

Pullman School Board moves forward on Pullman Aquatic & Fitness Center sale



Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories will buy facility

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A record board hangs above the lap pool in October at the Pullman Aquatic & Fitness Center as members of the Pullman High School swim team practice. Liesbeth Powers/Moscow-Pullman Daily News

This story has been updated to show that Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories is the entity that offered to buy the aquatic center in March. That detail was incorrect in the original version of this story.

The Pullman School Board of Directors agreed to sell the Pullman Aquatic & Fitness Center to Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories.

Directors authorized a purchase and sales agreement of the indoor pool located near Pullman High School during a special meeting Monday evening. Executive Director of Operations Juston Pollestad said the property will transfer to SEL's ownership in September.

In March, SEL founder Ed Schweitzer made an offer for SEL to buy the aquatic center for \$1.2 million with the hopes of remodeling and fixing the decades-old pool.

The center opened in 2000 and was built with a \$2.5 million donation from the Schweitzers.

Pullman schools and the city of Pullman have partnered to operate the pool since creating an interlocal agreement in 2003. The agreement has cost the school district \$100,000 annually, and both entities share repair and maintenance fees.

The school district pulled out of the agreement last fall, meaning the Pullman Parks & Recreation can run the pool until August.

Board members also approved a short-term interlocal agreement at the meeting that allows city employees to manage the center while ownership transfers.

The deal stipulates SEL employees will manage the facility. A separate agreement is in the works to continue providing Pullman schools access to the pool following the property's closing.

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