

Press Clippings 12/12/2018

---The Courier-News---12/12/2018

School board candidates begin filing

7 people submit to run in U46, 4 in D300, 4 in D303

By: Rafael Guerrero



- Seven people, including incumbent Jeanette Ward, filed Monday to run for four four-year terms on the board in School District U46.

Several Elgin-area school board candidates filed nominating petitions Monday to run in the April 2 election.

Among those submitting paperwork at the Kane County clerk's office were seven people running in School District U46, four in School District 300 and four in St. Charles District 303. The last day to file is Dec. 17.

School District U46

There are four seats up for election in School District U46, all four-year terms. Incumbent Jeanette Ward, of West Chicago, is seeking re-election to her second four-year term, and John Devereux, of Bartlett, appointed to the board earlier in the year, is running for his first term.

Challengers so far are Eva Porter, of Hanover Park; Daniel Hancock, of Hanover Park; Tina Rio, of Bartlett; Kathleen Thommes, of Elgin; and Ina Silva-Sobolewski, of Hanover Park.

One incumbent, Phil Costello, has announced he won't be seeking re-election.

St. Charles School

District 303

There three four-year terms and one two-year term open in St. Charles School District 303.

Board President Kathleen Hewell was the lone incumbent to file Monday; she is seeking a fifth term. Also running for a four-year term are Jillian Barker, Rebecca McCabe, and Garrett Seaman, all from St. Charles. No one had filed for the two-year term as of Monday.

Algonquin-based

School District 300

Four candidates filed Monday for school board seats in Algonquin-based School District 300. The early filing incumbents were Joe Stevens and Stephen Fiorentino. Stevens, of Pingree Grove, has been on the District 300 school board since 2006. Fiorentino, of Algonquin, was elected in 2011.

The two challengers so far are Leslie LaMarca, of Pingree Grove, and Nancy Zettler, of Algonquin. Zettler unsuccessfully ran for the 33rd District state Senate seat this fall.

Geneva School

District 304

Geneva School District, whose classes resumed Tuesday after a weeklong teachers strike, has three seats open in the spring. Three newcomers filed early this week: Jessica Lynn Breugelmans, Jill Johnson, and Katherine Frye, all from Geneva.

Central School

District 301

Central School District 301 has four four-year seats up for election. Three incumbents — Eric Nolan, Laura Rabe, and Mitchell Penar, all from Elgin — filed for re-election Monday.

Batavia School

District 101

Five candidates filed early for the three school board seats in Batavia School District 101. Incumbent Chris Lowe filed petitions as did four challengers, Scott Naylor, Erin Meitzler, Christopher John Solfa and David Niekamp. All of the candidates are from Batavia.

Aurora-area school districts

One candidate, incumbent Alex Arroyo, of Aurora, is seeking a second-four year term in East Aurora School District 131. No one else had filed for the four four-year terms as of Monday.

In West Aurora School District 129, where there are four four-year terms open, two candidates have filed so far.

Melody Saperston, a North Aurora resident appointed to the board this summer, and Joseph Grisson, of Aurora, are seeking their first four-year terms.

Advisory council to meet with District U46 officials

By: Rafael Guerrero



- The School District U46 Citizens' Advisory Council's annual meeting with school board members and district administrators will be held Thursday at Elgin High School.

The Citizens' Advisory Council's annual winter round-table meeting with School District U46 board members and administrators will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Elgin High School library.

Discussion topics center on district issues, and attendees — including the public — can ask questions. Advisory council members will update the district on work done in the last year, a news release from the district said.

The council is group of volunteers who represent each of the 50-plus schools of the Elgin-based district. Members provide input on such issues as boundary changes, high school academies and new programs and conduct networking and community engagement events, the release said.

Input sought on state changes to career, technical education

By: Rafael Guerrero



- A student works on his welding skills at Elgin High School in one of the school's career and technical education programs.

A hearing to obtain public input on ways the state can improve career and technical education will be held Wednesday night at Elgin High School.

The event, set for 5 to 7 p.m., will be attended by Whitney Thompson, the Illinois Community College Board's director of career technical education, and Marci Johnson, director of curriculum and instruction for the Illinois State Board of Education, a news release said.

Representatives for the two agencies are spending two weeks seeking public comments at several locations across the state.

They are hoping to hear from business, industry, community and education leaders as well as students and parents, the release said.

The hearings coincide with the recent federal re-authorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career Technical Education Act, co-sponsored by U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Schaumburg, who represents the Elgin area.

The re-authorization presents opportunities to increase students' industry connections, better align education and workforce systems, strengthen pipelines that produce career and technology teachers and faculty, increase success of underrepresented students, expand dual-credit partnerships, support innovative practices, and improve guidance counseling, the release said.

Elgin High School is located at 1200 Maroon Drive.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---12/12/2018

Bartlett beats West Aurora behind Hare's 27

By: John Lemon

If Bartlett coach Brad Hunt was hoping Mackenzie Hare could fly under the radar a little longer, the freshman is quickly blowing her cover.

Hare drained seven 3-pointers Tuesday night and scored 27 points in the Hawks' 52-38 win over West Aurora, keeping Bartlett (8-2, 5-0) undefeated in the Upstate Eight Conference.

"I can't hide her anymore," Hunt said. "Teams know about her now. She can light it up. She's really, really good. She's lethal. You give her a half a step and she's going to knock it down."

Hare is following in the footsteps of her sister McKayla, a senior on last year's team who left as the school's all-time leader in 3-point baskets and steals and averaged over 19 points a game.

"We're always really competitive," Mackenzie said of her sister, not hesitating in calling herself the better shooter. "My teammates just make it easy for me to fit right in. My teammates found a way to get it to me on the outside."

