing World"

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT



Scottie Spotlight -

- Dr. Boone highlighted end of year activities.



The following is a listing of important dates/activities for the remainder of the school year:

- Fri., April 25- CWCTC Senior Awards-12:30pm Students Only*
- Tue., April 29 - SHS Spring Choir Concert - 7 pm - HS Auditorium*
- Thur., May 1-Spring HS Instrumental Concert-7pm-HS Auditorium*
- Mon., May 5- National Technology Honor Society Inductions-CWCTC- 12:30pm Students Only*
- Thur., May 8- CWCTC Signing Event-Time TBA*
- Sat., May 10 - Grand March -3 pm - HS Auditorium- Prom - Greensburg Country Club*
- Mon., May 12-CWCTC Senior Recognition Ceremony-5:00 or 6:30 per the program*
- Wed., May 21 -Senior Picnic 10:30am -SHS Stadium*
- Thur., May 22 Senior Grades Due*
- Thur., May 22 Senior Chromebook Collection -A-K 9:00 am, L-Z 10:00am)-HS Student Union*
- Thur., May 22 Senior Locker Cleanout, LAST DAY FOR SENIORS-*
- Fri., May 23 Class Day-8am-HS Auditorium*
- Tue., May 27- Graduation Rehearsal/Parade-8:30am*
- Wed. May 28-Scholars Dinner-6:00pm-Cafeteria*
- Fri., May 30 - Graduation Ceremony - 7pm - SHS Location TBA*

Southmoreland High School

2351 Route 981
Alverton, PA 15612

#AllHailSouthmoreland

(724)887-2010

www.southmoreland.net/shs

Twitter: @SouthmorelandH1

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SouthmorelandSHS

REPORTS

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SOUTHMORELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING EVENTS 2025

Spring Sing Concert	April 1, 2025
6th Grade Biztown Field Trip	April 2, 2025
CWCTC In-House Tour (8th Grade)	April 11, 2025
Early Dismissal	April 16, 2025
Spring Break	April 17, 2025
Spring Break	April 18, 2025
Pirate Game - National Anthem (Choir Students)	April 19, 2025
Spring Break	April 21, 2025
PSSA ELA	April 22, 2025
PSSA ELA	April 23, 2025
PSSA ELA	April 24, 2025
PSSA MATH	April 28, 2025
PSSA MATH	April 29, 2025
PSSA SCIENCE (8th Grade)	April 30, 2025
PSSA SCIENCE (8th Grade)	May 1, 2025
6th Grade Speaker - Holocaust Experience	May 1, 2025
Teacher In-Service	May 2, 2025
PSSA Make-ups	May 5, 2025
PSSA Make-ups	May 6, 2025
PSSA Make-ups	May 7, 2025
PSSA Make-ups	May 8, 2025
PSSA Make-ups	May 9, 2025
SES/SMS Choral Concert	May 15, 2025
CORE Field Trip	May 15, 2025
Spring Pictures	May 15, 2025
Bring Your Kid to Work Day	May 16, 2025
KEYSTONE - Algebra	May 19, 2025
KEYSTONE - Algebra	May 20, 2025
SES/SMS Band Concert	May 21, 2025
Pirate Education Day	May 21, 2025
6th Grade Student Showcase	May 22, 2025
7th Grade Student Showcase	May 23, 2025
Memorial Day (School Closed)	May 26, 2025
Districtwide Transition Day	May 27, 2025
8th Grade Student Showcase	May 28, 2025
Band & Chorus Dance	May 28, 2025
Last Day for Students	May 30, 2025

