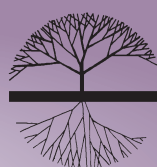


The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 25
Number 38

"IF I WERE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER OR A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHOOSE THE LATTER." THOMAS JEFFERSON

50 cents
January 29, 2020



U-46 to start earlier
in next school year
See Page 4

Sabres girls hoops
split two UEC tilts
See Page 7

U-46 Board looks at student climate trends

By Seth Hancock

The number of referrals being given to students in School District U-46 is trending upward but the number of suspensions are trending downward according to a presentation given to the Board of Education at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 13.

The presentation was on school culture and climate supporting student wellness and achievement according to John Heiderscheidt, director of school safety and culture. It "provides a holistic view of school culture and climate" and "a report about safety from a culture and climate perspective," he said.

Last summer, the board approved of major updates to the Student Code of Conduct while Heiderscheidt said in 2018 that the district is moving to a "positive discipline philosophy" with an emphasis on "relationships and community above rules and regulations" through "restorative practices."

Robin Barraza, coordinator of stu-

dent discipline and alternative school options, said the total number of referrals increased from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019.

The largest referral category is other which saw an increase from 18,152 to 20,922 the last two years, and by the end of the first semester this year U-46 was at 10,283. Physical referrals went from 7,394 to 8,016 and are at 4,468 this year, and attendance referrals (truancy) from 2,412 to 2,821 and at 1,711 this year.

The other category includes "defiance and disrespect, which is our number one behavioral infraction," Barraza said.

The most used resolution has been administrative conferences while in-school suspensions saw a decrease from 7,183 in 2017-2018 to 6,963 in 2018-2019 and are at 3,374 this year and out-of-school suspensions did increase the last two years from 1,977 to 2,245 and is at 1,086 this year.

"Our use of in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension exclu-

sionary discipline practices has been fairly stable over the past two years," Barraza said. "We're on a slight downward trend with that."

U-46 started tracking Screening Assessment and Support Services/hospital resolutions, which evaluates a student's mental health, last year as a resolution which included 143. It's at 109 this year, and the presentation stated it is expected to be 30 percent higher than last year by the end of this school year.

Referrals by grade showed that ninth graders have received the most, 5,410, so far this year with 10th graders following with 3,183.

"We know that ninth grade is a key grade, and it's a big transition for kids," Barraza said.

Regarding referrals by ethnicity, Barraza said "we have a pretty significant disproportionality in comparing percentage of enrolled students to percentage of total referrals" for black students and "a slight disproportionality in the multi-racial category."

Barraza said the numbers have been steady since 2013-2014 with the number of students with multiple referrals. She said about 90 percent of students have one or fewer referrals.

Board member Veronica Noland asked about how many U-46 schools use restorative practices and if it is required which Barraza said "right now, I'd say not any of our schools are at a full implementation level right now." She said the district isn't at a point to require it yet.

Board member Melissa Owens asked how much of the other category of referrals was defiance or disrespect which Barraza said about 75 percent. Owens suggested the district break down the other category since it is the largest.

Regarding the trends, Owens asked about how the district is making sure the restorative practices are working, but the district never directly answered the question.

"Knowing that some of our methods of resolutions have decreased slightly while our incidents, especially defiance and disrespect and truancy and... physical, they're still trending higher this year," Owens said. "How are we looking at what's actually working and what's not working and making adjustments?"

"We're shifting practice, we're trying to shift away from an overreliance on exclusionary discipline because we know that an overreliance on that doesn't work," Barraza said and claimed historically there's been no downward trend in discipline data before restorative practices were put in place, although no historical data was provided. It should be noted that the

trend in increased referrals also coincides with continued declines in enrollment.

Owens responded: "From looking at it, one can make the argument that we've moved away from exclusionary discipline models and at the same time our incident levels have gone up. So, it's reasonable to say there's a correlation there and that's concerning."

"There is a sense of urgency to commit to doing restorative practices in the correct way and doing it at scale," Barraza said. She said restorative practices are at the "very beginning phases of that shift" and the current data is not all that important.

In a memo to the board, the district also complained about a lack of state funding, this despite the district receiving a 19 percent increase in state funding this year through the "evidence-based" funding formula.

U-46 increased spending by \$36.2 million, a 6.5 percent increase, in this year's budget while enrollment declined for the fifth straight year. Between Fiscal Year 2012 and FY 2019, spending has increased \$128.1 million (29.8 percent), which is over \$80 million faster than the rate of inflation according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics inflation calculator, and enrollment has declined 5.6 percent (2,293 fewer students).

Owens and Sue Kerr, the board's president, asked before the meeting about the referrals to ninth graders and asked for a three-year trend. Owens noted the differing trends between eighth grade and ninth grade which showed referrals to eighth graders going from 6,430 to 5,320 to 6,300 over the prior three years while ninth graders going from 7,366 to 7,324 to 8,800.

The trends show a "dramatic jump," Owens said.

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said there has been a change in practices for reporting referrals in recent years so it "might not be the exact numbers" from earlier school years. Barraza also dismissed the data saying there was inconsistency in the past while ninth graders leading in referrals is a common trend across the country, but she said the district can encourage more communication between middle and high schools.

Regarding the referral data concerning ethnic groups, board member Eva Porter implied U-46 employees are to blame for the referrals to minority students and asked, prior to the meeting and stated in a written memo, for "some type of mandatory Cultural Sensitivity Training implemented for Staff and Teachers" to address black and Hispanic/Latino students. The district's data showed relatively the same proportionality for referrals between Hispanic/Latino and white students.

The district responded in the memo: "Teachers and Administrators were required to complete the GCN Cultural Competency and Racial Bias Training this fall."

At the meeting, Sanders said: "We still have a lot of work around our equity plan that is continuing that will continue that is steeped in this world as well."