West Aurora (6-3, 3-2) brought normal starters Jalyssa Carrasco and Dajour Miles off the bench because of recent hamstringing and knee injuries, and Bartlett capitalized, outscoring the Blackhawks 15-0 to start the game.

Teagan Noesen opened the scoring with a 3-point shot, Hare hit her first 3, Shelly Banks scored on a putback, then Hare buried another 3 and converted a 3-point play in transition off a steal to make it 14-0.

Hare made three 3s and scored 12 points in the first half, then connected on four more 3s and scored 15 points in the second half.

"She's a lights out shooter," Bartlett sophomore Justina Hernandez said. "Whenever I get the chance I try to pass to her because I know she's going to make the shot."

Hernandez and Lexi Sinclair were both effective on the defensive end, combining for 12 steals. Offensively they drove and kicked out, often finding Hare for open 3s.

Bartlett led 20-2 early in the second quarter before West Aurora rallied. Carrasco began the comeback with a jumper, and a 3-point play from Miles pulled the Blackhawks within 25-12 at halftime.

Olivia Vanderwoude scored 6 quick points to the start the second half as the Blackhawks won the third quarter 19-10 to trim the 18-point deficit to 35-31 starting the fourth. After making just 3 of 24 shots in the first half, West Aurora converted 9 of 17 in the third quarter.

"That (missing two starters) set us off at the beginning but we found our groove, came back," West Aurora first-year coach Teresa Waldinger said. "It was a good battle. Come back tomorrow and work on those little areas we have to fix."

The Blackhawks couldn't keep their hot shooting in the third quarter going over the final eight minutes, hitting just 3 of 9. They also turned the ball over 7 times, including Sinclair's steal and breakaway layup to open the quarter.

Hare's final 3 midway through the quarter and another Sinclair layup pushed the lead to 48-35 as West Aurora's comeback ran out of steam.

"We had to take control on defense and we were getting messed up because of their pressure and we just had to calm down, take a deep breath," Hare said.

Noesen and Hernandez both added 8 points and Sinclair scored 7 for the Hawks, who play Larkin Thursday and St. Charles East Friday before next week's showdown with the other UEC unbeaten, South Elgin.

"We came out hot and then I think we got a little complacent," Hunt said. "They are a good team and they came back and fought. Luckily we are a good enough team we weathered the storm."

Carrasco scored 11 points and Alaysia Stewart grabbed 8 rebounds for West Aurora who outrebounded Bartlett, 39-29.

West Aurora holds off Bartlett

By: Jerry Fitzpatrick



- West Aurora's Hezekiah Salter grabs a rebound against Bartlett during varsity boys basketball at Gordon Kerkman Gymnasium on the campus of West Aurora High School Tuesday night.



- West Aurora's Marquise Walker takes a shot against Bartlett during varsity boys basketball at Gordon Kerkman Gymnasium on the campus of West Aurora High School Tuesday night.



- West Aurora's Hezekiah Salter, right, guards as Bartlett's Austin Gates moves to the hoop during varsity boys basketball at Gordon Kerkman Gymnasium on the campus of West Aurora High School Tuesday night.



- Bartlett's Clark Lewis takes a shot as West Aurora's Cameron Kalmas defends during varsity boys basketball at Gordon Kerkman Gymnasium on the campus of West Aurora High School Tuesday night.



- Bartlett's Ryan Dunlop, left, navigates around West Aurora's Marquise Walker during varsity boys basketball at Gordon Kerkman Gymnasium on the campus of West Aurora High School Tuesday night.



- Bartlett's Nick Mansk takes a shot during varsity boys basketball at Gordon Kerkman Gymnasium on the campus of West Aurora High School Tuesday night.



- West Aurora's Marquise Walker, left, and Traevon Brown at Gordon Kerkman Gymnasium on the campus of West Aurora High School Tuesday night.



- West Aurora's Traevon Brown is introduced at Gordon Kerkman Gymnasium on the campus of West Aurora High School Tuesday night.

The length of the West Aurora postgame talk said everything about how the Blackhawks felt about Tuesday's 60-55 home win over Bartlett.

The winning team, which boasts one of the best backcourts in the area in Traevon Brown and transfer Marquise Walker, hashed things out for about 20 minutes after a victory against a gutty Bartlett team that played only one returning starter from a year ago.

"It was pretty intense," West Aurora senior Moshe Rogers of the postgame mood. "We just need to bounce back and play together as a team. It might take a couple of losses to get it through our heads."

Bartlett (3-6, 1-2) held West Aurora (6-2, 3-0) to 5 points in the second quarter to grab a 21-19 halftime lead.

The Blackhawks snapped out of it to a degree in the second half as Walker scored 14 of his team-high 21 points and dished 4 assists, three of which went to senior forward Hezzy Salter. He scored 11 of his 13 points in the second half.

"Everybody was tough on each other because we knew that we could have performed better," Salter said of the postgame mood. "We didn't play to the best of our ability. There were little things going on that we could easily fix, but we still pulled out a win and fought to the end of a hard-fought win."

West Aurora outscored the Hawks 21-10 in the third quarter to take a 40-31 lead, thanks to 8 points from Walker, but Bartlett would not go away. The Hawks fell behind by 10 at one point, but they fought their way back in the game behind a game-high 22 points from senior Nick Mansk. The 6-foot-3 senior sank three 3-pointers and scored 11 points in the fourth quarter.

Traevon Brown's steal and assist on Logan Mont's basket with 1:02 left staked the Blackhawks to a 56-51 lead, but a pair of Jack Steunkel free throws and a steal and short jumper by Liam Gallagher drew Bartlett within 56-55 with 19 second to play.

