

**SOUTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING – MILLER HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
August 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

President Reynolds called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Sean Bartley P A Ms. Jessica Dorsey P A Mr. James Palmer P A
Ms. Mary Reynolds P A Mr. Albert Siemer P A

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- SLEA: Jodi Hellyer – Excited to be back, expressed thanks and compliments to the custodial, maintenance, grounds, and all other staff involved in getting the building and grounds ready for back to school. Union questions on future scoreboard project from Jodi:
 - How much does it cost and where is the money coming from, specifically will any general fund be used for the project? The approximate cost of the scoreboard is \$119,000 and there are still quotes coming in for additional work for pre-installation. The District had previously allocated \$50,000 in their Capital Plan toward a scoreboard purchase. In July, the Board approved an “Athletic Facilities Sponsorship Program” which will allow businesses, individuals, and organizations the option to financially support the future project. The goal is to fund the project with Capital Plan and Sponsorship funds entirely, with no general fund to be spent on this project.
- Idea Part B Special Education Grant - Public Comment - NONE
- Peoples State Bank: Topic: Speak with the Board about the benefits of transitioning the district's banking accounts to Peoples State Bank and how the bank could support Southern Local Schools as its local banking partner.
 - Bank President, Tony Davis, presented to the Board on their plans for the new branch coming to Corning, OH. Mr. Davis emphasized that he as a Miller HS Alumni, along with the Bank, have had a long-standing goal to have a presence in Southern Perry County and with the departure of North Valley Bank from Corning, they now have the opportunity to build there and support

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Southern Perry County. Mr. Davis expressed the commitment of the Bank to build relationships and to reinvest dollars and time in the community in which they serve and to employ local community - including many Miller HS graduates. Mr. Davis shared the resources the new branch will have including ATM, night deposit, and drive thru lanes. Mr. Davis encouraged the Board and District Administration to consider switching their accounts to the Peoples State Bank and provided a document outlining different account options and investment options offered. Mr. Davis invited all to attend their Ground Breaking Ceremony at the new Corning location tomorrow August 21 at 10am.

- Kylie Post – Topic: Preschool Placement – made a request for a reconsideration from administration and the Board, to have her son placed into the preschool room that she works as a classroom aide in.

E. ANNETTE LOSCO

- Ohio Ethics Toolkit – in new hire packets
- Football Scoreboard Update – donation solicitation has been temporarily paused due to local families, businesses, communities and surrounding areas experiencing devastating floods
- Storm Update – attached in packet
- Fitness Trail / Port-a-let – attached in packet
- 2nd Grade Update – attached in packet
- Staff Update – attached in packet
- Band Trailer – attached in packet
- Home Ec Room - PC Health Dept Grant – attached in packet
- K-2 Standards-Based Report Card – attached in packet
- Flag Pole / Bell – attached in packet
- Senior Parking – attached in packet
- Building and Grounds Update – attached in packet
- Technology Update – attached in packet
- MSL Ticket Pricing
 - Varsity Adults \$8, Students \$6

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- Middle School Adults \$6, Students \$4

F. Board Discussion

- Transportation for Athletic Events (Documents attached)
 - Discussion on issues surrounding lack of bus drivers for extra trips. Considerable discussion followed including different ideas that may be options to consider, including: development of a parent transport policy, possible incentives to drive extra trips, subs, using vans. District Administration will further explore ideas.
- Athletic Hall of Fame- Mr. Bartley advised that things are underway with the committee and items are being finalized for the October presentation (including plaques and maybe a dinner).
- Board member Siemer addressed the following:
 - Asked if the wireless controller that was ordered for the current scoreboard is the fix for issues the scoreboard has had previously? He recommended that the Technology Director or the Building and Grounds Supervisor be present at all home games to ensure someone is there to troubleshoot if the scoreboard goes out and the wireless control doesn't fix the problem. Ms. Losco advised that troubleshooting an issue during a game may take longer than a quick few minutes. Ms. Losco advised that this is a management decision.
 - Cell signal boosters – can we look into one of these in the Gymnasium? Can we look into the cost of getting them throughout the building? District administrators will get more information.
 - Asked about Spectrum as a secondary connection and a primary connection. The District's primary connection is through our ITC agreement (META Solutions). The secondary connection with Spectrum is the connection formerly provided by Nelsonville TV Cable, which was acquired by Spectrum.
 - Locked doors at Open House in the High School – Mr. Siemer asked that we ensure that the doors are all open for the open house. Mr. Hook, High School Principal did address this and will ensure they are unlocked appropriately for future events.

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- Board Member Dorsey gave a shout out to Coach Richards and the group of parents who helped re-set the fence after it was blown down in heavy storms.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. MINUTES

- A. Recommend approval of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on July 16, 2026 as submitted by the Treasurer.
- B. Recommend approval of the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on July 29, 2026 as submitted by the Treasurer.

2. TREASURER’S RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Recommend that the Treasurer’s report be accepted as presented.
- B. Approve the Financial Forecast as presented by the Treasurer.
- C. **META Solutions Cooperative Advertising and Receiving Bids for School Bus Chassis and Bodies**

WHEREAS, the Southern Local Board of Education wishes to advertise and receive bids for the purchase of one (1) – 78 PASSENGER CONVENTIONAL school bus.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Southern Local School Board of Education wishes to participate and authorize META Solutions (META) to advertise and receive bids on said Boards' behalf as per the specifications submitted for the cooperative purchase of one (1) – 78 Passenger Conventional school bus(es) and or 9-Passenger Vans.

