

CARDINAL REPORT

MARCH 2026



Preliminary schematic of the new high school library and learning innovation lab.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

PRECONSTRUCTION & SITE PREPARATION

Danielle Mikula, Superintendent

We are just a few months away from breaking ground on our school building project. The preconstruction work happening now is a dynamic period where plans are transformed into actionable reality. This time period is the bridge between bidding and breaking ground, and ensures everything is meticulously prepared, minimizing risks and setting the stage for smooth efficient construction.

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The Cardinal Report has a

new look

on the outside, same heart on the inside.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

PRECONSTRUCTION & SITE PREPARATION *(cont.)*

(from page 1)

Walkthroughs and Detailed Planning

Several of the subcontractors involved with our project have conducted building walkthroughs and participated in group meetings. During this time, plans are continuously evaluated by multiple lenses, with the emphasis of our project on electrical, plumbing, site work, and HVAC systems. This phase of planning is crucial to creating efficient and safe learning environments within the timeframe promised. The team is working to:

- Map the project timeline with a high degree of specificity.
- Refine detailed sequencing of tasks like site prep before HVAC installation to avoid delays.
- Conduct risk assessments to identify potential issues, such as weather impacts on site work, and devise contingencies to address issues before they happen.
- Prepare for site mobilization and verify details to ensure a strong, surprise-free start.



Permits and Approvals Secured

Our construction and architectural partners have been navigating regulations and securing permits from local authorities to ensure compliance with building codes, zoning laws, and educational standards (e.g., fire safety for electric systems or ADA-accessible plumbing). Our project has all permits and approvals secured.

Next Step: Mobilization and Site Preparation

As preconstruction wraps up, mobilization begins: fencing goes up, temporary utilities are installed, and equipment arrives. Experts double-check plans for electrical tie-ins, plumbing rough-ins, and HVAC zoning in order to have the building ready for learning by September.

Building Closed to Public May–August 2026 The South Shore School District building will be completely closed to the public for the Summer of 2026. A small number of district staff will be working in the building as phasing allows, and can be contacted through email or telephone.

Save the date!

MAY 22

**GROUNDBREAKING
CELEBRATION**



The collective goal of our preconstruction process is that by the time the ground is broken, each element is aligned for success. After attending planning meetings with the major sub-contractors, the site superintendent, and other architecture and construction partners, I have full confidence in the team working together to bring this project to life. They are truly exceptional at what they do!



Career Fair

02.13.26

High school students discussed career opportunities with local employers as part of the annual *Planning with a Purpose* day. They also attended breakout sessions with leaders in the community and worked on individualized learning plans.



The **South Shore High School band** performed at the *WSMA Large Group Festival for Instrumental Music* in late Feb. They played challenging pieces for a panel of 3 judges who rated their performance and gave positive helpful feedback. *Well done SSHS Band!*

On your mark... get set... GO!

Spring sports season is almost here. High school students can choose from baseball, softball, or track and field. Middle school students can also join track and field. Visit the school website for coaches and contact info, along with required forms for all participants. If this is your first time joining a sport this school year, be sure to get a sports physical before the first practice. Check the school calendar for a listing of games and track meets.

See you on the field - go Cardinals!



Quiz Bowl

Are you ready for Quiz Bowl? Think fast!

You have 15 seconds for each question:

What type of soil is found in a bog? What's the circumference of a circle if the radius is 3 feet?

Name the longest river in the USA.

(Hint: it's not the Mississippi!)

Quiz Bowl is a great activity for high schoolers who enjoy fast-paced trivia and friendly competition. This year 11 students participated under the guidance of high school teacher Mikaela Franson. Students compete in small groups against 12 other schools in the region, using their collective knowledge to score points - or steal them from the competition. Games feature 40 questions about any subject, including science, literature, math, and geography. With no structured practices, it's a great option for students who enjoy the camaraderie and school spirit of extracurricular activities, but already have a busy schedule (half of this year's participants were also in fall or winter sports). Matches are virtual during the regular season, which extends from October to January. This year's final tournament will be in person on March 17 at Northwood Technical College in Ashland.

Ms. Franson says: *"After the games we like to talk about the goods and the bads to see what areas of knowledge need to be refreshed... Win or lose, Quiz Bowl is more than just trivia, it is about having fun!"*





Spotlight on Student Learning National Reading Month

Michelle Simpson
4K-12 Principal,
Director of Curriculum & Instruction



March is National Reading Month!

