



The Wigwam

Southern Local School District Newsletter

Winter 2021

Hart the New Face of Southern Local BOE

A longtime fixture in the Southern Local school community is taking on an added role as Scott Hart becomes the newest member of the board of education.

Hart, of Salineville, was sworn in on Jan. 15 to fulfill the unexpired term of Patricia Exline, who resigned after more than a year on the board. Hart is expected to complete the term that concludes on Dec. 31, 2021.

For him, it is a return home of sorts. The 1989 SLHS graduate is a 20-year U.S. Navy veteran and retired as a first-class petty officer. He settled in the area to marry and raise four children--all of whom are SLHS alumni--and he has five grandchildren who will soon be students themselves.

Most recently, he has operated the Southern Community Center Food Pantry and serves on its board of directors, plus he has been an adjutant for the John Adams American Legion Post No. 442 for the past two years.

He has become known in Indian Territo-



Scott Hart

ry for lending his voice to school football and basketball games, coaching the Little Indians and serving on its board. Hart has even posted videos of games on Facebook

to entertain Indian fans both near and far.

"It's really cool to see people who are 60-70 years old who graduated 50-plus years ago watching games at the school they graduated from long ago," he commented.

Hart now relishes the opportunity to work as a school board member, saying he wants to maintain the district's standard of excellence and provide the best education possible while also supporting the administration in its endeavors.

"I think it is a way to give back to your community," he said. "I am a very proud member of the Southern Local family. I love Southern Local."

Superintendent Tom Cunningham welcomed him into the fold and said he will do tremendous work for the district and its students.

"Mr. Hart is a pillar of our community. He is involved in everything from our local food pantry to broadcasting our activities," he concluded. "He is a well-respected leader and we are fortunate to have his leadership on our board."



Spellers are All Abuzz

Southern Local Elementary fifth-grader Delaney Beadnell earned the top spot at the Southern Local School District Spelling Bee on Feb. 10 after correctly spelling the word "tangents" in her final round. Beadnell will move on to the Columbiana County Spelling Bee on March 3 and potentially to the Scripps National Spelling Bee later this spring. A spell-off was also conducted to determine second- and third-place with those posts respectively going to Southern Local Jr. High eighth-grader Mystia Myers and SLES fifth-grader Jensen Allender. Rounding out the top 10 were seventh-grader Alliandra Myers, fourth; seventh-grader Abbianna Bates, fifth; sixth-grader Rylee Digman, sixth; fifth-grader Jessah Harris, seventh; fifth-grader Khloe Ensinger, eighth; sixth-grader Hailey Maines, ninth; and sixth-grader Brody Hamilton, 10th. Beadnell is pictured, at center, with Myers and Allender.

Special Education Program Gets High Rating

The Southern Local School District has earned praise for its special education program with a high rating from the Ohio Department of Education.

District Director of Special Education Laura Krulik said ODE's Office for Exceptional Children found that Southern meets requirements, which is the highest rating available. According to the ODE website, districts receive a special education profile every year that shows their progress over time in meeting their goals for students with disabilities. The design of the special education profile helps districts use data about the academic growth of groups of students to keep improving their special education programs.

The data gives schools answers about such topics as kindergarten readiness, achievement levels, preparedness for life beyond high school and services for chil-

dren with disabilities.

Krulik said the district had to meet criteria in order to receive the rating.

"The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act established a series of special education indicators to measure services and outcomes for children with disabilities. The Ohio Department of Education works with stakeholders to establish annual targets for these indicators," she explained. "We met requirements on eight out of eight indicators in the area of compliance. This would include identification of students with disabilities, timely initial evaluations, successful transitions of students from the Help Me Grow to preschool, secondary transition documentation and supports for students, timely and accurate data and no negative audit findings.

She said the district met requirements in

two of the three indicators reported in the results, which indicated that a significant number of students with disabilities performed proficiently on state math assessments and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Krulik noted the district narrowly missed the third indicator—proficiency on state reading assessments—by less than 3 percent, meaning Southern scored a three out of four possible points in that area. However, there was no required corrective action plans to complete.

Southern has achieved the high rating three times over the past five years and Krulik was pleased with the result.

"I am very proud of special education services at Southern Local. We have amazing intervention specialists that truly care about our students' learning and achievement. I am really pleased with our current student progress and staff success!"

District Obtains \$15K Grant to Assist Feeding Program

Southern Local Schools obtained a nearly \$15,000 grant to help equip its kitchen and serve students meals.

District Food Service Director Samantha Fryman said Southern received a No Kid Hungry grant for \$14,700 which could provide storage for meals as part of a planned afterschool dinner program. The district has been working with the A&J Kiducation Learning Center LLC of Wellsville to provide programming for elementary through high school students, but COVID has delayed plans possibly until fall.

The learning center would potentially lead the program at the Southern Local Elementary School cafeteria for youth while the district would serve older students in the high school on weekdays. Kiducation currently offers preschool services and is expanding its horizons to benefit even more children. Fryman said the food program would enable the district to nourish students' bodies as well as minds.

"We're trying to start a Child and Adult Care Food Program," Fryman said. "It's an afterschool dinner program. We are almost feeding the full population of the school district, which we've never done before."

She said breakfast and lunch are already provided to students both in the building and working remotely because of the pan-

demic while extra meals are also given for the weekend. The implementation of the dinner program showcased the need for more storage and Fryman said the new equipment will help contain the larger amounts of food to be distributed.

"The coolers and storage are too small for the capacity, so we applied to get stand-up freezers and coolers so the district doesn't have to get them," she said.

Officials learned they were approved for the grant in December and the district would also nourish athletes and those attending afterschool activities but the application process is lengthy. Fryman hoped to have it up and running by spring or fall.

Superintendent Tom Cunningham praised the cafeteria workers for consistently feeding students both in and out of school.

"Between our schools and the shale academy, we feed at least 800 students seven days a week," he said. "Our cafeteria personnel do a fabulous job."

He added that the decision to delay the afterschool program with the learning center was the right one.

"Due to COVID, we wanted to make sure everything was safe and we want it to be successful, so we want to take out the limitations and barriers and get it up and running."

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Winter Queen

Emma Duncan was crowned the 2021 Winter Homecoming Court at Southern Local High School during a ceremony in the gym on Feb. 11. Duncan, a senior at SLHS, is the daughter of Robert and Heidi Duncan of Salineville. The event was livestreamed on the school district's Facebook page and other court members included seniors Camryn Mellott, Delainey Mellott, Mackenzey Infanti and Jayla Smith.