

Shawano School District

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Dear Shawano School District Community Members,

Questions are being asked about statements on the swimming pool in the community survey. We wanted to clarify the existing issues with the swimming pool.

The intent of the swimming pool question on the community survey is to provide guidance to the school board regarding the community's support for investing in the replacement and repair of pool infrastructure, including the maintenance required to the pool basin. Your guidance is needed. The district encourages your responses to this question and all other questions on the survey, including additional comments when provided those opportunities in the survey. All responses will be considered.

When considering the full use of a competition pool, there are different standards depending on the type of competition. It is recommended that a new competitive swimming pool be constructed to minimum standards, thus creating the greatest opportunity for competition. In addition, recommendations are made to create a safe pool for competition. The most common standards are published by USA Swimming and by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The current pool length is in the range of 75'-1" to 75'-1.5". The current starting wall depth is in the range of 5'-1.5" to 5'-5" deep. The current turning end or accessible wall depth is 3'-5" to 3'-6". Current lane widths are in the range of 7'-1" to 7'-2.5".

The requirements published by NFHS, which allow local high school competition, are met with the current dimensions. However, modern timing equipment could impact the length of the pool depending on the equipment.

Meeting USA Swimming requirements and recommendations opens competition and use of the pool to a much larger group. This is desirable as it increases the viability of owning and operating a swimming pool. The current length is shorter than the recommended length by less than an inch, which may render our current pool ineligible for modern timing equipment.

The most serious recommendation the current pool does not meet is the starting depth. A depth of 6 feet or more is recommended for novice swimmers learning head-first entry starts. A recommended turning-end depth is 4 feet. The recommendation for swimming lane width at the high school level is 8 feet, but 7 feet is acceptable.

The pool infrastructure and equipment are at the end of their useful life and are in need of replacement including filtration system, treatment system, piping, and a ventilation system for the pool space. The finishes on the pool basin and some of the deck areas need replacing. More durable options are available to help extend the life of these replacements.

In addition to the significant costs to address the infrastructure and equipment needs, the pool costs approximately \$250,000 annually to operate. These costs are significant and your feedback is important to understand if investment in the pool is a priority for our community.

Thank you,

Kurt Krizan

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