

SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CARDINAL REPORT

MAY 2026



Congratulations!

Join us for the

Commencement Ceremony

Saturday
May 23 at 1PM
HS Gym

Class Advisors

Nicole Kavajecz
Emma Kimball

Class Moto

"There are far, far better
things ahead than any
we leave behind."

- C.S. Lewis

Class Song

Wake Me Up
- Avicii

Class Flower Tulips

South Shore High School Class of 2026

Back row (L to R)

Owen Bratley, Marcus Kane,
Peyton Pearson, Gavin Greene,
Chris Bertrand, Soren Hoyer

Front row (L to R)

Levi Collinsworth, Josefine
Klove, Alexys Wehrman, Emma
Curtis, Chalee Luzzatto, Erica
Johnson, Addy L, Lillian Nollet,
Alton Greene, Lyric Belan

Not Pictured: Riccardo DeVita,
Samantha Walker, Alivia Nezat



Valedictorian

Addy L.

Daughter of
Michael and Amy L.



Salutatorian

Chalee Luzzatto

Daughter of
Jon and Cindy Luzzatto



IN THIS EDITION

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May 20 marks the 3rd annual Community Service Day for students in grades 7–12. On this day, students and staff head out across the school district to work on various projects that benefit our local communities. The goal of Community Service Day is to engage students and teachers in meaningful volunteer work while building camaraderie, and experiencing the satisfaction of giving back. This year's projects include:

Community Service Day

- Assisting with spring cleaning and maintenance at the Oulu Heritage Center to prepare for summer visitors;
- Visiting and spending time with residents at Willow Manor Assisted Living center; and
- Completing grounds maintenance in parks and public areas in Port Wing, Herbster, and Cornucopia.

If you're out and about that day, please drive carefully in areas where students are working. A friendly wave or word of encouragement is always appreciated!



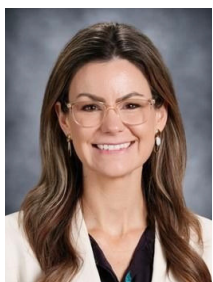


SOUTH SHORE AWARDED EARLY LITERACY GRANT

We are thrilled to share that South Shore was awarded a competitive grant through the WI Dept. of Public Instruction, making us one of 50 public schools in the state that was selected to participate in the WI Early Literacy Coaching Program. This opportunity is designed to support schools in achieving excellent reading outcomes for all students through strengthening instructional practices. The grant award provides funding for a .5 FTE literacy coach to work alongside our expert teachers. South Shore is already seeing phenomenal progress in our literacy outcomes as a result of the work our teachers have done over the last 2-3 years learning about the science of reading. This added resource will help us continue and deepen that impact, and we are delighted that little South Shore was fortunate enough to be chosen.

How were we selected?

A giant thank you goes out to Michelle Simpson, our Principal and Director of Curriculum & Instruction, for the significant time and effort she invested into the challenging application process to make this happen for our students. Selections were made by the Department of Public Instruction based on a balanced set of factors, including early literacy needs (measured by third grade reading results on the Forward Exam), geographic distribution, and each school's existing systems and demonstrated leadership commitment to support a coach's success. DPI awarded grants to only 3 districts in each of the 12 CESA regions across the state.



*Danielle Mikula
District Superintendent*

What are the next steps?

We are working with consultants at the Department of Public Instruction to create a contract of deliverables and evaluate the best approach to use these funds to impact South Shore long term. In order to qualify for this position, the person selected must hold a reading specialist license through WI DPI. Our goal is to invest in our existing dedicated staff so that our system is strengthened long after the grant funds have been utilized.

Spotlight on Student Learning

Teacher Appreciation Week



Michelle Simpson
4K-12 Principal
Dir. of Curriculum & Instruction

May 4th-8th was **National Teacher Appreciation Week**.

At South Shore, we celebrate our entire staff during Teacher Appreciation Week, as every staff member works with students every day! South Shore is the school that it is BECAUSE of the people that make up our school!



Behind the Scenes

Student learning and growth do not just happen! It's the result of continuous, thoughtful planning and reflection. This year, South Shore teachers collaboratively analyzed student learning data several times to determine if ALL students were growing and meeting grade-level goals. Teachers focused on universal strategies, such as writing in response to learning, to support students in building their learning across content areas. While we're still waiting on end-of-the-year assessment data for several grades, the data we have so far shows amazing growth. 90% of students in 4K-3rd grade met their growth goals, with 82% scoring at or above the 50th percentile nationally for reading growth! Educators often don't see the long-term impact they have on the students they work with. They show up every day with the goal of building their students' skills so that they are successful long after the time they get to spend with them. If there is a teacher who has made a difference in your life or the life of a child you love, I highly encourage you to take time this month to let them know!

