

Press Clippings - 10/25/2023

- Chicago Tribune -

U-46 board ready to ink more than \$208M in contracts to build one new school, renovate/expand two others

By: Mike Danahey

Oct 24, 2023

District U-46 School Board members are planning to sign off on contracts worth more than a combined \$208.4 million related to the construction of one new school and the renovation/expansion of two others.

George Sollitt Construction Co. of Wood Dale will be paid \$52.4 million for the work needed to convert **Hawk Hollow Elementary School** in Bartlett into a middle school for up to 750 students in grades 6 through 8.

“I was actually gratified a little bit to look at these six bids (the district received for the project), and (see) they weren’t actually that far off from each other,” board member Kate Thommes said. “So that lends credence to believing that we got a good deal.”

Sollitt is to renovate 58,000 square feet of existing space and add another 92,000 square feet, according to documents provided for Monday’s meeting.

Each grade will have its own science lab, grade-level teacher planning space and flex teaching space. The addition will house a new library, gym, auxiliary gym and cafetorium with a full-service kitchen and new rooms for culinary arts and music programs will be created.

Work is expected to be completed by July 2025.

Contracts will also be inked with DLA Architects of Itasca to design a new middle school on 12.4 acres at 2604 Rohrsen Road and to draft plans to renovate and expand **Kimball Middle School** at 451 N. McLean Blvd. Both locations are in Elgin.

U-46 officials estimate the new school will cost about \$100 million to build and the Kimball project about \$56 million. Both are expected to be completed by July 2026.

All three contracts were tentatively agreed to Monday and will be formally approved at the board's Nov. 6 meeting.

Deputy Superintendent of Operations Ann Williams told the board that each of the Elgin middle schools would hold up to 1,125 students. The addition at **Kimball** is to add 47,000 square feet to the building and the new school will have about 100,000 square feet of space.

DLA would receive 6.5% of the final cost of the new school project and 7.85% of the final cost for **Kimball**.

"Renovations typically cost more because of the amount of work entailed when you're going into an existing structure and updating and modifying it," Williams said. "I negotiated really hard for the new middle school because of the large dollar amount."

Board member Dawn Martin said it is not uncommon to see lower fees for architectural services on new construction projects compared to renovations and additions.

At the Nov. 6 meeting, the board also will hold a work session about selling \$35 million in bonds as well as using a portion of the \$179 million in voter-approved bonds for the construction work. The latter was approved in an April referendum.

A public hearing and more discussion about the \$35 million bond issuance will be on the agenda of the board's Nov. 13 meeting. Formal approval is expected at the board's Nov. 20 meeting.

Of the referendum bonds, Williams said the first \$62 million will be issued in January or early February, depending on market conditions. By law, the district has until April 2028 to issue all of the \$179 million in referendum bonds, she said.

- The Examiner -

Expense items approved by Dist. U-46 board vote

By: Seth Hancock
October 25, 2023

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved, of \$11.7 million in expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 2.

The largest items were construction management agreements with International Contractors (ICI), costing \$5.1 million or 5.1 percent of the total project cost, and with Gilbane Building Company (GBC), costing \$5 million or 5 percent of the total project cost. Both will be paid for

through the capital projects fund.

ICI will be providing construction management for an addition project at South Elgin's **Kenyon Woods Middle School** and GBC for an addition at Elgin's **Kimball Middle School**. "The size and scope of those projects warrant a higher level of monitoring and guidance thus, a construction management firm is recommended," both proposals state.

The proposals add: "Construction management firms provide managerial and logistics services. While they are responsible for all aspects of construction, construction management is most beneficial in the planning and pre-construction phases of projects. Construction managers are able to compress the steps of a conventional construction process resulting in accelerated schedules and reduced costs."

A three-year contract renewal with Automatic Building Controls (ABC) costing \$973,232 (operations and maintenance fund) was approved.

ABC is the district's service provider at 35 buildings for servicing and repairing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems.