During the month of March, we join schools across the nation in highlighting a few of the ways our students are developing their reading skills while building their love of reading. Our month started with a week-long celebration in our elementary school for Read Across America. We are also in the midst of a school-wide reading initiative and have exciting competitions coming up before the end of the year.



Elementary Reading Logs

Our elementary students are engaging in a challenge to read 20,000 minutes by the end of the month. Each student has a reading log in which they document the minutes they read independently. Students turn in their logs to their teachers every week so that all students' reading minutes can be added together and tracked on our reading bulletin board. If you have a South Shore Elementary student at home, help us reach our goal by reading every night!

Battle of the Books

At South Shore, students in grades 4–8 have the opportunity to join Battle of the Books. Participants read books from a selected list before competing against other districts in a trivia-style competition where to answer questions about their reading. Mrs. Suo meets with 4th – 6th graders on Wednesdays after school as they prepare for their competition. In May, these students travel to the updated Vaughn Library in Ashland to compete against students from other districts in our area. Mrs. Branham meets with middle school students as they prepare for their competition, which is hosted in a virtual setting against districts across the state. THANK YOU to Mrs. Branham and Mrs. Suo for making this opportunity possible!



Reading At Home

Did you know that reading just 20 minutes at home EVERY night makes a huge difference! Children who read at home for 20 minutes every night are exposed to roughly 1.8 million additional words each year. Research shows that they have improved grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills. It also shows that they consistently perform better on standardized tests. (NESCA, 2025) As we work toward having every South Shore Cardinal grow as a reader, join us by committing to reading at home for at least 20 minutes every night!

References

Talamo, A. (n.d.). *Why does my child have to read 20 minutes per night after being in school All Day?* NESCA.
<https://nescanewton.com/why-does-my-child-have-to-read-20-minutes-per-night-after-being-in-school-all-day/>

SOUTH SHORE JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL 2nd QUARTER

HIGH HONOR ROLL

12th Grade

Owen Bratley
Adeline L.
Chalee Luzzatto
Alexys Wehrman

11th Grade

Sophia Truchon

10th Grade

Rylee Dahlgren
Myla Phillips
Josephine Martinez
Idella Wilcox

9th Grade

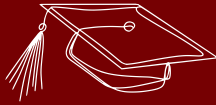
Sohpia Nollet
Rhyah Ray
Avery Swanson
John Truchon
Owen Zakovec

8th Grade

Zoey Halma
Mason Lahti
Mya Peterson
Liam Zakovec

7th Grade

Vivienne Broderson
Elsie Swanson



HONOR ROLL

12th Grade

Lyric Belan
Alivia Nezat
Lillian Nollet

11th Grade

Richard Caratzola
Sylas Jardine
Brooklyn Lehto
Mosiah Martinez
Madeline Purzner

10th Grade

Spencer Jensen
Summer Nicoletti
Brody Verne

9th Grade

Elijah Ciembronowicz
Keegan Jardine
Jaxson Kaseno

8th Grade

Ferran Maki
Greyson Wilcox

7th Grade

Ryker Dahlgren
Mercedes Johnson
Ayden Lahti

2026 SOUTH SHORE FREE THROW CONTEST

WHEN:

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH - 10:00-11:30AM

WHERE:

SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL
Port Wing, WI

WHO:

OPEN TO ALL AGES - \$10 PER SHOOTER
(10 DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS)

Youngest Group = 3-and-under

Oldest Group = 60-and-older

SPONSORED BY THE CARDINAL CLUB

WHY:

TROPHIES FOR TOP FEMALE AND MALE IN EACH AGE GROUP.
ALL PROFITS GO TOWARDS YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM.

SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT 4K REGISTRATION

Open House



Tuesday, April 28 @ 4-6 pm



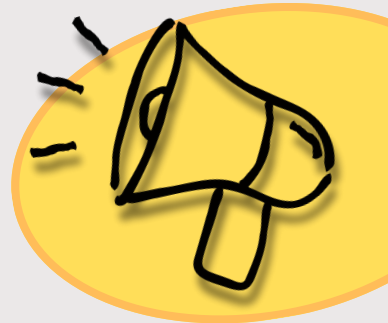
Family Activities
Classroom Tour
Meet the Teacher

'26-27 Registration Forms



Be sure to bring certified birth certificate,
proof of residency & photo ID. Students must
turn 4 on or before September 1, 2026 for 4K.

