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
October 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Swanville School Board was called to order at the Swanville High School Library at 7:00pm on October 21, 2026 by Vice President Bill Johnson. Members present were Molly Gerads, Luke Peterson, Hannah Van Heel & Chris Gilyard. Absent was Chris Kircher. Also present was Superintendent Todd Lee, Business Manager Deb Sieben, Principal Sheryl Johnson, Office Staff Christine Sales.

Visitor Forum: Diane Schleicher and Tracey Hannah presented on ADSIS & MN Math/Reading Corps. Information on what the programs are and how the school is delivering the programs was shared.

Luke Peterson made a motion to Amend the Agenda for the meeting to add 9.4 under New Business - MOU's & 10.3 under Reports for meet & confer. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Hannah Van Heel made a motion to approve the School Board Minutes from the September 16, 2026 regular board meeting and September 29, 2026 special meeting. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
Luke Peterson made a motion to accept the hiring of Coaches: Girls Basketball: Chris Kircher - Head Coach, Jeff Johnson - Assistant Coach, Samantha Sobiech - Volunteer Assistant Coach & Brandon Moore - Junior High. Boys Basketball: Aaron Gapinski - Head Coach, Luke Peterson - Assistant Coach Barney VanHavermaet - Volunteer Assistant Coach & Travis Barthel - Junior High. Robotics: Jason Lee - Head Coach, Kris Bellefeuille - Assistant Coach. Part Time Kitchen: Carol Venske. Seconded by Hannah Van Heel. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE ALLOWED
Molly Gerads made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of $2,189,091.38. Seconded by Chirs Gilyard. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.
Luke Peterson made a motion to approve the electronic transfers of $129,533.13 on October 5, 2026 and $67,522.59 on September 20, 2026. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS
Call for Bids Announced: Snow Removal Services.

Bill Johnson introduced the Resolution calling for the establishment of a combined polling place for any special election in 2027. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Roll Call Vote: 5-0, motion carried.

Molly Gerads made a motion to accept the audit contract that was presented. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

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Chris Gilyard made a motion to modify the Memorandum of Understanding between Swanville Education Association (Union) and Independent School District (486) - Compensation earned from READ Act Training. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

REPORTS

PRINCIPAL REPORT
Sheryl Johnson reported on the enrollment:

- Enrollment updates

Grade	Sept	Oct
K	27	27
1	28	28
2	22	22
3	34	34
4	26	26
5	40	40
6	35	35
7	29	29
8	23	23
9	19	19
10	28	28
11	31	31
12	26	26
4 YO 4 Day	18	18
4 YO 2 Day	16	16
3 YO ½ Day	11	11

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School Wide Celebrations: We have a new Math Corps person for grades 4-8, who started on Monday. The Pawzitivity Patrol will be trying a new activity tomorrow, all school Trivia Thursday

Elementary Celebrations: Elementary Students of the Month

September	
K-Schleicher	Elaine Scherping
K-Morris	Lyla Becker
1 Waltman	Cora Crosby
1 Andres	Ruth Baum
2 Miller	Ruby Schultz
3 Ramsdell	Elly Jensen
3 Sales	Calvin Crosby
4 Wimmer	Kaiden Harden
5 Sawyer	Ryder Johnson
5 Swisher	Dawson DeFoe
6 Gapinski	Lynell Larson
PE K-4	Felix Bonrud Almarez
PE 5-6	Kalison Rocheleau
Art K-3	Cora Crosby
Art 4-6	Kate Civilla
Music K-3	Elaine Scherping
Music 4-6	Becket Gerads

Fundraisers Update: Club's Choice $6,248, donations thus far $1,500, overall down about $3,000. Book Fair $3,309 gross, $300 from last year's net sales. We received a $1,000 donation to purchase more games/toys for recess, working on an order right now (sand box toys).

High School Celebrations:

- Congratulations to Ronelle Hasse and Ellen Hutchins, the September Students of the Month
- Congratulations to our Athletic teams on highly successful seasons and good luck heading into play-offs.
- Successful Homecoming, lots of new activities this year, including Powder Puff football and Grid Iron Volleyball
- FFA at National Convention now

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- New Sourcewell College and Career Readiness Person and also a new RMCEP Career Person, they are sending me a blurb on themselves and services they can offer, will be sharing out to social media, they are also getting into classrooms already
- Joel taking a number of students to Alex Tech on Nov. 5th for a career day

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR REPORT

Athletes of the month:

