

CARDINAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2026



Welcome Back Cardinals

A Note From One Parent to Another

Dani Mikula, Superintendent

Dear Families,

I have officially reached the stage of life where I get genuine butterflies on the first day of school — and I no longer carry a backpack. There is something deeply endearing about watching a district wake up again. Buses that spent the summer looking slightly lonely suddenly have purpose. Hallways that echoed with construction noise all summer now fill with sneakers, laughter, and the unmistakable sound of a sixth-grader realizing they forgot their Chromebook charger.

Of course, the chaos comes with it too. So if your house currently smells like new folders, Axe body spray, fresh braces, and the faint hope that last year's gym shoes still fit... welcome. You are among friends.

I write this not only as your superintendent, but as a parent. Like you, I have also stood in the kitchen at 6:08 a.m. on the first day holding a half-buttered piece of toast, wondering how the child who once fit in my lap is now looking me level in the eye. This year my parenting win was ordering my son new school pants, only to discover he had gone up TWO full sizes since the end of the last school year. Growing that fast should honestly be illegal.

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- 05** Cardinal Athletics Summer Recap
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There is the pure comedy of it all: the sudden discovery that your child has strong opinions about the “correct” brand of pencils, and the quiet realization that you are once again the official finder of lost water bottles and decoder of brand-new slang that appears overnight. We parents become part detective, part cheerleader, part short-order cook who is never quite sure what our kids will agree to eat from one day to the next.

But underneath the chaos is something softer. It is the way a child's (or young adult's) face still lights up when they talk about seeing friends again. It is the small swell of pride when they walk into the building a little taller, a little braver, than they did last June. It is the reminder that we get another year to watch them grow — messy, wonderful, and entirely themselves.

So here is my simple wish for all of us this year: may we give ourselves a little grace on the hard mornings, celebrate the ordinary victories, and remember that none of us are doing this alone.

To our students: You grew over the summer. Some of you grew taller. Some of you grew braver. A few of you grew mustaches that will require careful monitoring. We are glad you're back, exactly as you are.

To our staff: You spent the last weeks in August doing the invisible work that makes September look easy. Thank you for the late-night lesson planning, the classroom rearranging, and the quiet determination to make this year better than the last. The rest of us notice, even when we don't say it enough.

To our families: You are the ones who make sure your kids are getting enough sleep, somehow locate the missing shoe at 7:12 a.m. and still manage to send your child out the door with manners and a reasonable chance of success. That is heroic work. We see you.

So here we go again — another year of early mornings, unexpected triumphs, and the occasional mystery of the disappearing glue sticks. Let's fill these halls (old and new) with curiosity, kindness, and just enough humor to keep us all smiling through the hard days.

Welcome back. We're glad to be doing this together. Now please, for the love of all that is organized, label the sweatshirts and water bottles.

Warmly,

Dani Mikula





≡Welcome≡



to South Shore's Newest Team Members!



We are excited to welcome

Cole Schreiner

as a special education paraprofessional. Mr. Schreiner has a strong background in coaching basketball at the college level and teaching. His mom was a paraprofessional, and he remembers the great impact she had on the students she served. Mr. Schreiner is looking forward to learning and building relationships in his new role.



Doris Abandoh

is joining South Shore as our high school math teacher. Ms. Abandoh is passionate about advanced math and serving students. She brings 7 years of experience teaching high school math in her home country of Ghana. Ms. Abandoh will be with South Shore for 3-5 years as an international exchange teacher. We are excited to learn with and from Ms. Abandoh. Our students and community have already given her a warm welcome!



Michael Knaack

is also joining us as a paraprofessional this year. Michael made his debut appearance last school year as a long-term sub, and loved it so much that he decided to join our team as a paraprofessional. Mr. Michael is known for his infectious enthusiasm and positivity with the kids. You will never find this guy without a smile!

EVERY CARDINAL IS LEARNING – AND SO ARE WE

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



We are *thrilled* to have our students back in the new spaces at South Shore! This was a busy summer for the district with construction on the building, and while most staff were not on site for much of the summer, many were still busy leading summer school, learning new ways to support student learning, and preparing for the upcoming school year. As excited as our staff is for the new spaces at South Shore, we are even more excited for the learning that will happen in these spaces this year.



