

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 24
Number 42

"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
February 27, 2019

Police to receive
five new vehicles
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U-46 policy changes
primed for vote
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Some concerns heard at U-46 town hall event

By Seth Hancock

Residents in School District U-46 had a chance to voice some concerns at the first of two announced town hall meetings scheduled by Board of Education member Phil Costello on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at the Bartlett Public Library.

Costello, who is not running for reelection, holds one of four seats up in this year's April 2 election and announced the town halls at the Feb. 4 board meeting and invited one of the three remaining board members not up for reelection (Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens and Donna Smith) to join him but they did not respond to his request.

Incumbents John Devereux (appointed to fill the remainder of a term), Sue Kerr and Jeanette Ward are all seeking reelection and there are five newcomers in the race: Daniel Hancock, Eva Porter, Tina Rio, Ina Silva-Sobolewski and Kate Thommes. Costello also publicly invited the newcomer candidates to attend

which Rio and Silva-Sobolewski did, but he apologized to Porter at the meeting as he was unable to find or get from the district contact information for her to directly invite her but will reach out to her for the next town hall.

A pair of trustees from the Village of Bartlett, Adam Hopkins and Aaron Reinke, also attended.

"I'm very concerned about the sustainability," Reinke said. "There's tremendous... pressure on (the village board) to continually spend and expand and grow. I'm worried about the long term sustainability and the delivery of services to kids (in U-46)."

"I care deeply about U-46 and some of the issues," Hopkins said. "I understand some of the challenges we have as a village board, but I'd like to understand some of your challenges on the U-46 board."

The next town hall is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20 at Gail Borden Library in Elgin at 7 p.m.

The purpose for the town halls ac-

cording to Costello is to spark more interest in the upcoming election, especially from the taxpayer perspective. He cited a lack of voter interest as one of the reasons he chose not to seek reelection, and he said it's "troubling" that few taxpayers speak at board meetings.

Most of the 12 taxpayers in attendance voiced concerns with the trends of enrollment declines but large increases in spending, but one in attendance did disagree and said she had a philosophical disagreement with the rest. She said if a property taxpayer can't afford higher taxes they should be willing to sell their home and downsize.

For Costello, he said he was happy to hear differing perspectives and told *The Examiner* after the town hall that there was a "very robust" and very good discussion.

"This is not partisan.... I want the energy of this room to address any issue, and to respect every perspective," Costello said at the town hall. "If we can do that, in my humble estimation, we will become a better district. It's when we become one side versus the other side, we stop listening and we stop appreciating what each one has to say."

"I think having differences of opinion is a great thing, and I think that it has to be done respectfully and that we need to listen to each other," Costello added.

Most in attendance agreed that taxpayers are not being heard by the district and the current board majority which is leading to people being forced out of their homes.

Some voiced their "disgust" with the lack of civility and decorum on the board for those who simply have a difference of opinion. Most said they were supporters of Costello and Ward who they said have been unfairly maligned with insults and name calling by fellow board members.

Costello addressed a recent incident stemming from him holding the town hall meeting. Instead of coming out to listen to the taxpayers at Costello's invitation Smith, the board's president, decided to call for a special board meeting, apparently at the last minute, in closed session to discuss goal setting for U-46 CEO Tony Sanders on the same night as Costello's town hall.

For choosing to hold the town hall, Costello said he's been "chastised" on social media. He said the closed session meeting was "exceptionally important" but the "taxpayers need to be heard."

Costello said it's "not the end of the world," but "I announced this on (Feb. 4). This (closed session) meeting was announced on Feb. 15, and I've been chastised."

"I don't think there was any animosity in cutting me out of it," Costello added. "I don't know if there is or isn't, but the point is what we have as a board is one employee (Sanders)."

There are some good things from the board but there's also been "a lot of finger pointing, especially behind closed doors," according to Costello who said that's spilled over to public meetings leading people to see "a bunch of idiots up there doing stupid

things and calling people names." Costello even said he's had false accusations levied about him at board meetings.

One attendee raised the fact that the board promoted Sanders to CEO, which is effectively the superintendent, despite not having the necessary certification from the state which led to an interim superintendent to be paid to simply sign documents until a state law, solely designed to benefit Sanders, was approved in Springfield.

Costello said he has a "tremendous amount of respect" for Sanders and other administrators, but "they need a board, a strong board, that acts like the employers that we should be. And it's a give and take, it's not just a one way street." He referenced a former board member saying at one point that "we report to the CEO," but Costello said it's the exact opposite.

The top down approach trickles down to the schools according to Costello who said "we've got great principals" and "great teachers," but "we've just got to empower them."

As spending has increased, the districts academic scores have largely been flat or declined according to the state report card. Costello said the burden on taxpayers needs to be addressed and cuts shouldn't be made simply to cut spending, but all options need to be on the table with the ultimate goal of improving schools.

"You have less people who want to stay in here and buy your houses, and it hurts this district," Costello said. "We need better schools, which may take more money but then there's more people coming in and then the tax rates go down. It's simple economics."

Costello said the district can't continue its overreliance on the state and "the sky is falling approach will not work. You have to manage that through contingencies and a plan. If you don't have a plan, you're in crisis mode, and that's what U-46 is in a crisis mode."

Attendees discussed some of the reasons they believe there is low voter turnout in the school board elections. One, the attendee who said she had a different philosophy, said voters "do not care" but others said they feel they will not be heard unless a board majority is elected that cares about the taxpayers.

Rio and Silva-Sobolewski both echoed the concerns of the majority of attendants and that's why they're running.

To hear all U-46 board candidates, there are several candidate forums already scheduled the first hosted by CAC on Thursday, March 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the district's central office (DREAM Academy Auditorium). Including portions for U-46 candidates, the Bartlett Woman's Club will hold a forum on Thursday, March 21 starting at 7 p.m. at the Bartlett Community Center (Oak Room) and both the Elgin League of Women Voters (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Elgin's Gail Borden Library) and the Streamwood Woman's Club (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Meeting Room 1 at Streamwood's Poplar Creek Library) on Saturday, March 23.