High flying Sabre

The Sabres' Darrel Luce completing an elevated drive on the hoop as South Elgin's Drew Cwik attempted to disrupt a score from behind during Streamwood's Thursday, Jan. 23 win over the Storm. For story and more photos see page 12.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)



U-46 ratifies earlier start for 2020-21 school year

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved of the 2020-2021 school calendar at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 13 while opposition to the earlier start date continued to persist.

The vote was 6-0, board member John Devereux was absent.

The year will start on Wednesday, Aug. 12 and Wednesday, Aug. 19 for pre-school, and the final day of classes is Monday, May 24, 2021 or Tuesday, June 1, 2021 if all five emergency days are used and there are 176 instructional days for students and 184 teacher attendance days. High school graduation is set for Saturday, May 29, 2021.

Thanksgiving break will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 25 with students returning on Monday, Nov. 30, the first semester will end on Friday, Dec. 18 with Christmas break starting on Monday, Dec. 21 and students returning on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 and spring break will start Monday, March 29, 2021 with students returning on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 after a spring holiday on Monday, April 5, 2021 which is the day after Easter. The calendar aligns with area school districts according to U-46 CEO Tony Sanders.

It will be the eighth straight year with an earlier start date, originally done by former Superintendent Jose Torres in the 2013-2014 school year in an effort for yearlong schooling, despite past public surveys showing overwhelming support for a later start date. The last survey was done in 2017.

Board member Melissa Owens, who did vote for the calendar, suggested the district move the start date to Monday, Aug. 17. In a memo, the district stated it had received 15 public responses to the calendar with all but two expressing opposition to the early start date, the other two addressing concerns with Thanksgiving break and the final day of school.

"I'm still really concerned about the slide into the second week of August where traditionally we've been in the third week of August," Owens said. "It's early, it's really early."

Owens later added: "The feedback that I've gotten consistently is that first day start and how early it is."

Regarding the first day of school, Owens asked why start on a Wednesday rather than a Monday to which Sanders said there are operational challenges and starting on Wednesday allows the first two days of the week to be used for professional development.

"By and large, I think most everybody appreciates starting midweek and it helps us out operationally," Sanders suggested.

Sue Kerr, the board's president, said the earlier start date allows for high school students to take finals before Christmas break, the traditional reason used in contrast to the public's wishes.

However, finals appear to no longer be a factor at all as a district memo stated "we have worked to eliminate traditional 'finals' as a practice."

"The continuity of learning to finish the semester at winter break seems to make a lot of sense regardless of if we give finals or not," said Josh Carpenter, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning.

Even before eliminating traditional finals, Sanders has previously admitted the district's own data shows that "it's not made a significant impact over these past few years academically" having finals before the break." That was in 2017 when the administration was going to follow the public's wishes but the board's majority supported the earlier start date in a 4-3 vote with

Kerr along with former board members Cody Holt and Jeanette Ward on the side of the public.

Owens said there was a previous board agreement to do a survey again and she and Kerr suggested one be done next year.

Sanders said "we can" do another survey but cautioned the board noting its 2017 decision.

Board member Veronica Noland suggested the public has been split on the calendar stating: "We have surveyed, we have surveyed many times. And it's always come back a third, a third, a third."

However, the three surveys that have been done have shown clear opposition to the earlier start date with the first showing 90 percent of nearly 1,700 respondents opposed to the earlier date, the next 73 percent of 935 respondents opposed and the last survey 73 percent of 4,715 respondents opposed.

Sanders said he would like to get information on how other school boards solicit public feedback on calendars and said he knows of one where the district creates multiple calendars and allows the public to vote on the choices.

"I would much prefer that," Owens said. "If we could do two versions it would at least give us some options."

"Some of this is also just a matter of making sure the community feels its voice is heard," said board member Kate Thommes.

Board member Donna Smith suggested multiple options would not alleviate concerns and admitted the board will likely not listen to the public.

"I don't want to put things out there just to get voices heard and we're not going to do anything with them," Smith said.

Owens also expressed concerns with the final day of school on a Monday.

"I mean honestly, are we expecting full attendance on a Monday as the last day of school," Owens said. "I assume the answer from administration is going to be yes, but it seems to me to be an odd day to end school intentionally."

Sanders said historically the last day of school is a low-attendance day regardless of what day of the week it is.

Thommes also suggested the U-46 calendar align with Elgin Community College's calendar. ECC's calendar for 2020-2021 has the first day of fall semester classes on Monday, Aug. 24 and the final day on Thursday, Dec. 17 and spring semester starts on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021 and ends on Thursday, May 20, 2021.

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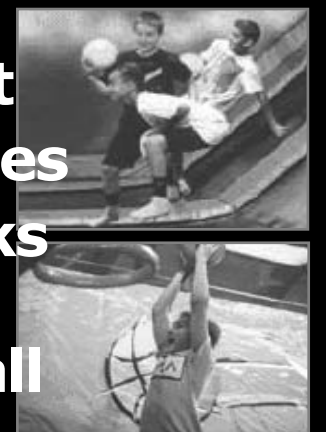
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Bellatrix is 3 years old and came to the shelter when her previous owners could no longer care her. At the shelter, she has enjoyed the company of her feline fellows. Bellatrix is spayed, and ready to live in a new world after just returned from a stay with a foster family who had the following to say about her: "She's silly, goofy, playful, cuddly. Just being in the same room as her and looking at her makes you want to giggle and love her." For more information please call 407-2800 or email animalservices@dupageco.org.
(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

District U-46 approves PE, expense proposals

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 approved of a physical education (PE) curriculum proposal along with \$1 million in expenditure proposals by a 6-0 vote, board member John Devereux was absent, at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 13.

The PE proposal will add two new modules to functional fitness, strength and performance, walking for wellness and team sports officiating and coaching courses offered to high school students.

Tracey Jakaitis, student wellness coordinator, said "this is just a continuation of the next year's roll up" of high school courses that were approved last year.

The total estimated cost is \$58,932 for resources and professional development.

