Press Clippings - August 9, 2023

- The Chicago Tribune -

Elgin News Digest: Elgin Area School District U-46 welcomes new administrators

By: Mike Danahey Elgin Courier-News August, 08

As it readies for the start of the new school year Aug. 15, Elgin Area School District U-46 issued a news release announcing new and promoted administrators.

Here are those people and their respective roles, according to the release:

- Lela Majstorovic has been promoted to deputy superintendent of instruction. For the last two years, she served as assistant superintendent of schools.
- Frank Williams has been named Assistant Superintendent of Finance. Williams comes to U-46 from Mascoutah Community Unit School District 19, where he had served since 2015 as its chief financial officer.
- Mary Sturgill is now executive director of the South Elgin Network. She had been principal at Westmoor Elementary School in Northbrook School District 28 since 2016.
- Ryan Corcoran is now co-principal at Washington Elementary School in Elgin. Corcoran has been an educator in U-46 since 2017, and he has served as a resident administrator at Horizon Elementary in Hanover Park and Huff Elementary in Elgin over the last two years.
- Jeron Shelton is now principal at McKinley Elementary School in Elgin. Shelton started his career as an educator in U-46 16 years ago. He recently completed his second year as resident administrator for Clinton Elementary School in South Elgin.
- Anissa Upshaw-Lanotte is now co-principal at Highland Elementary School in Elgin. She spent the last four years as the assistant principal of Ridge Circle Elementary School in Streamwood.
- Richard Lebron is now principal of Tefft Middle School in Streamwood. He has more than 20 years of experience in education, including 17 years in School District U-46 and the last school year was the assistant principal at Tefft.
- Paige Moran is now Principal at Streamwood High School. Moran had served as the Assistant Principal of STEM at Streamwood High School since 2022.

To read the full article click <u>here</u>.

- The Examiner District U-46 pondering purchase of land parcels

By: Seth Hancock August 09, 2023

As enrollment continues to decline, School District U-46 is considering purchasing two properties to build more schools.

The Board of Education voted 7-0 to approve two letters of intent (LOI) to purchase parcels of property at its meeting on Monday, July 17. Both are in Elgin.

Included is 12.3 acres of undeveloped land off of Rohrssen Road which is adjacent to Hilltop Elementary School. The other property is land, between 5.4 and 5.9 acres of land, off of Center Street that's currently defined "as improved property in the form of roughly 592 parking spaces," the LOI states.

The values of the properties were not presented nor discussed by the board.

No decision on purchase is being made with the approval of the LOIs. Both state: "Both parties acknowledge that this letter constitutes a nonbinding letter of intent and that neither party shall be bound legally to the purchase and sale of the property until the execution and delivery of a formal Purchase and Sale Agreement by both parties."

The LOIs provide a 60-day due diligence period allowing U-46 to inspect the properties and an option to extend a second 60-day period. The LOIs state that closing is to "occur on or about thirty (30) days after the expiration of the due diligence period."

Ann Williams, deputy superintendent of operations, said the purchase would be "for future consideration for building new schools."

Both LOIs claim, in describing the district, that U-46 is "serving over 40,000 children," but that has not been the case since 2015. Last October, the district's enrollment figures showed total enrollment at 35,338 (a 2.1 percent drop from 36,107 in the 2021-2022 school year).

The 2022-2023 school year was the eighth straight year of spending increases with enrollment declines. Spending has increased 62 percent, under the 2022-2023 budget, and

enrollment declined 13.5 percent since 2012.

There were no questions from the board.

- The Examiner -U-46 budget dates slated among ratified resolutions

By: Seth Hancock August 09, 2023

The Board of Education in School District U-46 set budget dates for the 2023-2024 fiscal year at its Monday, July 17 meeting.

By a 7-0 vote, the board approved a resolution for the display and public hearing of the budget. A tentative budget is expected to be presented to the board on Aug. 21, and a public hearing and expected vote on the budget is planned for Sept. 11.

It was among several resolutions and policy changes approved unanimously that evening.

The policy change approved was to Policy 4:55 pertaining to use of credit and procurement cards. The change expands the usage of such cards "in order to adjust to inflation," said Ann Williams, deputy superintendent for operations.

Included is a change to increase the limit, from \$500 to \$700, that a cardholder can purchase on a single purchase without prior approval.

There is added language that allows the issuance to the superintendent of a "high-limit District credit or procurement card, the limit of which will be established with the issuing bank, for use during an emergency or in exigent situations."

Also added: "District credit or procurement cards may be issued to a Department to be used by members of the executive cabinet only for group travel and expenses (e.g. field trips, professional development)."

A resolution was approved for the list of authorized depositories, which handle the district's investments. That list will remain the same this year: PMA Securities, the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund, JP Morgan Chase and Co. and Fifth Third Bancorp.

A mutual use agreement with Centre Court Athletic Club, part of the park district of Hanover Park, was also approved. "

In April of 2023, Centrecourt Athletic Club reached out to School District U-46 with the intent to secure use of the Bartlett High School tennis courts in exchange for the use of their athletic facilities by U-46 athletics," the proposal states. "The terms were agreed upon for the mutual use of Bartlett High School's tennis courts during the summer of 2023 in exchange for use of Centrecourt Athletic Club's indoor tennis courts during the 2023-2024 school year."