

An equal opportunity affirmative action employer

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
Bill Johnson - Vice Chair

Todd Lee - Superintendent
Sheryl Johnson - Principal

Luke Peterson - Director
Molly Gerads - Clerk/Treasure

Swanville School Board Minutes, District #486 February 25, 2026

The regular meeting of the Swanville School Board was called to order in the Swanville School Library at 7pm on February 25, 2026 by President Chris Kircher. Members present were Molly Gerads, Billy Johnson, Luke Peterson and Chris Gilyard. Also present was Superintendent Todd Lee & Principal Sheryl Johnson.

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda for the meeting. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Chris Gilyard made a motion to approve the School Board Minutes from the January 21, 2026 regular meeting. Seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

School Board Member Oath of Office

The Resolution Filling School Board Vacancy by Appointment pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, subdivision 5b, Hannah Vanheel is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy and to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Molly Gerads made a motion to accept the hirings:

Head Baseball Coach Adam Gerads

Assistant Coach Paul Urman (new hire recommended)

JV Coach Darin Gerads

JH Baseball Coach Jason Lee

Head Softball Coach Mike Chuba

Assistant Softball Coach Jordan Sales

JH Softball Coach (need to post)

Head Track and Field Coach Aaron Fisher

Head Track and Field Coach Jonathan Leither

Assistant Track and Field Coach Gage VanRisseghem

Head Trapshooting Coach Chris Kircher

Assistant Trapshooting Coach Seth Strassburg.

Seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote 6-0, Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE ALLOWED

Bill Johnson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$146,869.37. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 6-0, Motion carried.

Molly Gerads made a motion to approve the electronic transfers of \$111,378.58 on January 20, 2026 and \$57,322.03 on February 5, 2026. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 6-0, Motion carried.



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NEW BUSINESS

Molly Gerads made a motion to approve leave requests for Ken Hager & Karlee Peterson. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Seniority List. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Molly Gerads made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

REPORTS

Sheryl Johnson presented the Principal Report. Enrollment decreased by 1 student since the January meeting.

School Wide Celebrations:

- Congratulations to our Farm Business Management Team for winning 1st place at FFA and advancing to state

High School Celebrations

- Congratulations to EthanVeldkamp and Morgan VanHeel, high school students of the month
- We have 8 8th grade students competing in the Fluid Power Competition. They have attended 1 session and will attend the second in March
- May 19th will be awards day
- 6 Seniors receiving AA degree
- 2 Seniors working on their CDL license through grant from Sourcewell
- Grilling burgers for graduation

Elementary Celebrations

- Successful I Love to Read month, special thanks to Shari Pung for coordinating various activities throughout the month
- Congratulations to Autumn Zarns, 4th grade student, for winning the Spelling Bee. She will advance to the Regional Competition at Sourcewell on March 19th

Elementary Students of the Month

January
Lincoln Janey
Brody Bollin
Mackenzie Prather



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Brock Rocheleau
Elliott Sanders
Kylie Gilyard
Adelia Boecker
Emma Hernandez
Riley Sandelin
Ella Sanders
Jonathon Rahn
Clara Johnson
Macie DeFoe
Miles Peterson
Lilyana Zarns
Emilee Toney
Brock Rocheleau
Allie Giese

February Athletes of the Month:

Boys Basketball:

V: Head Coach Aaron Gapinski, "Isaac Miller is the February Athlete of the Month for Boys Basketball. Isaac has been a very consistent scorer for us this year. In a recent game, he was able to score his 1,000 career point. Isaac works hard each day and tries to better himself and his teammates! Congratulations Isaac!"

JV: Assistant Coaches Luke Peterson and Barney VanHavermaet, "Brannon Karjala is the JV February Athlete of the Month for Boys Basketball. Brannon is one of our primary ball handlers. He works hard in practice and it shows up! He has a high free throw percentage as well. Brannon also puts in extra effort outside of practice! Congratulations Brannon!"

Girls Basketball:

V: Head Coach Chris Kircher, "Reese Jackson is the February Athlete of the Month for Girls Basketball. While her contributions may not always be measured by her stats, Reese has been the backbone of our team this year. Her work ethic, consistency, commitment, and the ability to put the team first is why she has been selected. Reese also serves as one of our team captains, along with being a four-year starter. Congratulations Reese!"



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JV: Head Coach Chris Kircher, “Libby Wimmer is the JV February Athlete of the Month for Girls Basketball. Libby fills many roles for our JV team while also contributing as a varsity role player. She works extremely hard, never complains when asked to step outside of her comfort zone, and leads by example. She is a true leader who constantly supports and helps her teammates. Congratulations Libby!”

Special Recognition/Consideration:

- HUDL paywall- yearly fee. \$10, \$15, \$20 for the year. Opposing fans would have to pay as well for individual games.
- BOUND - all in one platform for managing school activities, athletics, and events. Ticketing (cashless), registrations, physicals, communication, concessions
- Gate - would like to have it be consistent across the conference. Talks are \$7 and \$5 for the cashless and \$10 for cash sales. Nothing decided at this point per conference but do we have thoughts? Senior Citizens? Students? Passes?
- Recommendation to hire a bookkeeper/scoreboard operator for home varsity softball/baseball games. It is a lot of responsibility for coaches to try and do it while coaching first base, and having kids do it in the dugout keeps them involved in the game, but should they have a “job” while playing?
- Brody Kircher signed to play football at the University of Minnesota Morris on Wednesday, February 4th.
- Congratulations to Junior Isaac Miller who hit the 1,000 point milestone this past month!
- Congratulations to Addison Hudalla who hit the 1,000 point milestone and 1,000 rebound milestone this past month!
- Colby Twardowski reached the 100 win milestone on wrestling
- Adam Gerads was named the Butch Nash Assistant Coach of the Year for football in Class A
- Quote for finishing off the track area... covering the cement \$45,000 - \$55,000 to just do it and get it all done, around \$10,000 for roll up mats that could be used
- Baseball field update
- Our 7-12 band played at 2 nursing homes on Saturday, February 7th. While in Long Prairie, they played some songs and then took time to visit with the residences. At Little Falls, they were able to play some songs and then play games with the residents as well.
- On Sunday, February 1st we hosted a youth wrestling team tournament with teams from Little Falls (Swanville), Staples-Motley, Long Prairie and Sauk Centre. Two mats in the big gym were going from 10:00-1:30 or so. Bleachers were full and a lot of staff and locals were stopping in just to check it out.



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- Carol Johnson has been recognized by the NIAAA (National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association) as a Hometown Distinguished Service award winner and will be recognized at the conference program for keeping clock and book at Swanville events for the past 38 years
- Girls basketball led by first year head coach ...won the conference.

SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Todd provided a legislative update and construction timeline updates.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion ensued on a replacement maintenance shed.

The next Swanville School District Board meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026 at 7pm in the High School Library.

Chris Kircher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10pm, seconded by Molly Gerads. Vote 6-0, Motion carried. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Gerads

Swanville School Board Clerk/Treasure