The expenditure items included \$51,000 to go to the Alignment Collaborative for Education (ACE), which was founded in 2013 under former Superintendent Jose Torres and is comprised of government and business entities within U-46.

The original intent was that the organization would be solely funded by private fundraising and in 2016, U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said that ACE "is all paid for through fundraising" with the exception of a "portion to kick it off" given by U-46. U-46 taxpayers continue to be the largest annual funder for ACE.

The largest expenditure items were for summer projects to take place at Elgin's Larkin High School which will be paid through the operations and maintenance fund. They include \$372,129 with Kellenberger Electric, Inc. for a main electrical service project and \$252,400 to LJ Morse Construction for a renovation of the nurse's office.

From the education fund, a proposal with TransChicago Truck Group to replace a 2009 refrigerated truck for the distribution center was approved at a cost of \$124,718 as was a contract renewal with RJ Gartner Consulting costing \$45,600 for telecommunication consulting services.

A one-year contract with Maxim Healthcare \$75,600 for a social worker will be paid for by the nation's taxpayers through federal grant funds. A \$37,281 (operations and maintenance fund) proposal with Vermeer Midwest will go toward purchasing a mini excavator, trencher and auger for the grounds team.

The board also unanimously approved of \$17.1 million in itemized bills.

Field trip grant applications taken to Jan. 31

Funding for the Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant program is donated by the Independence Tube Corporation in Bedford Park, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Foundation in Skokie, the D. F. and M. T. Grohne Family Foundation in Wilmington and the Illinois Conservation Foundation.

Application details for these nature field trip grants are online at <https://bit.ly/35enXt8>; the application deadline is Jan. 31.

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Press Clippings 01/25/20 to 01/29/20

---Daily Herald---01/25/2020

Elgin Area Chamber celebrates businesses and volunteers at annual meeting

Submitted by: Carol Gieske



The Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting and High Fives Award Reception on Thursday, Jan. 30.

The Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce is celebrating a successful year of service to the business community at its annual meeting and High Fives Award Reception on Thursday, Jan. 30.

Designed to be the culminating event of the chamber's business year, the annual meeting serves to celebrate the past 12 months and set the tone for the upcoming year.

The reception, sponsored by Elgin State Bank and Northwestern Medicine, begins with a networking reception from 4 to 5 p.m. followed by a brief program and awards presentation, concluding by 6 p.m. It will be held at Gifford's Kitchen & Social, 2300 Bushwood Drive in Elgin.

Cost is \$35 per person. Make your reservation online at www.elginchamber.com/events.

The annual meeting offers the business community excellent networking possibilities with many business and community leaders attending.

Elgin Area Chamber past board chair Tony Sanders, CEO of Elgin Area School District U-46, will summarize the past year of the organization in relation to membership services and economic development. Current board chair Yaneth Medina, senior vice president of Elgin State Bank, and chamber CEO Carol Gieske will serve as emcees for the event.

They will share the chamber's success stories for the past year and recognize the High Five award-winning members, organizations and volunteers who helped contribute to the success of the Elgin Area Chamber and the Elgin Development Group during 2019.

Awards to be presented include:

- Small Business Award -- Andy's Frozen Custard;
- Large Business Award -- American NTN Bearing;
- Showcase Business Award -- Watermark at the Grove;
- EDG Business Development Award -- Conor Commercial Real Estate;
- Leadership Award -- Tony Sanders, Elgin Area School District U-46;
- EDG Workforce Development Award -- Elgin Sweeper Company;
- Community Partnership Award -- Reflejos;
- Nonprofit Award -- Alignment Collaborative for Education.
- Volunteer of the Year Award: Dan Fox, Don Waters and Ruth Munson for Elgin Area Leadership Academy

This brief program features the installation of members of the chamber board: ReJena Lyon, president/CEO of Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick; Bill Gustafson, Grand Victoria Casino; Mike Bilyk, American NTN Bearings; Linda Siete, Reflejos; Jim Companik, Motorola Solutions; and Leslie Maloney, Chase Card Services.

To get details or to make your reservation, contact the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce at (847) 741-5660 or visit www.elginchamber.com.

Press Clippings 01/27/2020

There are no U-46 related news stories.

---Daily Herald---01/28/2020

U-46 school counselors to be honored with Accent on Achievement

Submitted by: Elgin Area School District U-46

The Elgin Area School District U-46 Board of Education is honoring teachers who have recently earned or renewed their National Board Certification, the highest credential in the teaching profession.

The board of education also recognizes the essential role of school counselors as part of National School Counseling Week, Feb. 3-7.

The American School Counselor Association's annual recognition highlights the impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve academic success and prepare for college and careers.

The 2019-20 school year is the second in which U-46 has counselors in each middle school, important roles that were restored after they were lost during the recession a decade ago.

"We are proud to honor our dedicated school counselors who play such an important role in helping our students develop critical academic, social, and emotional skills," said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders.

"We also celebrate our teachers who have gone through the demanding process of being Board Certified. It shows their passion for their practice and serving their students."

Six teachers in U-46 have recently earned or renewed their National Board Certification. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards oversees the process for National Board Certification, which can take a teacher one to three years to complete.

It is a self-reflective form of professional learning that defines and recognizes accomplished teaching. Candidates must demonstrate their understanding of content knowledge in their chosen certificate area; design and implement instruction to advance student learning and achievement; describe, analyze and reflect on their teaching and interactions with students; and highlight their abilities as an effective and reflective practitioner in developing and applying their knowledge of their students.

Michael Bartos, a social studies teacher at Bartlett High School, joins more than 60 of his peers in the District who have earned the credential; his chosen area of certification is "Social Studies -- History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood."

"Going through certification affirmed my abilities and dedication as a teacher," said Bartos. "I strongly recommend for teachers to go through certification. It may seem like a drawn out process, but in the end it's worth it."

