

School Board Meeting Minutes

Swan Valley School District 92 Irwin, Idaho
Special School Board Meeting
Monday April 29, 2019
7:00 PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the patrons of Swan Valley School District #92 that the Board of Trustees has called a special meeting at 7:00 PM at the Swan Valley School on Monday April 29, 2019. The board of trustees approved a motion to ask the public to vote on a plant levy and wants to ensure everyone is well informed. They will hold a public town hall meeting to gather public input.

- I. Vice-Chairman Poole called meeting to order @ 7:02PM.**
 - a. Vice-Chairman Poole, Trustee Hulse, Superintendent Jacobson and Clerk Hagan all present. Chairman Scholes is not present. Quorum is present.
- II. Vice-Chairman Poole led the Pledge of Allegiance.**
- III. CONSENT AGENDA - ACTION ITEMS.** Trustee Hulse called for a motion. Vice-Chairman Poole seconded. 2-in favor. 0-opposed.
 - a. Approval of Agenda
- IV. PUBLIC TOWN HALL MEETING**
 - a. Short presentation outlining Plant Levy request

Upgrade our heating system (\$400,000), phone system (\$25,000), and fire system (\$25,000).
To enhance school security (\$50,000).
To replace our high school shuttle car (\$10,000) and purchase a new bus (\$100,000).
To make repairs to playground and cracking sidewalk (\$25,000).
To expand our current gym (\$1,250,000).

- b. Public input meeting
 - i. Please sign up if you would like to comment on Plant Levy only.
 - ii. Upon invitation from the Chair, come forward and state your name for the record.
 - iii. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes.
 - iv. Avoid repeating what has already been stated.
 - v. This session will be limited to one (1) hour for comments. At the conclusion of one (1) hour the chair reserves the right to conclude public input.

Public input –

- Roger Griffin – Votes Yes but has questions on the need for expanding the gym. The gym expansion may lead to a no vote.
 - o Why are we wanting to expand the gym?
 - o Does an assessment need to be done?
 - o Why is an expansion being done at this time?
 - o Is there an absentee ballot?
- Sharon Hunter – Irwin – Pretty much feel the same as Roger Griffin. First 4 things are great but I am not happy about the gym.
- Dick Polson –
 - o Had a question about how much the school reserve was? Answered, 'Close to \$400K. Has been building this reserve up over the past few years.'
 - o Was the Plant Levy that is ending right now for a bus? Answered, 'Yes'.
- Dick Clayton –
 - o Does this include assessments on all lots plus farms and every little piece of property?
 - o Why is the election in May?
 - 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.
- Jim Peirce – Pass.

- Dave Coveney – Irwin – Raising taxes will run me out of town. I can't afford my taxes if they raise anymore. Our taxes continue to raise every year and this Plant Levy will make it out of our price range. We will be out of this valley if this gets passed.
 - Have you looked into gatherings to help raise the money?
- Leigh Coveney – Irwin –
 - Why haven't any grants been written for some of these items?
 - Why do we need a new school bus if there are only 59 kids in the school? Answered, 'Two separate swan valley routes, and one for the Ririe High School Bus'.
 - How many students go to Ririe? Answered, 'about 20'.
 - Why not a passenger van for the small number of students on the Ririe bus?
 - Why a huge gym?
 - The number of students and the number of sports games played doesn't make sense to have an expansion done. Maybe the money should be spent in other areas. It's not fair to raise the taxes for the homeowners that aren't here to vote on this.
- Tom Smith – Irwin – Suggests we do two separate Plant Levy's, or a Plant Levy and a Bond to separate out the gym from every other item on the list.
- Tom Walsh – Swan Valley –
 - Have all property owners been notified?
 - You need to make sure that property owners are notified.
 - What is the projected enrollment for the next 5 years?
 - How many new students will be coming in?
 - How many students will be leaving?
 - Comment: 32%-35% tax increase for the next 5 years on all property and this does not include all the other taxes that will be increasing.
 - Why the need to expand the 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? Answered by Troy Hicks, 'The walls on the north and south side of the gym are the load bearing walls.'
 - 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?
 - How much does the school pay for border students to go to Wyoming?
 - Comment: You need to investigate the proper notification process for property owners.
- Jerry Pope – Irwin –
 - The reimbursement rate for a bus is 80%? Answered, 'Yes'.
 - 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?
 - Why is the gym being expanded?
 - Are the Freedom residents being involved in the tax raises?
- Chenoa Allen – Swan valley – Really appreciate the first several items. The gym expansion is not essential however it would be great to expand. Maybe stretching the levy over 10 years for less money instead of a short period for a large amount. The gym expansion would be beneficial to the community.
- Ken Hutsen – Thank you for everything.
 - Furnace – Will the heating system proposed save money in the long run? IS this the best route for a heating system?
 - What is the justification for the gym for the elementary school in this district? Are there any plans to serve kids other than elementary kids?
 - Unhappy about the notification process and the lack of the notification process. Not happy about not notifying ALL property owners properly.