The Hawks trailed 58-55 with 12 seconds left when they ran a play that created an open shot, helped by the fact the West Aurora defender fell down. However, the Bartlett 3-point shooter was whistled for stepping out of bounds before the shot with seven seconds left.

Walker was subsequently fouled and sealed the win with 2 free throws.

West Aurora forced the Hawks to commit 21 turnovers.

"We have to clean that up against this caliber of a team," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "We have to find two possessions somewhere. The biggest issue I had was missed layups. They are a good, athletic team and they have guys who can get up vertical, but we have to do a better job of finishing around the rim."

"We just have to be strong around the basket and not worry about it if they block our shot," Mansk added.

Walker said things will get better for the Blackhawks in time.

"When we all get intact and understand each other as a unit, I feel like we're going to be one of the best teams in the state," he said. "Until that time comes, we're under construction. We don't have that much time to do it, so all we can do is keep working and keep trying to get that chemistry in practice."

Streamwood duo too much for Elgin to handle

By: Kevin McGavin

Nikola Sinik and Keenon Cole may as well have been wearing capes for the Streamwood boys basketball team Tuesday evening in Upstate Eight Conference action.

In a showdown against neighboring Elgin, all Sinik did was score a career-high 34 points.

The senior sharpshooter hit eight 3-pointers on his unprecedented scoring night.

The Northern Illinois University-bound Cole did the rest after the break.

Cole, a 6-foot-7 forward, scored 16 of his 26 points after halftime as the Sabres rolled to a 74-51 victory in Streamwood.

"When I'm hot I just don't miss," said Sinik, who pumped home 20 points in the opening half on six 3-pointers to serve as the Maroons' chief villain. "My teammates did a nice job of feeding me."

With Sinik on autopilot from beyond the arc -- all eight scores from beyond the arc from the left and right wings -- Streamwood (3-5, 2-1) relegated the twin Elgin 6-point leads to open the first quarter as distant memories by halftime.

Cole added two 3-point plays of his own in scoring 10 first-half points to give Streamwood a 34-27 cushion over the Maroons (2-5, 0-3) at the intermission.

There were two sequences that illuminated the dominant play of the two Streamwood senior stars as the separation between the two schools only increased as the third and fourth quarters wound down.

On the first, with Cole leading a two-on-one fast break, the Sabres' standout threw a no-look pass to Sinik for an uncontested dunk.

But showtime was just starting for Cole, who wowed the home crowd moments later by throwing down a dunk on one possession and then adding his only 3-pointer of the game on the ensuing Streamwood trip down the floor.

"We had the same two-on-one against Elgin last year in a game and got a dunk out of it," Sinik said. "It felt pretty good to get that flashback dunk like that again."

Cole, meanwhile, tortured Elgin with multiple inside scores -- six in all -- after halftime.

"We knew we had to get (the Maroons) to move their zone," Cole said. "I would just get (the ball) in the paint. I had some good looks."

Kozyae Wright, a reserve forward for Streamwood, was the only player other than Sinik and Cole to score more than a single field goal for the Sabres.

But it made little difference to the final outcome.

Trey Yarber and Xavier Bonds had more-than-solid performances for Elgin go by the wayside in the Sinik-Cole onslaught.

Yarber had a team-high 21 points; Bonds added 13 for the Maroons.

"They got open looks," Yarber said of Sinik and Cole. "They were easy shots for them."

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 24
Number 31

"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
December 12, 2018

Pact revision ratified
by village board
See Page 3

Streamwood hoops
loses to South Elgin
See Pages 6, 7

Report card data fosters further analysis in U-46

The third story in a series reflecting on District U-46 ISBE report card data.

By Seth Hancock

"Poverty does not create our social problems; our social problems create our poverty," said U.S. Senator Marco Rubio of Florida.

School District U-46 Board of Education member Jeanette Ward reflected on that quote after the district presented its report card data from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in October.

The report card, which showed declining academic scores in U-46 despite spending increasing beyond the rate of inflation, included data regarding the district's demographics. While U-46 showed a high number of low-income students, Ward said poverty should not be viewed as an excuse as she agreed with Rubio's statement.

The data showed that 59.1 percent of U-46 students were deemed low-income, a slight decrease from 61 percent the previous year. The number of limited English students has steadily increased from 25 percent in 2014 to 31.5 percent in 2018, the number of students with an IEP (Individualized Education Programs) was 13.5 percent which has been relatively flat the past five years and the number of homeless students was at 1.2 percent which fell from 2 percent the previous four years.

From 2007 to 2018 regarding ethnicity, the most significant trends have been with Hispanic (an increase from 41 to 54 percent) and white (a decrease from 42.7 to 26.7 percent). The percentage of Asian (8.3 percent), black (6.5 percent), two or more races (3.5 percent), American Indian (0.9 percent) and Pacific Islander (0.1 percent) students have been relatively flat.

Matt Raimondi, coordinator of assessment and accountability, said there's a "strong relationship between the percent of low-income students in a school" and academic results when looking at performance scatter plots on standardized testing.

Ward said she understood "that's true" when looking at some of the scatter plots, but it's "not really well correlated" on others. Raimondi agreed that there was a "much weaker correlation" on student growth.

Speaking to *The Examiner*, Ward later said: "Some of the data indicated that there's correlation but like some people like to say, correlation is not causation."

"I grew up in a low-income house myself, and I graduated the salutatorian of my class," Ward added. "So being low-income does not mean that you cannot score well and do well in school."

The correlation between poverty and academic performance has been used as an excuse and a crutch turning government schools into social service agencies rather than institutes of education according to some educational researchers including Paul Peterson, Harvard University's director of the Program on Education Policy, and Robert Peal, a history teacher and assistant head of teaching and

learning for the West London Free School.