At South Shore, we are committed to ensuring every Cardinal is learning. This summer, a team of teachers and administrators met for five days to review our students' learning data from the 2025-26 academic year. Our students had many successes last year! The average ACT score for juniors at South Shore significantly increased. Many South Shore students met their individual reading and math goals. Our teachers noted improvements in student writing in response to the work we focused on as a District.



With that said, we are always striving to do better as a school because we want EVERY child to be successful. This summer, the team identified an ongoing focus for the district: continuing to strengthen high-impact teaching strategies in every classroom to support students in reaching their reading growth goals, and helping our juniors reach at least an 18 on the ACT – an important benchmark for academic readiness. Specifically, we will focus on how teachers and students can use regular feedback and checks for understanding to identify what students know, what they are still learning, and what they need to do next.



At South Shore, we are committed to every Cardinal learning – and that includes our staff. During in-service, our entire teaching staff reflected on how to refine and improve what we are already doing in the classroom. Several teachers led learning for their colleagues on key strategies to use with students, and staff had multiple opportunities to learn from each other.



As we head into a new year, we are excited! We are excited to have our students back in the building, excited about the new spaces where our students will learn, and most of all, excited about the learning that will happen this year. Every Cardinal is learning—and we can't wait to see where that learning takes us!



Summer is a good time to get refreshed, and also a time to prepare for the next school year – or the next season. At South Shore, we want students to experience the joy of excellence. Athletics is a great way to foster that intention. As coaches will often say, *"players are developed in the off-season, and teams are developed during the season."* This summer, Cardinal athletes of all ages worked deliberately to grow their skills in a variety of ways.

Students played in the local baseball league.

Several boys and girls played AAU basketball all over the Midwest. HS volleyball and basketball teams joined weekly summer leagues. A few kindergarten and 1st grade girls attended a basketball camp.



7 basketball players in 3rd-7th grade attended camp at UMD.

South Shore kids won a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in Ashland.

Students attended multiple basketball camps all over the state of Wisconsin and Minnesota.



29 Cardinals signed up for our at-home strength + conditioning program while our new fitness center was under construction.

Two South Shore 3rd graders won the all-camp shooting contests (Free Throw and Hot Shot) at the UW-Madison Badger Basketball Camp, beating out 65 other players to become the top 2 shooters.

South Shore Basketball Camp: 20 elementary students invested 10 hours of practice; 13 middle/high school students invested 15 hours.

Weekly basketball open gyms at the Historic Herbster Gym.

Coaches also stayed involved: coaching summer league, leading camps, attending coaching clinics, reading books together, and discussing how to raise the standard of excellence for our athletics.



**With continuous and consistent effort,
the future is bright for South Shore athletics!**

**MON
OCT
26**

South Shore School District Annual Meeting

Meeting will be held on Monday, October 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the Instructional Media Center at the South Shore Jr/Sr School, Port Wing, WI. More information to come in the October newsletter and public postings.

COMMUNITY SOCCER



FALL SATURDAYS 9-10:30 AM

FREE FOR ALL AGES

SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL FIELDS

Let's give kids (and adults) an opportunity to experience the most popular sport in the the world. This is a 6-week season of informal gatherings to learn and play together. Multiple fields will be set up to create a variety of levels. Please wear athletic shoes without cleats to maximize safety and accessibility for all.

No cost, no equipment, volunteer-led. Just show up.

revans@sshore.k12.wi.us with any questions.



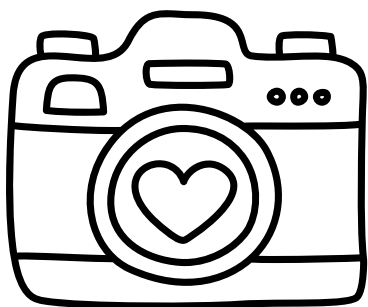
Each year, members of the South Shore Music Department (and families) march in the Port Wing Fall Festival Parade.

This year they hyped the crowd with enthusiastic sound and spirit! We are proud to represent our district through music in the parade.

Go South Shore!

