

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 - Vice-Chair
Molly Gerads - Clerk

Todd Lee - Superintendent
Sheryl Johnson - Principal

Luke Peterson - Treasurer
Kyle Thieschafer, Jr. - Director
Bill Johnson - Director

Swanville School Board Minutes, District #486 January 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Swanville School Board was called to order in the Swanville School Library at 7pm on January 21, 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.

Molly Gerads made a motion to amend the Agenda for the meeting to add 7.1 - JH Basketball Coach and 9.7 Calendar Change. Seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the School Board Minutes from the December 19, 2025 regular meeting. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Molly Gerads made a motion to accept the hiring of Travis Barthel - Junior High Basketball Coach & Lane change for Jolaineah Waltman from MA+30 to MA +45. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE ALLOWED

Bill Johnson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$181,371.02. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Molly Gerads made a motion to approve the electronic transfers of \$67,615.08 on December 20, 2025 and \$77,421.29 on January 5, 2026. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

The Annual Election of Officers was held.

Chair - Bill Johnson Nominated Chris Kircher. No other nominations. Luke Peterson made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Chris Kircher as School Board Chairperson. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Vice Chair - Chris Gilyard Nominated Billy Johnson. No other nominations. Molly Gerads made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Bill Johnson as School Board Vice Chairperson. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Bill Johnson made a motion to introduce the Resolution for Combining Duties of the Clerk & Treasure. Seconded by Chris Gilyard, roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasure - Luke Peterson Nominated Molly Gerads. No other nominations. Chris Gilyard made a motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Molly Gerads as School Board Clerk & Treasure. Seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Chris Gilyard made a motion to set the School Board Meetings to the 3rd Wednesday of the Month with the 4th Wednesday as the backup day, at 7pm. Seconded by Molly Gerads. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.



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Luke Peterson made a motion to keep Board Compensation as Chair \$150, Vice-Chairperson \$50 (\$20 extra when presiding), Clerk \$250, Treasure \$10 and each meeting \$50. Seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve Memberships into Region III, CMERDC & MSBA for 2026. Seconded by Chris Gilyard. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Chris Gilyard made a motion to designate The Long Prairie Leader and Morrison County Record as official newspapers for the Swanville School District. Seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Molly Gerads made a Motion to designate Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney as the official Swanville School District Attorney for 2026. Seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Luke Peterson made a motion to designate First State Bank of Swanville and MN School District Liquid Asset Fund as the official Swanville School District Depositories for 2026. Seconded by Molly Gerads. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Molly Gerads made a motion to approve the below Appointments to the following Committees and the compensation. Seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Mid-State Education District - Chris Gilyard - Compensation \$50

MSHSL - Chris Kircher - Compensation \$20

Community Education - Bill Johnson, Molly Gerads - Compensation \$20

Meet and Confer - Luke Peterson, Bill Johnson - Compensation \$20

Staff Development- Chris Kircher - Compensation \$20

Legislative Liaison - Chris Kircher - Compensation \$20

Perkins - Chris Gilyard, Bill Johnson - Compensation \$20

Harassment/Bullying - Molly Gerads & Bill Johnson - Compensation \$20

Finance - Molly Gerads, Chris Gilyard, Bill Johnson - Compensation \$20

Teacher/Principal Evaluation - Molly Gerads, Chris Kircher - Compensation \$20

Paired Sports - Molly Gerads, Luke Peterson - Compensation \$20

Technology - Chris Gilyard - Compensation \$20

Safety & Building/Grounds - Luke Peterson, Bill Johnson - Compensation \$20

Innovative Schools Project - Bill Johnson - Compensation \$20

Response Team - Chris Kircher, Molly Gerads - Compensation \$20

Calendar - Molly Gerads, Chris Gilyard - Compensation \$20



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Negotiations - Chris Kircher, Molly Gerads, Bill Johnson - Compensation \$20

Interviews - Any Board Member - Compensation \$20

Student Council - Luke Peterson - Compensation \$20

Letter Club - Molly Gerads - Compensation \$20

Project Oversight Committee - Molly Gerads, Chris Kircher, Chris Gilyard - Compensation \$20

Luke Peterson made a motion to approve Office Manager Deb Sieben & Christine Sales as the persons responsible for making electronic transfers for 2026. Seconded by Molly Gerads. Vote 5-0, Motion carried.