Peterson wrote in an *Education Next* article titled "Neither Broad Nor Bold" that "the unique effects of family income on student achievement are only modest" and the government schools are not equipped to deal with a student's social problems and should rather focus on education.

That article was in response to a coalition called the Broader, Bolder Approach to Education which in a policy statement explicitly labels students as "disadvantaged" based on "poverty, racial and linguistic minority status" who need extra "educational supports." The coalition's position is that there needs to be "a campaign to either redistribute income or expand the network of social services."

For Civitas, a British-based educational think-tank, Peal wrote a 2014 report titled "Progressively Worse: The burden of bad ideas in British schools." He wrote: "Britain and America are the two nations with the richest histories of progressive schooling, but both now share an unfortunate combination of high education spending and poor pupil results."

Peal described the government system as promoting the "soft bigotry of low expectations," and over the last four decades "it has become an accepted truism in education debates that the overriding determinant of a child's success will be their socio-economic background."

"When teachers and schools take on the belief that certain social groups can only be expected to achieve so much, such crude assumptions inevitably fulfill themselves in reality," Peal wrote. "Teachers cannot spend their whole careers waiting for family breakdown, social inequality and unemployment to end, whilst underestimating their own potential to be agents of change."

Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction, said for U-46 they need to determine which schools need more resources redistributed to them to improve their scores.

Board member Melissa Owens asked how many elementary schools were Title I, those with higher low-income student populations which equate to more federal taxpayer dollars, and Johnson said: "I believe it's 22."

Owens said the student growth showed that "there's more schools falling below that line than just our Title I schools," and Johnson said the district needs to ask: "What should be support that is expected and is going to be provided for all sites in U-46, and then what is done in addition to that for Title I?"

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said in response to a question from board member Sue Kerr that Title I funds can be spent at non-Title I schools in the district, but "you can't take them back down once you start providing that as a core for every site." Sanders said next year's report card will provide a further breakdown of how money is spent in U-46 based on the

Every Student Succeeds Act.

Owens asked: "We're looking at additional resources as far as things, right?"

"We're looking at a wide variety of what we can offer schools not just from, as you say like things, but programs, different types of interventions," said Josh Carpenter, assistant superintendent for teaching and learning. "But we're also really considering what's going on within the classrooms and how can we actually deepen the capacity of our classroom teachers as opposed to just saying we're going to go buy this thing that's supposed to provide improvements to our classrooms."

Kerr said that the district should get

feedback from individual schools because "what one school needs another one might need something totally different," and Johnson said: "To that point, noting that we have some very successful sites. So one of the celebrations is that we have a number of sites where we are seeing larger than expected growth for students."

Sanders said that in recent years the district has put in resources "with some urgency," and "maybe we pushed a little bit too fast in some of our rollouts."

How much will this cost the taxpayers? That question will be addressed in the final story of this series of articles regarding the ISBE report card data.



Lighting up the village

From left, Christiano and Santiago Lopez, and Uriel Baukta, were selected to turn on the tree lights on Friday night, Dec. 7 at the Village's annual luminaria event. For story and more photos see page 12.

(Examiner photo by Juli Schatz)

Dist. U-46 slated to vote on variety of proposals

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 will vote on whether to double its funds to the Alignment Collaborative for Education (ACE) as well as an application for a property tax relief grant from the state at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Dec. 17. The items were presented on Dec. 3.

Last year, ACE asked for \$25,000 a year for three years but the board decided on only a one-year commitment citing a lack of transparency from the organization. This year, ACE is requesting \$51,000 in U-46 taxpayer funds.

ACE, which is comprised of government and business entities within U-46, was formed by former Superintendent Jose Torres in 2012.

According to a donation history, U-46 has donated \$70,000 since 2013 while another \$656,927 has come from other sources although ACE provided no details on that funding. Other taxing bodies, like villages, donate and it is unclear how much of ACE's funds come from taxpayers.

ACE's budget for 2018-19 is \$196,000 with 72.6 percent (\$142,385) going towards salaries, primarily to Nancy Coleman, ACE's executive director.

"The original intention of ACE was that it was to be funded by (private) donations, and I understand that it predominantly is," said board member Jeanette Ward who added: "From my perspective, I think it should be fully funded by donations and this is double the amount that's been requested from U-46 compared to last year."

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders has said previously "this is all paid for through fundraising."

Ward asked for clarification on "what exactly the \$51K being requested is to be spent" on, but no answer was given.

Coleman said similar organizations in other school districts have a fundraising partnership, and she claimed ACE has returned "over \$30,000 in hard dollars back to U-46 and \$40,000 in volunteer hours."

Board member Melissa Owens said: "If there's a tracking of that and a reporting of that so that we as a board can see that and point back to that and know all of those pieces because we don't, we don't see what's happening in the community like that."

Coleman replied: "We will do a better job of that, and I appreciate the question that Ms. Ward sent to us because it allows us to look as a community. It is a strong statement for a community, U-46 and business partners to put over \$700,000 into building a collaboration that hopefully will carry this district forward for 15 to 20 years."

Board member Phil Costello said he understood it was a "significant in-

crease," but he added: "I think it's a good investment even if I can't see tangible results right here today, which I always look for, but I understand that this is not a leap of faith, it's a progress report that we'll be looking for."

Regarding the property tax relief, U-46 is applying for \$43 million but expects much less. Jeff King, deputy superintendent of operations, said the grant was part of the recent so-called "evidence-based" funding formula model being adopted by the state.

"The legislature set aside \$50 million for this property tax relief grant," King said. "The \$50 million is to cover the whole state."