Unopposed access

A wide open Keenon Cole working to roll in a shot for the Sabres against the Royals in deference to his more trademark dunk. For story and more photos of Streamwood's final regular season game at Larkin, see page 6.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Fire promotion included at village board meeting



Joseph Markowski.

Story and photo by Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, Streamwood Fire/Paramedic Joseph Markowski was recognized for his promotion to lieutenant. Markowski's wife Lisa did traditional pinning of the badge and their children Mason and Mia were also present. Village Clerk Kittie Kopitke swore-in Markowski.

According to Village President Billie Roth, Markowski began his employment with the Streamwood Fire Department in October 2007.

"Joe has been a leader before he was a leader," said Fire Chief Christopher Clark. "I'm confident he's going to do some amazing things here. As a lieutenant, he serves as a company officer so he is the one in charge of each of the fire stations and a crew so he's got some new responsibilities. Now he is truly responsible for those firefighters that work under him, to keep them safe, to mentor them, to help them be-

come successful, to evaluate them... so it's a lot of responsibility that he has. We look forward to a lot of success."

Markowski received his firefighter training at the Bartlett Fire Department. He has an associates degree in fire science and is currently studying to receive his bachelor's degree, according to Roth. He resides in Gilberts.

Village selects vendor for sewer, water main work

By Kristin Carreno

During the Village Board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, trustees voted unanimously in approval of a resolution to accept the low bid of \$691,523 from Gerardi Sewer and Water, Norridge, for sewer and water main work.

According to Director of Public Works Matt Mann, the current budget includes the cost of sewer and water main replacement.

"The majority of the work will be [a] new water main on Valley Drive and a significant section of new storm sewer

work on Victoria Lane to help alleviate some minor drainage and flood issues," said Mann.

A few sanitary repairs on various streets will be included in conjunction with the road program, according to Mann.

"Bidding was very competitive," Mann said, in adding that seven bids were received with the highest bid from A Lamp Construction, Inc., at a cost of \$969,660.

According to Mann, the engineer's estimate was \$844,740.

Streamwood High student honored for academic success



Brandon Christopher pictured with the keynote speaker for the School District U-46 Black History Month program, Robert Jackson. (Courtesy photo)

Brandon Christopher, a senior at Streamwood High School, was recognized for his academic achievements at the inaugural School District U-46 Black History Month program presented at Larkin High School in Elgin, on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

"When I walked across the stage, I thought it was finally my turn to be recognized for all of the late nights, early mornings, and countless hours of studying," said Christopher. "It is an honor to be recognized at this inaugural U-46 Black History Month program because it will have a historical

significance to African Americans. I am glad that I made an early decision to do good in school."

The ceremony was part of U-46 classroom activities and after-school events to celebrate Black History Month. Christopher and 15 other African-American students, from U-46's five high schools, were recognized for earning a cumulative grade point average of 3.4 or above as of last semester. Christopher was presented with a certificate of achievement for being a U-46 senior African American scholar.

Pet of the Week



A different need

This week's pet is a bit different. Raymond isn't available for adoption but he still needs help! After arriving at the shelter late last November, surrendered by an owner who could no longer care for him. The 10-month-old Raymond presented a giant, goofy boy who had absolutely no training. Handsome and super friendly with dogs and people alike Raymond quickly went up for adoption until shelter stress kicked in. So Raymond was pulled from the adoption floor and training work was started. Shelter staff and volunteers have come a long way with him, but he needs out of the building and is looking for a foster home that can work with an approved rescue partner. We hope that there is someone who can save his life, someone who will give him the chance that he deserves. Anyone interested in fostering for a rescue partner and saving Raymond email DCAS Foster & Rescue Coordinator, Dina at dina.schubert@dupageco.org for more information on how/where to apply to foster Raymond.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

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Board ratifies purchase of five police vehicles

By Kristin Carreno

At the Village Board meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, trustees voted unanimously in approval of the purchase of five 2020 Ford Utility Interceptor police vehicles at a cost of \$164,365 from Currie Motors, Frankfort.

According to Chief of Police Daryl Syre, four of the Ford Utility Interceptors are intended to replace 2016 Chevy Impalas and one will replace a 2013 Chevy Impala.

"The Chevy Impala police intercep-

tor is no longer being produced by Chevy," said Syre. "The Ford Interceptors are currently in use."

According to Syre, the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative solicited bids for municipal police vehicles meeting the specifications of the police department's patrol vehicles. Purchasing through this process results in a significant cost savings for the village.

The bid was \$32,873 for each police vehicle, according to Syre.

All of the vehicles were covered in the current budget, Syre added.

District U-46 recognizes all-state music students

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 recognized several high schools students for the all-state music honors as well as the districts guidance counselors at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 4.

There were nine students who advanced to perform at the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) annual music education conference in Peoria last month in band, choir and orchestra.

From Bartlett High School was senior Kevin Johnson (choir).

From South Elgin High School were seniors Sara Pfeil (orchestra, principal horn) and Grace Ryan (choir).

From Larkin High School were seniors Kaitlin Dobbeck (future music educators symposium), Chloe Robbins (orchestra, bassoon), Jackson Teetor (band, principal trumpet) and Zach Wilder (band, principal clarinet) as well as junior Elianna Nielsen (orchestra, viola) and sophomore Ethan Montgomery (band, clarinet).

Teetor explained the process for making state which started at the District IX festival that was held at Addison Trail High School.

"You're there with like 500 other music kids and you're all auditioning,

and then we all got to go to the district festival.... And then if you placed in like the very top... you get to go to the all-state festival which was two weeks ago," Teetor said.

