

Press Clippings - 11/01/2023

- Chicago Tribune -

Elgin News Digest: U-46 to replace playgrounds at 5 elementary schools

By: Mike Danahey

Oct 31, 2023

U-46 to replace playgrounds at 5 elementary schools

The **District U-46** School Board has approved spending more than \$385,000 to replace playgrounds at five elementary schools.

New playsets designed for children ages 5 to 12 are to be installed at Bartlett Elementary in Bartlett, Fox Meadow in South Elgin, Ronald D. O'Neal in Elgin and Spring Trail in Carol Stream, according to a board memo. The playset at Huff Elementary in Elgin will be for children ages 2 to 5 to support the school's Pre-K program, officials said.

All five sets of equipment are expected to be installed sometime prior to the end of the current school year.

To read the full article please click [here](#).

- The Examiner -

U-46 Board set to vote on \$53.7 million in expenses

By: Seth Hancock

November 1, 2023

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** is set to vote on \$53.7 million in expenditure items at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Nov. 6.

The proposals were presented on Oct. 23.

The largest item is \$52.4 million, from the capital projects fund if approved, to George Sollitt Construction Company for the additions and renovations to convert Bartlett's Hawk Hollow from an

elementary to middle school.

“The project consists of renovation of the existing 58,000 sq. ft. Hawk Hollow Elementary School, plus a 92,000 sq. ft. new building addition for the middle school program,” the proposal states. “Upon completion, there will be space for 6th-8th grade students. Each grade will have dedicated science labs, grade-level teacher planning spaces, and flex teaching spaces. The addition will include a new library, new gymnasium, auxiliary gym, and cafetorium with a full-service kitchen. Additional classrooms will include Culinary Arts, Music, Band, and Choral rooms.”

Related to projects to be partially funded by new debt approved by voters are two agreements with DLA Architects for architectural services for an addition and renovations at Elgin’s Kimball Middle School and to construct a new middle school in Elgin off Rohrssen Road.

No exact numbers were given, but DLA will be paid 7.85 percent of the cost of work for the Kimball project and 6.5 percent for the new middle school which have respective “conceptual all-in budget” costs of \$56 million and \$100 million listed in the DLA agreement. That would put the DLA payments at \$439,600 and \$650,000 for the respective projects.

A \$675,829 (education fund) bid with DHE Computer Systems is to replace staff laptops that were distributed during covid lockdowns, a \$176,433 (school safety funds) proposal with Alpha Prime Communications is to replace two-way radios and a \$119,849 (operations and maintenance fund) with Peters Electric and Technology is to conduct emergency lighting inspections across the district.

Contract renewals with TNT Landscape Construction for snow removal services (\$171,465, operations and maintenance fund) and MusicFirst Classroom for secondary music resources (\$51,397, education fund) as well as a contract extension with MDQ14Kids for professional development (\$19,200, Title I funds) were also presented.

The board will also vote on a contract renewal of a mutual-use of facilities agreement with Judson University.

- The Examiner -

Pending IASB resolutions reviewed by Dist. U-46 board

By: Seth Hancock
November 1, 2023

At its meeting on Monday, Oct. 23, the Board of Education in **School District U-46** was presented with resolutions to be voted on at the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) conference later

this month.

The IASB is a taxpayer funded lobbyist organization for government-run schools.

Sue Kerr, the board's president, said the board will select a representative and discuss the resolutions at its Nov. 6 meeting. The resolutions represent what the IASB plans to lobby for in the coming year.

There are two new resolutions that an IASB resolution committee recommends adopting, according to an IASB document.

Included is a resolution that seeks "legislation providing educational funding to all school districts to offset the cost of a school resource officer (SRO)," the document stated.

The IASB has long rejected calls for local control from largely rural districts unable to afford or obtain SROs who sought to allow staff to be armed. However, the IASB supports Illinois taxpayers paying for SROs for local districts.

Another resolution recommended for adoption by the resolution committee is one that seeks to eliminate bus driver regulations and liability requirements that took effect this year that is believed to be causing driver shortages.

"The committee agreed that the bus driver shortage is affecting most school districts and trying to find a way to help alleviate that is important," the IASB document stated regarding the resolution committee's recommendation to adopt. "The committee felt that helping to ease the requirements and training to become a bus driver will help to improve the shortage that districts are facing."