King added: "We applied for the maximum of what they said we could.... The amount will be contingent upon how many districts apply, so we won't know that probably [until] the end of the month, first week of January."

Ward said: "I'm very happy to hear that we have applied. So I wanted to clarify on the \$43 million, it falls under the category that says 'expected tax relief,' but that's not really our expected tax relief. That is what the state of Illinois allows us to apply for?"

"If every school district in the state asked for the relief that they're entitled to, or allowed under this application process, we could see \$10,000 or less if everybody submitted an application?"

King said that was "correct" but said he expected from \$1 million to \$5 million.

Owens said the deadline was Jan. 7, 2019 to apply and asked how quick the state would respond to which King said "it will have to be early to mid January," and Sanders said: "It shouldn't take the state that long, I wouldn't think."

Board member John Devereux said he's heard some concerns, such as districts possibly "trading dollars away," but King said: "I don't see any downside to it whatsoever."

The board will also vote on the 2019 capital projects list with an estimated \$11.9 million in projects as well as \$1 million over four expenditure proposals, all to be paid for through the education fund if approved.

Included is a one-year contract with RJ Gartner Consulting (\$45,600) for consultancy regarding telecommunications management and a proposal with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (\$513,962) to replace English as a second language textbooks. Two proposals with Dell EMC would cost \$451,440, for 1,500 chromebooks, and \$33,600, for 20 interactive boards.

Road work

Continued from page 5

their work, our town Bartlett will look a lot better after the brush branches and tree limbs are cleaned up. We are lucky to have this done for us, especially at this time of the year."

Trustee Kristina Gabrenya thanked Scott Skrycki, assistant village administrator, for his social media campaign to promote new businesses in the village.

"It's nice to see positive things come to light and people excited about a couple of, not a couple but four or five new businesses or expanding businesses in town, specifically restaurants," Gabrenya said.

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Debate centers on select U-46 trip expenditures

By Seth Hancock

Some Members of the Board of Education in School District U-46 indicated that they don't need to know how some tax dollars are spent.

That came during a board policy review of Section 4, regarding operational services, at the board meeting on Monday, Dec. 3. Changes to that policy are expecting a vote on Monday, Dec. 17.

The most hotly contested change came under Policy 4.052, expense reimbursements, which includes added language to require board approval for district trips costing \$25,000 or more with additional "criteria that administration is to consider for determining the value of a trip," according to Luis Rodriguez, assistant attorney.

That change aligns with Policy 4.060 which states that all "contracts for supplies, materials or work involving expenditure in excess of \$25,000" must receive board approval.

Board member Jeanette Ward called that change a "concession" by the majority at a committee meeting, but she wants greater transparency which board member Phil Costello also sought.

Ward said she wants all trips in which the district spends taxpayer dollars for private citizens to attend also be approved by the board via a public vote which she said would be in the "spirit" of Illinois law which requires all board member travel, regardless of cost, to be voted on in public.

"The law requires us to vote in open session if any one of our members is going to take a trip using taxpayer funds," Ward said.

The debate stemmed from a discussion from July when the public learned of a 2017 trip in which the district sent 18 people, including four members of the public (one who paid her own cost), on a sight-seeing tour of a school district in Nashville, Tennessee. That trip cost taxpayers at least \$28,719 for registration and airfare according to a Freedom of Information Act request.

While Costello and Ward argued for more transparency, the majority said they didn't care for more information. The board's majority also offered contradictory arguments claiming there were too many trips and too few trips.

As the majority did not agree to vote on such trips, Ward suggested the board at least be informed via memo when community members receive taxpayer-funded trips which the majority also disagreed with.

Board members Sue Kerr and Melissa Owens said schools may reimburse parent volunteers for field trips, Owens saying Ward was "getting into the weeds here."

"I don't need to know when every school does a field trip and a parent may be compensated in some way," said Owens adding: "The \$25,000 is the threshold that we are required by law to vote on if there's that level of expenditure."

Regarding field trips, Costello asked: "Are those done at the school level or the district level?"

Jeff King, deputy superintendent of operations, said: "Many of them are done at the school level that we wouldn't even know necessarily."

Costello said he would "probably concur with that" and added: "I would think that anything at the district level that we pay for is going to come across your desk, whoever's desk, and maybe those could be the threshold that we use. So if the district pays for it, then maybe it comes before us because I can't imagine it happening that often in our list of expenditures that aren't directed to the

school."

Ward agreed with that, but Kerr said when "the school pays for it, it could be the school using district funds and not just parent funds or PTO funds."

Costello said his point was who was making the decision.

"If the school is saying go ahead and pay for Mr. Smith to go ahead and take that trip, I don't think we should get involved in that decision," Costello said. "But if the district is saying we're going to reimburse Mr. Smith for taking that, then I think that we should be able to speak to that issue on a vote basis."

"I don't think that that happens that often that we send community members places, and it is only for them to get the experience and knowledge of what we are trying to implement within our district or decide within our district," said Donna Smith, the board's president. "And like I said before I have been on a couple of those trips before I was on the board, and as a parent I was very honored, I guess I would say, that I would have such, the ability for my input to be put into something that the district is trying to put together."

Smith said the district was "very lucky" to have community members who will accept taxpayer-funded trips.

Ward said nobody was "disagreeing with any of what you said," but "I just think the community ought to be informed, and... you admitted that it doesn't happen very often. If the district, the central office, is going to pay for a trip by a community member, I think that at least the community ought to be informed, or the board ought to be informed."

"I don't feel I need to be informed about that because there's committees and there's groups working on that," Smith said.

Ward said: "I don't understand why we don't want to inform the community of that."

Board member Veronica Noland said "I don't need to know... just because they happen to not be an employee" and added: "If we thought that there were abuses of this system... but we don't have that going on."

