

# Press Clippings - 9/27/2023

## - Chicago Tribune -

### District U-46 board green-lights plans to build one new middle school, expand two others in Elgin area

By: Mike Danahey

Sep 26, 2023



Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin will be expanded under a building plan approved Monday by the District U-46 School Board. (Calvin Shirley)

The **District U-46** School Board signed off Monday on a proposal to move ahead with several Elgin-area school building projects, tentatively approving construction management contracts for two of them.

Under the plan, Kimball Middle School in Elgin and Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin will be expanded, a new Elgin middle school will be built on land at 2604 Rohrssen Road, and Ellis and Abbott middle schools in Elgin will close at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Contracts expected to be approved by the board Oct. 2 will pay Oakbrook Terrace-based International Contractors Inc. \$5.1 million to oversee the work at Kenyon Woods school and Gilbane Building Co., of Chicago, \$5 million to do the same with the Kimball addition and the new middle school.

Kenyon Woods is expected to cost between \$40 million and \$60 million and Kimball

between \$30 and \$40 million.

“With the size and scope of the projects that we have that will be coming on board over the next few years, it warrants a higher level of monitoring and guidance. And for that reason we recommended construction management firms,” Deputy Superintendent for Operations Ann Williams told the board.

International Contractors already is overseeing the \$45 million conversion of Hawk Hollow Elementary School in Bartlett into a middle school that will roughly double its size.

The new middle school on Rohrssen Road, adjacent to Hilltop Elementary School, is to be built on 12.4 acres of undeveloped land at a price of \$90 million to \$130 million. No construction manager has been selected yet for that job.

Because of the construction work needed, the plan to move all sixth-graders into the middle school system will be postponed to the 2026-27 academic year.

U-46 Chief of Staff Brian Lindholm told the school board last week that it was urgent members make decisions on the projects being discussed because of the long lead times, supply chain issues and rising costs associated with construction.

The building projects come from recommendations made by the Unite U-46 steering committee, which were adopted last year by the board. A referendum approved by voters in April allows the district to issue \$179 million in school building bonds to help finance some of the work.

District reserve money and a 3% property tax increase next year also will help pay for school construction work and other renovation and maintenance needs included on a long list of projects to be carried out over the next few years.

For someone with a home valued at \$300,000, the property tax increase will add about \$168 to the portion of the bill paid to the district, officials said.

On Monday, board members also approved a new \$775.3 million budget for 2023-24, which is \$48.8 million more than the 2022-23 spending plan.

All told, the district plans to spend \$111 million on capital projects in the current fiscal year,

about \$50 million more than was spent last year.

Property taxes remain the chief source of district funding although a projected \$21 million increase in evidence-based state funding and an additional \$12 million in investment income will help, officials said.

To view the 2023-24 budget, go to [info.u-46.org/FY24BudgetBook](http://info.u-46.org/FY24BudgetBook).

## **- The Examiner - Software, SRO contracts approved by U-46 board**

**By: Seth Hancock**

**Sep 27, 2023**

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** unanimously approved, via 7-0 votes, of a contract for school resource officers (SRO) as well as another for Microsoft software at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 11.

The SRO contracts will total \$1.2 million, from the education fund, with the villages of Bartlett, South Elgin and Streamwood as well as the City of Elgin for school resource officers (SRO) at the district's secondary schools.

The contracts include 14 total SROs, eight for middle schools and six for high schools. The total cost is an increase of 5 percent from last year.

It includes seven Elgin officers totaling \$545,662 (hourly overtime rate of \$71), three from Streamwood totaling \$251,620 (overtime \$73.81), two from South Elgin totaling \$200,759 (overtime \$76.14) and two from Bartlett totaling \$155,408 (overtime \$56.04).

The SROs are "in the interest of promoting, maintaining a safe, secure, and nurturing school learning environment that is flexible in meeting the academic, social, and emotional needs of each student, staff, and visitor," the proposal states.