The Feb. 4 meeting also marked the first day of National School Counseling Week as the board honored U-46's guidance counselors.

"The role of school counselor is to support a student's academic, social, and emotional growth and assist them with establishing plans for the future," said Mary Fergus, director of school and community relations. "Counselors meet with students throughout the school year on both an individual and group basis to address social and emotional issues that arise in their lives and help them create academic plans that align with their post high school goals."

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said for a district press release: "We're proud to honor both these talented students and these important colleagues tonight. Our counselors guide students and help them make critical decisions in middle school and high school. I'm also pleased to honor these dedicated students who have poured their time and skills into musical endeavors."

McCombie tasked to lead rebuilding of GOP in House

By Peter Hancock
Capitol News Illinois

Illinois Republicans suffered big losses in the 2018 elections, giving up seven House seats and handing a 74-44 supermajority to Democrats.

Now it's up to state Rep. Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) to try and turn things around, and she has no illusions about how big of a task that will be.

"Huge. A huge task," she said in a recent interview.

McCombie's colleagues unanimously elected her to chair the House Republican Organization, the political arm of the caucus that works, and raises money, to elect Republicans to the House.

"The goal is to provide political services to the 44 members we have and to grow our members so we can, one, bring balance to Illinois, and, two, hopefully to gain additional seats to gain the majority and put Leader (Jim) Durkin in the speaker's seat," McCombie said.

McCombie attributed her party's losses in 2018 to a number of factors, including money and the fact that the Democratic candidate for governor, J.B. Pritzker, had a sophisticated operation. But she also said there were national trends working against Illinois

Republicans, including President Donald Trump's unpopularity in the state.

"The message right now on the federal side certainly, I think, hurt Republicans in the suburbs," she said.

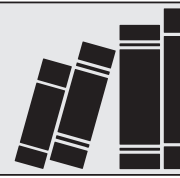
McCombie is the first woman to hold the chairmanship, and that could be important in 2020 because that's the voting population where the GOP has been losing support, particularly in suburban areas, both in Illinois and nationally.

But McCombie said she doesn't necessarily think it's her job to recruit female voters back to the party.

"I don't think I was chosen to bring women into the fold because women don't tell women what to do," she said. "But I think it's certainly necessary to have more women in leadership positions so they can have more open conversations. Because that's one thing that women do better. They will sit down at the table and have a conversation."

McCombie said it will take hard work to reverse the GOP's fortunes in the state, but she said she's optimistic about the party's chances.

"We need to rely on work, and we need to rely on our message," she said. "If this is about policy, we're going to win every time."



Connections

Poplar Creek Public Library

Medical Cannabis
Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.
Meeting Room 1

Are you curious about medical cannabis? Medical cannabis, aka medical marijuana, is now available in Illinois. What does it mean for you? Is it safe? How does a patient get it? Kirsten Velasco, patient advocate for Illinois Women in Cannabis, will answer all of your questions with a presentation covering the science, biology, laws application process and patient experience, followed by an open Q&A. Register online or call 483-4910.

Painting Workshop
Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m.
Meeting Room 1

Learn basic watercolor pencil techniques like gradated washes, wet on wet, dry brush and more. You will then create your own beautiful "Cozy Winter Cottage" painting under the guidance of art teacher Christine Thornton. Beginners welcome! Poplar Creek cardholders only. Please call 483-4910 to register.

Drop-in Family Storytime
Saturday, March 2 at 1 p.m.
Children's Department

Join us for family fun! Ms. Lauren will share stories, songs, and a simple craft. Ages 3 to 6, but all are welcome. Caregivers are encouraged to attend. No Registration required! For more information, please call 483-4923.

Feature Films at the Library
Sunday, March 3 at 1 p.m.
Meeting Room 1

Come to the library and watch a newly released feature film on our big screen! No one under 13 admitted without parent/guardian. Doors open 15 minutes prior, snacks and water provided. For specific movie information, please call 483-4626 or visit our

website at www.pclib.org. No registration necessary!

Crafty Teens
Monday, March 4 from 6 to 8 p.m.
Teen Space

Are you a teen interested in arts, crafts, and being creative? Join us in the Teen Space to make a crayon wax melt painting. Ages 11 to 17. Register online or call 483-4928.

College Essays: Do's and Don'ts
Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m.
Meeting Room 2

Join admissions experts from colleges around the Midwest and learn the do's and don'ts of writing your college admissions essays. Register online or call 630-483-4928.

Candidate Forum
Saturday, March 23
11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Feeling confused about who to vote for on April 2? Come to the library and hear those candidates who are running for contested elected offices. All the local taxing bodies have terms that have ended: Villages, park districts, community college districts, library districts and they all affect your property tax bill. Who will you vote for?

Studio 1405, Creative Space

Residing in the lower level of Poplar Creek Public Library, Studio 1405 hosts a recording studio, photo/video studio, design lab, and creator station complete with a 3D printer and sewing machines. For more information or Studio hours, please visit www.studio.pclib.org or call 483-4939.

For a complete listing of scheduled programs at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., in Streamwood or Sonya Crawshaw Branch, 4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park, visit www.poplarcreeklibrary.org. Questions? Call 837-6800.

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BEDA application item moving toward vote

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees may vote on a Bartlett Economic Development Assistance (BEDA) application for the Bartlett Tap at its upcoming meeting on Tuesday, March 5. The application was discussed at the Feb. 19 committee of the whole meeting.

The applicant, John Castilla, entered into a lease agreement last July to build the bar and grill, and he originally asked for the maximum BEDA amount of \$50,000 but village staff recommended \$35,000.

The BEDA program was created in this year's budget with a \$150,000 line item and is now down to \$60,000. The program offers tax dollars to new or existing businesses for projects such as interior build-out or compliance issues, and business owners would spend the money for the projects up front and be reimbursed by the village taxpayers.

