

## Press Clippings 8/8/2018

---Courier News--- 8/8/18

### **PE waiver proposal gets board's approval, criticism from others**

Move would expand exemption to all juniors, seniors

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



School District U46 high school juniors and seniors would be able to seek an exemption from physical education classes if a waiver request being sent to the General Assembly is approved. (Chicago Tribune)

**School District U46** administrators have the school board's approval to seek a state waiver easing physical education requirements at the high school level.

The proposal would expand the exemption to all juniors and seniors beginning in the 2019-20 school year, when the district anticipates the start of its proposed switch to career academies. Currently, high school students can only receive a physical education waiver if they must take non-PE classes to meet graduation or college entrance requirements or are involved in interscholastic athletics.

The board unanimously approved the waiver measure, but not before several PE teachers and officials spoke up against it.

Research correlates PE to improvements in student achievement in several areas; teamwork, movement, critical thinking and individualized fitness skills are at risk if students are allowed to bypass PE courses, supporters said.

"Don't allow the students to be robbed of these important skills," Bartlett High School dance teacher Mary Kate Brooks said.

"If you have grade-school children, high school-age children, you have probably witnessed that kids don't play anymore, don't often move with purpose like they used to," said Lori Linnert, another Bartlett PE teacher. Without physical education, she would not have seen noticeable changes in her oldest daughter's confidence, self-esteem and health, Linnert said.

Administrators pushed for a vote on the waiver this week so the proposal could be considered by the General Assembly during the fall veto session, U46 CEO Tony Sanders

said. Voting on the measure this week also allows U46 staff more time to figure out the waiver process.

“I really hope that we have some very solid, very stringent guidelines in how these waivers are parceled out,” said board member Melissa Owens, who voted “yes” but “with reservations.”

Other board members voiced the same concerns but also voted “yes.”

“Our students need to have the opportunity still to be able to have flexibility in their schedules,” Owens said. “But then also I’m concerned about educating the whole child.”

---Daily Herald--- 8/8/18

## **Three new principals take helm in U-46**

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY



Krystal Bush



Dustin Covarrubias

Three new principals will take the helm next week at **Elgin Area School District U-46** schools as students return to classes Aug. 15.

Krystal Bush is the new principal of the Dream Academy, the district's alternative educational program. She served as the associate principal of South Elgin High School last school year. She previously was the assistant principal at Liberty Elementary School in Bartlett and served as a dean of students at Streamwood High School.

Bush came to U-46 from Proviso East High School in Maywood where she worked in several roles -- evening school dean, physical education and health teacher, evening school supervisor, associate department chair and dean of students.

At the elementary level, Dustin Covarrubias is the new principal at Willard Elementary School in South Elgin and John Signatur is the new principal at Bartlett Elementary School.

Covarrubias served as assistant principal of Huff Elementary School in Elgin and was an instructor at Tefft Middle School in Streamwood where he taught social studies, Project Lead the Way, health and physical education. He helped rewrite the district's health curriculum and served on the PBIS team at Tefft for seven years to establish positive reinforcements for students to encourage good behavior. He also has coached football, boys and girls basketball, high school baseball and track and field, and girls and boys volleyball. He previously taught in Chicago Public Schools.

Signatur previously served as the principal at Hodgkins Elementary School in Hodgkins, Illinois, for 11 years. Before becoming principal, he was an elementary teacher and literacy coach at the same school. He also served as the district's technology coach and webmaster.