

Press Clippings - July 19, 2023

– Examiner of Bartlett –

U-46 emergency expense approved among others

(This article appeared in the Examiner of South Elgin and Streamwood)

July 19, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved, via a 7-0 vote, of \$807,652 in expenditure items that were presented and approved the same evening on Monday, June 26.

The practice of presenting and approving items the same evening is generally reserved for emergency purchases, such as the \$109,200 in operations and maintenance fund proposal with West Side Electric Supply to purchase 60,000 fluorescent light bulbs. The purchase had already been made and delivered earlier in June.

That purchase stemmed from a fire on June 7 in the library at **Streamwood's Tefft Middle School**. It was determined that "faulty electrical lighting," the proposal states, was to blame.

"As such, all retrofit LED bulbs will be replaced with fluorescent bulbs districtwide.... Out of an abundance of caution, a plan was implemented to inspect and replace any retrofitted LED bulbs with fluorescent bulbs. While there were fluorescent bulbs currently in inventory, at least an additional 50,000 bulbs will be needed to complete this project," the proposal added.

The other items were non-emergency proposals for the early learner's department. Included was \$512,164 with five companies for curricular materials and \$104,719 with eight companies to purchase books, both education fund items.

The proposal's rationale for both stated: The proposed units for preschool and kindergarten will allow the Early Learners Initiatives Departments to implement and support a challenging and standards-based curriculum across all content areas."

The executive summary from both state that an equity audit and teacher feedback made it "clear that our curriculum for our early learners needed improvement."

Additionally, \$81,568 from federal funds was approved with five companies to purchase classroom furniture and materials for early learner classes.

"A district priority is to expand preschool throughout the district and into elementary buildings," the proposal states. "As such, classroom furniture and other materials are

needed to ensure the new classrooms align with the district standard and offer an experience on par with existing classrooms.”

The board also voted 7-0 to approve \$17.4 million in itemized bills.

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Expense proposals in U-46 ratified via consent agenda

(This article appeared in the Examiner of South Elgin and Streamwood)

July 19, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved of \$4.9 million in expenditure proposals under its consent agenda on Monday, June 26.

The largest item was \$2.4 million for 23 speech language therapists split between 12 agencies, from \$65,000 with Cheryl Hoika to \$346,000 with Community Therapy.

That was among several items to be paid for by the nation’s taxpayers through grants which also includes \$479,900 (split between AMN Healthcare’s \$366,300 and Joyce Gronewold Educational Services’ \$113,600) for three psychologists, \$263,625 with AMN Healthcare for three social workers and \$171,597 with News2You/Unique Learning System for “curricular resources for K-12 students identified with mild to severe cognitive disabilities,” the proposal states.

Also, from federal grants is \$74,511 among five agencies (from School Specialty’s \$1,970 to AbleNet’s \$42,156) to purchase “essential adaptive items and equipment” for “students with moderate to profound disabilities,” the proposal states.

Additionally, there’s \$118,900 with Adelante Educational Specialists Group to audit the dual language program “to affirm some of our current practices and identify areas for growth within our program in order to ensure that we are best meeting the needs of our Dual Language students,” the proposal states.

From the education fund, approved was \$442,161 with the College Board for Advanced Placement exams for eligible high school students, \$168,000 with Northern Illinois University for the principal preparation program, \$150,000 with Northwest Evaluation Association for MAP tests, \$130,198 with the College Board for PSAT exams, \$129,251

with CDW-G for Microsoft licenses, \$109,120 with Learning Genie for a digital communication platform, \$75,561 with Global Datebooks for secondary student planners, \$59,146 with Riverside Insights for CogAT tests and \$30,000 with Language Testing International for Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages tests.

A lone operations and maintenance fund item was approved totaling \$38,835 with Armstrong Relocation to relocate furniture and other equipment from **Bartlett's Hawk Hollow Elementary School** as it undergoes renovations to be converted into a middle school.