Volleyball: JH: 7th Graders Allie Giese and Lilah Moore and 8th Graders Alice Notsch and Brisa Juarez - JH Coaches Nicollet Gammon-Deering and Hannah Benkowski, "Allie is a spunky and vibrant athlete to have on our team. She hustles, gives 100% in everything she does, and does it with a smile on her face (On and off the court!) Allie has grown so much this season as an athlete and as a teammate. Not only has she gained so much personal confidence, she spreads the confidence to others by always speaking positively in an effort to uplift her teammates, which ultimately leads to a united effort from the entire team. Allie is a leader within the team who wants to see everyone be successful. We are proud of the hard work, dedication, and grit Allie has put in this season to become a strong Bulldog athlete! Lilah is an outstanding athlete who puts effort into every move she makes on the court. If she makes an error she takes it with grace, moves on, and rather than feeling defeated, places positivity on the court! Lilah has a passion for the game and a drive to be the strongest version of herself. She spends extra time in the gym working on her skills, asks how she can become a stronger teammate, and adapts to changes thrown at her. Lilah is a strong asset to our team in more ways than one, we cannot wait to see where her future takes her! Alice is an 8th grader this year and I have had the privilege to coach her for 3 years. She is exceedingly positive and kind. Alice is a great teammate who always encourages others, gives her best effort, and continues to grow as a player. Her leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication to the team make her such a great teammate. Rarely ever does she stop smiling. We can't wait to see what she can do in years to come! Brisa is an 8th grader this year. She is the definition of hard working. She takes corrective feedback from coaches with grace and works to get better every practice. Brisa is a great team player that is willing to encourage others and be a listening ear to all teammates. She is kind, positive, respectful and a good role model. She is a joy to have on our team and be around! Congratulations Allie, Lilah, Alice and Brisa!!" C: Ellen Hutchins - C Coach Lucas Miller, "The person I chose for Athlete of the Month is Ellen Hutchins. I chose Ellen because she is a constant source of energy and positivity for our team. She is always encouraging her teammates, hyping everyone up, and helping create a positive and motivating atmosphere. Whether we are at practice or competing in a game, Ellen is always there to support the other girls and remind them to keep working hard. Ellen is a true team player who cares about the success of everyone, not just herself. She is always willing to encourage her teammates, celebrate their successes, and help pick them up when things do not go as planned. Her positive attitude and energy have a great impact on the team and help make practices and games more enjoyable for everyone.

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Another reason Ellen deserves to be Athlete of the Month is because of her strong work ethic. She is always willing to put in the extra effort and is constantly looking for ways to improve her skills. She does not give up when something is challenging. Instead, she continues to work hard and push herself to become a better athlete. Her dedication and determination set a great example for the rest of the team. Ellen is an important part of our team because of her energy, positivity, teamwork, and commitment to getting better. She is always willing to support the girls around her and give her best effort. I believe she is very deserving of Athlete of the Month. Congratulations Ellen!!" JV: Isabella Miller - JV Coach Mackenzie Morris, "Isabella Miller is this month's JV Athlete of the Month. As a captain, she does a great job of communicating with her teammates and helping them make adjustments when needed. She does an excellent job of reading the ball and communicating on the court, which helps her teammates stay prepared and work together. Isabella brings great energy to the team, and her leadership and hard work make her someone we can always count on. Congratulations Isabella!!" V: Allison Bernadot and Ava Beto - Head Coach Marissa Murphy, "Allison Bernadot and Ava Beto are my picks for Athletes of the Month. Allie and Ava cover our right side. The position requires both of them to get the job done. Allie and Ava continue to not only push themselves to be the best teammates and players they can be, but they also work extra hard to bring the energy to the team and lift others up around them. Their contagious energy makes a difference when things are going well and when things aren't going our way. In addition to their coachability, strong work ethic, and positive energy, they demonstrate resilience and accountability well. They do not let mistakes define them and consistently showcase the "next ball" mentality that is so important in the game of volleyball. Both girls have a commute for school and volleyball, and always show up. Even if it means early/late drives, or having to stay with friends in the area to make it work. Ava makes big saves in her defensive position and Allie makes big plays happen in her offensive position. Congratulations Allison and Ava!!"

Football: JH: 7th Grader Matthew Van Heel and 8th Grader Leo Thieschafer - JH Coaches Chris Kircher and Luke Peterson, "Matthew Van Heel and Leo Thieschafer are our choices for junior high Athletes of the Month. Matthew has been a constant performer working hard everyday to be better on offense and defense. Matthew is a true team player and never complains. 8th grader Leo Thieschafer has done a great job for our team. He always has a positive attitude and is a joy to coach. He works hard and encourages his teammates to be the best they can. Both men are true team players and play the **Patriot Way**!! Congratulations Matthew and Leo!" JV: Dawson Hasse - Head Coach Jay Loven, "The Patriot JV Athlete of the Month is Dawson Hasse. Dawson is sophomore fullback and middle linebacker. As a sophomore, he started strictly on JV but has done so well that he has worked his way into the varsity line up as a back up. His ability to analyze plays at linebacker is a gift that not many players have. He will continue to be an asset for the remainder of the season and beyond. Congratulations Dawson!!!" V: Colby Twardowski - Head Coach Jay Loven, "USA football is proud to announce that Senior Colby Twardowski has been named Athlete of the Month for the Patriots. Colby is a defensive end for the Patriots and has been doing an outstanding job. He is a 2 year starter and has made great strides! Colby has arguably been the best defensive end in our district this year! Congratulations Colby!!!"

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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 in progress tracking to be on time. Molly suggested we review flooring options at our upcoming workshop. As we plan long-term updates to the building, we want to pick options that will hold up and can be carried into future updates.

Financial Committee Report (Molly G, Bill J, Chris G): No meeting this month due to the audit.

Newsletter Committee Report (Hannah V): Hannah Van Heel has published the first newsletter, which is being well received.

Meet & Confer Committee Report (Luke P & Chris G filled in for Chris K): Committee met this week to discuss the following: Early Childhood coordinator position, Student Ratios and location of job postings, Dean of Students, School Communication and Mentors & Observations.

SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Todd provided an update that the district audit was October 13-15, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS

Todd presented additional information on Roofing solution selection. Discussion to continue in the board workshop to vote on in the upcoming meeting.

Todd presented the Swanville School Co-op's sports agreement that covers transportation and fees associated with co-op sport offerings. Molly Gerads made a motion to accept the agreement. Seconded by Hannah Van Heel. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

The next Swanville School District Board meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2026 in the High School Library at 6pm. The board will have a workshop on November 5, 2026 at 5pm in the High School Library.

Molly Gerads made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm, seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Molly Gerads
Swanville School Board Clerk/Treasure