School Picture Day Tuesday, Sept. 22

Retake Day: Tuesday, Oct. 27



Parents will receive an email 2-5 days after Picture Day with ordering information and a link to preview their gallery. Online orders placed within 7 days of link delivery have the option of free shipping to the school. Contact the district office for a paper order form to pay by cash or check.

Didn't catch the band at Fall Fest? See them on Sunday, October 4 in the Grand Parade at the Bayfield Apple Festival! Parade starts at 2:00 PM.

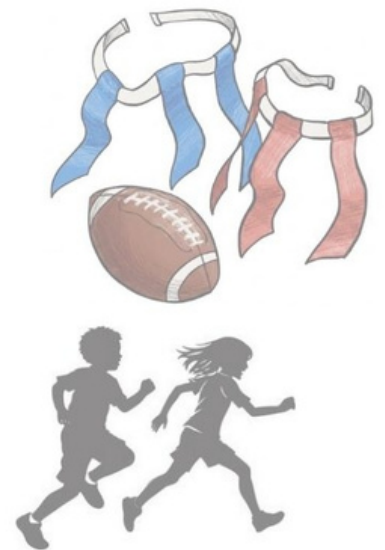
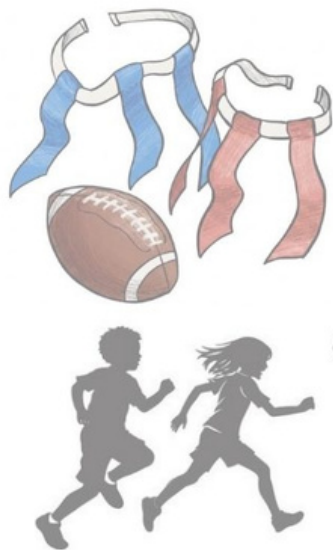


October 15

Early Release @ 1:00 PM

October 16

No School – In-Service



AFTER-SCHOOL FLAG FOOTBALL

9/23



9/30



10/7

OPEN TO GRADES 2-6

3:30 - 5:00 PM

SOUTH SHORE SCHOOL FIELD

Sign up through South Shore Scholars (after-school program) for this 3-week season.

Wear active outdoor shoes + clothes.

revans@sshore.k12.wi.us with any questions.

**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)(g) Rebecca Kavajecz, Clerk

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held at the Instructional Media Center at the South Shore Jr/Sr School, Port Wing, WI at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept 16, 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.

1. WELCOME

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

2. RECOGNITION/HIGHLIGHTS

- 2.01 Acknowledge and Accept Donations

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 Minutes of Aug 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- 5.02 Approve Bills and Budget (ending Aug 2026)
- 5.03 Approve Personnel Report

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 6.01 Finance & Operations
- 6.02 Policy & Governance

7. New Business

- 7.01 Investment & Market Update and Review with PMA
- 7.02 Building Project Updates
- 7.03 2026-27 Budget Review & Preparation for Annual Meeting
- 7.04 Employee Approval of Financial Permissions
- 7.05 Special Educ. Dept. Program Update
- 7.06 School Safety Drills Update
- 7.07 Consider Stakeholder Engagement Survey Options

(continued on next column)

(Sept. agenda, continued from previous column)

8. POLICY

- 8.01 NEOLA Policy Updates - Technical Corrections
- 8.02 NEOLA Policy Updates 35.2 - First Reading

9. ADMINISTRATIVE & OTHER 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 WI Stat. 19.85(1)(g).

11.01 The Board will convene in closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Stat. § 19.85(1)(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the board.

12. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

- 12.01 Adjournment



**WE'RE
HIRING!**

Part-time Custodian

South Shore School District seeks a part-time, limited term evening and weekend custodian. The successful candidate must have experience and capabilities in cleaning, grounds maintenance, snowplowing, operating machinery, knowledge of basic skills to change lighting bulbs/fixtures, and basic troubleshooting for HVAC & plumbing.

The anticipated hours are approximately 4:00–8:00 PM with intermittent weekends based on district needs and availability. Up to 20 hrs per week.

Compensation: \$22.83/hour

Start Date: As soon as possible

Interested applicants should submit resume and professional references to District Administrator Danielle Mikula at dmikula@sshore.k12.wi.us.

