

SOUTH SPENCER COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2026

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

School Board President, Melissa Middleton, called the meeting to order.

The following Board Members attended:

- Melissa Middleton – President
- Janet Stoermer – Vice President
- Laura Blake – Secretary
- Tyler Hermann - Member
- George Schwoeppe – Member

Consideration of Routine Items

The agenda of the April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of School Trustees was approved as presented.

Motion: George Schwoeppe

Second: Laura Blake

Vote: 5-0

The minutes of the March 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting, were approved as presented.

Motion: Janet Stoermer

Second: Tyler Hermann

Vote: 5-0

Statements from the Public

Teri Voyles – expressed support for Mr. Hill. Grandson attends Rockport Elementary. Was apprehensive about Mr. Hunt leaving last year. Was asked to meet with Mr. Hill and a team before school started to help grandson exceed at school this year. Plan changed and Mr. Hill was able to help put something in place. Mr. Hill made the choice to help and didn't have to. He is a role model for her grandson and wishes she would have picked up the phone sooner and voiced her support.

Britney Dempsey – expresses support for Mr. Hill. Son has attended Rockport Elementary for 3 years. Has always been met with kindness, patience and support from Mr. Hill. Hasn't had to leave work because of son's behavior, instead has received phone calls with updates letting her know they are talking and calming down to return to class. Mr. Hill's patience and understanding have allowed her son to stay in school all day and feel encouraged. Felt alone and unsure in the past. Son has been treated with dignity, understanding and not labeled as the bad kid.

Corbe Hill – Thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the students, staff and families at Rockport Elementary this year. At the beginning, he realized the work ahead wasn't only about academics, but about strengthening systems, building trust and improving the overall culture of the building. Proud of the progress made. Strengthened support system for students. Teachers have more voice. Growing sense of shared responsibility for student success. He is not a finished product as a leader. Continues to grow. Every decision he makes is grounded by what is best for the kids.

Angie Elliott – grandparent of a child with many health issues. Mr. Hill has made a world of difference in her granddaughter's life this year. Mr. Hill has asked what they could do for granddaughter. Feels that Mr. Hill needs to be at Rockport Elementary for the kids because he has made a difference in their lives.

Jordan Spinks – support for Mr. Hill. Has one child with no learning disabilities and one child with severe behavioral disabilities. Had reached out to Mr. Hunt before, whom didn't act like he wanted to talk to her or deal with daughter. Has had good and bad with Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill is able to change from one level with son to another level with daughter. Mr. Hill has made a wonderful change in her daughter at school and at home. He makes time for the children. Wants to know why parents don't have a say.

Randy Dolan – in support for Mr. Hill. Daughter has had issues on school bus since Kindergarten, in second grade now. Tried talking with Mr. Hunt and bus garage to get issues solved. Mr. Hill was able to get it done in a day. Daughter likes riding the bus now. After changing classrooms, because of Mr. Hill's recommendation, daughter has made a huge improvement in personality, school work and everything. Has nothing bad to say.

Corey Troutt – had a few dealings with Mr. Hill. Any kind of issue, Mr. Hill is very attentive. Will call back right away if he can't address it then. Was not like that with previous administration. Mr. Hill listened to him and his fears for his child. He appreciates that. Feels he should have another chance.

Brooke Hanaway – in support of Mr. Hill. Son has struggled a lot. In the past, contact from school was usually for what he's done at school. This year has been completely different. Son has been thriving, improved to nearly straight As. Now enjoys school. Mr. Hill takes the time to talk to him kindly and about how to make better choices. The positive impact he has made in one year is undeniable. Removal of him would be a disservice to the school and community.

Terra Norman – mental health counselor for Kairos. Sees how connected Mr. Hill is to the students, teachers, staff and families. He wants them to succeed. Wants to show support for him. He is changing lives in the community.

John Bell – used to work in Rockport Elementary building. Has many good friends in that school. Son attends Rockport Elementary. Thinks we need to look to the future. It's a lot of special needs kids that are having good, positive moments. Just asks to have transparency. Communication has been better this year. He feels like he's been heard. Go to the person, stop airing out your grievances online. If you have an issue, go to a school board member. There are many people not in support of him in that school. That school is so toxic right now. It's not all on him, it's from the past too. Feels we need to move forward. Has seen so much positivity with communication with Mr. Hill. He's only been given a year, needs another year.