Teachers renewing their certification include:

- Otilia Garcia -- Oakhill Elementary School, second-grade teacher
- Trenie Gorak -- Fox Meadow Elementary School, instructional coach
- Julie Isham -- Willard Elementary School, first-grade teacher
- Rebecca Narofski -- Lincoln Elementary School and Hawk Hollow Elementary School, elementary music instructor
- Ryan Sims -- Streamwood High School, social studies teacher

---Daily Herald---01/29/2020

Elgin chamber sets annual meeting, awards

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The Annual Meeting offers the business community excellent networking possibilities with many business and community leaders attending.

Awards to be presented include Small Business Award, Andy's Frozen Custard; Large Business Award, American NTN Bearing;

Showcase Business Award, Watermark at the Grove; EDG Business Development Award, Conor Commercial Real Estate; Leadership Award, **Tony Sanders, School District U-46**; EDG Workforce Development Award, Elgin Sweeper Company; Community Partnership Award, Reflejos; Nonprofit Award, Alignment Collaborative for Education; Volunteer of the Year Award: Dan Fox, Don Waters and Ruth Munson for Elgin Area Leadership Academy

Reservation can be made online at www.elginchamber.com. For more information, contact the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce at (847) 741-5660 or visit <http://www.elginchamber.com>.

Black History Family Festival returns Feb. 1 at Gail Borden Public Library

Submitted by: Gail Borden Public Library



Brittany Barber, recipient of the Elgin's 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, will be the keynote speaker.

Those visiting Black History Family Festival Saturday will get the opportunity to "Rise Up, Unite, Celebrate!" as well as applaud the accomplishments of selected Elgin Area Unit District U-46 students.

The festival will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove Ave. in downtown Elgin.

One African American senior from each of U-46 high schools will receive a \$500 scholarship from the festival.

The students are chosen for being good citizens, academics, extracurricular and community activities, and aspirations after high school.

This year's recipients are Jordan Snyder of Bartlett High School; Marteena Mendel-Duckins of Larkin High School; Arianna Ramos of South Elgin High School; Alayzia Hairston-El of Streamwood High School; Jasmine Jacobson of Elgin High School; and Eryonna Wallace of the Dream Academy.

The students will talk about their sources of inspiration and hope.

"Gail Borden Library is honored to host the festival, which recognizes the accomplishments of these students," said Jean Bednar, library board president. "The festival celebrates the present but also looks to the future when encouraging young people."

Another highlight of the festival will include keynote speaker Brittany Barber, recipient of the 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award in the City of Elgin, known for engaging and challenging audiences as well as reminding women, students and everyone who they really are and what they are capable of.

The band Accidentally on Purpose featuring TJ Ptak will perform a variety of music, including soul, R&B, reggae, jazz, pop and rock.

The festival also will feature Future African American Leaders, crafts, stories, spoken word artists, voter registration, Larkin High School Black History Club, Mama Lee's Gourmet Popcorn and more.

No registration is needed to attend this free event.

The festival is hosted by the Black History Family Festival Committee and Gail Borden Public Library in partnership with Elgin Community College, City of Elgin-Government, City Services and Community News, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Area Unit District U-46, and The Links Inc. Hoffman Estates Chapter.

For information, call (847) 742-2411 or visit www.gailborden.info or www.facebook.com/gailbordenpubliclibrary/.

---The Courier-News---01/29/2020

U-46 school board approves \$1.5M upgrade to academy

Funds will go toward bolstering facilities and equipment

By: Rafael Guerrero



A student checks out information on School District U-46's Beacon Academy, South Elgin High School's media and digital arts academy, during an open house in 2018 on the district's academy programs.



Items inside the Beacon Academy's studio room have been marked for storage or removal ahead of construction expected to start in early February. The U-46 school board approved a \$1.5 million upgrade of the South Elgin media and digital arts academy's facilities and equipment.

South Elgin High School's media and digital arts academy will receive a \$1.5 million upgrade to update its facilities and equipment, some of which is more than a decade old, as School District U-46 prepares to make the switch to a career pathways education system.

School board members approved the Beacon Academy renovation proposal at Monday night's meeting. The upgrade — which will include new broadcast anchor desks, renovated rooms, and new audio and video equipment — is to begin in February and be completed by late July.

Beacon Academy is the district's high school program for students interested in media and digital arts careers. Students apply in middle school to be accepted into the program.

The academy's equipment has not kept pace with advancements in media technology, such as podcasting or HD/4K video, U-46 Educational Pathways Director Kinasha Brown said. Some of it dates back to the academy's first group of students in the late 2000s and is either obsolete or being phased out in the professional world, the proposal said.

"We can provide curriculum, but we can only present it at a basic level," Brown said.

The cost of the project is included in this year's budget and being funded with operations and maintenance dollars, board documents said.

Among the equipment to be purchased are cameras, anchor desks, portable voice-over booths, video monitors, improved sound dampening curtains and panels, and a jib boom control for the cameras. The second-floor academy classrooms will be renovated and the control room expanded.

"It will put us on the level of what's happening and going on in the industry," Beacon teacher Ben Erickson said.

The academy's mobile broadcast unit will be replaced with a newer model to better accommodate livestreaming school or community activities, such as sports events.

Brown described it as a "broadcast lab on wheels," which increases the way students can interact with the community and hone their skills in a live situation. The trailer unit and vehicle would be operated by adult staff.

"They will be able to do broadcasts up there with Big Ten Network/ESPN content," Erickson said. "It'll be exciting to think a 14- or 15-year-old will be able to do that."

Construction should not disrupt classes because the wing where the academy is located has thick walls, assistant principal Sabrina Langlois said. Beacon classes on the second floor will be moved to the first floor.

Other than anchor desk broadcasts, there should be no effect on students' ability to do projects or receive instruction, Langlois said.

According to school board documents, construction will begin in early February and the project completed in late July.

Under the career pathways plan, there will be five academies from which students can choose: fine arts, human services, liberal arts, business and STEM. Existing academies like the Beacon will be elevated to magnet academies.

