

Swanville Public Schools No. 486

602 DeGraff Avenue, Box 98 Swanville, MN 56382

Phone (320) 547-5100 Fax (320) 547-2576

Christopher Kircher - Chairperson
Chris Gilyard - Director
Hannah VanHeel - Director

Todd Lee - Superintendent
Sheryl Johnson - Principal

Luke Peterson - Director
Molly Gerads - Clerk/Treasure
Bill Johnson - Vice Chair

Swanville School Board Minutes, District #486 May 13, 2026

The regular meeting of the Swanville School Board was called to order in the Swanville School Library at 7:02pm on May 13, 2026 by President Chris Kircher. Members present were Molly Gerads, Billy Johnson (late), Luke Peterson, Hannah VanHeel & Chris Gilyard. Also present was Superintendent Todd Lee.

Luke Peterson made a motion to Amend the Agenda for the meeting to add 7.2 Deb Johnson resignation under Consent Agenda items. Seconded by Hannah VanHeel. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Chris Gilyard made a motion to approve the School Board Minutes from the April 7, 2026 regular meeting. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 6-0, Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Molly Gerads made a motion to accept the Resignations of Wade Lange & Deb Johnson & Hiring of Lindsey Chandler-Music, Paul Urman - High School Teacher, Gavin Sawyer - Elementary Teacher, Larry Eckel - Bus Driver, Zach Gapinski - Summer Athletic Fields Manager, and Samantha Sobiech - Summer Concession Stand Manager. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE ALLOWED

Molly Gerads made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$353,195.48. Seconded by Hannah VanHeel. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Chris Gilyard made a motion to approve the electronic transfers of \$70,683.69 on April 20, 2026 and \$70,615.21 on May 5, 2026. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Diane Schleicher presented data on the 2026-2027 Literacy Plan - discussion ensued with no action taken.

Luke Peterson made a motion to approve Seasonal placement of all part-time employees on summer layoff status to protect their PERA. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

Molly Gerads made a motion to approve the Mid-State Master Agreement. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Luke Peterson made a motion to approve the Science & Reading curriculum purchases. Seconded by Hannah VanHeel. Vote 6-0, motion carried.



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REPORTS

Todd Lee presented the Principal report on behalf of Sheryl Johnson.

Enrollment as of today: No changes from last month.

School Wide Celebrations:

- A huge congratulations to Diane Schleicher, Sheyanne Sebek and the rest of the 2K/5K crew. Friday, May 8th was an amazing example of what the school and community can do together. We had close to 700 bib numbers handed out.
- Successful Kiddy Barnyard sponsored by FFA

High School Celebrations

- The High School Band concert went very well. Lara Baggenstoss was awarded the John Phillips Sousa Award
- April SOM, Lupe Lopez Ojeda and Ethan Barthel
- May SOM Crosby Peterson and Frank Meagher
- Student Body President Isaac Gapinski
- Supermileage Competition
 - We received
 - 1st place in pro sport class 2nd place in super sport class
 - 3rd place in E-85 class
 - Additionally Joel wrote 2 grants to the Haas Foundation and received a \$12,000 scholarship for students going into machining and an \$8,000 grant for our super mileage teams.
- FFA ceremony tonight
- School Awards Day May 19th
- Graduation Friday May 22nd, 7 p.m. Food will be served from commons.

Elementary Celebrations

- Almost all field trips are completed and a great time was had on all of them
- National Guard Bounce House on Friday May 15th, as well as the Ice Cream Truck

Elementary Students of the Month

K-Schleicher	Abby Hulinski
K-Morris	Hiromi Ojeda Sanchez
1 Waltman	Kenzlee Gilyard



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2 Wimmer	Aaron Scherping
2 Miller	Colton Barton
3 Novak	Louis Hutchins
3 Sales	Carson DeFoe
4 Wimmer	Kobi Kasper
4 Ramsdell	Elijah Dempsey
5 Swisher	Grant Strandberg
5 Sobiech	Sawyer VanHeel
6 Gapinski	Orianna Mickelson
PE K-3	Nolan Leskinski
PE 4-6	Bennett Larson
Art K-3	Brock Rocheleau
Art 4-6	Dawson Defoe
Music K-3	Emilia Holmgren
Music 4-6	Elijah Priebe

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR REPORT

May Athletes of the Month

Baseball

V - Head Coach Adam Gerads, "Congratulations to our May Baseball Athletes of the Month, Jonah Urman and Isaac Gapinski! Jonah has been a key contributor for us this season, batting .350 at the plate while also excelling on the mound with a 2.924 ERA and 43 strikeouts in 26 innings pitched. Jonah has also been asked to play multiple positions this year and has done a great job wherever he has been placed. Congrats, Jonah! Keep up the great work! Isaac has been one of our



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top pitchers this season and recently threw a complete-game, 8-inning victory against Pierz to earn the win. On the year, Isaac has posted a 2.545 ERA with 42 strikeouts in 33 innings pitched. Beyond his performance on the mound, Isaac is always upbeat and brings energy to the team, constantly working to keep everyone motivated and engaged. Congrats, Isaac! Keep up the great work!"