The Student Experience

Our school is blessed with an amazing staff dedicated to providing students an excellent educational experience. As a small school, our teachers KNOW our students, and it shows in the classroom! In my role, I have the privilege of watching our teachers at work. There are no words to describe the magic that happens in each of our classes every day that leads to our students developing as readers, writers, scientists, mathematicians, artists, and so much more!

Learning is not confined to the walls of a classroom. Outdoor learning, field trips, concerts, dances, clubs, the after-school program, Battle of the Books, summer school, and co-curricular activities all happen because of the dedication that our teachers have for our students. It is not unusual to see South Shore teachers arriving early, staying late, or working on a weekend to give our students experiences beyond the classroom. Many people don't realize this, but many of the extra activities are the result of staff who are volunteering their time because of their love for our students.



Solo & Ensemble



Students from area schools performed in the 2026 WSMA Solo & Ensemble District Festival on Saturday, April 11 in Ashland. Twenty-four students from South Shore performed in 49 different vocal and instrumental events, either as soloists or ensembles (small groups). Each performance had a judge who gave constructive feedback afterwards. It takes a lot of courage to perform as a young soloist/ensemble and then get critiqued in front of an audience. South Shore students showed poise, resilience, and skill at this year's festival. Three students advanced to represent South Shore at the WSMA State Solo/Ensemble Festival in Eau Claire, earning two firsts and a second. Congratulations musicians!

You're Invited:



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

FRIDAY MAY 22, 2026

12:20 PM

SOUTH SHORE HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

JOIN US!

12:20-12:40 - School Year Highlights & Thank You

12:40-1:00 - View Renderings for Building, Enjoy Refreshments

** Please RSVP by emailing dmcnamara@sshore.k12.wi.us to help us plan for space & refreshments **

The South Shore School District thanks and celebrates the service of Terry Burhans, who has faithfully served on our school board for the last 23 years. Terry has been an integral part of our building project planning, the Teaching & Learning Committee, and the Finance & Operations Committee. Terry's one north star and priority has always been the children of the South Shore School District.

Her service and leadership has impacted and will continue to touch generations of students in our community. From our entire school district staff, the school board, and administration, from the bottom of our hearts say THANK

YOU to Terry Burhans for her outstanding labor of love serving our community.

A letter from
former school board
member, Terry Burhans

To all the Communities that make up the South Shore School District; to the South Shore Board; to all the People who keep this school running on a daily basis: Teachers, Cooks, Administration, Custodians, Bus drivers and to each Parent and every Student who is or has attended this great school:

I wanted to take a moment to thank each of you for your skills, time, effort, and eagerness to learn. I have enjoyed serving in the decision-making process for the past 23 years, representing both the Oulu area and the district as a whole. I will miss the meetings, the discussions, the comradery and yes even the phone calls. The trust you all placed in me was amazing and terrifying all at the same time. But the one thing that makes the time and effort worth doing this is the KIDS!! Again, I want to thank you for the trust you placed in me, and I am honored to say I am a South Shore graduate, and I served as a member of the South Shore School Board. And I thank God for the opportunity you all gave me to serve and grow. God Bless you all and keep up the good work!!

- Terry Burhans



Terry
Burhans

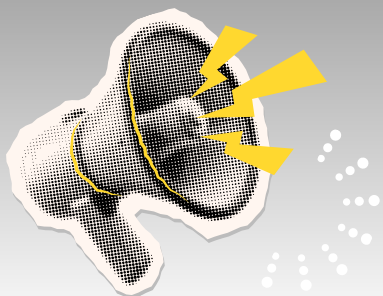
NOW HIRING

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

High school & elementary substitutes needed for the 2026-27 school year. Contact Michelle Simpson at msimpson@sshore.k12.wi.us or 715-774-3500

BUS DRIVERS

Hiring route drivers & substitute drivers for the 2026-27 school year. Contact Roger Branham at jrmw@sshore.k12.wi.us or 715-209-2030





May Cardinal Mindset

THE TIME IS NOW

The Time is Now mindset is about getting involved in life and making the most of each day. It encourages students to live in the present and take action toward their goals. Instead of waiting for the "perfect time," it shows that small steps today can lead to big achievements over time. By focusing on what they can do now, students learn to avoid distractions, face challenges, and make steady progress. This mindset helps build important skills like resilience, time management, and adaptability, which support both school success and personal growth.



