

School Board Meeting Minutes

Swan Valley School District 92 Irwin, Idaho
School Board Meeting
Monday May 20, 2019
6:00 PM

- I. **Chairman Scholes called meeting to order at 6:07PM.**
 - a. Chairman Scholes, Vice-Chairman Poole, Trustee Hulse, Superintendent Jacobson and Clerk Hagan all present. Quorum is present.
- II. **Chairman Scholes led the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- III. **CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS-** Vice-Chairman Poole called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Pauline seconded. Diane Seconded. 3 in-favor. 0 opposed.
 - a. Approval of Agenda
 - b. Board Meeting Minutes from April 16, 2019
 - c. Special Board Meeting Minutes from April 29, 2019
 - d. Payment of Bills May 2019
- IV. **BUDGET WORKSHOP SESSION**
 - a. Work session to prepare for 2019-20 school year budget - Discussed budget prep. Budget hearing is set for June 17th. The board would like to keep maintaining the budget as it is. The board would like to keep Abby Kurt-Mason, the school psychiatrist, coming to the school every quarter. The board would like to see the teachers use free resources to fill the gaps in between Abby's visits to help better understand our students.
- V. **TOWNHALL QUESTION & ANSWER FOLLOW UP – Questions broken down by topic.**

Plant Levy

- Why a levy and not a bond?
- Why would plant facility be done as a levy and not a bond?

Idaho Code 33-804 and 33-804A outlines the process school districts must follow for plant levies and what school districts can use plant levy funds to improve school buildings and playgrounds. Since this plant levy is less than 0.2% of the market value of Swan Valley School District #92 we only need 55% pass rate. In Idaho, bonds require a super majority vote, which is 67% pass rate.

At the time of decision, the Board of Trustees felt like the plant levy option was the best option.

Gym Expansion

- Why do we want to expand the gym?
- Why a huge gym?
- Why is the gym expansion going out towards the highway (west) and not more towards the parking lot (North) to save a bunch of money?
- Why is an expansion being done at this time?
- Does an assessment need to be done?

The Swan Valley Board of Trustees expressed a desire to increase the size of the gym so they have a full size basketball court. In addition, they would like to provide more room for spectators

The current dimensions of the gym are approximately 71 feet by 46 feet. Standard high school basketball size is 84 feet in length by 50 feet wide. To ensure a safety perimeter around the court and room for spectators we were trying to expand the gym.

When we met with Stan Marshall, CEO of Headwaters Construction, he confirmed the same thing that was said in the town hall meeting. It is best to expand towards the highway due to load bearing walls and roof support structures. The addition will match what we currently have in place with a cinderblock wall and a matching brick on the outside.

An assessment is a systematic process for determining and addressing needs, or "gaps" between current conditions and desired conditions. The Board of Trustees have determined there is a gap and therefore have proposed expanding the gym to better serve our students.

Voting

- Is there an absentee ballot?

Yes, absentee ballots are available. Please visit co.bonneville.id.us, visit Bonneville County Elections at 825 Shoup Avenue Idaho Falls, ID 83402 or call Bonneville County Elections at 208-529-1363.

- Have all property owners been notified?
- You need to make sure that property owners are notified.
- Have the families of the border students going to Lincoln County been notified of the Plant levy and the tax increase?
- Does the district have obligations to let all property owners know about the proposed Plant Levy?
- Are the Freedom residents being involved in the tax raises?

Idaho Code 33-804 (f) took the running of the election away from school districts and put it into the hands of the election offices as of January 1, 2011. We have done our best to post information in the local post office, school, and on our school website. We have no way of contacting people who have property in the district boundaries yet reside outside of our boundaries.

- Why is the election in May?

Elections can be held in March, May, August, or November. The Board of Trustees has been discussing the plant levy since September 2018. After visiting about the plant levy for several board meetings, in February 2019 the board decided to take action to pursue a plant levy. Due to time sensitive deadlines, the soonest a vote could take place was May 2019.

- Having the election May, may lead to people who want to vote not being able to vote. Usually there is a town hall meeting and then a Plant Levy dollar amount is decided on. Think the process has been done in the wrong order.