There was general excitement from across the board for the potential revitalization of the historic site at 113 Railroad Ave., which has been used as a bar and grill for over a century before going into foreclosure in 2017, but some suggested the board wait on approving the BEDA application until the Bartlett Tap is officially open due to the history of this project.

The Economic Development Commission approved of the BEDA request in December but Scott Skrycki, assistant village administrator, said in January they were holding off on bringing the application to the board "until he's a little closer to moving along with his project. It has been one of the most comprehensive build outs that we've ever had, but we're going to hold his feet to the fire and hopefully he gets open soon."

Trustee Raymond Deyne said approving the request was "absolutely a no brainer," but he said there's been "all kinds of rumors going around" that the bar would open at Christmas and then by the Super Bowl.

Castilla said he's "shooting for the month of April," and "I've had a lot of goals."

Trustee Aaron Reinke asked: "What do you need to do in order to open? What's left?"

Castilla said he has a final walk-through with the fire marshal in a few weeks and the project has been delayed due to the holidays as well as him acting as a general contractor managing 12 different companies.

Reinke said he's "looking forward" to eating at the establishment but he has had some skepticism due to the Lucky Jack's site where the village

"had an owner who basically sat on the building."

"It's very clear to me that you've put a tremendous amount of effort into this structure and preserving the history, and money, the incredible amount of money that you must have spent is beyond imagination and I really appreciate that," Reinke said.

Trustee Kristina Gabrenya said Castilla has documented over \$132,000 in expenses, up \$8,000 from original projections.

"I think I'd like to see you open before we vote on the BEDA grant," Reinke said. "I think that's important for you. It's important for us if we're going to invest taxpayer money."

Trustee Adam Hopkins agreed, but Village President Kevin Wallace did not saying: "I don't agree with it because he's already put \$132,000 into it. He's not going to walk away from that I don't believe. You guys can voice your opinion, but I don't agree with it."

Trustee Michael Camerer was fine voting on it at the next meeting stating: "I can appreciate the amount of work he's put into it as well, and I think even though its taxpayer's money, inevitably we're going to probably push it forward and give you the money."

Staff said that other BEDA applicants have applied earlier on in their projects, but Reinke said: "That's not really the issue. The issue is not opening for an extended period of time."

Castilla said he's invested "a lot of passion" and his "own personal money," and had he known what was entailed in rehabbing the site he "probably would have passed that building up when it was foreclosed on." He said there's been discussions as a "gimmick" to open on April 15, tax day.

Wallace said the application should be put on the next agenda and the board can discuss in between meetings.

Castilla did say he's applied for a video gaming license from the state and the video gaming would be "private behind the wall." Hopkins asked if there was a restriction for BEDA money going to establishments using video gaming which staff said there was not.

Gabrenya said she thinks "this is a great use of the BEDA money" and there's an "incredible amount of anticipation and hopefulness that it's going to be as wonderful as those of us who have lived here a really long time re-

See Bar and grill, pg. 17

Three Bartlett High students cited for disorderly conduct

According to the Bartlett Police Department they have cited Braulio Zavala, 18, and two other juvenile students for disorderly conduct after investigating an incident that took place at Bartlett High School on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

At approximately 11:30 a.m., Bartlett police investigated a report of three students who were engaged in a verbal altercation during passing periods. During the incident, Zavala allegedly implied he had a handgun inside his backpack. Bartlett High School was temporarily placed in a "hold-in-place" status and students and staff members remained in their classrooms while the police department and school administrators investigated the allegation.

Following an investigation, that included a thorough search, no weapon was located and there was no indication that a weapon existed. After reviewing the incident with the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, police cited Zavala and two other juvenile students for disorderly conduct.

Zavala was released on his signature with an assigned court date of April 4, at Cook County court facility located in Rolling Meadows.

Police remind the public that threatening comments made in a school environment have consequences. The police department takes these matters very seriously and will take appropriate actions to maintain the safety and well-being of the school and community.



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U-46 policy changes set for next meeting vote

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 discussed changes to its policy under Section 6 (Instruction) with some dissent at its meeting on Monday, Feb. 25. The board is expecting to vote on the changes at its March 4 meeting.

Most of the debate centered around changes to Code 6.130 (Programs for Gifted Students) and the possible elimination of definitions.

The controversy stemmed from how the district, under the policy, will define gifted and talented students which is “students who perform or who show the potential to perform at significantly advanced levels of accomplishment when benchmarked against local norms and their optimal development arises from differentiated educational experiences.”

At question is the phrase “when benchmarked against local norms” which board member Jeanette Ward suggested removing because it would mean each U-46 building could have different standards.

Referencing a gifted presentation in December which included “local norms,” Ward said: “I think I raised a concern at that time that then some buildings are going to be viewed higher than others because what’s gifted in this building is not the same as what is gifted in that building.”

In December, the district never denied that the use of “local norms” lowers standards. U-46 referenced a quote by Scott Peters: “Certain student groups score differently than others because as a society we treat them differently.”

Ward noted at the time the incongruous message the district was sending that students shouldn’t be treated differently yet admitting “local norms” could mean exactly that when she asked: “If we are changing the admission criteria or process for certain groups, isn’t that treating them differently?” The district didn’t directly respond but instead claimed the “local norms” were needed to address “underrepresentation.”

At a Feb. 4 committee meeting re-

garding the policy change, Ward said “the danger is the definition of gifted doesn’t really have a definition” with this change to which board member Sue Kerr said “that’s true.”

U-46 CEO Tony Sanders said the change reflects national trends from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) and claimed there were “tremendous results” in some districts nationally. Sanders provided no data or a definition of what constituted “tremendous results.”

“From my perspective, I don’t care who said it if it’s the state, the local or the national,” Ward later said. “I disagree with how local norms is stated here if it’s us saying it, if the state said it or if the nation said it. The danger is that then you have different buildings who have different standards for what constitutes gifted, and I have a problem with that”

The NAGC defines a gifted student as one whose “ability is significantly above the norm for their age” and U-46 uses similar language on the gifted page of its website.