The proposal adds: "The goal of the program is to create a safe school environment, while providing a law enforcement resource to school administrators, teachers, students and parents. The School Resource Officer will not enforce school rules, policy or discipline, but instead will serve the recommended TRIAD roles of: 1) Law Enforcement; 2) Teacher and;

3) Informal Counselor/Mentor.”

As for the Microsoft software, the contract renewal costs \$25,679 (education fund), a 6.3 percent increase from last year, with Unified Business Solutions. The software “is used for the purchasing and financial reporting for the district,” the proposal states. Additionally, the board voted 7-0 to approve \$15 million in itemized bills.

## **- The Examiner -**

### **U-46 students recognized for problem solving skills**

**By: Seth Hancock**

**Sep 27, 2023**

The **Board of Education in School District U-46**, at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 11, recognized 15 students for their success in problem solving competitions.

All 15 won competitions at the Illinois Future Problem Solving Bowl last April in Bloomington-Normal, and 11 went on to win the Community Problem Solver category at the Future Problem Solvers International Competition in June at the University of Massachusetts. Ellen Smith, a fourth grade teacher at Streamwood’s Glenbrook Elementary School, coached at the state competition while Madhuri Ganne and Uma Sangam, parent volunteers, coached at the international competition.

The 11 students who won at the international event were Bartlett High School’s Yuwan Ganne, Nishi Sheth, Jaivir Singh, Krish Soni and Katelyn Wong along with Elgin High School’s Mannat Ashta, Michelle Cardozo, Veer Gupta, Risha Lakkadi and Svanik Yachavaram and Andrew Punnoose of Elgin’s Larsen Middle School

At the state competition, four students received the Bucky Award including Punnoose, Sophia Lee and Zinnia Saher of Larsen and Aiken Navarro of Elgin’s Ellis Middle School.

The Bucky Award is “named for architect and inventor Buckminster Fuller,” said Superintendent Suzanne Johnson, and is awarded “for their creative and futuristic solution to a problem.”

Saher also placed first in the middle level and Bartlett’s Neda Bazys first at the senior level for the Global Issue Problem Solving individual competition at state.

The competitions are connected to Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) which is “an organization that seeks to develop the ability of young people to design and

achieve positive futures through problem solving using critical and creative thinking,” Johnson said.

FPSPi’s website states: “Future Problem Solving (FPS) teaches a unique six-step problem solving process which can be applied in the real world, in local and global communities, as well as in future societies. This six-step model teaches critical and creative thinking, problem solving, and decision making. Coaches and Teachers can teach the FPS problem solving model to their students in a classroom setting, in an after school program, or at home for home schoolers.”

## **- The Examiner -**

### **Bartlett varsity golf team wins Upstate Eight tournament**

**Sep 27, 2023**



Bartlett golf teams medalists, from left to right: Travis Kasuba (JV), Robby Coyne, Jayden Patel, Daniel Ryniec and Dylan Petras (JV). (Courtesy photo)

On Wednesday, Sept. 20, at St. Andrews Golf & Country Club in West Chicago, the **Bartlett High School** varsity golf team won the Upstate Eight Conference tournament. Bartlett had three of the top 10 medalists with junior, Daniel Ryniec, leading the field with a round of 78. Senior Jayden Patel placed third and junior Robby Coyne, was sixth.

The team placed second overall in the Upstate Eight Conference during the season. Bartlett’s JV team also had medalists in the JV Upstate Eight conference tournament with Travis Kasuba placing first and Dylan Petras fifth.

# - Chicago Tribune -

## Paul Johnson's Aurora-Elgin area boys soccer rankings and player of the week

By: Paul Johnson

Sep 27, 2023



Elgin's Eduardo Nava (25) and St. Charles North's Daniel Brown (11) battle for the ball during a game in the Streamwood Fall Classic at Elgin on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Marmion moves past West Aurora behind **Elgin** at the top of the rankings, while Oswego East's record-setting Javier Ruiz is the player of the week.