PRACTICAL TIPS FOR YOUR FAMILY

- **Inspire through Role Models and Your Own Actions:** Share stories of people who achieved great things through hard work and courage. If possible, share your own experiences of facing challenges and stepping out of your comfort zone.
- **Celebrate Progress, Big or Small:** Encourage your child to celebrate every step they take toward their goals, even the small ones. This will help build confidence and keep them motivated to keep going.
- **Emphasize Purposeful Action:** Teach your child to take small, intentional steps toward their goals each day. Remind them that consistent effort, no matter how slow, helps make dreams come true.

MINDSET MATTERS

Here are ways we want to support your child:

- **Embrace Every Moment:** Encouraging your child to live fully in the present, appreciating the value of each moment, and making the most of opportunities as they come.
- **Get in the Zone:** Supporting your child in focusing on important tasks, teaching them how to block out distractions and work with purpose and efficiency.
- **Let Yourself Be Vulnerable:** Assisting your child in taking risks and stepping outside their comfort zone shows them that vulnerability is a strength that leads to growth, resilience, and stronger connections with others.
- **Act with Purpose:** Motivating your child to take intentional steps toward their goals, emphasizing how purposeful action shapes the future they want.



CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use these questions to engage in a conversation with your child/children:

- Can you think of a time when you had to stay focused on something even with distractions? What did you do to stay in the zone?
- Was there ever a time when you felt exposed or uncertain? What happened, and what did you learn about yourself in that moment?

WE ARE
HIRING!



Apply Now!
Paraprofessional

Compensation : \$20.80/hour plus benefit package

For more information:

Contact Superintendent Dani Mikula

dmikula@sshore.k12.wi.us

Join us for the final
Family Track Meet

May 16 @ 9 - 10:30AM

South Shore Track

4K - 6th Grade



**TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

PTO
meeting

May 14 @ 4PM
HS Library

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

**JOIN THE
SOUTH SHORE
COMMUNITY
BAND**

**PORT WING, WI
OPEN TO ANY WOODWIND, BRASSWIND,
AND PERCUSSION PLAYERS**

**2026 SUMMER
SEASON SCHEDULE**
6:30-7:30PM REHEARSALS
MONDAYS JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29
AND
JULY 13, 20, 27, AUG 3

CONCERTS
JULY 6 & AUGUST 10

For more information, contact
kavaj006@alumni.umn.edu
(715) 969-4750

South Shore School District
Board of Education Meeting Agenda

In Compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law

Public Notice SS19.84(3) Clyde Clausen, President
SS19.85(1)(e)(f) 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 Monday, May 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
Monday, May 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Welcome

- 1.01 Call to Order / Roll Call
- 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

2. Re-Organizational Meeting

- 2.01 Annual Board Reorganization
- 2.02 Election of President
- 2.03 Meeting Gavel Presented to the Elected President
- 2.04 Election of Vice-President
- 2.05 Election of Clerk
- 2.06 Election of Treasurer
- 2.07 Appoint Deputy Clerk / Treasurer
- 2.08 WASB Correspondent
- 2.09 CESA Delegate
- 2.10 CESA Alternate
- 2.11 Annual CESA Convention Representative
- 2.12 Committees
- 2.13 Set Board Meeting & Committee Meeting Dates

3. Audience Participation

- 3.01 Audience Participation Guidelines

4. Agenda Modifications

- 4.01 Modifications to Agenda Items or Prior Minutes

5. Consent Agenda

- 5.01 Approve Mtg Minutes of April 15, 2026 Board Meeting
- 5.02 Approval of Bills and Budget (ending April 2025)
- 5.03 Approve Personnel Report

6. Committee Reports

- 6.01 Finance & Operations

7. New Business

- 7.01 Building Project Update
- 7.02 Co-Curricular Department Updates
- 7.03 Technology Budget Projections & Device Proposal
- 7.04 Approve 2026 Graduation Roster
- 7.05 WI Early Literacy Grant Award
- 7.06 Approval of Strategic Plan Documents 2026-31
- 7.07 CESA #12 Contract
- 7.08 Approve Student Assurance Insurance

(continued in next column)

(May meeting agenda, continued from previous column)

8. Administration Reports

- 8.01 Superintendent's Report
- 8.02 CESA 12 Delegate Report

9. Upcoming Dates

- 9.01 Upcoming Dates

10. Meeting Closing

- 10.01 Adjournment

South Shore School Board
School Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on April 15, 2026, 5:30pm - 7:43 pm
(minutes to be approved at the May 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: Justine Broderson, Terry Burhans, Clyde Clauson, Mark Hoefling, Rebecca Kavajecz, James Stemwedel. Virtual: None. Absent: Merlyn Coy. Also present: Danielle Mikula, Superintendent.