Costing \$357,500, paid for by the nation's taxpayers through grant funds, the board approved a one-year contract renewal with One Hope United to provide additional preschool slots within the childcare facility," the proposal states.

A proposal with Peters Electric and Technology was approved costing \$193,391 (operations and maintenance fund). It paid for work completed in August.

The proposal stated that "additional support was required... to physically inspect, repair and ensure that no incompatible LED lightbulbs were installed in light fixtures districtwide prior to the start of school." District staff inspected and repaired at elementary and three middle schools while Peters "completed inspections at the remaining middle and high schools."

The purchase of two new Gators to replace older equipment from 2005 was approved from AHW, LLC costing \$51,368 (operations and maintenance fund). The equipment is used for snow removal and includes snow plows and salt spreaders.

Also approved by a 7-0 unanimous vote was \$2 million in itemized bills.

- The Examiner -

Bartlett High students named in NMSC program

By: Seth Hancock

October 25, 2023

Four **Bartlett High School** seniors have been named semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Raiyan Hasan, Bailey Jones, Macy Medendorp and Arav Patel are the Bartlett semifinalists among 16,000 seniors across the country. School District U-46 made the announcement last Monday, Oct. 16 in a press release.

“The **U-46** students placed among the top 1 percent juniors nationwide who entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) which served as the initial screening,” the district release stated. “To be declared a semifinalist, students must have an outstanding academic record through high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test.”

The release added: “To become a finalist, the students will need to submit a detailed scholarship application including information about their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. Drawing from the group of finalists, National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in stages starting in April 2024.”

The **U-46** seniors are competing for one of 7,140 scholarships totaling nearly \$28 million from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which was established in 1955.

“The mission of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is to recognize and honor the academically talented students of the United States. NMSC accomplishes its mission by conducting nationwide academic scholarship programs,” the NMSC website states.

The goals of the program, the website states, includes promoting a “wider and deeper respect for learning,” spotlighting “brilliant students” and stimulating “increased support from individuals and organizations that wish to sponsor scholarships for outstanding scholastic talent.”

- The Examiner -

Sabres soccer secure regional title with 6-0 win

By: Seth Hancock

October 25, 2023

The **Streamwood** soccer team advanced to this week’s Round Lake Sectional after taking home the regional crown on their home field.

The No. 2 Sabres came through in the clutch for a 3-1 overtime victory over No. 15 Hononegah in

the semifinals on Tuesday, Oct. 17 then made easy work of No. 7 Grant with a 6-0 win on Saturday, Oct. 20 in the Streamwood Regional title game.

Entering the postseason, the Sabres were undefeated in six of its last seven games to gain some confidence. Streamwood also got their two top defenders, Alex Alcala and Trey Yi, back for the playoffs after missing the last few games of the regular season due to injuries.

“When we’re 100 percent, team’s better watch out,” said **Streamwood** coach Matt Polovin.

Streamwood keeper Issac Morales, who had one save against Grant and three against Hononegah, said: “We feel confident. Mentally, we’re 100 percent and we’re going in ready for every single game.”

Luis Vega had two goals and an assist in the title game. A.J. Sabanovic and Merced Availa had first half goals, both assisted by Jairo Sanchez, and both Andy Benitez and Jose Pena found the net with Josue Lopez adding a helper.

The regional crown is the first since 2018 for the Sabres.

“Coach Polovin has been pushing us through the whole season, guiding us all season,” Sabanovic said. “So, props to him and props to the team all around from the defense to the goalie to the midfielders and all our forwards. We’ve got a great team all-around.”

Sabanovic and Sanchez both had a goal and assist against Hononegah, and Max Galvan also found the net.

Both teams scored in the second half for a 1-1 tie at the end of regulation. The Sabres scored in each of the required two overtime periods in postseason play.

Streamwood is 15-4-4 and will play host No. 6 Round Lake in the sectional semifinals.

- Chicago Tribune -

Aaron Saldana prefers to pass. Eduardo Nava loves to score goals. It works wonders for Elgin. ‘It’s natural.’

