

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  
Hannah Van Heel - Director

Todd Lee - Superintendent  
Sheryl Johnson - Principal

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

Swanville School Board Minutes, District #486  
September 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the Swanville School Board was called to order at the Swanville High School Library at 7:00pm on September 16, 2026 by President Chris Kircher. Members present were Molly Gerads, Billy Johnson, Luke Peterson, Hannah Van Heel & Chris Gilyard. Also present was Superintendent Todd Lee, Business Manager Deb Sieben, Principal Sheryl Johnson, Office Staff Stacey Jackson and Christine Sales.

Bill Johnson made a motion to Amend the Agenda for the meeting to add 9.3 under New Business - MOU's. Seconded by Molly Gerads. Vote 6-0, Motion carried.

Chris Gilyard made a motion to approve the School Board Minutes from the August 19, 2026 regular board meeting. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 6-0, Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Luke Peterson made a motion to accept the hiring of Chantelle Frie - fall play and Lane Changes for the following staff, pending confirmation: Carly Andres, Lucas Miller, Mackenzie Morris, Tammie Wimmer & Pete Swisher. Seconded by Hannah Van Heel. Vote 6-0, Motion carried.

**BILLS TO BE ALLOWED**

Bill Johnson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$650,557.64. Seconded by Chirs Gilyard. Vote 6-0, Motion carried.

Hannah Van Heel made a motion to approve the electronic transfers of \$62,458.71 on September 5, 2026 and \$59,602.86 on September 5, 2026. Seconded by Molly Gerads. Vote 6-0, Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Luke Peterson made a motion to approve Sheryl Johnson's Principal contract as presented. Seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Chris Gilyard made a motion to approve the ElevatePD(Alternative Career Pathway) for teachers to advance

through the salary schedule MOU. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 6-0, motions carried.

Molly Gerads made a motion to approve the Social Studies MOU - to combine juniors and seniors in the Social Studies class of Social Problems/Economics, and juniors and seniors in the English class of Communication Skills and Literature Discussion for the 2026-2027 school year.. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

**REPORTS**

**PRINCIPAL REPORT**

Sheryl Johnson reported on the enrollment:

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| Grade                         | August Count | September                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|
| K                             | 29           | 28 (1 Decided to wait 1 more year) |
| 1                             | 28           | 28                                 |
| 2                             | 22           | 22                                 |
| 3                             | 31           | 34                                 |
| 4                             | 26           | 26                                 |
| 5                             | 41           | 40 (move)                          |
| 6                             | 35           | 35                                 |
| 7                             | 29           | 29                                 |
| 8                             | 23           | 23                                 |
| 9                             | 19           | 19                                 |
| 10                            | 27           | 28                                 |
| 11                            | 31           | 31                                 |
| 12                            | 26           | 26                                 |
| 4 YO 4 DAY M-TH               | 18           | 18                                 |
| 4 YO 2 DAY T Th               | 16           | 16                                 |
| 3 YO 2 Day MW, 2 on wait list | 10           | 11                                 |

369 total K-12

213 K-6

156 7-12

School Wide Celebrations:

- Successful Open House

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- School looks fantastic, staff really worked together as a team
- All school opening ceremonies were on Monday, bleachers FULL!
- Picture Day is Tuesday September 22nd

Elementary Celebrations:

- Reading Curriculum has arrived, teachers have had beginning of training, more to come
- Will be ordering the book vending machine soon, now that construction is wrapping up for the first phase

High School Celebrations:

- Voting for Homecoming Tomorrow 9/17. Coronation is September 27th 7 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR REPORT**

Aaron Gapinski reported:

September Athletes of the Month:

Volleyball:

JH: Mabel Hollerman and Lucy Hagstrom - JH Coach Nicollet Opatz and Hannah Benkowski, "Mabel is an 8th grader this year and has played with junior high for the past three years. In those three years, we've had the privilege to watch her grow not only as an individual but also as a quality teammate. She knows how to bring positivity, encouragement, energy, effort and leadership to every game or practice. We often catch ourselves saying, "Every team needs a Mabel"!

Lucy has shown incredible teamwork and effort her first year in junior high volleyball. She has stepped up to learn new skills and while learning, she continues to encourage others to try their best. Lucy is a positive influence on the team by always smiling, accepting mistakes with grace, and adjusting to changes that occur in games and practices. Lucy's positive attitude and enthusiasm to learn makes her a fun player to have part of the Swanville Bulldogs Volleyball program! Congratulations Mabel and Lucy!!" C: Chloe Leyendecker - C Coach Lucas Miller, "Chloe Leyendecker is chosen for September Athlete of Month because of her hard work, positive attitude, and dedication to the team. She is always willing to learn, works hard during practice, and encourages her teammates. Chloe showed great selflessness by switching from right side to setter to help make our team better. She continues to grow as a player and is willing to do whatever it takes to support her team. She is a great example of what it means to be a hardworking and supportive teammate! Congratulations Chloe!" JV: Guadalupe Lopez-Ojeda - JV Coach Mackenzie Morris, "Guadalupe Lopez-Ojeda is this month's JV Volleyball Athlete of the Month. She is a great teammate who is always willing to do whatever the team needs. Lupe brings a positive attitude to practice and games, works hard, and never hesitates to go after the ball. She leads by example and is a positive role model for her teammates both on and off the court. Congratulations Lupe!!" V: Ali Barthel - Head Coach Marissa Murphy, "Junior Ali Barthel is chosen as the Volleyball Athlete of the Month. Ali works hard every day to be the best player, leader and teammate she can be. And if you know volleyball, you