- 1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Board members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Recognition/Highlight

- 2.01 We Are South Shore

- *We recognize Terry Burhans for 23 years of service as a Board member.*

- 2.02 Acknowledge and Accept Donations

- *None*

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 Minutes of March 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

- 5.02 Approval of Bills and Budget (ending March 2026)

- *Approval of Bills and Budget (ending March 2026) General fund 99748 through 99836 and payroll/direct deposit on 900015704-900015793 and 4022 through 4033 for payment.*

- 5.03 Approve Personnel Report

- *Resignation: Emily Sprengelmeyer, HS & AP Mathematics position, effective at the conclusion of the 25-26 school year*
- *Position Update: Michele Duckworth, Custodian & Facilities Manager, effective immediately*

Motion by Stemwedel, second by Hoefling to approve the consent agenda as presented. Voice vote: Yes: All. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coy. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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6. New Business

6.01 Insurance Updates and Discussion

- RaeAnne Beaudry from USI Insurance presented information on the Northern School District Trust (NSDT) followed by discussion. The Trust will be requiring all groups to offer one or both of the same two plan designs: an HSA-compatible high-deductible health plan and a traditional PPO to encourage cost-conscious choices. The increase to the District for next year will be 7%.

6.02 Building Project Phasing Update

- Bi-weekly meetings with construction manager continue. Construction traffic and signage has been determined. Parts of the property that will be off-limits during various phases of construction have been identified. Groundbreaking ceremony will be Friday, May 22.

6.03 Reading Progress, Grades Pre-Kindergarten to 3rd Grade

- What we are doing with our students is working! 90% of our students met their individual growth goals on the reading assessment, with 82% of students meeting at least the 50th SGP.

6.04 Preliminary Budget Projections and Consideration of Staff Compensation Requests

- Superintendent Mikula presented information on budget projections and staff requests.

7. Policy

7.01 2nd Reading Policies: NEOLA Update 35.1

Board reviewed updates to the following District bylaws and policies:

- Bylaw 0100 Definitions (revised)
- Bylaw 0142.7 Orientation (revised)
- Bylaw 0144.5 Board Member Behavior, Communications, and Code of Conduct (revised)
- Policy 1210 Board - District Administrator Relationship (revised)
- Policy 1230.01 Development of Administrative Guidelines (revised)
- Policy 1240 Evaluation of the District Administrator (revised)
- Policy 2261.01 Parent and Family Engagement in Title I Programs (revised)
- Policy 2431 Interscholastic Athletics (revised)
- Policy 4140 Termination and Resignation (revised)
- Policy 5112 Entrance Age (revised)
- Policy 5135 Student Identification Numbers and Cards (new)
- Policy 5136 Personal Communication Devices (revised)
- Policy 5411 Third Grade Promotion and Retention: At-Risk Students (revised)
- Policy 6152.01 Waiver of School Fees or Fines (revised)
- Policy 6320 Purchasing (revised)
- Policy 7540.02 Digital Content & Accessibility (replacement)
- Policy 7540.08 Artificial Intelligence (AI) (replacement)
- ACT 57 Update: Policy 1213/3213/4213 Student Supervision and Welfare (revised)
- ACT 57 Update: Policy 8462 Child Abuse & Neglect (revised)

Motion by Kavajecz, second by Broderson to approve the second reading of the policies as presented. Voice vote: Yes: All. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coy. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

(continued in next column)

7.02 2nd Reading: Special Update - Student Support Organizations

Board reviewed proposed updates to the following policies:

- Policy 5830 Student Fundraising
- Policy 6605 Crowdfunding
- 6610 Nondistrict-Supported Student Activity Accounts
- 7230 Gifts, Grants, and Bequests
- 9211 School Support Organizations
- 9700 Relations with Non-School Affiliated Groups
- 9700.01 Advertising and Commercial Activities

Motion by Hoefling, second by Stemwedel to approve the second reading of the policies as presented. Voice vote: Yes: All. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coy. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. Board/Admin Reports

8.01 CESA 12 Delegate Report - Mark Hoefling

- Meeting is next week. Mark will be unable to attend.