PTO MEETING



PTO meetings
are open to
parents, teachers,
guardians, friends
and family.

**TUES
APR 7
@ 5:30
HS Library**

**TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

Join the
South Shore
family!



Open Enrollment

for the **'26-27 school year**

began Feb 2 and
closes April 30 @ 4PM

Soar as a
Cardinal

- Small class sizes
- Highly skilled, passionate educators
- College and career-ready graduates
- Wide variety of extracurricular activities
- Highest student achievement scores in the region

FOR MORE
INFORMATION

www.sshore.org
715-774-3500

Scholarships

for graduating seniors & recent graduates

The **Reverend Leslie A. Bechtel, Sr. Scholarship** is available to **students who have graduated from South Shore High School and who are attending one of the campuses of the University of Wisconsin** system. Students must submit their application, along with a statement that includes the area of interest they are pursuing, goals and a perspective of how their field of study will serve humanity. Also, they will need their resume, transcript of grades from the University they are attending and a copy of their Financial Aid Statement. Selection is based on the following factors: financial need, academic standing, plans to attend/is attending the Univ. of Wisconsin system, and a clear statement of goals and career plan. Students interested in applying for the scholarship need to submit their completed application, statement of goals, resume, transcripts, and financial aid statement to the school guidance counselor. Deadline is May 1st.

The **Herbster Community Club** (HCC) would like to remind all graduating seniors and their parents that the HCC provides scholarship funds for students to continue their post-high school college or vocational education. **Students may reapply for scholarship assistance for up to four years.** In order to be eligible, the student must be a graduate of South Shore High School or a resident of Herbster (Town of Clover), regardless of high school attended. Visit herbstercommunityclub.org for additional requirements and deadlines.



The **South Shore Lions** will be awarding scholarships to graduates from South Shore High School and Bayfield High School. Three \$1,000 **scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors**, 2 at South Shore and 1 at Bayfield. Applications are available from the high school counselor. **In addition, graduates of South Shore High School in their 2nd through 5th year of undergraduate studies** may apply for Continuing Education Scholarships totaling up to \$1,000. Applications are available by emailing southshorewilions@gmail.com or contacting Sue Ostrenga, Scholarship Coordinator at 715-774-3254. Deadline for all applications is April 20th.

OFFICIAL [SAMPLE] BALLOT
SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOWNS OF BELL, CLOVER, ORIENTA,
OULU, PORT WING & TRIPP
April 7, 2026

SCHOOL DISTRICT

School District
School Board Member

TOWN OF BELL

Vote for 1

- ☐ Justine Broderon
☐ Write in: _____

TOWN OF OULU

Vote for 1

- ☐ K. Terry Burhans
☐ Rachelle Swanson
☐ Write in: _____

TOWN OF PORT WING

Vote for 1

- ☐ Rebecca Kavajecz
☐ Write in: _____

Notice of Spring Election of School Board Members

120.06(8)(c), Wis. Stats

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the South Shore School District that on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 the spring election of school board members will be held. **Residents in ALL townships vote** for one candidate in the Town of Bell, Town of Oulu, and Town of Port Wing in the Spring General Election. Polling hours at ALL polling places are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at your respective polling place. The sample ballot to the left shows South Shore School District's portion of the ballot for the school board candidates.

Congrats

to the High School
Choir for earning
gold at this year's
WSMA Large Group
Festival on March 5
under the direction of Mrs. Kavajecz
with accompaniment from Mrs.
Truchon. They received top marks from
a panel of three judges. Well done!