U-46 might cap athletics fees next school year

By: Rafael Guerrero



Athletics fees would be capped for high school student-athletes and their families under a proposed revision of School District U-46 fees for next school year.

Student-athletes at School District U-46 high schools who participate in multiple sports will be charged for a maximum of two sports per school year if a proposed change to the high school fee structure is approved by the school board.

The athletics fee — which also caps the amount a family can spend annually — is one of the few changes being discussed at the high school level; elementary and middle school fees would stay as is under the proposal discussed Monday evening.

Families of high school students pay \$150 per sport that their child participates in. Football costs \$200. If a student participates in fall, winter, and spring sports it would cost \$450-\$500.

Chief Financial Officer Jeff King told school board members the proposed change caps the costs at two sports per student. The cap also limits high school families from paying no more than four sports per school year, regardless of the number of children participating in high school sports.

“This should help a number of our families out,” said board president Sue Kerr.

King said the district has never capped athletics fees before. The athletics fee cap does not extend to middle school sports. Families pay \$80 per sport per student at the middle school level.

Along with the athletics fee cap, families of high school students in the district’s five academy programs will not have to pay a \$150 fee next school year. King said the elimination of the fee is due to the anticipated introduction of a new high school pathways program in 2021 and the associated conversion of the current academies into magnet academies.

“We believe it’s going to be hard charging an academy fee when we’re going to have students changing schools for pathways (in the near future),” he said.

The 2020-21 fee proposal for the elementary, middle, and high school levels will be voted on by the school board at a later date.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---01/26/2020

Glenbard East nips Bartlett for UEC crown

By Gregg Voss



Glenbard East's Miguel Garcia, top, wrestles West Chicago's Connor Zentner during the 106-pound final of the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling tournament at Fenton High School in Bensenville Saturday.



West Chicago's Pierre Baldwin, top, wrestles Fenton's John Quinto in the 113-pound final of the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling tournament at Fenton High School in Bensenville Saturday.



South Elgin's Nico Clinite, top, wrestles Glenbard East's Kenny Dible during the 120-pound final of the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling tournament at Fenton High School in Bensenville Saturday.



West Chicago's Eduardo Cholula, left, and Elgin's Brian Rea wrestle in the 126-pound final of the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling tournament at Fenton High School in Bensenville Saturday.



West Chicago's Isaac Padilla-Huitron, top, wrestles East Aurora's Malik Strawder in the 132-pound final of the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling tournament at Fenton High School in Bensenville Saturday.



Fenton's Jeremy Piskorz, top, wrestles Glenbard East's Andrew Gron in the 138-pound final of the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling tournament at Fenton High School in Bensenville Saturday.



Elgin's Eric Santana, top, wrestles South Elgin's Logan Swangren in the 145-pound final of the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling tournament at Fenton High School in Bensenville Saturday.



Fenton's Daniel Ramirez, top, wrestles Bartlett's Gavin Moretti in the 152-pound final of the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling tournament at Fenton High School in Bensenville Saturday.



Bartlett's Tyler Rivelli, left, wrestles Larkin's DJ Akins in the 170-pound final of the Upstate Eight Conference wrestling tournament at Fenton High School in Bensenville Saturday.

On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the worst pain he's felt in his young life, Bartlett senior Tyler Rivelli checked in at, oh, about 8.

His left shoulder, which has given him problems since his freshman year, was packed solid in a bag of ice. Plus, he looked absolutely exhausted.

But so what? He was the Upstate Eight Conference champion at 170 pounds, after defeating Larkin's D.J. Akins 14-5 in the league meet Saturday afternoon at Fenton.

That match was halted twice due to Rivelli's shoulder, which was supported by a black brace. He hadn't practiced all week save for Friday, after a doctor appointment Monday revealed a shoulder impingement. Ouch.

Against Glenbard East's Doug Pham in the semifinals, he got a 1-point escape with 2 seconds left to win 8-7. But he was just getting started.

In the final against Akins, he raced out to a 14-4 lead at the end of two periods, after overcoming one injury timeout. But he suffered another with 1:11 to go, and that time, it looked like he might have to retire.

"The second time was the worst," he said. "They said I had 30 seconds left, do you want to call it? I asked them when time was up and what the score was. I decided to tough it out."

He did, managing to get a 2-point takedown in the process to win going away.

"Tyler is the biggest influence we have in our school," said Bartlett coach John Glorioso, who saw his team finish second with 218 points, just 1.5 points behind winner Glenbard East. "He's a football kid, wrestling kid, tough as nails. No one works harder than he does."

Also recording a conference title for the Hawks was Jacob Cwenar, who pinned Fenton's Ricardo Saucedo in 1:06 in the final at 195 pounds.

Glenbard East proved that you don't need a lot of individual champions to win team titles. The Rams had but one on Saturday, senior Miguel Garcia at 106 pounds, who pinned West Chicago's Connor Zentner in 2:47.

"I expected to come in here and have a few battles," Garcia said. "It just feels good to come out on top. It feels good that you put in the work in the offseason and you have something to show."

But Glenbard East has plenty of depth and showed it with a pair of runner-up finishes, 5 third-place finishes and 4 fourth-placers.

"We're very, very extremely young," Rams' coach Kevin Carlson said. "We tell them all the time, this is what it's all about, You three guys over here aren't going to win this tournament, you nine guys are."

West Chicago had the most individual titles with 5 -- Pierre Baldwin at 113, Eduardo Choluta at 126, Isaac Padilla-Huitron at 132, Ryan Hannah at 285, and Brian Salinas at 182, which was interesting because he missed a month with a broken middle finger.

"It's my senior year, and I'm trying to make the most of it," Salinas said. "It feels amazing that all the hard work all of us put in, in the offseason, we all brought it together at the end of the season."

Baldwin said his goal was win the tournament and pin everyone in the first period en route -- which he accomplished. As a team, the Wildcats finished third with 190 points.