By: Paul Johnson

Oct 24, 2023



Elgin's Aaron Saldana (8) battles for a bouncing ball against Huntley's Hudson Nielsen (10) during a Class 3A Round Lake Sectional semifinal on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena/The Beacon-News)

Junior midfielder Aaron Saldana has embraced his role all season as **Elgin's** setup man.

The best scorers on the field often create their own offense, but sometimes, they need a wingman. Saldana has been that for Eduardo Nava, the Maroons' leader in goals.

"We don't play together a lot," Saldana said. "We only play together during high school season. I guess it's natural for us, the highest level of play. We bring it on the field.

"We connect together, and it works all the time."

It worked again Tuesday night as Nava, a senior forward, scored a hat trick and **Elgin** rolled to a 4-1 victory over Huntley in the Class 3A Round Lake Sectional semifinals.

Saldana was part of a combination that got the ball ahead to Nava for the game's first goal and his corner kick set up Nava's second goal for the top-seeded Maroons (15-3-3).

Nava pushed his season total for goals to 36. Saldana is up to 19 assists. Alberto Gaytan added a goal for **Elgin**, which will play host Round Lake (16-5-1) at 6 p.m. Friday for the sectional title. The Panthers topped Streamwood 1-0 in the other semifinal.

Despite playing for different club teams, Nava and Saldana have created a seamless connection.



Elgin's Eduardo Nava, right, celebrates after scoring a goal off a corner kick assisted by Aaron Saldana, left, during a Class 3A Round Lake Sectional semifinal on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena/The Beacon-News)

“It’s natural for them,” **Elgin** coach Jimmy Romano said. “They have high-level soccer IQ. Instincts kick in, and they know how each other plays and they play off that.”

Jayden Plancarte played the ball ahead to Saldana to set up the first goal with 29 minutes left in the first half. The goalkeeper for Huntley (16-6-1) came out of the net, but Nava put a quick touch on the ball to slide it home.

Saldana is **Elgin’s** specialist on corner kicks, and that produced the second goal with 1:28 left in the first half. Instead of aiming high for a header, the duo had a quick conversation in Spanish.

Saldana fired a ground ball from the corner, with Nava popping up to punch it in.

“I asked him what we’re doing because we have codes,” Nava said. “I was the only one that heard him in Spanish. I went in first, shot it bottom left.”

The fast start was something Romano wanted.



Elgin's Eduardo Nava (25) volleys the ball against Huntley during a Class 3A Round Lake Sectional semifinal on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena/The Beacon-News)

“That was the game plan,” Romano said. “I’ve been telling them, ‘We need to get out early. We need to get out in front. We need to keep the momentum going.’ They did it.”

Saldana knows how fortunate he is to have a quality player in Nava to pass to every time.

“It’s very good for me,” Saldana said. “I like to play a good ball, and he’s always there when I pass it to him. It’s good having him on the field with me.”

Nava added a penalty kick in the second half.

“Teams are trying to defend him, but if you give him a little bit of space, he’s finding the back of the net,” Romano said of Nava. “He’s red-hot right now.”

Romano said Saldana’s role has increased as a this year — and the assists only tell part of the story.



Elgin's Aaron Saldana (8) cuts back as Huntley's Elias Ramon (3) pressures the ball during a Class 3A Round Lake Sectional semifinal on Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2023. (Mark Kodiak Ukena/The Beacon-News)

“Aaron has good vision,” Romano said. “Last year, he was only a sophomore, and we had a lot more help all around. This role this year, he’s stepped up in that way to provide a lot of assists and spread the ball and be a leader.

“He’s a phenomenal player. He’s very good. His stats shine with the assists but also little details like maintaining possession. He stepped up and took on the role of a lot of the main players we lost from last year.”

Elgin also went through a rough patch but has emerged on the other end.

“We got back to where we were at or even higher,” Saldana said. “We don’t care who we’re playing. We feel good about the way we’re playing.”