Costello asked for the administration to at least make a guess of how often trips like this are taken which U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said: "I can answer that. I wouldn't know" because it's infrequent.


Ward said "as a general principle" she believes the public should have greater transparency and Owens asked: "Why?" Ward replied: "Because it's their tax dollars and because the potential for abuse is high. I'm not saying abuse has occurred, I'm saying the potential for abuse is high."

Kerr said Sanders is there to "prevent any sort of abuse" and "I would disagree that it's high," Smith said agreeing. Owens said: "That's why we have these safeguards in place."

Other proposed changes to Policy 4.140 would remove "athletic fees" from those that "are not eligible for waiver." To Policy 4.025, an increase in the fund balance range from 15 to 20 percent to 20 to 25 percent was proposed.

Board member John Devereux called the range "odd" saying it should have a "no less than" number. The board agreed to "not less than 20 percent."

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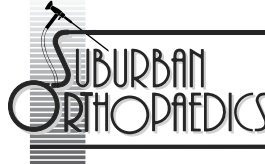

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Village holds annual illuminating event



A holiday attired Michalina Oszczepinski reacting to the lit tree.



Candlelit luminaria lined Park Boulevard from Lake Street all the way to Schaumburg Road.



Cheryl Dahl-Kearney, chair of the luminaria commission and Village President Bille Roth following the lighting.

The Village of Streamwood hosted its annual luminaria event on Friday night, Dec. 7. The evening began with dozens of volunteers setting out and lighting the luminaria along Park Boulevard from Lake Street to Schaumburg Road. The official village Christmas tree, containing 22,500 lights, was lit by raffle winners which was followed by children visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus inside Village Hall.



Veteran Memorial Park in front of Village Hall will be ablaze with lights through the holiday season.



The Streamwood High School choir sang Christmas songs before the lighting of the tree.



From left, Dayana, Anaya, Anisa, Alani and Ariel Correa finished lighting their luminaria before heading over to Village Hall to see Santa and Mrs. Claus.

(Examiner photos by Juli Schatz)



Sofia Poulstka had her turn on Santa's lap next to Mrs. Claus.

South Elgin rally overcomes Sabres 71-63

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin boys basketball team took momentum into half-time and rallied for a 71-63 Upstate Eight Conference win over Streamwood on Saturday, Dec. 8 at Streamwood.

The Storm trailed much of the first half and were facing a double-digit deficit at the break at 34-23, but at the buzzer Jace Warrick hit a three-pointer just inside half court to enter halftime down 34-26.



Joseph Zdybel laying up a pair of points in front of the Sabres' Luke Pentecost.

Just three minutes into the second half, South Elgin took the lead for good as Warrick scored 17 of his team-high 27 points over the final two periods. That was a career best for Warrick.

"I told Jace 'that got us going,'" South Elgin coach Brett Johnson said of the buzzer beater. "That's what got us started because we're down eight instead of 11, and that's a big difference."

"I feel like we fed off the energy we got at the end of the first half," Warrick said. "We found some open lanes and some open looks."

The Storm went on a 16-3 run to start the third quarter for a 42-37 lead with 2:30 left. Warrick's trey with five minutes left in the period gave them a 38-



While trapped in the back court late in the game between Streamwood's Zach Marquez and Keenon Cole, the Storm's Lane McVicar directed a pass to an open teammate.

37, and South Elgin led for good.

Lane McVicar (eight points) hit a trey to open the fourth quarter for a 51-42 lead, and the Storm led by as much as 12 in the final period.

Warrick hit four from behind the arc in the second half.

"They left him open and he made his shots," Johnson said. "That's what he's supposed to do. He was also really good at taking care of the ball and driving the ball to the basket."

The game also featured a battle of 6-foot-7 forwards, Vincent Miskiewicz for the Storm and Keenon Cole for Streamwood. Miskiewicz finished with 25 points, 13 rebounds and three blocks compared to 30 points and nine rebounds for Cole.

The Miskiewicz-Warrick combo helped alleviate the loss of senior starter Drake Montgomery for the game. Montgomery suffered a thumb injury two weeks earlier, but Johnson expects a return soon.

"Drake is a crucial player on our team," Warrick said. "I feel like someone had to step up. Me and Vince really took the reins. I just had some open looks tonight and they fell."

Joseph Zdybel added six points in the effort.

South Elgin is now 5-1 overall, 2-0 in the UEC.



A pair of big men and big scorers doing battle under the Streamwood basket as the Storm's Vincent Miskiewicz was flying toward a successful reverse layup after getting past the Sabres' Keenon Cole.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Storm handle Sabres, streak halted by Saxons



Following a Streamwood turnover, Madison Waichunas leading a South Elgin break in the second half as the Storm worked to reestablish a double-digit lead following a Sabres run. South Elgin went on to win the Thursday, Dec. 6 contest.

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin girls basketball team earned a 61-41 Upstate Eight Conference victory over Streamwood, but the Storm breathed a bit of a sigh of relief despite the 20-point edge on Thursday, Dec. 6 at Streamwood.

Megan McClure (seven steals, seven assists), who had a game-high 22 points with four three-pointers, scored 13 points in the first half as South Elgin dominated on both sides for a 38-18 lead at the break.

However, Streamwood didn't make that lead feel comfortable with a 17-5 third quarter to pull to 43-

35. McClure scored all five Storm points in the frame with their only field goal, a trey.

"It's a weird game," said South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack. "We were up 20 at halftime and won by 20, but that's not what that game felt like. Credit Streamwood because they put up a nice rally."

The rally didn't end there as Streamwood opened the fourth quarter with a trey to pull within five, 43-38. That's where the rally stopped as the Storm countered with an 18-1 run for a 61-39 lead in the final minute, Casey Brennan (12 points) scoring six during the run.