It is never the intention to stop people from voting. Absentee ballots are available. Please visit co.bonneville.id.us, visit Bonneville County Elections at 825 Shoup Avenue Idaho Falls, ID 83402 or call Bonneville County Elections at 208-529-1363. However, you have to be a resident of Swan Valley School District #92 in order to vote. If you have a second home in our district or own property and this is not your primary resident where you are registered to vote, you cannot vote. We appreciate the feedback when to hold the town hall meeting. The plant levy has been on our school board agenda since September 2018. In the future we will be sure to conduct a town hall meeting to gather community feedback.

Financials

- How much is in the school reserve?

Swan Valley School District fund balance is approximately \$530,000. Sheri Poulsen has conducted our audit for the past several years and has been very pleased with our fund balance. Just about 5 years ago she had some serious concerns with our fund balance due to our inability to cover 3 months of expenses. The district has worked very hard to increase our fund balance and would like to continue to maintain a healthy balance.

There is approximately \$100,000 in our plant levy reserve funds. We are using these funds to purchase a new bus this year and upgrade our current light fixtures to LED. The new bus is approximately \$100,000 and the LED upgrade is approximately \$19,000. At the conclusion of the 2018-19 fiscal year we anticipate a plant levy reserve fund balance of \$0. With this new plant levy amount, we were planning to purchase a new bus in approximately 4-5 years down the road to upgrade our aging fleet.

- Was the Plant Levy that is ending right now for a bus?

From 2014-2019 there was a \$40,000 per year plant levy over 5 years for a total of \$200,000. Portions of these funds were used to purchase the bus back in 2016 and a portion of these funds will be used to purchase a new bus in 2019. A brand new bus cost approximately \$100,000.

The bus that was purchased was financed. We are still making payments on this bus. We plan to purchase a new bus in 2019 outright which will draw down some of our current plant levy and school fund balance down.

In June 2019 the school will undergo a major light renovation project in partnership with Lower Valley. All lights will be converted to LED. This will draw down our fund balance approximately \$19,000.

- Does this include assessments on all lots plus farms and every little piece of property?

All property in the boundaries of Swan Valley School District #92 is a part of the \$220,230,286 estimated taxable market value.

- Have you looked into gatherings to help raise the money?
- Why haven't any grants been written for some of these items?

We are always trying to find ways to raise funds for our school. For the 2018-19 school year we have been able to secure almost \$25,000 in grants to help fund STEM opportunities, purchase library books for our younger kids, and build our new Outdoor Learning Center. In addition we partnered with Lower Valley Energy to upgrade all of our lights to LED June 2019.

This improvement will not only generate approximately \$6,000 in incentives but we hope see a return on investment in 5.7 years.

School Bus Transportation

- Why do we need a new school bus if there are only 59 kids in the school?
- How many students go to Ririe?
- Why not passenger vans for the small number of students on the Ririe bus?
- Is the reimbursement rate for a bus is 80%?

To minimize time on the bus we have 2 valley routes for all of our students in grades K-8 and one high school route to transport students to Ririe High School. In the case of Swan Valley School it is not necessary the number of kids but the distance between residents. For the 2018-19 school year we have gone as far as Snake River Bridge, Pine Creek, Palisades Creek, and Dam Store.

We transport over 90% of our elementary students to school and there are approximately 15-20 high school students that reside in the Swan Valley area and travel to Ririe to attend high school.

All schools must follow all state and federal standards when transporting students to school. Please see Idaho Code 33-1006 for more information. At a minimum they must be transported on a yellow bus to and from school.

There are two reimbursement rates, 50% and 80%. Some examples of items that fall under 50% are bus driver salaries & benefits, transportation personnel, utilities in bus garage, licensing and software to operate your fleet, training, & DOT physicals. Some examples of items that fall under 80% are bus technician, school bus lease, two-way radios, SDE sponsored trainings, oil & lubricants, yellow bus, and cameras on bus.

Bus depreciation schedule is spread out over 12 years where we get a larger percentage up front and it tapers off over a 12 year time period. For example, with the 2016 bus we purchased, we received approximately \$9,600 in depreciation for the 2018-19 school year. These funds will be used to pay our lease payment for this bus, which will be approximately \$9,242.

Heating System

- The furnace in the basement is covered in asbestos, how much will that cost to get the furnace out of the basement? Is that cost built into the \$400K furnace replacement budget?
- Will the heating system proposed save money in the long run? Is this the best route for a heating system?
- How many days have we missed due to our heating system?

We have visited with several companies on the best option for our current heating system. Several companies have proposed the following options:

- Geothermal
- Electric Boiler
- Propane Boiler
- Individual roof mounted units
- Solar Panels

At this time we are open to all ideas and proposals.