8.02 Superintendent's Report - Dani Mikula

- 24 Students are competing in State Forensics next week.
- 4 students going to state for Music
- Spring Concerts are May 5th
- 7-12 Academic Spirit Week is coming up
- May 15 & 16th - Drama performances and dinner theater
- May 20 is Cardinal Service Day

9. Upcoming Dates

9.01 Upcoming Dates

- May 4, 2026 - Finance & Operations Comm. Mtg. 5:30pm
- May 7, 2026 - CESA 12 Board/Admin Conference 5:30pm, Hayward Steakhouse & Lodge
- May 18, 2026 - Regular Board Meeting at 5:30pm
- May 22, 2026 - Groundbreaking Ceremony at 12:00pm
- May 23, 2026 - Graduation at 1:00pm

10. Closed Session

The board convened in closed session at 7:02p.m. pursuant to WI State Statute 19.85(1)(e) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility; and pursuant to WI State Statute 19.85(1)(f) to consider financial, medical, social, or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary considerations or 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 person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations

10.01 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

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(April meeting minutes, continued from previous page)

10.02 19.85(1)(f) Considering financial, medical, social, or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary considerations or 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 person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations.

Motion by Hoefling, second by Broderson to adjourn to closed session at 7:02p.m. pursuant to WI State Statutes 19.85(1)(e) and 19.85(1)(f) to discuss listed items in the agenda.
Roll call vote: Yes: All. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coy.
Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

11. Reconvene to Open Session

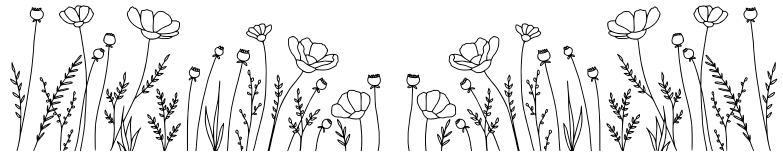
Motion by Hoefling, second by Burhans to reconvene to open session at 7:41p.m. for action on items from closed session.
Roll call vote: Yes: All. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Coy.
Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

11.01 Consider Potential Action from Closed Session Discussion
Motion by Burhans, second by Hoefling to approve salary increase of 3% per year for the next two years and 6 week paid parental leave. Voice vote: Yes: All, No: None, Abstain: None, Absent: Coy.
Motion carried by voice vote.

12. Meeting Closing

12.1 Adjournment
Motion by Burhans to adjourn at 7:43p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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



When School is Out, Summer EBT is Here to Help!

Summer EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) is an income-based program that helps families buy food for their children while school is out. Each summer, families can get a one-time payment for each eligible child in their household. Summer EBT can be used anywhere that FoodShare benefits are accepted, like most grocery stores, many convenience stores, and some farmer's markets.

Your child should get benefits automatically if:

- Your child had an approved application on file this school year with their National School Lunch Program (NSLP) school to get free or reduced price meals.
- Your child is school-aged and your household is part of FoodShare, Wisconsin Works (W-2), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or certain income-based Medicaid programs; or if we know that your child is a migrant, in foster care, or experiencing homelessness.

Learn More

Scan the QR code or go to dhs.wi.gov/sebt to get details about Summer EBT.



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

ELECTION APRIL 7, 2026 | TERMS BEGIN APRIL 27, 2026



	Bell	Clover	Oriente	Oulu	Port Wing	Tripp	Total
Town of Bell							
Justine Broderson	163	127	51	175	130	47	693
Scatterings	1	2	2	1	3	0	9
Town of Port Wing							
Rebecca Kavajecz	130	117	54	174	133	51	659
Scatterings	0	3	0	1	3	0	7
Town of Oulu							
Terry Burhans	51	57	31	131	51	27	348
Rachelle Swanson	75	71	29	97	87	27	386
Scatterings	0	1	0	0	1	0	2

June 2026 Activity Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Swimming (Gr 1-5)	2 Swimming (Gr 1-5)	3 Swimming Teaching/Learning Comm. Finance/Operations. Comm.	4 Swimming (Gr 1-5)	5 Swimming (Gr 1-5)	6
7	8 Swimming (Gr 1-5)	9 Swimming (Gr 1-5)	10 Swimming (Gr 1-5)	11 Swimming (Gr 1-5)	12 Swimming (Gr 1-5)	13
14	15	16	17 Regular Board Meeting	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Port Wing, WI 54865
Permit No. 1
CAR-RT-SORT

May 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.