"We had to make sure we didn't freak out," McClure said. "We had to keep calm and close it out, which we did."

Aryanna Williams and Madison Waichunas each scored seven points.

The win, the Storm's sixth straight, represented what Mandernack feels the season will be like in the UEC.

"Just like the season, it's going to be a lot of ups and downs and a roller coaster," Mandernack said. "I don't think any team in this conference is going to run the table."

South Elgin was coming off a 74-39 UEC victory over West Chicago on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at South Elgin led by McClure (20 points), who hit four treys, and Brennan (18 points). Waichunas added nine points and Ella Winterhalter eight.

The Storm's winning streak was snapped by Schaumburg as South Elgin dropped a 39-36 nonconference game on Saturday, Dec. 8 at Schaumburg. Williams scored 15 points with three treys, McClure and Winterhalter each had six points and Caroline Croft tallied five points.

South Elgin is now 6-4 overall, 4-0 in the UEC.



The Storm's Aryanna Williams, left, battling with Streamwood's Peyton Hedger for position after dishing off the basketball in the middle of South Elgin offensive pressure that resulted in a three-point trip up the court.



After crossing center court, South Elgin's Casey Brennan attempted to drive past the Sabres' Vivian Sewell. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Bartlett tops Raiders, Tomcats for five straight

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett girls basketball team hung on for an Upstate Eight Conference win against the defending Class 3A state champions as the Hawks earned a 46-43 victory over Glenbard South on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at Bartlett.

The game was tight throughout with a one-point margin at the end of each frame through three, the Hawks trailing 34-33 entering the fourth.

Seconds into the final period, freshman Mackenzie Hare (11 points, five rebounds) hit a three-pointer from the corner for a 36-34 lead and the Hawks didn't trail again. That started an 11-2 run, Hare scoring six points during the run, for a 44-36 lead with 2:27 left to play.



Alexis Sinclair dribbling the ball between her legs while moving the ball up court against Glenbard South for the Hawks.

"It was huge because we'd been trading baskets, we'd get a defensive stop and they'd get a defensive stop," said Bartlett coach Brad Hunt. "Then we hit 'Mac' and, like a freshman who acts like a senior sometimes, she knocked it down and we sprung forward."

Although the Hawks led for good, they gave Glenbard South the opportunity to rally going 4-for-13 from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter and 1-for-8 in the final minute.

Hunt admitted his team "might shoot a few" from the line in practice after that performance, but he was pleased overall with the defense which was an area of concern after escaping with a 65-61 win over Streamwood a week earlier.

"We decided we're going to be the 'Cardiac Hawks,'" Hunt quipped about the free-throw shooting, but he added: "I thought our defensive grit was absolutely fantastic."

"We paid attention to detail a lot tonight," said Lexie Sinclair who led the



While preparing to launch a successful shot, the Hawks' Savannah Standefer had to drive around the Raiders' Iman Sellers. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



Bartlett's Shelly Banks, left, tangled in a battle on the floor for possession of the ball with the Raiders' Rocky LaPonte.

Hawks with 17 points. "We focused a lot on defense and that helped create our offense."

Justina Hernandez finished with nine points and five rebounds and she, Hare and Sinclair each hit two treys in the game.

Hare went on to hit six three-pointers on the way to a game-high 21 points in Bartlett's fifth straight win, a 58-38 UEC victory over East Aurora on Friday, Dec. 7 in Aurora. Hernandez (15 points), Sinclair (seven points), Teagan Noesen (six points, two treys) and Savannah Standefer (six points) contributed.

Bartlett is now 7-2 overall, 4-0 in the UEC.

Hawks fall to North, snap skid at East Aurora

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett boys basketball team suffered a third quarter lull as the Hawks dropped a 58-39 nonconference game against St. Charles North on Wednesday, Dec. 5 in St. Charles.

After a close, low-scoring first half the Hawks trailed by just five, 23-18, at the break.

However, St. Charles North

opened the third quarter with a pair of three-pointers which started a 10-0 run for a 33-18 lead. Bartlett trailed by at least nine points the rest of the game while the final 19-point margin was its largest deficit.

"I thought we came out defensively, really lazy after half-time," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "We gave up some easy shots to start the third

quarter. They got the shots they wanted and we left some threes wide open."

Trailing 33-18, Bartlett didn't allow its deficit to grow further until late in the fourth quarter. Andrew Gronemeyer (eight points) hit a pair of threes in the third quarter to help the Hawks close the gap to 40-29 entering the fourth, and Bartlett pulled within nine twice in the final period.

Austin Gates, who led the Hawks with 12 points and seven rebounds, hit a trey to make it 41-32 and Ryan Dunlop (eight points) also hit a three to make it 46-37 with 3:28 left before St. Charles North ended on a 12-2 run. Nick Mansk finished the game with nine points for Bartlett off of a trio of threes.

The loss was the fifth straight for the Hawks who were coming off a solid battle against undefeated Geneva.

"I'd like to say we're learning," Wolfsmith said. "We played well against a really good, undefeated Geneva team, but we didn't see the lessons we learned carry over to tonight."

Wolfsmith added: "Right now, we just need to focus on the basics. We need to get better."

The losing streak was snapped though as the Hawks hung on for a 57-55 win over East Aurora in Upstate Eight Conference game on Friday, Dec. 7 in Aurora.

Bartlett is now 3-5 overall, 1-1 in the UEC.



North's Billy Durocher releasing a shot above the defense of Bartlett's Nick Wolf during the North Stars Wednesday, Dec. 5 victory over the Hawks.