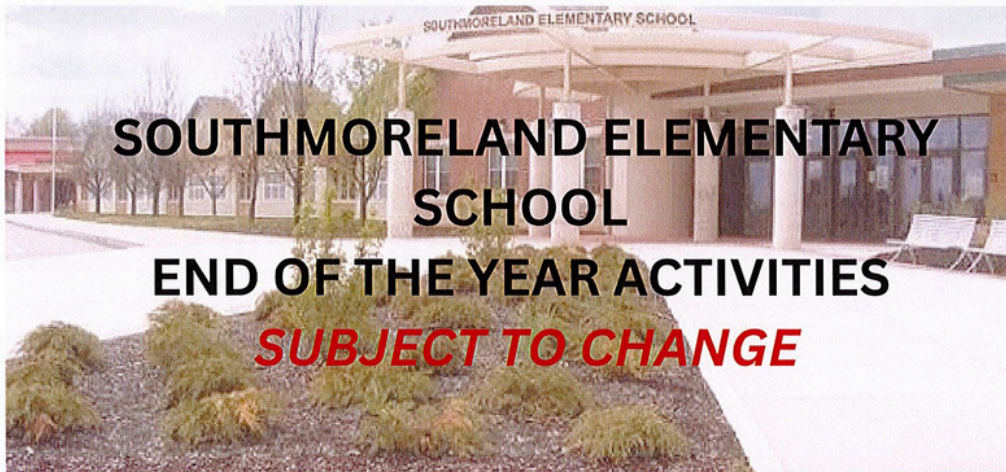
REPORTS

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April 15 – Geology Rocks Programs

April 16 – Talent Show @ SES

April 19 – 5th

5th Grade Chorus – PNC – National Anthem

April 22 -25 – ELA PSSA

April 22 – 5th Grade Clean Up Day

April 28 -May 1 – Math/Science PSSA

May 4 – Progress Reports

May 6 – Teacher/Nurse Appreciation Day

May 9 – 5th Grade Olympics (rain or shine)

May 12-16 – Book Fair

May 12 - History Bowl - 4th & 5th Grade

May 14 –FAMILY NIGHT

Art Show, Recorders and Ukulele Concert & Book Fair

May 15 & 16 – Powdermill Nature Reserve - 5th Grade Field Trip

May 15 – Spring Concert – SHS @7 pm

May 16 – Reptile Encounters – 2nd Grade – Gym

May 20 - Battle of the Books - 4th & 5th Grade

May 22 – Laurel Caverns Field Trip – 4th Grade

May 26 – Memorial Day – No School

May 27 – Fun Day

May 28 – 5th Grade Graduation

May 30 - Last Day of School

REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT



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SOUTHMORELAND PRIMARY CENTER

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES

2025

Westmoreland Land Trust Workshop: March 27th
Field Trip to Geyer Theatre: March 28th
Super Scottie Awards (Trustworthy): March 31st
Paraprofessional Appreciation Day: April 2nd
Autism Acceptance Week: March 31st - April 4th
Parent Engagement Event (Paws & Pages) Session #1: April 3rd
Westmoreland Land Trust Workshop: April 4th
PTA Meeting: April 7th
Spring Book Fair: April 7th – 11th
Parent Engagement Event (Paws & Pages) Session #2: April 10th
Bunny Hop: April 15th
2-Hour Early Dismissal: April 16th
Talent Show: April 16th
Spring Break: April 17th – 21st
Geology Rocks Assembly: April 22nd
Parent Engagement Event (Paws & Pages) Session #3: April 24th
Career Day: April 25th
Super Scottie Awards (Fairness): April 30th
Parent Engagement Event (Paws & Pages) Session #4: May 1st
In-Service Day: May 2nd
Progress Reports: May 4th
Preschool Visit Dates: May 7th & 8th
Kindergarten Screening: May 14th and 15th
First Grade field trip to Living Treasures: May 23rd
Senior Walkthrough: May 27th
Super Scottie Awards (Friendship): May 28th
PTA Fun Day: May 29th
Last Day of School: May 30th
First Grade Transition Day: Date TBD
In-Service Day: June 2nd & 3rd
Kennywood Day: June 13th
Idlewild Day: June 27th



REPORTS



SOLICITOR

None

**BUSINESS MANAGER/
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR**



- Building Activity Fund Information was given
- Cyber Charter Expense Analysis was given
- Budget Presentation #4
- Audit Report Presentation - June 30, 2024
 - [CLICK HERE](#) for full report.

HOW DOES CYBER CHARTER FUNDING AFFECT SOUTHMORELAND?



Taxpayer Dollars are being funneled to an unregulated system to Cyber Charter Schools, with Zero Accountability and far worse proficiency results than our schools!!!!

CONTACT OUR LEGISLATORS NOW AND TELL THEM TO VOTE YES FOR CYBER CHARTER REFORM!!!!