Kerr asked if there would be an impact if that phrase were removed and board member Melissa Owens asked if it’s “absolutely necessary” to be in the policy. Sanders said it would not likely change the district’s practices and Luis Rodriguez, assistant attorney, said he would check if it was legally necessary.

Sanders said the “challenge” was that state funding may be effected depending on what the policy states.

There was a belief expressed by some that certain schools in the district and subgroups of students were inferior and needed lower standards.

“I would like to support this language,” said board member Veronica Noland. “I believe that this is to be more inclusive, to recognize those differences building to building and I believe that we would be narrowing our net to identify gifted children if we take this out.”

Kerr said she supported “more inclusive language as well” but wanted updates in order to make adjustments in the future. She also said: “Certain children are going to score better than others just because of their backgrounds.”

However, board member Phil Costello agreed with Ward’s concerns saying: “When we talk about district-wide and all of our students, we should look at it that way. So I will probably be voting against anything that is narrowing it down to a zip code or a unit. I think that’s possibly too narrow and it does a disservice to what we have as a district.”

Sanders claimed “it’s not really to narrow it down to a specific zip code” and claimed some students can’t “shine through” without the district

artificially helping through its policies.

“They’re as equally as gifted as some of the students who are identified from your higher achieving schools, but giving them that opportunity and that seat is a make or break moment for that student,” Sanders said.

Ward replied: “Well, they would already have that opportunity if they have performed at significantly advanced levels of accomplishment.”

Sanders said “and within their environment they have,” and Owens said “giftedness isn’t always about just rote accomplishment.” Although the implicit admission that “local norms” means students won’t be treated equally based on what school they attend, Sanders claimed this is “more equitable.”

Board member John Devereux said the “local norms” mirror some college admissions which may look at peer-to-peer performance.

At the Feb. 4 committee meeting, Ward suggested changes to Code 6.165 (Dual Language Program) and Code 6.210 (Instructional Materials) to remove the term “global society” and replace it with “globally” which Rodriguez said “it’s not a bad suggestion.” Ward said “global society” implies there are “global citizens” and “we don’t really have a global society.”

Kerr and Owens initially disagreed but came to a consensus to change the wording.

Several changes to the policy were specifically noted as necessary based on state law. Some included the need to teach “commemorative holidays,” teaching kindergartners about drug and substance abuse and teaching students the positive role of labor unions.

Ward asked: “What is the state going to do (if the changes weren’t approved by the board) because if we have to adopt it, what’s the point of having a vote?”

The district’s legal team did not have an answer for the specific ramifications but said they were there to simply advise the board on the law. Sanders said there’s “ongoing proliferation of bills... representing special interests” that the legal team needs to review constantly.

Ward noted she understood their advisement roles and her disagreement wasn’t “personal” to them. Although noting her opposition, she thanked the staff for their work.

Also expecting a vote at the March 4 meeting is the board’s 2019-2020 meeting schedule as well as seven expenditure items totaling \$7.9 million from the education fund, one from the district safety fund totaling \$2.3 million and two from the operations and maintenance fund totaling \$2.1 million.

Storm boys hoops falls short in UEC showdown

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin boys basketball team’s shot at the program’s first Upstate Eight Conference title came up short in a 57-52 loss to West Aurora in the Storm’s regular season finale on Wednesday, Feb. 20 in Aurora.

Bartlett upset West Aurora handing them their first UEC loss the previous week allowing the Storm, who entered with two conference losses, a chance at a co-title. South Elgin dropped a four-point game to West Aurora earlier this season.

In the rematch, South Elgin trailed the entire night after falling behind 21-10 after the first quarter, but it rallied to pull as close as three points in the fourth quarter.

“This was something we worked for all season, to come in here and have an opportunity to play for a conference championship,” said South Elgin coach Brett Johnson. “We gave up way too many open looks down the stretch, but we didn’t quit and we put ourselves in a position to try and win.”

Johnson added: “It was a playoff atmosphere. Now it’s one-and-done.”

South Elgin, now 22-8 overall and 15-3 in the UEC, will host regional action. The No. 3 Storm open with No. 5 Hampshire.

The Storm gave themselves a chance at the UEC title by defeating Glenbard South 51-48 on Monday, Feb. 18 at Glenbard South.

It was a close game throughout with the Storm trailing 25-23 at halftime but pulling ahead 35-31 entering the fourth. Vincent Miskiewicz (20 points, six rebounds, four blocks) led the effort.

“It was a grinder, very physical game,” Miskiewicz said. “We executed at the end, and that’s what mattered. We played phenomenal defense, and when you play defense you can go a long way.”

Trace Ashby and Jace Warrick each hit a pair of three-pointers and along with Drake Montgomery each had eight points. Alex Errington had five points with a trey.

Schlueter advances to state for Storm swim team

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin swimming team sent one to state and the Bartlett-Streamwood co-op had some solid performances at sectionals.

Junior Alexander Schlueter went to state in the 100-yard freestyle where he finished 17th (47.15 seconds) in the preliminaries on Friday, Feb. 22 at New Trier.

Prior to going to state Schlueter said he has “no idea what to expect,” but with one year left this year’s experience could help him next year with the Storm.

At the North Sectional, the Storm finished seventh and the Sabrehawks eighth on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Schlueter finished third in the 100 freestyle (46.56) to lead the Storm. Sophomore Nick Domschke nearly advanced in the 1-meter dive with his score of 288.05 giving him fourth place.

“It’s pretty crazy,” Schlueter said. “I didn’t expect to be where I was. I was pretty rested for this meet, and I’m pretty happy with how it came together.”