South Shore School District Board of Education Meeting Agenda

In Compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law

Public Notice SS19.84(3)
SS19.85(1)(c)

Clyde Clausen, President
Rebecca Kavajecz, Clerk

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be at South Shore Jr-Sr High School, Port Wing, WI at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

Members of the public may attend in person or through Zoom. All public participants phones, microphones, and chat dialog boxes will be muted or disabled during the meeting. Members of the public who do not wish to appear in person may email dmikula@sshore.k12.wi.us with Public Comment in the subject line. Any person wishing to attend who, because of a disability, requires special accommodations, should contact the office at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting time so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Regular School Board Meeting Agenda Wednesday, March 18, 2026 5:30 p.m

1. Welcome

1.01 Call to Order / Roll Call

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

2. Recognition/Highlight

2.01 We are South Shore

2.02 Acknowledge and Accept Donations

3. Audience Participation

3.01 Audience Participation Guidelines - Limit 5 minutes

4. Agenda Modifications

4.01 Modifications to Agenda Items or Prior Minutes

5. Consent Agenda

5.01 Approve Minutes - Feb 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

5.02 Approval of Bills and Budget (ending February 2026)

5.03 Approve Personnel Report

6. New Business

6.01 Building Project Update

6.02 Announce Class of 2026 Valedictorian & Salutatorian

6.03 Appoint a Board Rep. to CESA #12 Annual Convention

6.04 Start College Now & Early College Credit Applications

7. Committee Reports

7.01 Finance & Operations

8. Policy

8.01 Technical Updates 35.1

8.02 1st Reading: Neola Policies

8.03 1st Reading: Special Update - Student Support Org's

9. Board / Admin Reports

9.01 CESA 12 Delegate Report

9.02 Superintendent's Report

10. Upcoming Dates

10.01 Upcoming Dates

11. Closed Session: The Board will Convene in Closed Session Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1)(c)(f) to Consider Employment, Promotion, Compensation or Performance Evaluation Data of any Public Employee Over Which the Governmental Body has Jurisdiction or Exercises Responsibility AND Considering Financial, Medical, Social or Personal Histories or Disciplinary Data of Specific Persons, Preliminary Consideration of Specific Personnel Problems or the Investigation of Charges Against Specific Persons except where par. (b) Applies which, if Discussed in Public, would be likely to have a Substantial Adverse Effect upon the Reputation of any

(continued from previous column)

Person Referred to in such Histories or Data, or Involved in such Problems or Investigations.

11.01 WI Stat. 19.85(1)(f) Update Concerning Former Personnel

11.02 WI Stat. 19.85(1)(c) Consider Employee Contract Update

11.03 WI Sta. 19.85(1)(c) Superintendent Goals and Feedback

12. Reconvene to Open Session

12.01 Consider Public Action from Closed Session Item

13. Adjournment

13.01 Adjournment

South Shore School Board School Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on Feb. 18, 2025, 5:30pm - 6:26 pm
(minutes to be approved at the March 18 meeting)

1. Welcome

1.01 Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order in the High School Library and on Zoom by President Clauson at 5:30 p.m. Roll Call: Present: Clyde Clauson, Mark Hoefling, Rebecca Kavajecz. Virtually present: Justine Broderson, Terry Burhans, Merlyn Coy, James Stemwedel. Absent: None. Also present: Danielle Mikula, Superintendent and Michelle Simpson, Principal.

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Board members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Recognition/Highlight

2.01 Acknowledge and Accept Donations

- Donations - None.
- CTE acknowledgement tabled until next month since no school today.

3. Audience Participation

3.01 Audience Participation Guidelines - Limit 5 minutes

- None

4. Agenda Modifications

4.01 Modifications to Agenda Items or Prior Minutes

- None

5. Consent Agenda

5.01 Approve Meeting Minutes

- January 28, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

5.02 Approval of Bills and Budget (ending January 2026)

- Approval of Bills and Budget (ending January 2026)
General fund 99495 through 99505 and 99513 through 99618 and payroll/direct deposit on 900015485-900015614 and 4001 through 4010 for payment.

5.03 Approve Personnel Report

- None

Motion by Hoefling, 2nd Stemwedel to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote: Yes: Broderson, Burhans, Clauson, Coy, Hoefling, Kavajecz, Stemwedel, No: None, Absent: None. Motion carried by roll call vote.

6. Committee Report/s

6.01 Policy & Governance Committee

Policy Committee met last week and reviewed NEOLA updates. These will be available for first read in March.

(continued from previous page)

7. New Business

7.01 Building Project Pre-Construction Update

Ryan from Market & Johnson was here today for a walk-through with several contractors. Tim from HSR gave an update on progress so far. Prepping for the start of construction.