**SENATOR PATRICK STEFANO (717) 787-7175
SENATOR KIM WARD (724) 600-7002
REPRESENTATIVE ERIC DAVANZO (717) 783-3825
REPRESENTATIVE RYAN WARNER (717) 787-1540**

Did You Know:

Southmoreland's PDE 23/24

Tuition Rate Was \$10,745.44

The Average Cyber Charter

Tuition Rate For Regular Ed

Students Is \$12,944.50!!!

That's
20%
Higher!!

The Average Cyber Charter

Tuition Rate For Special Ed

Students Is \$24,179.79!!!

That's
125%
Higher!!

**The Time For Reform
Is Now!!! The
Proposed \$8,000
Tuition Cap Would
Save Southmoreland
over \$557,000 for
25/26 School Year!!!!**

**That's The
Equivalent Of
Approximately 3-4
mills In Real Estate
Taxes!!!!**

**CHECK OUT THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S
FEB 2025 REPORT ON THE NEED FOR
ACCOUNTABILITY AND CYBER CHARTER
REFORM!!!!**



REPORTS



BUSINESS MANAGER/ TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

- Building Activity Fund Information was given
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TALKING POINTS:



- Although the reforms included in Act 55 of 2024 are estimated to save school districts money on cyber charter school tuition costs, those reforms did not address the key issue in cyber charter school funding – that the current system overpays cyber charter schools at the expense of school districts and taxpayers.
- School districts spend more than \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars each year on tuition to cyber charter schools. In each of the last 6 years, mandatory charter school tuition costs have been identified as the top source of budget pressure for school districts, which drives property tax increases and cuts to school district programs.
- Cyber charter school tuition rates are based on the home school district's educational expenses, not what a cyber charter school needs to provide its educational program. Despite providing all enrolled students with access to the same educational programming, cyber charter schools receive vastly different tuition rates from home school districts. This results in inconsistencies and overpayments to cyber charter schools. In the 2024-25 school year, tuition rates for non-special education students varied by more than \$21,000 and special education rates varied by more than \$44,000.
- The last three auditors general – of both political parties – have pointed out that the funding formula for cyber charter schools is flawed and have recommended reforms due to the impact those flaws have on all stakeholders.
- Cyber charter schools do not have the same level of expenses as their brick-and-mortar counterparts, yet they are paid as if they do. These funding flaws allow cyber charter schools to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on advertising, gifts and perks, state-of-the-art facilities, and to amass huge sums of taxpayer dollars in unrestricted reserve funds.
- Nearly 98% of special education students enrolled in a cyber charter school require specialized programs and support services that were in the lowest cost tier reported to the Department of Education. Yet, school districts are required to pay the cyber charter school the same tuition rate for all special education students, regardless of the actual needs of the student.
- Claims that charter schools receive 25-30% less funding per student are inaccurate. In the 2022-23 school year, charter schools only received 10% less funding per student than school districts. And when you take into account the expenses school districts have that charter schools do not, such as mandatory tuition payments to charter schools, that difference is completely justified and yet still results in overpayments to cyber charter schools.
- More than 94% of locally elected school boards have passed resolutions calling for cyber charter school funding reform.

REPORTS



BUSINESS MANAGER/ TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

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Contents

"CULTIVATING LIFELONG LEARNERS READY
FOR AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD"



- Trend Reports
- Changes From Last Board Presentation
 - Expenditures
 - Revenues
- What's in the Budget
- Governor's Proposed Budget
- Multi-County Rebalancing Effect
- Possible Millage Scenarios
- Discussion on Cyber Charter Reform Efforts and Need for Advocacy
- Unknowns
- Next Steps

Next Steps

- 1) Advocate for the Proposed Governor's Budget
 - a) Cyber Charter Funding Reform
 - b) Adequacy Investment Amount
- 2) Determine Medical Benefits Rate and Contributions (March - April)
- 3) Determine Increases Due to Ongoing Collective Bargaining (Beginning of May-End of June)
- 4) Determine Homestead/Farmstead Exemption (Middle of May)
- 5) Determine Federal Funding Amounts (Title I-IV) (Mid April)
- 6) Determine Additional Capital Improvements/Possible Cuts (April - May)



- 1) Committee Meetings and Monthly Board Presentations
- 2) Final Proposed Budget - May 22, 2025
- 3) Final Budget Adoption - June 24, 2025



"CULTIVATING LIFELONG LEARNERS READY FOR AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD"

"Cultivating Lifelong Learners Ready For An Ever-Changing World"

REPORTS



REPORTS CONT'D

Reports for the following Committees:
CWCTC-None

WIU-WIU Budget was detailed, Early Intervention Program, WIU Services, Staff reassignment, Board conflicts. Meeting next week.