This resolution does not obligate the district to purchase a bus.

- D. Approve the renewal of the property, fleet and liability insurance with Wichert Insurance Agency from 8/2/26 to 8/2/27 at the cost of \$66,772.00.
- E. Approve the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources for FY 2027 in the amount of \$20,942,954.51.
- F. Approve the Amended Appropriations for FY 2027 at the fund level in the amount of \$16,083,216.30.

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3. APPROVAL OF SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS FOR 2026-2027

- A. Approve the following supplemental coaching contracts for the 2026-2027 school year pending proof of all required coaching documentation:

CATEGORY IX: High School Student Council – Josie Crabtree

- B. Amend and replace the April 23rd, 2026 Board action approving Jessica Green, Supplemental Category VIII, Public Relations, and approve instead:

CATEGORY VIII: Public Relations – Jessica Green ½
Public Relations – Keista Wickham ½

4. APPROVAL OF EXTENDED SERVICE CONTRACTS

- A. Approve the Extended Service Contract for Sara Puckett for EOEC Grant administration for the 2026-2027 School Year, paid at \$2,500 per grant year (minimum of two years, maximum of three years). \$951.22 of the annual payment is paid from the grant funds.
- B. Approve the Extended Service Contract for Sara Puckett for ATSI Grant administration for the 2026-2027 School Year, paid at \$2,500 per grant year (minimum of two years, maximum of three years).

5. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- A. Approve the adult meal price for the 2026-2027 school year. Breakfast \$3.00, Lunch \$5.25.
- B. Approve the following Substitutes for the 2026-2027 School Year pending proof of licensure and background checks:

Ryan Neal Nichole Neal
Seth Matheny

- C. Approve the purchase of one 78 passenger school bus through the MEC Cooperative from the Rush Truck Centers of Ohio for \$142,983.00.
- D. Accept the donations of School Supplies from the Daughters of the American Revolution.
- E. Approve the Student Wellness and DPIA Funding Plan. (See Attached)
- F. NEOLA Board Policies First Reading

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- PO5430 Class Rank
- G. Approve the following volunteer coaches for the 2026-2027 school year pending proof of all required coaching trainings and certifications:
- Albert Siemer – JR High Football
Shawna Colvin – Marching Band
Ryan Bice – Varsity Football
- H. Accept the donation of the 2010 enclosed cargo trailer from the Miller High School Band Boosters, to be used to haul marching band equipment.
- I. Accept the resignation of Mitchell Smith, Teacher, effective August 7, 2026.
- J. Approve the Junior/Senior prom on Saturday, April 24, 2027 from 6 p.m.- 11 p.m. at the Tecumseh Theater.

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APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS AUTHORIZING PROSECUTION OF CIVIL CLAIMS AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS IN THE CASES OF BOTH “ADOLESCENT SOCIAL MEDIA” AND “VIDEO GAME ADDICTION” AND RELATED ACTIONS.

WHEREAS, litigation is pending on behalf of School Districts against the responsible parties of both Video Game Addiction and Social Media Adolescent Addiction (collectively “The Actions”). WHEREAS, Client has and is expending resources undoing the harms caused by the responsible parties in these Actions; and

WHEREAS, a Legal Services Contract has been presented by Grossman & Kelly, LLP and its Partner firm, McIntyre, Schnieders, LLC, and Attorney Zachary T. Space (hereafter collectively referred to as ‘The Law Firm’) to represent Client and seek recovery of its past and future damages by making claims on a pure contingent fee basis against those responsible; and WHEREAS, Client is entitled to participate in these Actions to seek for recovery of its damages; and

WHEREAS, contracting with The Law Firm for legal services will allow Client to efficiently participate and this would serve the interests of its community at no up-front cost or risk; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Education for the Southern Local School District (Perry) as follows:

SECTION I: The Southern Local School District Board President is hereby authorized to execute the attached Legal Services Contract with Grossman & Kelly, LLP and its Partner firms, a copy of which will be held on file by the Secretary of the Board, to investigate and file lawsuits and claims on a contingency basis, on behalf of Client for its losses and economic damages proximately caused by the aforesaid Actions.

SECTION II: The immediate necessity for this action is declared an emergency for the preservation of public peace, health, and safety, and for the reasons set forth above, and this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Name and Title of person authorized to execute

Date

26-045: Motion by Mr. Bartley seconded by Mr. Siemer to approve the items listed on the Consent Agenda.

VOTE:

Mr. Sean Bartley Y N

Ms. Jessica Dorsey Y N

Mr. James Palmer Y N

(Mr. Palmer Abstain from 1.B)

Ms. Mary Reynolds Y N

Mr. Albert Siemer Y N

(Mr. Siemer abstain from 5.G and H)

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MOTION CARRIED Y N

26-046: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Bartley seconded by Mr. Siemer to enter into executive session to consider the discipline of a public employee or official.

VOTE:

Mr. Sean Bartley Y N Ms. Jessica Dorsey Y N Mr. James Palmer Y N
Ms. Mary Reynolds Y N Mr. Albert Siemer Y N

The Board entered into executive session at 7:20 PM.

The Board reconvened regular session at 8:16 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bartley moved, seconded by Mr. Palmer that the meeting be adjourned.

Time: 8:17 PM

PRESIDENT

TREASURER