JH - Coach Jason Lee, "Brady Lindemann has been a go-getter for the team with his positive attitude and excellent work ethic. He has done well behind the plate as catcher, and has been seeing the ball well at the plate leading to productive plate appearances. Brady's leadership by example has been fun to coach, and he can be relied upon to do whatever is asked of him. Crosby Peterson has put in extra effort this year to develop into a solid pitcher and infielder for the team. He is also doing well offensively, nearly always putting the ball into play. Crosby's fun demeanor is welcome at practice and games, but he also knows when to put forth high effort to help his team."

Softball

V - Head Coach Mike Chuba, "**Softball Athlete of the Month – Avery Douglas.** Senior captain and catcher Avery Douglas has been outstanding so far this season. Through 16 games, she is batting an impressive .551 with 27 hits, including 8 doubles, 3 triples, and 5 home runs, 43 RBI's, and 0 strikeouts. Avery is more than just a top performer at the plate—she is a strong leader and a great role model for younger players. Her competitiveness and high softball IQ set the tone for the team every day. Having coached Avery for the past five years, it's clear she is not only an exceptional athlete but also a key part of our program's success. **Softball Athlete of the Month – Ali Barthel-** Sophomore Ali Barthel has been dominant in the circle this season. In 14 starts, she holds a perfect 14–0 record, allowing just 37 hits while striking out an impressive 126 batters in 72 innings. She currently carries an outstanding 0.583 ERA. Ali's impact doesn't stop at pitching—she is also contributing at the plate with a .318 batting average. A quiet leader, Ali leads by example through her strong work ethic and the many hours she puts in during the offseason. Her competitiveness and drive to excel in everything she does make her a key part of the team's success. **Softball Athlete of the Month – Addison Hudalla-** Sophomore first baseman Addison Hudalla has had an outstanding season at the plate and in the field. Through 16 games, Addison is batting an impressive .489 with 22 hits, including 5 doubles, 2 triples, and 8 home runs, while driving in 34 RBIs and earning 14 walks. Addison is an extremely hard worker who is constantly improving both offensively and defensively. She has a high softball IQ and demonstrates leadership well beyond her age. Batting in the cleanup spot, the team relies on Addison to deliver big hits in key situations. Despite her success, she remains a humble player and a tremendous teammate. Congratulations Avery, Ali, and Addison!"

JH - Coaches Brandon Moore, Mackenzie Morris and Samantha Sobiech, "Congratulations to Lupe Lopez-Ojeda and Tjade Miller, our Junior High Softball Players of the Month! Eighth grader Lupe Lopez-Ojeda has been a dominant force both in the circle and at the plate all season long. So far this season, Lupe has pitched 65 innings for her team. Within those 65 innings, she has reached 100 strikeouts in a single season, something not many pitchers accomplish during junior high. Even if Lupe isn't in the circle, she gets the job done from anywhere we need her, truly showing her versatility and always putting the team's needs first. Lupe has also been showing off her ability to hit this season, batting .448 with 13



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hits, 14 RBIs, and 19 walks. Finally she has been a team leader by showing up to every practice and game ready to be the best she can be. Great job, Lupe!

Seventh grader Tjade Miller has been setting the tone both offensively and defensively all year long. As the team's main shortstop, Tjade has been able to show off her athleticism on the field. When needed, she is always willing to take on the challenge of stepping into the circle to pitch. So far this season, Tjade has pitched 7 innings and has only hit 2 batters. Tjade also sets the tone offensively by leading off the batting order. With a great eye at the plate, she leads the team with 28 walks this season while maintaining a .480 batting average. She's also not afraid to show off her speed, recording 23 stolen bases. Even at practice, Tjade has been a great role model to the other girls, always offering advice and cheering others on. Good work, Tjade!"