South Shore School Board Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes

Meeting held August 5, 2026, 5:35 p.m. - 6:05 p.m.

1. Welcome

Call to Order / Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm in the elementary classroom.

Present: Clauson, Coy, Hoefling, Kavajecz, Stemwedel, Swanson. Virtual: None. Absent: Broderson. Also present: Danielle Mikula, Superintendent.

2. Audience Participation

2.01 Audience Participation Guidelines

None.

3. Agenda Modifications

3.01 Modifications to Agenda Items or Prior Minutes

None.

4. Consent Agenda

4.01 Approve Personnel Report

Motion by Hoefling, second by Coy to approve hiring Darienne McNamara as Middle School Girls Basketball coach for the 2026-27 season.

Yes: All, No: None. Absent: Broderson. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

5. Policy Updates

5.01 1st Reading: NEOLA Act 89 Policy Updates

Superintendent Mikula gave an overview of the updates; discussion.

6. Finance & Operations Items

6.01 Review Bills and Budget (ending July 2026)

These will be up for approval at the regular board meeting later in August.

6.02 Building Project & Facilities Updates

Board members toured the property prior to the meeting. Ryan from Market & Johnson provided updates on the project:

- The ceiling grids are being installed, ceiling panels to follow, then other connections in ceiling can happen
- Soft flooring is currently being installed in the high school
- Electrical work will continue in two small areas during staff in-service
- Furniture is coming in the next couple of weeks
- Things going well outside, paving to start next week
- Construction fence will be put up before school starts to separate work areas
- Contingency fund is looking good
- Discussion on fence for drainage area off parking lot; we will wait and decide this later

6.03 2026-27 Handbook Review & Approval

Motion by Hoefling, second by Stemwedel to approve the 2026-27 Co-curricular Handbook and 2026-27 Coaches & Advisors Handbook

Yes: All. No: None, Absent: Broderson.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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(Aug special meeting minutes, cont. from previous column)

7. Closed Session

The Board convened in closed session at 6:02 pm pursuant to WI Stat. 19.85(1)(c) as specified.

Motion by Coy, second by Swanson to enter closed session.

Roll call: Yes: Clauson, Coy, Hoefling, Kavajecz, Stemwedel, Swanson. No: None. Absent: Broderson.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

7.01 Employment Updates 19.85(1)(c) Board will discuss employment updates of public employee(s).

8. Meeting Closing

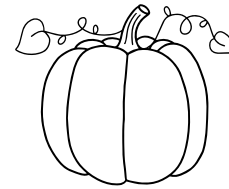
Motion by Clauson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Kavajecz, Clerk

South Shore Board of Education

Minutes approved August 19, 2026.



South Shore School Board Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

Meeting held August 19, 2026, 5:30 p.m.-6:51 p.m.

(minutes to be approved at the Sept 16 meeting)

1. Welcome

1.01 Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order in the Elementary School and on Zoom by President Clauson at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Justine Broderson, Clyde Clauson, Merlyn Coy, Mark Hoefling, Rebecca Kavajecz, James Stemwedel, Rachelle Swanson. Virtual: None Absent: None. Also present: Danielle Mikula, Superintendent.

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

Board members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Recognition / Highlight

2.01 Acknowledge and Accept Donations

- None

2.02 We Are South Shore

- 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

(continued on next page)

5. Consent Agenda

5.01 Approve Minutes of July 13, 2026 Regular Board Mtg & August 5, 2026 Special Board Mtg

5.02 Approval of Bills and Budget (ending July 2026)

- Approval of Bills and Budget (ending July 2026) General fund 100114 through 100176 payroll/direct deposit 900016087 through 900016151 and 4068 through 4079 for payment.

5.03 Approve Personnel Report

- Hires: Doris Abandoh, HS Math Teacher, effective for 26-27 school year.

Motion by Stemwedel, second by Hoefling to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6. New Business

6.01 Building Project Update

Ryan from Market & Johnson provided updates on the project. The schedule is in a good place. The Board toured the building prior to the meeting.