Fenton, fourth with 189.50 points, had two title-winners, including senior Jeremy Piskorz at 138. It was a turnabout for him, as he lost in the final at that weight class A year ago. Also winning for the host Bison was Daniel Ramirez at 152, who prevailed via an 18-6 major decision over Bartlett's Gavin Moretti.

South Elgin finished sixth with 106 points and had a pair of title winners in Nico Clinite at 120 and Mike Roath at 220. Clinite had a slim 10-7 led at the end of the second period but then reeled off 14 straight points, including 4 near falls, to win 24-7.

"At the end, I had the legs multiple times and I kept letting him off his back to get those points," Clinite said.

Perhaps the feel-good story of the meet was Elgin junior Eric Santana, who got a 2-point takedown in the first period and made it stand up in a 2-0 win over South Elgin's Logan Swangren at 145. It was Elgin's first individual title since 2013 -- which Santana's brother Richie won.

---The Courier-News---01/26/2020

Strong effort

Junior guard delivers spark in fourth for Streamwood as Sabres rally past South Elgin

By: Paul Johnson



Streamwood junior guard Jakobe Strong goes in for a layup against South Elgin during their Upstate Eight Conference game on Thursday. The Sabres rallied to win 73-62.

Streamwood coach Kent Payne didn't like what he saw in the first half Thursday night, and neither did junior guard Jakobe Strong.

Payne felt the Sabres were still stinging from Tuesday's buzzer-beating loss to East Aurora. Even worse, that disappointment seemed to be bothering them.

After some encouragement at halftime from Payne, however, Strong-led Streamwood came out in the second half and did what they have done all season long.

The 6-foot Strong scored 10 points in the fourth quarter as the Sabres rallied for a 73-62 Upstate Eight Conference victory over host South Elgin.

Consider it over.

“We forgot about what happened against East Aurora and just started playing again,” Strong said. “The defensive end got better. We started hitting more shots. It felt good.”

South Elgin (8-12, 4-5) took a 31-23 lead in the second quarter, but Streamwood (12-8, 7-3) cut the deficit to 36-32 at halftime.

The Sabres then roared out of the gates in the third quarter to take control, with a 12-2 spurt building a 44-38 lead. They never trailed again.

“It was like two halves,” Payne said. “The first half they were still stinging from the East Aurora loss. Second half, we challenged them.

“We were a different team. The press worked. (In) the second half, we made a little adjustment and they turned it up.”

Every time South Elgin crept back into the game during the fourth quarter, though, Strong came through.

Streamwood held leads of 53-50 and 57-53 when Strong converted a pair of 3-pointers. That created just enough separation to keep the Storm at bay.

“He had a fantastic fourth quarter,” Payne said of Strong. “All of guys did defensively, took some big charges down there, made good decisions.

“We always shoot the three. We never say they can’t take a three. That’s kind of our thing, and we made some.”

Myriad factors contributed to South Elgin seeing the lead slip away.

In the second half, the Storm grabbed only seven rebounds, turned the ball over 10 times and only scored 27 points.

“It was us not understanding that you can’t throw the ball away,” South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said. “We didn’t get back on defense. We didn’t get defensive rebounds. And then we didn’t take care of the basketball.

“Those three things are the perfect storm against any team. We played well enough to be in the game, but we didn’t rebound the ball. We threw it away too many times.”

Lane McVicar and Kendis Wiley each scored 15 points to lead South Elgin. Josh Genz and John Aaron Wafford added 11 points apiece.

All of Streamwood’s points came from its starters, led by 19 from Lorenzo Coney. Strong added 18, Kyle Maybrun had 15 and Zach Marquez chipped in with 12.

The Sabres are a game out in a wild conference race.

“Streamwood hasn’t been in this position in a while,” Payne said. “It’s a little different mindset playing for something, the conference. I’m just proud of them.”

---The Courier-News---01/29/2020

Cwenar stays ‘flexible,’ moves up to win conference title at 195

By: Kevin McGavin



Bartlett’s Jacob Cwenar, right, moved up to 195 pounds and won the Upstate Eight Conference championship.

Bartlett’s Jacob Cwenar was on a mission Saturday afternoon at the Upstate Eight Conference Meet in Bensenville.

A senior who normally wrestles at 182 pounds, Cwenar moved up for the 10-team event at Fenton.

It was not good news for his fellow competitors at 195.

Cwenar had nothing but falls in his three matches, needing only 66 seconds in the finals against Fenton senior Ricardo Saucedo.

Cwenar (28-2), who captured the conference title at 182 last season as a junior, boosted his pin total this season to 18.

“It just came naturally, whatever was open,” Cwenar said of his flawless conference performance. “I think I am pretty ready for state.”

“He can go as far as he wants to go,” Bartlett coach John Glorioso said of Cwenar. “He is a college wrestler. He doesn’t know when he is tired.”

Cwenar intends to return to 182 for the three-week individual state series, beginning with the Class 3A DeKalb Regional a week from Saturday.

He’s also a student of the sport.

“I would say I am flexible,” Cwenar said of his best attributes on the mat. “I don’t stick to any one move. Whatever I see in the guy I look to attack.”

The Hawks had to settle for a conference runner-up finish, totaling 218 points to Glenbard East's 219.5.

At 170, Tyler Rivelli had Bartlett's other conference championship, recording a pair of 3-point near falls during a 14-5 major decision against Larkin senior DJ Akins.

Rivelli marvels about Cwenar, his frequent workout partner in practice.

"I love that kid," Rivelli said of Cwenar. "He's an animal. He is kind of quiet. He speaks more words through his actions. We make each other better. I expect him to go further than I will (in the postseason)."

Cwenar is philosophical as the regular season rapidly comes to a close.

"It's about the end," Cwenar said. "I know some guys have problems at the end. You just have to do what you did in the beginning. I think I can place at state."

Glorioso simply wants Cwenar to realize his full potential for the Hawks, who will have a final major tuneup for the postseason with a big invitational at Crystal Lake Central.