South Elgin got a fourth place finish from the 200 freestyle relay team (ju-

nior Andrew Estep, senior Arturo Villegas, sophomore Justin Maniago, Schlueter), sixth from its 400 freestyle relay team (Estep, sophomore Ryan Droesch, Maniago, Schlueter) and seventh from its 200 medley relay team (freshman Domenico Schlueter, junior Amadeusz Augustynski, freshman Matthew Ozog, freshman Aidan Seberger).

Alexander Schlueter was sixth in the 100 backstroke, Domenico Schlueter eighth in the 500 freestyle, Estep ninth in the 50 freestyle and Ozog 10th in the 100 butterfly for the Storm.

Bartlett-Streamwood got fifth from its 200 freestyle relay team (junior Truman Jacobson, junior Kyle Grossman, senior Ryan Hogan, senior Frenki Shyti), sixth from its 200 medley relay team (freshman Ben Gehrke, junior Michael Picardi, freshman Anthony Martin, Shyti) and seventh from its 400 freestyle relay team (Jacobson, Grossman, sophomore Chris Hojsan, Martin).

Jacobson in the 200 freestyle and Grossman in the 100 butterfly earned eighth place finishes, and Jacobson added a 10th place finish in the 100 freestyle.

Bartlett boys hoops beaten in regular season finale

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett boys basketball team dropped a close 59-54 Upstate Eight Conference game against Glenbard East on Tuesday, Feb. 19 at Bartlett.

It was the Hawks regular season finale as they prepare for the Glenbard West Regional. In the Bartlett Sectional, the Hawks are seeded 20th.

Despite the loss to Glenbard East, senior Austin Gates reached the 1,000 point career milestone fresh off becoming the first Bartlett player in program history to be named all-conference three straight years. Senior Jack Stuenkel and sophomores Hayden Angell and Alec Palella also received conference recognitions as second team or honorable mentions.

Bartlett has dropped two straight

games heading into its regional opener against No. 13 Hinsdale South after winning two straight, including an upset victory by handing West Aurora its only UEC loss of the season.

“When we play a full team game together, we can beat anyone,” said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. “We’re finally healthy. At this point in the season, we can’t use inexperience as an excuse.”

The Hawks had entered the season with only two returning players with significant varsity experience, Gates and senior Garrett Jurina. Jurina had missed most of the season due to injury but returned in the middle of January.

Bartlett is now 8-21 overall, 5-13 in the UEC, heading into the postseason.

Press Clippings 02/27/2019

---The Daily Herald---02/27/2019

U-46 students to weigh in on school issues at Wednesday summit

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



- Jackson Teetor, a senior at Larkin High School in Elgin, will lead Wednesday's U-46 Student Summit at Elgin Community College.

Elgin Area School District U-46's high school academics, standardized testing and student mental health are among the topics to be addressed at the district's third annual Student Summit Wednesday at Elgin Community College.

More than 200 high school students from the five U-46 high schools and its DREAM Academy will engage in roundtable discussions from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the large atrium dining room in Building E at ECC's Elgin campus, 1700 Spartan Drive. This year's summit will focus on promoting a unified school culture.

"Throughout the year, those of us who serve on the CEO Student Advisory Council are always giving our feedback, but we're a small group of students," said U-46 school board student adviser Jackson Teetor, a Larkin High School senior organizing the summit. "So the thing I'm most looking forward to is getting so many more students from so many circles and schools involved. When we have 250 students in the room, we're really going to hear some new feedback."

Several students, including some who serve on the Principal's Student Advisory Council and CEO Student Advisory Council, will facilitate discussions to keep them constructive and positive. Topics include class rank, college and career readiness, how to boost attendance rates among high school students, school safety, technology in the classroom, tutoring systems and how schools can make it easier for students to reach out for help.

Bartlett High School senior Rohan Shah and other student leaders will discuss the framework for Mentors For Tomorrow -- an after-school mentoring program for elementary and middle school students created by Shah in 2016 -- encouraging peers to create a similar program at their high schools.

Shah and some of his Bartlett High peers began visiting Spring Trail Elementary School in Carol Stream during its after-school SAFE program to build connections with younger students and offer homework help, STEM projects and other activities to instill a love

for learning. The student-led program has since expanded to Sycamore Trails Elementary School and Eastview Middle School, both in Bartlett.

"These students have taken an idea and have turned it into a reality," said Lela Majstorovic, district assistant superintendent of secondary schools, instruction and equity. "We are so proud of how they are giving back to their community and we are excited to see how this program will continue to grow."

District administrators hope the summit will generate more ideas that can be implemented in schools.

Majstorovic also will give a presentation on U-46's plans to incorporate educational pathways into high schools during lunch.

---The Courier-News ---02/27/2019

District U46 sets its 2019-20 calendar; school year to end after Memorial Day

Classes to start in mid-August; last day May 27

By: Rafael Guerrero

School will start in mid-August and end after Memorial Day under the new 2019-20 calendar adopted Monday by the School District U46 board.

While the date for the first day of school is standard for the district, pushing classes beyond the May holiday is not. It's necessary because the state has added two additional days of instruction to the school year, district officials said.

The first day of classes is Wednesday, Aug. 14. Preschool programs will start one week later on Aug. 21.

Students and staff will be off for three days during Thanksgiving week, and the last day of the first semester will be Dec. 19. High school students will take their final exams before the start of winter break.

Winter break starts Dec. 20 and students return for the second semester start Jan. 6.

"Talking to my friends in other school districts, personally I am so grateful to have finals before winter break," said Jackson Teeter, student adviser to the school board. It would be a "nightmare" to take finals after two weeks off, he said.

The weeklong spring break will be the week of March 23-27, 2020. Pending any emergency days, the last day of school will be May 27, 2020, two days after Memorial Day.

The school year will be the first in which there will be 176 instructional days. Staff will have eight professional development days spread over the year.

"You can't have it all," U46 CEO Tony Sanders said of the necessity to push the last day of school past the holiday.