- Tara Hicks – Swan valley – Thank you for holding this meeting. The heating system was assessed when she was on the board and she was told to keep the furnace as long as possible. A gym would be nice but not necessary. Seems like all of the items on the Plant Levy breakout are estimates and not bids. Everything should be an exact dollar amount.
- Wendy Swope – Swan Valley – 'I will help with writing grants for some of these items. E-mail me.'
- Mark Lundquist – Swan Valley – If we wait until the furnace breaks it will be expensive, but it will be a while before it breaks. The furnace is good. Concerned about carry-over and budgets.
 - Why do we have \$400K in carry-over if we need upgrades for safety?
 - Why is the back (\$400K) so big?
 - Why was there a lack of notification?
 - Why a levy and not a bond?
 - Why would plant facility be done as a levy and not a bond?
- Tom Walsh – Swan Valley – What is the process of getting bids on these projects? Answered, 'Each project is different. We send a proposal out and companies submit their qualifications for that particular project.'
 - Regardless of the bid, do you pick whoever you wish to do the projects?
- Ken Hutsen – Swan Valley – Reiterate; the list of projects and the large reserve. Everything can be done except the gym with the carryover. Check grants first before going through with this levy.
- Troy Hicks – Swan valley – If you have transparency and you are clear with your goals, the community would be on board. This has blind-sided some people.
- Helen Vondrus – Irwin – Didn't know about the meeting. Agrees that all items are good except the gym. This gym expansion will put all of us in the hole. It's not feasible to put us all in the hole. We all support the community. It's not fair to put people living on fixed wages in a tax increase like this.
- Statement from Vice-Chairman Poole -- We are not trying to blind-side anyone. We will try to get more information on the questions that have been brought up. We need to research more and we will add another meeting before the 5/21/19 election, to inform you.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION. Trustee Hulse motioned to move into executive session. Vice-Chairman Poole seconded. 2-in favor. 0-opposed.

Roll Call: Vice-Chairman Poole – Yes. Trustee Hulse – Yes.

Moved into executive session @ 8:20PM.

- I.C. 74-206(A) to consider offering contracts to existing certified and continuation of employment letters to classified staff for the 2019-20 school year
- I.C. 74-206(b) to conclude the evaluation of the Superintendent and discuss terms of a contract

Moved out of executive session at 8:47PM.

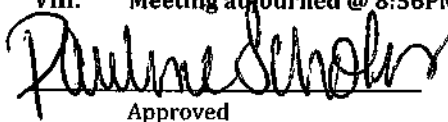
VI. INFORMATION ITEMS/REPORTS

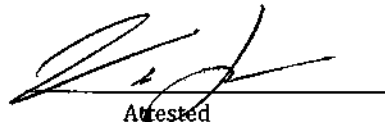
- Lower Valley Energy Commercial Lighting Program. LVE came in and gave us a bid on upgrading our current lighting system. LVE will upgrade our current lights to LED. The project will be \$18,000. The school will get a rebate of \$6,000 as soon as the project is done. This upgrade will pay for itself in 5 years. The crew will come in on June 3rd and 4th to do the project and will have it completed in two days. This project has to be done and paid for before June 30th in order to get our rebate back. 50% of project will be paid in the May A/P and the other 50% will be paid in the June A/P.

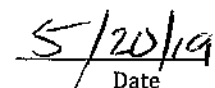
VII. ACTION ITEMS

- Certified teacher contracts and continuation of employment letters to classified staff. Trustee Hulse called for a motion. Vice-Chairman Poole Seconded. 2 – in favor. 0 – opposed.
- Extend Superintendent contract and terms. Trustee Hulse called for a motion. Vice-Chairman Poole Seconded. 2 – in favor. 0 – opposed.
- Lower Valley Energy Commercial Lighting Program. Trustee Hulse called for a motion. Vice-Chairman Poole Seconded. 2 – in favor. 0 – opposed.

VIII. Meeting adjourned @ 8:56PM.


Approved


Attested


Date