"He doesn't understand how good he is," Glorioso said of Cwenar, who's in his fourth season on the varsity

Striking gold: Elgin senior Eric Santana was a rock star at the Upstate Eight Conference Meet.

Santana improved his record to 28-6 by winning the conference title at 145.

"Saturday was outstanding," Elgin coach Mark Woollard said of Santana. "He had a game plan. I couldn't be more happy for him."

Doubling up: South Elgin junior Michael Roath has been moving up the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association rankings.

Roath, a junior 220-pounder, defeated Bartlett junior Joey Vinson 4-3 to win the conference championship at the Upstate Eight Meet.

Nico Clinite also captured the top honors for the Storm with his victory at 120.

Fire Board honors retiree, notes promotion, hire

Story and photo by Joe Hyland

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, the apparatus floor at Fire Station 1 was filled with firefighters from, among other departments, Mt. Prospect, Hanover Park, Streamwood and, of course, Bartlett. Several members of the Bartlett Police Department also came out. There were family members, well-wishers and a dog named Bailey. Former chiefs Mike Falese and Mike Kelly, as well as former Assistant Chief Mike Figolah came out as well.

The occasion was one part farewell and one part hello with a dash of pro-

motion thrown in. The farewell was for Trustee Don Wisniewski, who was retiring from the board after a long career both there and in the fire service. The hello was for new Firefighter/paramedic Kyle Fiordaliso. And the dash of promotion was Firefighter Nick McLeod's promotion to lieutenant.

Following an introduction by Assistant Chief Brian Becker, Figolah took the podium. He recalled his long-time association with Wisniewski.

"I had the distinct privilege over the years to work with Don, both here and earlier in Mt. Prospect," said Figolah.

Figolah recounted some of Wisniewski's Mt. Prospect career, which had begun in 1986. It included promotions to lieutenant in 2001 and battalion chief in 2011 before his retirement in 2014. He added that Wisniewski had been one of the first from the department to volunteer to travel to New Orleans to help following the Hurricane Katrina disaster. He then described Wisniewski's career in Bartlett, which had seen him rise to the rank of deputy chief before running for the board in order to help stabilize the district.

Falese then spoke, commenting on what Wisniewski's decision to run for the board meant.

"That's why this organization has moved forward because of people like Don," Falese said.

Board President Jim McCarthy recounted Wisniewski's 35 years of service to the district, beginning with his hiring as a paid-on-call firefighter paramedic with what was then the Bartlett and Countryside Fire Protection District. He served in that role for over 20 years before being promoted up the ladder, ending up as deputy chief, all while continuing to work full-time with Mt. Prospect. McCarthy praised Wisniewski's 15 years of service on the board.

"He served with a relentless passion to do what is right," McCarthy said. "He was always looking for the solution that best served our personnel, our community and our administration."

McCarthy then presented Wisniewski with a ceremonial axe as a tribute to his long service.

"This has been a huge part of my life," Wisniewski said. "When I look around the room, I am very humbled by who is here and why."

Becker then took the podium again.

He said that he couldn't add much.

"What I will offer is that Don has always been the voice of reason," Becker said. "From the bottom of our hearts, Don, we thank you for your service."

Wisniewski was then presented with the flag that had flown over Station 1 earlier in the day.

Becker then moved on to the next order of business. This was the promotion of Firefighter Nick McLeod to lieutenant. He praised the work that McLeod, who was hired in 2008 and has been serving as an acting lieutenant since 2015, has done with the district's Ignite the Courage charity. He said that over \$75,000 has been raised to date. Becker added that McLeod has also taken on the responsibility for the district's training program and has been working extensively with local schools. Becker said that with promotion came additional responsibility to both his crew and the community.

"Your career just became less about you," Becker said. "Your education will not stop until you retire."

Becker was sworn in by Commissioner Chris Colangelo, and had his badge pinned on by his wife Jamie.

The final act of the ceremony was the swearing in of a new firefighter paramedic.

"It is my pleasure to announce the hiring of Kyle Fiordaliso," Becker said.

Fiordaliso was also sworn in by Colangelo.

Fiordaliso, who is already a state-certified and licensed paramedic had a few words to say.

"It's been quite the journey," Fiordaliso said. "I'm truly honored that my path has lead me to the Bartlett Fire Protection District."



Don Wisniewski at the podium at the Jan. 15 Bartlett Fire Protection District Board meeting.

Hawks suffer UEC loss, rebound to top Tomcats

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett girls basketball team suffered its first Upstate Eight Conference setback of the season after a 59-58 loss to Glenbard South on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at Bartlett.

The Hawks, who earned a 14-point win earlier this season at Glenbard South, held a 22-16 lead at half-time and led most of the third quarter before Glenbard South rallied for a lead by the end of the frame and never trailed in the fourth to snap a seven-game winning streak for Bartlett and also handing them their first home loss since December 2017.

"They out hustled us tonight and they outplayed us," said Bartlett coach Joe Eirich. "They deserved to win that game. We would have been lucky to win that game."

Lexie Sinclair (seven assists, three steals) scored 11 of her 18 points in the first half to help her team hold the lead at the break.

Bartlett built an eight-point lead in the third quarter, 29-21, but Glenbard South countered with an 8-0 run to tie it at 29-29. Mackenzie Hare (20 points) had a three-point play and later a three-pointer to build a 38-32 lead when the visitors scored the final seven points of the frame for a 39-38 lead.

The Hawks tied the game at 41-41 when Glenbard South went on a 6-0 run to take the lead for good at 47-41. The deficit never grew larger but Bartlett trailed for good while pulling within one twice, the last when Hare hit her fourth trey of the game at the buzzer for the final score.

"We love these close games, but we just have to have more energy the whole game," Hare said. "We just were sluggish at times and we need to put it all out the whole game."

Trinity Reyes had 11 points, including three threes, and Danielle Hedeem added five, all in the fourth quarter.