Three other resolutions will be voted on at the IASB conference, but the resolution committee recommends against adoption. Included is one seeking to prohibit industrial facilities near schools, one seeking to use the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services for employment history reviews and one seeking for new funds for regional alternative safe schools.

There were other resolutions that the resolution committee recommended not presenting at the conference.

- Chicago Tribune -

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

By: Rick Armstrong

Oct 31, 2023



Batavia's Chase Osborne (20), Kameron McLeod (54) and Josh Kahley (23) bring down Wheaton North's Rich Schilling (4) during a DuKane Conference game in Batavia on Friday, Sept. 22, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Sandwich and West Aurora enter rankings topped by Batavia, while Kaneland's Dominick DeBlasio and Plano's Logan Scheich are the players of the week.

Top 10

With records through Sunday and previous rankings in parentheses.

1. Batavia 9-1 (1)

Chase Osborne tallies 12 tackles, Bulldogs limit Brother Rice to 100 total yards.

2. Geneva 8-2 (2)

Senior defensive lineman Rocco DiLeonardi commits this week to Division I St. Thomas.

3. **South Elgin** 9-1 (3)

Stewart Williams Jr. returns punt for TD, intercepts pass to lift Storm into second round.

4. Kaneland 7-3 (6)

Tony DeBlasio's sixth interception of season on first drive gets Knights off to fast start.

5. Aurora Christian 8-2 (10)

Eagles snap streak of first-round playoff losses at three with 38-7 win over Gibson City.

6. Yorkville 6-4 (4)

Foxes take early lead on Luke Zook's TD run but Willowbrook answers in 21-13 decision.

7. St. Charles North 6-4 (5)

Bradley-Bourbonnais' Ethan Kohl passes for two TDs, runs for three in 38-21 win.

8. Oswego 6-4 (7)

Jeremija Hixson produces two sacks, blocks punt to spark Warren in 39-3 win.

9. Sandwich 7-3 (NR)

Simeion Harris runs for 215 yards, Nick Michalek adds 177 in 49-34 win over Ridgewood.

10. West Aurora 5-5 (NR)

Terrence Smith catches 18 passes for 216 yards, both TDs, in 35-14 loss at Edwardsville.

Offensive Player of the Week

Senior wide receiver/running back Dominick DeBlasio accounts for five TDs for Kaneland in 56-20 win over Riverside-Brookfield. DeBlasio runs 14 times for 150 yards and four TDs and catches five passes for 100 yards and a TD.

Defensive Player of the Week

Plano senior linebacker Logan Scheich had 13 tackles, including one for loss, in a 10-7 first-round playoff loss to Dixon, which entered the game averaging 39 points.

- The Examiner -

Sabres soccer season ends with tough sectional loss

By: Seth Hancock

November 1, 2023

The **Streamwood** soccer team saw its season end in the Round Lake Sectional semifinals as the No. 2 Sabres fell 1- 0 to No. 6 Round Lake on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

Streamwood had plenty of scoring chances, but it was an own-goal less than five minutes into the second half that held up as a hard Round Lake shot deflected off a Sabres defender into the net.

“Overall, I was happy with the way we played because it was dominating from the beginning of the game but very frustrated in such a big game and getting 10 to 12 chances to score goals in the first half and coming away with nothing shouldn’t happen at that point of the season,” said **Streamwood** coach Matt Polovin. “We had multiple chances in the second half as well, but their goalie was definitely their MVP for them. It’s a shame we give up an own goal and that’s how our season ends.”

Senior goalkeeper Issac Morales, an Upstate Eight Conference all-conference recipient, made five saves.

Despite the loss, the Sabres finished a strong 15-5-4 overall with a team of mostly juniors and sophomores with their first regional title since 2018, second place in the Barrington and **Streamwood** tournaments and tying nationally ranked Oak Park-River Forest during the season.

“Since we had a good number of sophomores and juniors, next season will be even better with the experience each will bring including getting on higher caliber club teams in the offseason,” Polovin

said. “So, they are ready to go again next fall and this time get back to the state finals. Next fall will be the 10th anniversary of the first time we had a team go to state, so it’s a perfect time to get back to the promise land of high school soccer.”

From the junior class, AJ Sabanovic and Alex Alcala were all-conference recipients.

Along with Morales, a transfer from Conant this season, the Sabres lose seniors Bryan Huerta and Trey Yi, both four-year varsity starters, Merced Avial and Andy Mendoza.

“They all will be missed,” Polovin said. “But like any new season, they will be replaced with excellent players filling those players’ shoes.”