Adding to scope of project - we have approximately \$318,700 available to consider as bids came in lower and actual costs are dialed in. Nine items that were previously identified but not included in the project were revisited:

- 4 items were identified to add from available cost savings
 - Replace existing doors and hardware, replace lockers, add one single-use toilet in the public area, and add 12 stalls to the parking lot
- 3 items were identified to add by reducing contingency by approximately \$42,000.
 - Expand bus turn radius, add/replace elementary gym fans, and other minor items
- 2 items were rejected

Motion by Stemwedel, second by Coy to approve the scope additions as presented. Roll call vote: Yes: Broderson, Burhans, Clauson, Coy, Hoeffling, Kavajecz, Stemwedel, No: None, Absent: None. Motion passed by roll call vote.

7.02 Strategic Roadmap Q2 Progress Updates

Principal Simpson presented updates on two of our strategic goals.

Goal 1: College and Career Readiness

- "Planning with a Purpose" Day was held last week with several activities:
 - A Career Fair was held. Thank you to the 25 presenters who attended.
 - Seniors have started developing their senior projects or portfolios.
 - Individualized Learning Plans - Students in grades 7-11 started planning their schedules for next year.
- Scope & Sequence was added for 4K-6th grade; many schools do not have this
- Special thanks to the staff on the CCR team and to everyone who contributed to these efforts.

Goal 2: District Assessment Data

- Student Achievement: We continue to see significant growth in achievement since we started the assessments, but are seeing less notable jumps in achievement between testing periods, which is expected.
- Growth: Our growth pattern is similar to what it has been for the past few winters. Collaborative teams are analyzing trends in students who did not meet their growth goals to make instructional adjustments.

7.03 Phase 2 Borrowing Finance and Rate Update

Reviewed closing documents from the second phase of borrowing. Our notes will be earning 4.3% interest, which is higher than had been estimated.

8. Board/Admin Reports

8.01 CESA 12 Delegate Report

- Met on Zoom on 2/17/26. Director Madison presented the CESA 12 goals for the year.

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8.02 Superintendent's Report

- Girls basketball will host a regional game against Luck
- Boys are wrapping up their season
- Evaluating if we will have enough students for softball
- Forensics has a record number of students out and is practicing and preparing to compete
- The visit today with contractors went very well
- Friday, May 22, 2026, will be groundbreaking for the project

9. Upcoming Dates

- March 4, 2026 - Finance & Operations Comm Meeting 4:30pm
- March 18, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting 5:30pm

10. Closed Session

10.01 Employee Contract Discussion 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. *Tabled due to lack of an in-person quorum.*

11.0 Meeting Closing

11.01 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Burhans. Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca A. Kavajecz, Clerk
South Shore Board of Education

A graphic titled "IMPORTANT DATES" with a dark background and white text. It lists three dates: April 03 (NO SCHOOL), May 05 (SPRING CONCERTS), and May 15 & 16 (DRAMA PERFORMANCES). The dates are displayed in large, bold, black numbers, with the month names in white. The text "NO SCHOOL", "SPRING CONCERTS", and "DRAMA PERFORMANCES" is in white. The graphic is framed by a white border.

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 03 NO SCHOOL

MAY 05 SPRING CONCERTS

MAY 15 & 16 DRAMA PERFORMANCES

April 2026 Activity Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Finance & Oper. Comm Meeting	2 Track Invitational @ UWS	3 No School In-Service	4
5	6	7 Baseball @ Washburn PTO Meeting	8	9 Baseball @ home vs Washburn	10 Baseball @ Webster (NC) Track @ Ashland	11 Solo & Ensemble @ Ashland
12	13	14 Baseball & Softball @ home vs Mellen Track @ Shell Lake	15 Regular Board Meeting	16 Baseball & Softball @ Mellen	17 Forensics - State	18
19	20	21 Baseball & Softball @ Drummond Youth Honors Choir	22	23 Baseball & Softball @ home vs. Drummond	24 Softball @ New Auburn	25
26	27 Mem. Blood Drive Track - Northern Lights Conf Meet @ Drummond	28 Baseball & Softball @ home vs Hurley	29	30 Baseball & Softball @ Hurley		State Solo & Ensemble @ UW Eau Claire

South Shore School District
PO Box 40
Port Wing, WI 54865

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CAR-RT-SORT

March Newsletter

Postal Customer South Shore School District

District Mission: To provide a rigorous, relevant, high-quality, positive learning environment to foster success in every student.