The Hawks' Austin Gates releasing a shot over North's Tyler Czerniak. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Police Reports

Continued from page 3

Vazquez, 25, Des Plaines, as arrested and charged with DUI, BAC over .08, improper lane usage and no insurance. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

★ At 2:33 p.m., Cory Frioli, 31, Norridge, was arrested on warrant and charged with retail theft. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

★ At 2:33 p.m., Delkeyia S. Williams, 23, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with driving while license suspended, speeding and no insurance. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

★ At 7:49 p.m., Edgar L. Kelly, 42, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with possession of cannabis. He was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Monday, Dec. 3

★ At 3:39 a.m., Jerrell Bellamy, 26, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with theft of lost or mislaid property, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of cannabis, failure to wear seatbelt and no insurance. The subject was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

★ At 5:13 a.m., Kimberly M. Herstowski, 32, Romeoville, was arrested and charged with DUI, no insurance, possession of cannabis and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. She was released on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

Friday, Dec. 7

★ At 9:10 a.m., Timothy J. Doran, 33, Carol Stream, was arrested and charged with failure to maintain exterior surfaces, walls and roof. He was released

on bond and faces an undetermined court date.

SOUTH ELGIN

Wednesday, Nov. 28

★ At 8:51 a.m., police responded to South Elgin Rehabilitation, 746 W. Spring for a threats complaint.

★ At 9:32 a.m., police responded to the 400 block of Concord for a report of an abandoned vehicle.

★ At 9:59 a.m., police responded to the Clinton Elementary School, 770 Mill for a report of a missing juvenile.

★ At 10:16 a.m., police responded to the 700 block of Reserve for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 3:41 p.m., police responded to Wee Dees, 3 N. LaFox for a report of a hit and run in progress.

★ At 5:05 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of South Gilbert for a report of a safety or health threat.

★ At 5:44 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Arlington for a report of a motor vehicle theft.

★ At 9:35 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Cornwall for a fraud complaint.

★ At 10:53 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Windsor for a report of a domestic in progress.

Thursday, Nov. 29

★ At 3:23 a.m., police responded to the vicinity of Sundown and North McLean for a report of an abandoned vehicle.

★ At 9:37 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of East Thorndale for a report of a domestic in progress.

★ At 11:49 a.m., police responded to South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St., for a report of an overdose or poisoning.

★ At 2:09 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of North Center for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 3:10 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Kossuth for a report of a safety or health hazard.

★ At 3:44 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Windsor for a fraud complaint.

★ At 3:53 p.m., police responded to McDonalds, 453 Redington Drive, for a report of a drug law violation.

★ At 11:34 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of South Gilbert for a report of a domestic in progress.

Friday, Nov. 30

★ At 6:57 a.m., police responded to the 2200 block of Sutton for a 911 investigation.

★ At 7:26 a.m., police responded to Gamestop, 478 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 8:01 a.m., police responded to the 600 block of North Water for a report of a suspicious incident.

★ At 10:44 a.m., police responded to the 800 block of Gerald for a report of a domestic in progress.

★ At 10:54 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of North Center for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 11:17 a.m., police responded to the 1400 block of Woodland for a fraud complaint.

★ At 1 p.m., police responded to the 600 block of Dean for a report of a domestic in progress.

★ At 1:22 p.m., police responded to the 700 block of Fieldcrest for a keep the peace request.

★ At 1:48 p.m., police responded to the 800 block of Waterside for a child custody dispute.

★ At 4:02 p.m., police responded to

the 0 block of Marie for a keep the peace request.

★ At 4:17 p.m., at the pd, officers attempted to resolve a child custody dispute.

★ At 5:15 p.m., police responded to the 1500 block of Pembroke for a report of theft.

★ At 9:23 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Windsor for a report of a suspicious vehicle.

★ At 10:46 p.m., police responded to the Walgreens, 1201 Spring for a report of an intoxicated subject.

★ At 11:21 p.m., police responded to the 0 block of Wedgewood for a report of a hit and run.

Saturday, Dec. 1

★ At 6:26 a.m., police responded to the 700 block of Riverside for a report of a domestic in progress.

★ At 11:12 a.m., police responded to the 700 block of Riverside for a keep the peace request.

★ At 1:38 p.m., police responded to the 2200 block of Brookwood for a harassment complaint.

★ At 3:19 p.m., police responded to the vicinity of South McLean and West Spring for a report of an abandoned vehicle.

★ At 3:52 p.m., police responded to South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St., for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 4:28 p.m., police responded to Taco Bell, 490 Randall Road, for a report of an activated alarm.

★ At 4:55 p.m., police responded to the 600 block of Kenilworth for a keep the peace request.

★ At 5:42 p.m., police responded to the 400 block of Dean for a fraud complaint.

★ At 7:36 p.m., police responded to

Hawk Hollow honors its D.A.R.E. graduates

Hawk Hollow Elementary School graduated its first D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) class of the 2018-19 school year, on Tuesday, Nov. 27. Essay winners were Jenna Fox from Alyssa Mastroianni's class, and Nehemiah Wilder from Mark Kubiuk's class. After the presentation of certificates, students and their families had cake and visited with members of the police department.



Members of the November Hawk Hollow Elementary D.A.R.E. graduation class.

(Examiner photos by Juli Schatz)



Oliver Chrapek received handshakes and congratulations from Village President Kevin Wallace, Officer Chris Johnson, Deputy Chief Geoff Pretkelis and Officer Kyle Rybaski.



As is the tradition at D.A.R.E. graduations, Ryleigh Genetski signed Quay To's T-shirt.



Nehemiah Wilder read his winning essay while Deputy Chief Geoff Pretkelis and D.A.R.E. Officer Tracey Dendinger listened.