Bill Johnson made a motion to accept staff Leave as provided. Seconded by Molly Gerads. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

Luke Peterson made a motion to approve the resignation from the board due to relocation for Kyle Thieschafer effective 1/21/2026. Seconded by Molly Gerads. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

Bill Johnson made a motion to Approve the Resolution declaring and filling a school board vacancy & nominated Hannah L. Van Heel to fill the vacant position. Seconded by Molly Gerads. Roll Call vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Molly Gerads made a motion to approve February 13, 2026 as a full staff inservice day. Seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote 5-0, motion carried.

REPORTS

Sheryl Johnson presented the Principal Report. Enrollment increased by 5 students since the December 2025 meeting.

Elementary Days to note:

- Kindergarten Round Up Thursday February 19th
- Kid's Heart Challenge March 16th
- Elementary Concert April 10th

High School Celebrations

- Congratulations to Jordan Crandell and Chloe Leyendecker, the December students of the month.
- We added a Junior High ag class during guided learning time for interested 7th and 8th grade students. This will allow them to join FFA at an earlier age.
- Students of Character banquet is Wednesday April 15th at Madden's.
- Juniors will be taking the ASVAB on Tuesday January 27th. At the same time, Seniors will have a presentation on DFS applications and begin working on filling that out.
- January 27th Fluid Power, Challenge Day March 17th



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- Bowling reward day for 7-12 February 6th at Little Falls Bowling Center
- Large Group Contest March 4th
- Career Day March 6th for sophomores at CLC.
- Robotics March 11th-13th Grand Forks, April 9th-10th
- Blood drive March 24th
- March 29-31st Senior Class Trip
- ACT test April 7th
- Prom May 2nd
- Super Mileage May 11, 12
- Graduation May 22nd

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR REPORT

January Athletes of the Month:

Boys Basketball: V: Head Coach Aaron Gapinski, "Brody Kircher is the Varsity Boys Basketball Athlete of the Month for January. Brody currently leads the team in points and rebounds even though he gets a lot of attention from opposing teams defenses. What has impressed me the most though is the leadership that Brody has had this season.

Congratulations Brody!"

JV: Assistant Coach Luke Peterson, "Noah VanHeel is the JV Boys Basketball Athlete of the Month for January. Noah has done a little bit of everything on the court for the JV this year. He plays good defense, has been one of our main ball handlers and also has been one of our leading scorers lately. Keep up the hard work! Congratulations Noah!"

JH: Head Coach Travis Barthel, "Rylan Johnson is the JH January Athlete of the Month for Boys Basketball. Rylan listens attentively during drills, applies coaching instruction, and competes with assertiveness and passion. He consistently gives maximum effort and sets a positive example for his teammates. Keep working hard Rylan!

Congratulations!"

Girls Basketball:V: Head Coach Chris Kircher, "Senior Avery Douglas in the Varsity Girls Basketball Athlete of the Month for January. In the last 7 games, Avery is averaging 16.9 ppg, 8.0 rpg, and 6.3 apg while shooting 75% from the free throw line. Avery is an extremely competitive, tireless worker who gives everything she has on every play. She rarely gets a break, serves as one of our team captains and is a four-year starter. Congratulations Avery!"

JV: Assistant Coach Tamie Wimmer, "Junior Ellie Johnson is the Junior Varsity Girls Basketball Athlete of the Month for January. Ellie 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 Ellie!"

Wrestling: V: Head Coach Dwight Ballou, "Colby Twardowski is the Wrestling Athlete of the Month for January. Colby is a junior wrestling varsity at the 171 pound weight class. His current record is 18-9 with 7 pins. Colby is the son of Pam & Scott Twardowski. Colby is a great teammate on and off the mat. He has 92 career varsity wins and has helped his



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team to an undefeated 12-0 record on the season so far. Colby will be competing next month to try and earn a trip to the state tournament both individually and as a team. Congratulations Colby!"

Special Recognition/Consideration: Swanville Schools was granted both FORM A and FORM B grants through the MSHSL Foundation program.

Current Coaching Openings: Softball - Varsity Assistant & Baseball - Varsity Assistant

SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Todd provided an update from his attendance to the MSBA Conference. The HVAC re-bid is open with a public walk through scheduled for January 22, 2026 and bid opening February 5, 2026 at 2pm. The office design has been finalized for the build. Discussion ensued regarding the summer concession stand at the ball complex.

OLD BUSINESS

Molly Gerads reported that Todd Lee's mid year performance evaluation was completed with an Effective rating.

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

Chris Kircher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm, seconded by Luke Peterson. Vote 5-0, Motion carried. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Gerads

Swanville School Board Clerk/Treasurer