While board members voted 6-1 in support of the calendar, some asked the district to survey the public on their preferences in the future. This year, the only chance to offer input was through the district's dashboard — after the calendar was announced in early February.

Board member Jeanette Ward cast the “no” vote, saying she believed many families with younger students prefer a later start date for the first day of class.

Board member John Devereux voted in favor of the calendar but said he supported future surveys on the matter. He said he would prefer in-depth questions be asked so the public would understand the repercussions of changing the schedule.

Sanders said neighboring school districts have similar start and end dates, which they must take into consideration. Many U46 staff members live in other districts and must balance their schedule with that of their children, he said.

SPORTS

---The Daily Herald---02/27/2019

Cary-Grove finds open man, knocks out Streamwood

By: Jerry Fitzpatrick

Beau knows double teams.

So do his Cary-Grove teammates.

No. 8 Streamwood double teamed Cary-Grove leading scorer Beau Frericks throughout the Class 4A South Elgin regional semifinal on Tuesday, but the savvy junior guard and his teammates exploited the vacated holes in the defense throughout a 63-43 victory.

Two Sabres rushed at Frericks whenever he touched the ball, so the 19-point-per-game scorer let others do damage in the first half.

"I would have to find my opposite guard and they would always have one person open on the bottom," Frericks said. "We just found the guys that weren't being guarded and we took advantage of that."

Streamwood's calculated defensive risk provided opportunities for Cary-Grove 6-foot-8 junior Frank Jakubicek (9 points), 6-5 senior Dave Aulert (6 points), 6-3, 275-pound senior Addison West (4 points) and 6-1 sophomore guard Ryan Weaver, who scored 8 of his 13 points off the bench in the first half to help stake the Trojans to a 33-21 halftime lead.

"They kind of spread out the more we moved the ball," Weaver said. "When we were switching, they had some difficulties doing that, so we just pounded the ball inside to Frank, Dave and Addison."

The Trojans led 47-35 after three quarters, scored the first two buckets of the fourth to open a 16-point lead and cruised into the regional final.

No. 1 Cary-Grove (21-7) advances to the title game on Friday at 7 p.m. against the winner of today's semifinal between No. 3 South Elgin (22-8) and No. 5 Hampshire (15-16).

Cary-Grove defeated South Elgin 70-62 in the opening game of the Jacobs Holiday Tournament on Dec. 22. The Trojans split two Fox Valley Conference games against Hampshire.

"Obviously, those are both very good teams," Jakubicek said. "We feel very confident. We'll have two good days of practice."

"If we play to our best, I don't think anyone can beat us," Frericks said.

The Trojans enjoyed a 37-26 rebounding advantage. They had plenty of opportunities to crash the boards considering Streamwood shot 29 percent from the field (15 of 51).

"They crushed us on the glass," Streamwood coach Kent Payne said. "Offensively, we took a lot of poor shots throughout the game. We took shots we had no chance of making. We just threw them up there. That was the story for us."

Of Jakubicek's 8 rebounds, 5 were offensive. He scored three times on putbacks.

Frericks scored 15 second-half points to finish with a game-best 20.

"We wanted to really contain (Frericks) and thought we were doing a pretty good job of it," Payne said, "but then we didn't rotate very well."

Jakubicek helped limit 6-7 Streamwood senior Keenon Cole to 19 points, 5 below his average. Cole, who scored 33 points the previous night against Jacobs, grabbed 11 rebounds.

Senior forward Nikola Sinik scored 9 points for the Sabres and senior forward Nick Droll finished with 8 points.

Storm rally falls short in loss, beaten at foul line

By Seth Hancock

The South Elgin girls basketball team saw its season end with quite a fight in the Belvidere North Sectional semi-final against Rockford Boylan on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

Facing a 30-win team and its star player, Peyton Kennedy (33 points, 17 rebounds), outscoring the Storm early, things looked bleak at the start. Boylan built a 14-2 lead off the bat, led 31-19 by halftime and 36-19 a little over a minute into the third quarter.

That's when South Elgin started a big comeback, led by junior Megan McClure who scored a team-high 17 points with five three-pointers, to eventually take a six-point lead in the fourth quarter.

South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack said he knew his team was viewed as a big underdog but his team would not go away quietly.

"I couldn't be prouder," Mandernack said. "It was so much fun. We battled a lot of adversity, and it was a heck of a ride."

Mandernack added: "Even early on when we fell behind by 12, I knew we would come back. They just have too much heart. Hats off to Boylan because that's a great Catholic school."

Facing the 17-point deficit, the Storm finished the third quarter on a 20-4 run to pull to 40-39 behind six points apiece from McClure and freshman Caroline Croft (10 points). Senior Casey Brennan (10 points) opened the fourth with a bucket for the Storm's first lead of the night, McClure followed with a trey and Croft made it 46-40 with 4:57 left in the game.

However, the stat of the game came back to bite the Storm, and that was the foul disparity and how the teams fared at the charity stripe. Boylan went on a 14-1 run, eight points coming at the line, to take the lead for good at 54-47 with 1:26 left to play and went 14-for-19 in the fourth quarter compared to the Storm's 1-for-5.

For the game, Boylan shot 23-for-33 from the free-throw line and South Elgin 2-for-9.

"What happened in that third and fourth quarter with us taking the



Megan McClure of South Elgin moving to exploit a seam in the Titans defense between Boylan's Frankie Schiro, left, and Haley Sciortino before pulling up to take a short jumper during the Storm's 60-54 sectional semi-final loss to Boylan.

lead, that was a sight," Mandernack said. "The gym was rocking. We couldn't miss a shot, and I think we were up six and we couldn't make free throws."

Freshman Ella Winterhalder added 10 points in the effort and junior Madison Waichunas had six rebounds and three points.

South Elgin, which ends the season 20-12 overall, will lose six seniors including Miah Galvin (four points), Nikki Nguyen, Makayla Hall-Lee, Rachel Kelly and Melissa Guzman. But the Storm boasted a strong group of juniors as well as a pair of freshmen.