Although a setback, Eirich said his team can use it as a valuable learning experience.

"We can't leave any team for granted," Eirich said. "We have to come out with the same mental preparation every single game. We have to come prepared every single day."

Eirich added: "We just kind of ran out of gas. We're a young team and we're a small team,

and we'll bounce back."

Bartlett did bounce back with a 62-53 UEC win over East Aurora on Friday, Jan. 24 in Aurora. Hare (27 points), Sinclair (20 points) and Hedeem (nine points) led the effort.

The Hawks are now 19-8 overall, 13-1 in the UEC.



Mackenzie Hare finishing off a drive on the Glenbard South basket while shooting over the Raiders' Ava Selvaggi. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Bartlett's Cierra Thomas dribbling into the paint while shadowed by Glenbard South's Rocky LaPonte.

Sabres beat Tomcats but falter in loss to Storm

By Seth Hancock

A disastrous second half did in the Streamwood girls basketball team as the Sabres fell 58-33 in Upstate Eight Conference play against South Elgin on Friday, Jan. 24 at South Elgin.

The first half was a tight, competitive game that saw Streamwood trailing by just one. In the second half, Streamwood committed 21 of its 31 turnovers and were held to just five points, all in the fourth quarter after being shutout in the third.

“South Elgin came ready to play and we did not,

and that’s what happens,” said Streamwood coach George Rosner. “They’re a good team, and that’s why they’re good. There are no positives from the second half, but there are a lot of positives from the first half.”

Streamwood threw the first punch grabbing an 11-5 lead which was the start of a back-and-forth first half. Peyton Hedger (10 points, two three-pointers) and Mandy Mien (eight points) had consecutive steals for layups for a 28-27 lead late in the second quarter, but South Elgin hit the final bucket of the half for a 29-28 lead.

That score from South Elgin was the start of a 20-0 run as the host built a 47-28 lead after hitting a trey to start the fourth quarter. Kaylee Angle (10 points) hit her second three of the game to finally put Streamwood on

the board in the second half with 5:48 left to play, but the game was effectively over at that point as an Angle bucket later in the frame produced the Sabres final points.

“Two different games,” Rosner said. “We played hard and with heart in the first half, probably should have had the lead. That’s probably the worst half we played in a long, long time. There’s no other game this season that I can compare it with.”

Rosner added: “We just lost everything. I’ve never seen so many balls fumbled. Maybe we were due to do that, but they’re a great team. They don’t miss many shots.”

Streamwood, now 7-15 overall and 5-8 in the UEC, was coming off a 45-34 conference win over East Aurora on Tuesday, Jan. 21 at Streamwood. Vicki Kopko (16 points), Mien (11 points) and Angle (nine points) paced the Sabres.



Mandy Mien clinging tenaciously to the basketball to force a jump ball whistle against South Elgin.



Kaylee Angle releasing an open shot for the Sabres while trailed by the Tomcats’ Tatiana Ocasio. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Streamwood’s Vivian Sumoski during a crowded journey down the baseline that ended with a shot over the Tomcats’ Toni Slater.

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Streamwood tops Storm for ‘bounce back’ win

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood boys basketball team came through in the second half to defeat South Elgin 72-63 in Upstate Eight Conference play on Thursday, Jan. 23 at South Elgin.

The first half was close most of the way, but Streamwood did face a 31-23 deficit late in the second quarter. Lorenzo Coney, who had a game-high 19 points and added seven rebounds and three assists, scored five points down the stretch including a three-pointer that helped close the gap to 36-32 entering the break.

The lead traded hands a few times early in the third quarter when the Sabres went on a 7-0 run, Coney adding four points, to take the lead for good at 44-38.

“Second half, we made a little adjustment and we just turned it up,” said Streamwood coach Kent Payne. “We were in a little more of an attack mode.”

Streamwood led 49-44 entering the fourth quarter and South Elgin did have a few short-lived rallies, but Jakobe Strong (18 points, 10 rebounds) tallied 10 points in the period to maintain the lead including a pair of clutch threes to squash the host’s rallies at the time for 56-50 and 60-53 leads.

“I felt like the crowd was getting into us and we needed to get back in it, and I felt like I could hit those shots,” Strong said. “The defensive end got better. We started hitting more shots. It felt good.”

Kyle Maybrun scored 15 points, Zach Marquez had 12 points and nine rebounds and Darrel Luce tallied eight points with a pair of treys.

The win was a crucial bounce back for the Sabres after a last-second loss to East Aurora in UEC play which snapped a seven-game winning streak for Streamwood. That loss was in a 75-73 game on Tuesday, Jan. 21 in Aurora.

“It’s huge,” Payne said of Thursday’s win. “We were up four with 40 seconds left at East Aurora, and they won on a last second tip-in. That’s hard for high school kids. I thought we earned a chance to win that night, and I thought we earned a chance to win tonight and got it. So it was big to bounce back.”

Streamwood ended the week with a 68-55 nonconference loss against Naperville North on Saturday, Jan. 25 in Naperville. Maybrun (15 points), Marquez (13 points), Luce (nine points), Strong (six points) and Richard Santiago (five points) led the effort.

The Sabres are now 12-9 overall, 7-3 in the UEC, and is in the conference chase going down the stretch behind East Aurora, Glenbard East and Glenbard South who all have two league losses.

“Streamwood hasn’t been in this position in a while, fighting for the conference title,” Payne said. “It puts us in a little different mind set.”



Streamwood’s Jakobe Strong driving into the paint while closely guarded by South Elgin’s Josh Genz.



Lorenzo Coney of the Sabres getting off a shot over the advancing John Aaron Wafford of the Storm.



Zach Marquez of Streamwood executing a fake prior to shooting between South Elgin’s Drew Cwik, left, and Lane McVicar.



The Sabres’ Darrel Luce, left, and South Elgin’s Lane McVicar battling for a rebound during the Sabres Thursday, Jan. 23 victory at South Elgin.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)