The challenge is identifying when our current heating system become inoperable.

We did not cancel school this year due to our heating system; however, there were a couple days we did not have heat in the building when students showed up. In addition, we had a coal fire in our system in March. Our Maintenance guy came to check on the system over the weekend our school was full of smoke. According to him, had he been here an hour later our coal bin would've caught fire and potentially burned our school down.

Quotes/Bids

- What is the process of getting bids on these projects?
- Levy breakout are estimates and not bids. Everything should be an exact dollar amount.
- Regardless of the bid, do you pick who ever you wish to do the projects?

Idaho Code 67-2803 to Idaho Code 67-2806 outlines different requirements for schools to follow based on the value of the service/product.

Gym Project has 4 options we can pursue

- Idaho Code 67-2805 Design-Bid-Build
- Idaho Code 67-2309 Design-Build
- Idaho Code 54-4511 Design-Bid-Build with Construction Manager Representative
- Idaho Code 54-4511 Construction Manager/General Contractor

Other Statutes to note

- Idaho Code 54-1902 – Unlawful to engage in public works without license
- Idaho Code 67-5711C – Construction of Public Projects
- Idaho Code 67-2805 – Procurement of Public Works Construction
- Idaho Code 67-2320 – Professional service contracts with Construction Managers

While we have not solicited any bids at this time, we have visited with several groups that have given us an estimate of how much each project will cost. Several companies have visited our school and been on site to assess our current situations.

Miscellaneous Questions

- How much does the school pay for border students to go to Wyoming?

For the 2017-18 school year we paid approximately \$90,000 to Lincoln County School District.

For the 2018-19 school year we will pay approximately \$100,000 to Lincoln County School District.

This is an in and out for our school district. The SDE allocates this money to our school district based on our contracts with Lincoln County School District and we send them 3 payments throughout the year.

For high school students attending Idaho Falls School District, Teton School District, and Ririe School District, these funds come out of our budget.

- Are there any plans to serve kids other than elementary kids?

Some parents have expressed interest in offering a high school here at Swan Valley but no plans have been pursued at this time.

- What is the projected enrollment for the next 5 years?
- How many new students will be coming in?
- How many students will be leaving?

Enrollment Data is as follows:

- 2013-14- 57 Students
- 2014-15 – 53 Students
- 2015-16 – No data
- 2016-17 – 57 Students
- 2017-18 – 49 Students
- 2018-19 – 53 Students

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS/REPORTS-

a. Superintendent Report

- Friday April 26, 2019 – PK Graduation. Had a great turnout. A lot of parents and grandparents showed up to show support. Lanae and Chelsea put a lot of work into Pre-K and the program showed all of their hard work and efforts.
 - Wednesday May 8, 2019 – K-2 Open House. K-2 students presented on the First Lego League and Habitat Unit to their parents. The students did a great job presenting.
 - Thursday May 9, 2019 – Library STEM. The first after school STEM program of the year a hit. We had over 20 students stay and take advantage of the STEM program that Mrs. Vordermann put together.
 - Friday May 10, 2019 – Picabo Street Assembly. Lulu Lundquist was Picabo Street for the wax museum and she was able to get an assembly setup for her to come to the school and talk about life lessons and how you handle each situation. It was a great Assembly.
 - Saturday May 11, 2019 – Swan Valley Fun Run 5K.
 - Friday May 17, 2019 – Missoula's Children's Theater performance
- Swan Valley School District #92 1620 policy – Board Goals. The board would like to schedule a workshop on June 17th at 6 PM to go over different board goals and have patron input on the direction that the patrons would like to see the board.
 - Swan Valley School District #92 2570 policy – Added in Admin approval.
 - Swan Valley School District #92 3000 level policies – No questions.
 - 2019-20 School Lunch Prices – Lunch prices did not raise for students last year but did the year before. Lunch did raise for adults last year. SDE is asking Joanne Hincks, food director, if we need to raise our lunch prices.
 - Kids Lunch - \$2.40 Didn't raise last year – Board will raise student prices \$0.10 to \$2.50 for 2019/2020.
 - Adult Lunch - \$3.85 Raised \$0.10 last year – Board will raise adult lunches \$0.10 to \$3.95 for 2019/2020.
 - Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance Renewal – insurance is raising 6% this year.