Track and Field

V Male: Head Coach Aaron Fisher, "Congratulations to Noah VanHeel and Dawson Hasse, our May Track and Field Male Athletes of the Month. Noah has been working hard to improve on his sprints and jumps this season. He is an eyelash off the school record for the 100m dash (11.77 seconds) and has achieved personal bests in the 100m, 200m, 400m dashes, and in the long jump, while also being very helpful in our relays when needed. Dawson has been focusing more on long distance this year with personal bests in the 800m and 1600m run. He's also been invaluable in our 4x800m relays and 4x400m relays which has been very helpful to the team. Great Job Noah and Dawson!!"

V Female: Head Coach Aaron Fisher, "Congratulations to Abby Wimmer and Mya Proell, our May Track and Field Female Athletes of the Month. Abby has had a great year of throwing with season best distances in the shot put of 30 feet 5 and 3/4 inches and a personal best in disc of 103 feet 4 inches. She also helps nail down our relay teams when needed. Mya has had some injuries this year but has been a great Senior leader with a positive attitude. Her season has gotten stronger with each meet with a season best time in the 100m (14.67 seconds) and long jump (12 feet, 4 1/4 inches). Great Job Abby and Mya!!"

Trap

Head Coach Chris Kircher, "The May Trap Athlete(shooter) of the month is Karter Kunz. Karter shows up and gives his very best every week he has worked very hard to get his scores up and become one of the better shooters on the team. Karter is also very courteous, respectful, and does whatever is asked of him on and off the trap field!! Congratulations Karter!"

Special Recognition/Consideration:

Softball playoffs began on Tuesday, May 19th, which will more than likely be a bye. We will then host on Thursday, May 21. We are conference champions for the 3rd consecutive year! The girls are currently 19-0 overall and 10-0 in conference play. Congratulations to the players and coaches!

Swanville will be hosting all section playoffs. We will host on May 21, May 26, May 28 and then if needed May 29. If anyone is interested in helping out with concessions, parking, announcing, scoreboard, etc, please let me know. Still looking at filling a couple more positions!



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Baseball is currently 10-6. They have a shot to share the conference title with a win over Benson on Thursday with a 9-1 record. Playoffs begin on Tuesday, May 19th. We will more than likely have a first round bye and play on Thursday, May 21st in Upsala. Good luck to the players and coaches!

Track and Field had the conference tournament today with sections starting May 19th in Litchfield.

Gymnastics update: The lease agreement with the Albany Area Gymnastics Association has been an ongoing negotiation. AAGA has kind of strong-armed the High School team and has made things difficult. A decision will be made by June 10, 2026 if the co-op will stay together.

Special Recognition to the 3 sport athletes:

3 seniors (Avery, Reese, Brody)

7 juniors (Delaney, Logan, Isaac G, Abby, Libby, Jonah, Gavin)

4 sophomores (Addison, Lydia, Aliss, Morgan)

5 freshmen (Nelson, Jackson, Karter, Noah, Ethan)

9 8th graders (Ellen, Rachel, Reid, Rylan, Brady, Lupe, Hunter, Dylan, Aubree)

5 7th graders (Vincent, Lucas, Tjade, Crosby, Gabe S)

Academic All-Conference will be awarded at the High School Awards Banquet on Tuesday, May 19th. To receive this award, student-athletes must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.7 and letter in that activity. We had 16 students who have achieved this honor during the 2025-2026 school year.

Current Coaching Openings:

Assistant Coach Volleyball

C-Team Coach Volleyball (if warranted)

Assistant Coach Girls Basketball

SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Todd provided updates on the follow:

- Construction update - all going well. The School will be off limits starting May 27th, with the limited access to the Gym using the NE entrance. This is during scheduled coordinated practice times, no open community use.
- Graduation Ceremony and Grilling is May 22, 2026. Dinner for immediate family at 5:30, graduation at 7.
- Policy review option through MSBA. Molly Gerads made a motion to approve utilizing MSBA for up to \$2,100 to support school policy review. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 6-0, motion carried.



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- A new sound system will be installed this week at the softball complex. Luke Peterson made a motion to approve up to \$4,000 in partnership with SAB paying the remaining. Seconded by Hannah VanHeel. Vote 6-0, motion carried.
- Construction meetings will remain Tuesday at 1pm.

OLD BUSINESS

School Social media accounts will be discussed in the June meeting.

OTHER

The next Swanville School District Board meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2026 at 7pm in the High School Library.

Chris Kircher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm, seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 6-0, Motion carried. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Molly Gerads
Swanville School Board Clerk/Treasure