"We'll lose some incredible seniors, but we have some really good players coming back," Mandernack said. "Those girls grew up so much and learned a lot. I told them to remember this feeling for next year."



The Storm's Casey Brennan during an aggressive drive on the Boylan hoop while defended by the Titans' Peyton Kennedy.



An animated Caroline Croft taking a shot for South Elgin from within the paint against Boylan.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)



On a late game drive along the baseline, South Elgin's Ella Winterhalder getting into position to launch a successful shot from a tough angle while closely defended by the Titans' Peyton Kennedy.

Hawks stymied by Tigers after ousting Geneva



Savannah Standefer breaking through a seam in the defense to score for the Hawks and end a very long scoring drought that extended for more than two quarters against the Tigers. The early fourth-quarter basket was Bartlett's first two-point field goal of the contest.

By Seth Hancock

The No. 3 Bartlett girls basketball team's season ended with frustration in a 37-22 loss to No. 4 Wheaton Warrenville South in the Batavia Sectional final on Thursday, Feb. 21.

Entering the game, the Hawks were averaging 59.5 points per game and had not scored less than 43 in a game. Facing a Wheaton Warrenville South team that slow games down and frustrate opposing offenses, Bartlett was held to 9-for-47 (19.1 percent) from the field and 0-for-17 as it was shutout in the middle frames.

Freshman Mackenzie Hare completed a four-point play with 1:55 left in the opening quarter to pull the Hawks to 9-7, but they would not put another point

on the board until senior Savannah Standefer (four points) hit a layup with 7:51 left in the fourth quarter to pull to 23-9. "Honestly, in those two quarters I thought we got some good looks," said Bartlett coach Brad Hunt. "We got the ball in the middle of the zone and attacked the rim and they didn't go in. Credit to them because they're a great defensive team, but I felt we had our chances but the shots didn't fall."

Standefer's bucket did spark a brief rally to start the fourth quarter as sophomore Justina Hernandez followed with a three-pointer and sophomore Lexie Sinclair (seven points) and junior Shelly Banks added buckets to pull to 23-16 with 6:10 left to play. But Wheaton Warrenville South stopped the comeback there going on a 9-2 run for a 32-18 advantage with 1:27 on the clock for the double-digit lead for good.

Bartlett ends the season 29-5 overall and along with Standefer will lose seniors Teagan Noesen and Hannah Walker, but the Hawks boast a young but experienced squad that included four underclassmen starters. "I'm proud of my three seniors," Hunt said.



Teagan Noesen, left, and Danielle Hedeon joining the celebration following Bartlett's defeat of the reigning two-time state champion Vikings on Monday, Feb. 18 at the Batavia Sectional.

"They gave it their all."

Of the future, Hunt added: "It's going to hurt and it stings. We'll take some time off, but we'll get right back to work. We've got a bright future ahead of us."

The Hawks were coming off knocking out two-time defending state champs No. 2 Geneva in a 60-52 sectional semifinal win on Monday, Feb. 18.

Sinclair, who scored a game-high 26 points with four threes, tallied the game's first six points and Hare (15 points) knocked down two of her three treys as Bartlett built a 12-3 lead early and never looked back.

The Hawks built as large as a 12-point lead in the first half and led 28-20 at the break as Sinclair had 15 points by halftime. Geneva did close to 28-24 at the start of the third quarter, but that was the closest it would come as Bartlett built as large as a 14-point lead in the fourth.

"We had a lot of energy coming out," Sinclair said. "Coach told me early this season I have to be a leader on the team as the point guard, and if I make my first couple shots my teammates do a really good job finding me."

"We all kept our composure and know how to execute at the right times," said Standefer who scored seven points. "This whole night was just great energy."

Sophomore Danielle Hedeon finished with six points and Hernandez five.



Lexie Sinclair on a route to the Geneva basket via the baseline while dealing with the close defensive presence of the Vikings' Katie Montgomery.



Bartlett's Justina Hernandez getting off a shot over the defense of Geneva's Cassidy Navigato. (Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)

Sabres fall to Royals in regular season finale



Zach Marquez attempting to bank a shot in off the glass after getting inside the defense of Larkin’s Jahon Johnson-Neals.



The Sabres’ Nikola Sinik making a move along the baseline in an effort to get past the Royals’ Pierre Black.

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood boys basketball team was unable to maintain a lead late as the Sabres ended the regular season with an 86-79 Upstate Eight Conference loss to Larkin on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at Larkin.

Streamwood built a nine-point lead after one quarter, 23-14, which was trimmed to one, 44-43, by halftime. After a back-and-forth third the Sabres trailed 60-59 and were outscored 26-20 in the final frame where they never led.

Seniors Keenon Cole (32 points, 11 rebounds) and Nikola Sinik (18 points, seven rebounds) as well as sophomore Zach Marquez (12 points) led the Sabres on the night.

Despite the loss, the Sabres have been playing better basketball heading into

the South Elgin Regional. Streamwood coach Kent Payne called up several underclassmen in the second half of the season.

“I think we’re getting more comfortable playing with each other,” Payne said. “We brought those young guys up, and we’re just getting used to playing together. I think that’s really made a big difference for us.”

The Sabres are 12-18 overall, 8-10 in the UEC, as No. 8 Streamwood prepares for No. 10 Jacobs in its postseason opener.

“We have a team goal to win a regional,” Cole said. “I feel like we’re really capable of it. We’ve been close with all of these teams. Clean things up and play our best late in the game and we feel like we’ll be able to shock some people.”



Darryl Luce putting up a successful shot for the Sabres in front of a floor-bound DJ Jones of the Royals.



Streamwood’s Jakobe Strong driving past center court while encountering the Royals’ Victor Perez Jr.

(Examiner photos by Bruce Leighty)