VII. PATRON INPUT -

Tom Walsh – Swan Valley – Comment: Can not believe a contractor will not give a set/fixed quote. Need to get a fixed bid and a fixed time frame. What is your time frame? If there isn't a fixed time frame you could be at the mercy of the contractor and the prices if there isn't a fixed quote. You have headwaters construction as the contractor on the gym project, they did the church and the church has flooded how many times? You might want to reconsider your contractor. Thunder ridge just got done with their building maybe you could use their contractor or plans to get a better rate.

Carla Hall – Irwin – Do you need a High School size gym?

Nathan Jacobson – Swan Valley – Concerned about the increase of \$19 to \$190 for taxes. This needs to be looked at. This building doesn't need a full-size gym with it being a rural school with a small number of students. The school needs to work with LVE for lighting projects. Opposed.

Frank McClure – Swan Valley – Comment: The last time the school had any remodeling was 30+ years ago. Its time to do some remodeling. We need to take care of the school.

Carl Wright – Ridiculous to raise taxes from \$19 to \$190.

Jerry Pope – Irwin – The School was expanded in 1980. I've been here for 40 years and the enrollment has gone down since the 70's. I appreciate the answers from the last meeting. Thank you.

Joseph Lundquist – Swan Valley – I'm on both sides. I have two girls going to school here and growing up with a bigger gym would be great. Getting a gym expansion needs to be done without railroading all the residents. Thank you for your input. I must have missed the information when discussing the dollar amount. I have only missed one meeting. I have a hard time believing that everyone sat down and discussed dollar amounts because I made it to every meeting. There needs to be more input and questions. We need to have more town hall meetings.

Joy Ghetia – Swan Valley – I agree with everyone else. Comment: Unbelievably there are not people registered to vote. You can register to vote at the election on Tuesday. How much have the Wyoming folks been in on this? How much do they know? This is a big jump on taxes. Did great on the presentation. There are a lot of grants out there. I was employed at the school for 15 years and brought in over \$65,000 in grants every year.

Doug Martin – Swan Valley – I'll give a little history. In 1951 I was in 1st grade. They started building the Dam and the expansion came from the dam. \$22,000 a child; my concern is that we are going to expand our gym not knowing what the enrollment of the students will be. Licensed Contractors bid on these kinds of projects and should know how much it will cost. Concerned about the cost of students. Comment: No one ever complains until after the fact; get involved and go to the meetings.

Chenoa Allen – Swan Valley – This is an interesting situation. I hope that you will revisit this levy if it doesn't pass. Its upsetting that our gym isn't big enough for activities.

Ken Hutsen – Irwin – I'm concerned on the 34% increase in taxes.

Faye Martin – Swan Valley – Education is very important. I was on the School Board in Teton Valley and we had tried to pass a levy several times before we were able to get it passed.

Helen Vondrus – I'm speaking on behalf of everyone not here. The elderly and retired are on a fixed income and will be drastically affected. Is there a better way to give our kids a great education?

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

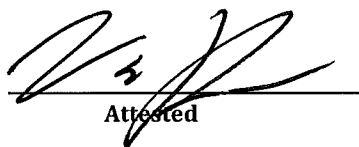
- a. Swan Valley School District #92 2570 policy – First Reading. Vice-Chairman Poole called for a motion. Trustee Hulse seconded. 3 in favor. 0 opposed.
- b. Swan Valley School District #92 3000 level policies – First Reading. Vice-Chairman Poole called for a motion. Trustee Hulse Seconded. 3 in favor. 0 opposed.
- c. Blue Cross Blue Shield Insurance Renewal. Vice-Chairman Poole called for a motion. Trustee Hulse seconded. 3 in favor. 0 opposed.
- d. 2019-20 School Lunch Prices. Vice-Chairman Poole called for a motion. Trustee Hulse seconded. 3 in favor. 0 opposed.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS-

- a. Board Member input for future agenda items – Chairman Scholes will be stepping down from Chairman and will be continuing as a trustee and would like to make this leadership change at the June Board meeting.
- b. June Board Meeting – Monday June 17, 2019 6:00 PM. Workshop starts at 6:00 PM, with the board meeting starting at 7:00PM. Please put this in the Tuesday Newsletter to inform parents of this workshop.
- c. Budget Hearing – Monday June 17, 2019 7:00 PM

X. ADJOURN @8:32PM.


Approved


Attested


Date