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know being a setter is no easy job. You're helping call the plays, executing them, expected to get to that second touch on nearly every rally (regardless of where the pass takes you) and still responsible for putting your hitters in the best position to finish the play. On top of that, you have to stay sharp defensively because there's no DS coming in to take over your back-row responsibilities. That's a lot of pressure and Ali continues to rise to it. She leads with positivity, lifts up the people around her, is incredibly coachable, and is always willing to put in the work. She takes feedback, makes adjustments, and continues pushing herself to grow for the good of the team. Congratulations Ali!"

Football: JH: Logan Miller and Gabe Dempsey - JH Coaches Chris Kircher and Luke Peterson, "USA Patriots Junior High Athletes of the Month for September are Logan Miller and Gabe Dempsey. 7th grader Logan has been a consistent performer for the Patriots. He works hard every day to be better on offense and defense and he has continuously improved each day! Logan is a true team player, never complains and does things the Patriot Way. 8th grader Gabe works hard each day, not only making himself better, but also his teammates. He has a positive attitude and will do whatever is asked of him. Gabe is always one of the first to help out when needed! Both men are true team players and play the Patriot Way! Congratulations Logan and Gabe!" JV: Noah Van Heel - Head Coach Jay Loven, "Sophomore Noah Van Heel is the Patriots JV Athlete of the Month for September. Noah has been an outstanding player for not only the JV team, but on special teams on the varsity. His hard work has earned him more playing time on the varsity defense where he continues to show tremendous aggressiveness. Congratulations Noah!" V: Isaac Gapinski - Head Coach Jay Loven, "USA football would like to congratulate Isaac Gapinski, September Athlete of the Month. Isaac is a 2 year starter at offensive tackle and is a captain for the Patriots. Isaac has been a consistent presence on the offensive line and has shown great leadership on and off the field. He has performed very well in the first 2 games this season in which the Patriots have won both matchups. Congratulations Isaac!"

- Athletic seasons are off to an excellent start. Theater will begin as well at the end of September with the fall play scheduled for November 20th and 21st.

Fall Coaches to hire:

**Fall Sport Participation Numbers**

| - Grade | Volleyball | Football (Swanville participants) |
|---------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| - 7     | 17         | 15 (8)                            |
| - 8     | 6          | 23 (11)                           |
| - 9     | 5          | 7 (6)                             |
| - 10    | 6          | 14 (5)                            |
| - 11    | 10         | 8 (5)                             |
| - 12    | 6          | 20 (9)                            |
| - TOTAL | 50         | 87 (44)                           |

**Special Recognition/Consideration:** We are working to find a date for a paired sports meeting with Upsala per the contract to meet annually - potentially 9/30/2026. Bound has been up and going, with a few hiccups, but all in all it has been a learning process.

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### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Construction Committee Report (Chris K, Chris G, Molly G):** The committee reported that punch list items are being completed and phase 2 additions are underway. Playground work has started.

**Financial Committee Report (Molly G, Bill J, Chris G):** Molly Gerads reported the committee met with Todd, Deb & Chris. Reviewed the budget and went over budget reporting the board would like to see at every meeting. The committee will meet monthly to ensure we monitor the budget.

**Newsletter Committee Report (Hannah V):** Hannah Van Heel reported she contacted The Leader on printing costs as well as proposed a new format to the newsletter. Discussion ensued around a digital option and mail to those that request to save the district the cost of mailing. Hannah will look into additional options and update next month.

**Meet & Confer Committee Report (Luke P & Chris K):** Committee reported they met and discussed the need for quarterly reporting on the ADSIS and Dyslexia progress.

### **SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Todd provided updates on the follow:

- The Sped kitchen requires all American Made items, which he is working on with SiteLogiX

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Aaron Gapinski provided information on Hockey Pairings. The girls hockey program in Long Prairie is willing to co-op, but Sauk Centre boys do not want to proceed until we have a male athlete eligible to play (10th grade). Board discussion ensued on co-op sport costs & transportation, with follow up discussion to ensue via a workshop session.

Hannah Van Heel made a motion to approve a Co-Op with Long Prairie, Sauk Centre, Royalton & Browerville to offer Girl Hockey for Swanville Athletes and Boys hockey Co-Op to be explored when we have an eligible player (10th grade). Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

The next Swanville School District Board meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2026 in the High School Library at 7pm.

Chris Kircher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51pm, seconded by Hannah Van Heel. Vote 6-0, Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Molly Gerads  
Swanville School Board Clerk/Treasure

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