### Top 10

*With records through Tuesday and previous rankings in parentheses.*

#### 1. **Elgin** 9-2 (1)

Maroons have won four straight. Eduardo Nava is up to 16 goals this season.

#### 2. Marmion 9-1-3 (5)

Giovanni Magana helps Cadets push winning streak to five straight games.

#### 3. West Aurora 13-2 (2)

Blackhawks lose first two games of season but rebound with 4-1 win over Joliet Central.

#### 4. **Streamwood** 10-3-2 (3)

AJ Sabanovic scores two goals in 6-0 win over Glenbard South to get Sabres back on track.



5. Oswego East 8-4-2 (8)

Wolves pick up signature 2-0 win Tuesday over conference rival Oswego.

6. St. Charles East 10-5 (4)

Aiden Maloney scores pair of goals Tuesday as Saints top Batavia 6-2.

7. St. Charles North 9-5 (7)

Walter Delapaz is up to 11 goals this season for the North Stars.

8. Oswego 12-5-1 (9)

Panthers went 9-1 in last 10 games before Tuesday's 2-0 loss to Oswego East.

9. **Larkin** 9-2 (10)

Royals put together three straight wins after two-game losing streak.

10. Dundee-Crown 10-4 (6)

Following three-game win streak, Chargers suffer unexpected 4-2 loss to Jacobs.

Player of the Week

Senior goalkeeper Javier Ruiz sets program record with his 17th career shutout for Oswego East in Tuesday's 2-0 win over crosstown rival Oswego.

## - Chicago Tribune -

### **Rick Armstrong's Aurora-Elgin area football rankings and players of the week**

**By: Rick Armstrong**

**Sep 26, 2023**



St. Charles North quarterback Ethan Plumb (10) looks for an open receiver against Batavia during a DuKane Conference game in St. Charles on Friday, Sept. 15, 2023. (Mark Black/The Beacon-News)  
Showdown at top looms between Batavia and Geneva, while Sandwich and Aurora Christian return to

rankings. St. Charles North's Ethan Plumb and Batavia's Charles Osborne are the players of the week.

### Top 10

With records through Sunday and previous rankings in parentheses.

1. Batavia 4-1 (1)

First place will be on the line Friday at Geneva for 105th meeting between rivals.

2. Geneva 5-0 (2)

Vikings hold 51-48-5 lead in series with Bulldogs. Both are 3-0 in DuKane Conference.

3. **South Elgin** 5-0 (4)

4. St. Charles North 3-2 (5)

Ethan Plumb throws for 404 yards, four TDs as North Stars prevail in overtime.

5. Oswego 4-1 (3)

Brett Connolly throws 44-yard TD pass to Michael Kelly in 10-7 loss to Plainfield North.

6. West Aurora 5-0 (9)

Terrence Smith catches six passes for 155 yards and a TD in 17-14 win over Yorkville.

7. Kaneland 3-2 (6)

Aric Johnson tallies eight catches for 214 yards, three TDs in 49-14 rout of Ottawa.

8. Waubonsie Valley 3-2 (7)

Unbeaten Upstate Eight Conference leaders meet Friday as Storm plays Glenbard South. Chrisjan Simmons runs for 119 yards, three TDs for Warriors in 28-0 win over Metea Valley.

9. Sandwich 4-1 (NR)

Braden Behringer throws two TD passes vs. Johnsburg, gets Sandwich closer to playoffs.

10. Aurora Christian 4-1 (NR)

Eagles dominate Bishop McNamara 51-0, move one win from playoff eligibility.

### Offensive Player of the Week

Junior quarterback Ethan Plumb steps up big for St. Charles North in 42-35 overtime win over Wheaton Warrenville South. Besides his passing totals, he also ran for a TD.

### Defensive Player of the Week

Junior defensive back Charles Osborne makes a team-high 14 tackles for Batavia in a big 23-17 DuKane Conference victory over Wheaton North.