Building & Grounds: (O'Rear)

- None, Next Meeting June 16, 2025

Finance, District Operations, & Transportation: (Geyer)

- Last Meeting - March 24, 2025 & April 7, 2025
 - Agenda
 - Budget Presentation #3 & #4
- Next Meeting May 15, 2025

Personnel, Policy, & Academics: (Fike)

- None, Next Meeting April 29, 2025

Non-Academic. Athletics, & Extra-Curricular: (Shipley)

- None, Next Meeting TBD

PSBA Liaison: (Eutsey)-None

School Safety & Security: (Eutsey)

- None, Next Meeting April 22, 2025



REPORTS



STUDENT REPORTS- SELBY BELL & LAUREN STAFFORD



SOUTHMORELAND HIGH SCHOOL **School Board Notes** **April 15, 2025**

Student Representatives: Lauren Stafford and Selby Bell

1. Congratulations to the April Spirit Award Winner: Mia Jordan.
2. Congratulations to the April Scholar Award Winner: Faith Garstecki.
3. Student Council hosted the American Red Cross Blood Drive today and collected over 30 blood donations from various students, faculty, and staff. A special thank you to the many people who took time out of their schedules to help save lives. We were able to save a total of 84 lives today! Also, thank you to the junior and senior student council members who helped to host the event today and worked hard to ensure the safety of all participants.
4. Students competed in the Bots IQ final competitions on Friday and Saturday at Penn West California. They achieved a win against South Fayette High School. They also placed 3rd in a Rumble Match against six other schools. Congratulations to Bots IQ!
5. Be sure to check Southmoreland Journalism's Instagram for the latest Journalism Class postings so you can stay updated with events around the high school. Friday was National Pet Day, so be sure to check their Instagram page for real life "teacher's pets"!
6. Student Council would like to wish all members of the board and administrators a safe and happy holiday break!



BOARD/POLICIES/ PERSONNEL



BOARD

The Board approved the following motions:

- Meeting Minute(s) for March 18, 2025
- Approved Lorie McTavish as Board Secretary - 4 year Term

POLICIES

The Board approved the following policies:

- None this month

PERSONNEL

The following motions were approved:

- The Board approved the creation of new professional teaching positions starting in the 2025-2026 SY per the SEA CBA Agreement
 - 1) Special Education-Emotional Support
 - 2) Behavioral Therapist
- Newly Tenured Professional Staff:
 - Michelle Pergar
 - Abby Mohan
 - Allie Grimm
- Resignations/Retirements
 - Deanna Reagan - Paraprofessional effective 3/21/2025
 - Ryan Usher - Assistant Band Equipment Hauler EOS 24-25
 - Rachel Rager - Paraprofessional effective 4/16/2025
 - Amber Cernuto - Head Girls Basketball Coach EOS 24-25
 - Jessica Skovira - Assistant Girls Soccer Coach EOS 24-25
 - Hayley Pittsment- Assistant Girls Soccer Coach EOS 24-25
- Supplementals (Per the SEA Agreement.)
 - Greg Boggs - MS Assistant Football Coach, \$2,850.00 (25-26 SY)
- Supplemental Volunteers
 - Frank Muccino - Volunteer Football Coach (25-26 SY)



EDUCATION/FINANCE/ BUILDINGS & GROUNDS/ ATHLETICS



EDUCATION

The Board approved:

1. Student Discipline Agreement(s) - 2024-2025-05
2. Student Service Agreement(s)
 - New Directions-Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services, Inc.
 - Westmoreland Casemanagement & Supports, Inc. (SAP)
3. PA STEELS Science Curriculum Resources
4. Articulation Agreement with WCCC for a possible Associates in Arts Degree Pathway

FINANCE

Board approved:

- Monthly Financial Reports
- Dental & Vision Costs
- Awarding of Bids - Gasoline & Diesel 2025-2026 SY
- Establish Depository and Money Market GESA Capital Bank Accounts

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Board approved:

- None



ATHLETICS

- Posting of Bids for Athletic Equipment for the 2025-2026 SY