- Teachers will be moving in next week.
- Furniture also next week
- Hot water and IT will be brought on in the next few days
- Separations between work areas and student/staff areas will be installed
- Branding is being planned
- Some crews working 60 hrs/wk to meet deadlines for this phase
- Once school starts, work will move to the addition; a few final details in the HS will be installed during breaks

6.02 Strategic Roadmap for 2026-27

- Reviewed and discussed the roadmap document.

Motion by Coy, second by Stemwedel to approve the Strategic Roadmap as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6.03 2026-27 School Safety and Security Plan

- Principal Simpson reviewed the plan; staff and students will receive training.

Motion by Hoefling, second by Swanson to approve the School Safety Plan for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6.04 LEA Representatives 2026-27 School Year

The list of approved LEA Representatives for 2026-27 will be:

- Michelle Simpson, 4K-12 Principal
- Danielle Mikula, District Administrator
- Alison Cruickshank, School Psychologist
- Jodi Truchon, Guidance Counselor

Motion by Swanson, second by Coy to approve the LEA Representatives for 2026-27 as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

6.05 Discuss Naming Rights and Donations Policy

- Referred to policy committee to develop first draft

(continued in next column)

6.06 Board Self-Evaluation & Goal Setting

Board reviewed results of WASB's self-evaluation tool to assess areas of strength and potential areas of focus.

Discussed potential next steps to prioritize over the next year.

7. Policy

7.01 2nd Reading: NEOLA Act 89 Policy Updates

Board reviewed updates to the following District bylaws and policies:

- Bylaw 0144.5 Board Member Behavior, Communications, and Code of Conduct
- Policy 1213/3213/4213 Student Supervision and Welfare
- Policy 7530.02 Staff and School Officials Use of Personal Communication Devices
- Policy 7540.03 Student Technology and Acceptable Use and Safety
- Policy 7544 Use of Social Media
- Policy 8210 Volunteers
- Policy 8462 Child Abuse and Neglect

Motion by Kavajecz, second by Hoefling to approve the 2nd read policies as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8. Administrative & Other Reports

8.01 CESA 12 Delegate Report

- Met on August 18
- Nick Madison will be CESA Statewide Network Liason in addition to being Director; Liason coordinates between CESA administrators and DPI, salary goes to CESA 12
- Training on supervision of principals was held this summer
- Literacy and Leadership training for districts is available
- Board approved architectural services for an addition to the CESA 12 building
- Progress on strategic plan

8.02 Superintendent's Report

- Cross country, middle school basketball, volleyball practices have started
- One-act and debate are proposed as new activities. We will assess interest and how these could fit in with other activities we offer.

9. Upcoming Dates

9.01 Upcoming Dates

- September 2 - Back to School Bash 3-6 PM
- September 3 - Finance & Operations at 5:30 PM
- September 9 - Policy Committee Meeting at 5:30 PM
- September 16 - Regular Board Meeting at 5:30 PM
- September 21 - Teaching & Learning Comm. at 6:00 PM
- October 26 - Annual Meeting

10. Meeting Closing

10.01 Adjournment

Motion by Clauson to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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

October 2026 Activity Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 HS CC @ Hurley	2 MSGBB @ Solon Springs	3 Community Soccer
4	5 VB vs Hurley @ Home MS & HS CC @ Iron River Golf	6 MSGBB vs Ashland @ Home	7 Finance & Operations Comm.	8 VB @ LCO HS CC @ Washburn MSGBB vs LCO @ Home	9	10 Community Soccer
11	12 MSGBB vs Mellen @ Home	13 MSGBB vs Bayfield @ Home	14	15 EARLY RELEASE VB @ Mellen HS CC @ Solon	16 NO SCHOOL MSGBB vs Washburn @ Home	17 Community Soccer
18	19	20 VB Regional	21 Regular Board Meeting	22 VB Regional	23 HS Choir Pops Concert	24 HS CC Sectionals Community Soccer
25	26 DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING	27 Picture Retakes MSBBB vs Bayfield @ Home	28	29 MSBBB @ Drummond	30	31 Community Soccer

South Shore School District
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September Newsletter

Postal Customer
South Shore School District

DISTRICT MISSION: Connect. Empower. Soar.