Superintendent's Report

Sidney Stanley – Choir director at the middle school and high school. Would like choir to participate in Festival Disney Performance/Clinic March 31 – April 4, 2027. Tried to get during Spring Break, but that aligns with Disney's own Easter festivities. Will have to be during school.

Consent Items

1. Approved the payroll claim dockets and the accounts payable claims as presented in the board packet.
2. Approved the Treasurer's Financial reports for March 2026.
3. Accepted the retirement of the following, approved to post the position and granted permission to hire:
 - a. Veralyn Neal – Rockport Elementary Music/Art Teacher, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Accepted the resignation of the following, approved to post the positions and granted permission to hire:
 - a. Dustin Utzman – Athletic Fields Groundskeeper, effective March 9, 2026
 - b. Nick Antey – SSHA ELA Teacher, effective end of 2025-2026 contract year.

Motion: George Schwoeppe

Second: Tyler Hermann

Vote: 5-0

Consideration of Administrative Recommendations

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Held Second Reading of Proposed Updates and Changes to Policies.

Motion: Laura Blake

Second: Janet Stoermer

Vote: 5-0

2. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Held First Reading of Proposed Changes to Policies.

No Action Taken

3. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve Stipend for Strength & Conditioning Coach for Summer 2026.

Motion: Tyler Hermann

Second: Laura Blake

Vote: 5-0

4. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approved Luce Daycare Handbook for 2026-2027 School Year.

Motion: Janet Stoermer
Second: George Schwoeppe
Vote: 5-0

5. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approved Overnight trip for the FFA Small Engines State Contest.

Motion: George Schwoeppe
Second: Tyler Hermann
Vote: 5-0

6. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approved Cancellation of Contract.

Motion: Janet Stoermer
Second: George Schwoeppe
Vote: 5-0

Consideration of Personnel Recommendations

1. Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approved to hire:
 - a. MaRanda Towery – 7th Grade Math Teacher at SSMS, effective 2026-2027 School Year
 - b. Christine Kuester – ELA Teacher at SSHS, effective 2026-2027 School Year
 - c. Jocelin Keil – Title I Assistant at Rockport Elementary, effective March 19, 2026
 - d. Malissa Kincaid – Title I Assistant at Rockport Elementary, effective March 13, 2026
 - e. Ashlyn Meyer – Temporary 1:1 Special Education Assistant at Rockport Elementary, effective March 18, 2026
 - f. Christine Kuester – Summer School ELA Teacher at SSHS, effective Summer 2026
 - h. John Hurley – Summer SAE Teacher at SSHS, effective Summer 2026

Motion: Laura Blake
Second: George Schwoeppe
Vote: 5-0

- g. Brett Schulte – Summer School Math Teacher at SSHS, effective Summer 2026

Motion: George Schwoeppe
Second: Tyler Hermann
Vote: 4-0-1 (Janet Stoermer Abstained)

Informational Items

These were written reports to the Board.

1. Technology Report
2. Maintenance Report
3. Transportation Report
4. New Volunteers Report

Statements/Concerns of the Board

Melissa Middleton – congratulations to Mrs. Neal on her retirement. Well deserved. Hope she enjoys retirement. Congratulations to Mr. Schulte. He is in the classroom. Rockport Elementary Spring Carnival this Saturday from 12 PM to 4 PM. Still need volunteers. Prom is April 25 at the Chrisney Community Center. Grand March will be at 7PM at the high school. Enjoy and have fun! Graduation is May 23 at 11 AM. A big applaud to the drama team for a phenomenal performance. Congratulated Mrs. Scaparro for the great performance and the 2 staff members that were characters.

Next Meeting Date

The next Regular Meeting of the Board will be Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM in the multi-purpose room at South Spencer High School.

Adjournment

Time: 6:48 PM

Motion: George Schwoeppe

Second: Tyler Hermann

Vote: 5-0

Document Signing

All Students - All the Time