

Press Clippings - 11/08/2023

- Chicago Tribune -

Nearly 30 schools in District U-46 deemed commendable in state Report Card, but 22 fall below standards

By: Mike Danahey

Nov 07, 2023



While 29 **District U-46** schools were deemed “commendable” in this year’s Illinois Report Card, 22 were cited as “comprehensive” or “targeted,” meaning improvement is needed in one or more areas.

The data was presented Monday night to the district school board, which was told additional funding and resources will be directed to those schools that are not meeting state expectations.

“(The Illinois State Board of Education) has identified clear next steps for (the targeted and comprehensive schools) and support to move student outcomes in a stronger direction, where all

students can show growth and increased proficiency in reading and math,” Assistant Superintendent of Schools Annette Acevedo told the board.

The report card evaluates every district in the state based on a number of factors, including test results. Schools can be rated “exemplary,” “commendable,” “targeted,” “comprehensive” or “intensive support.”

Exemplary schools are those performing in the top 10%, while those deemed commendable are meeting expectations. Targeted, comprehensive and intensive support schools receive additional funding and support to improve student outcomes, according to the state board of education.

The 15 targeted schools are Ellis and Kimball middle schools in Elgin, Century Oaks, Coleman, Creekside, Highland, Hillcrest, Huff, Lords Park, Lowrie, McKinley and Washington elementary schools in Elgin, Clinton Elementary in South Elgin and Heritage and Oakhill elementary schools in Streamwood.

Acevedo noted that all of the targeted schools have programs for children with disabilities. Kimball, Century Oaks and Washington were identified by the state for the number of Black students enrolled and Kimball and Century Oaks were identified as serving low-income neighborhoods.

Kimball was also flagged for its high number of English learners.

A comprehensive designation means one or more student groups are performing at or below the “all students” group of the lowest performing 5% of schools, according to the ISBE website.

It also includes schools that have completed a full four-year targeted support school improvement cycle, where the performance of one or more of the originally targeted student groups remains at or below the level of the “all students” group in the lowest-performing 5%, the site says.

Schools receiving the comprehensive designation were Abbott and Larsen middle schools in Elgin, Canton and Tefft middle schools in Streamwood, Channing and Ronald O’Neal elementary schools in Elgin, and Parkwood Elementary in Hanover Park.

The designation was new for Abbott and Channing, Acevedo said.

With the district in the midst of bringing its U-46 Rising Schools of Rigor and Equity initiative to all

schools, Acevedo said she felt confident improvements will be seen at the 22 schools cited as needing help by the state.

The new approach to the classroom stresses team learning and problem solving.

“It will not happen overnight, but I feel confident that we will start seeing a shift since we know it takes three to five years of focused and sustained effort to start seeing results,” Acevedo said.

- The Examiner -

U-46 details outlined for some capital project plans

By: Seth Hancock
November 8, 2023

New schools and renovations are among the major capital projects underway in **School District U-46**.

Recently, the Board of Education approved, on Monday, Nov. 6 a construction contract costing \$52.4 million to convert Hawk Hollow into a middle school as well as architectural contracts for a renovation project at Kimball Middle School and to construct a new middle school in Elgin off of Rohrssen Road. Additionally, items related to taking on \$35 million in new debt have been presented.

This is all part of a facility plan and study that has been in the works since 2020 which was aided by voters approving of new debt last spring.

On Sept. 25, the board approved of a resolution affirming the plans which described some of the work. “The Board of Education supports the Superintendent and U-46 administration in accepting the recommendations as presented during the September 18, 2023 special meeting of the Board of Education, specifically concerning the: plan to retire Abbott Middle School and Ellis Middle School after the 2025-2026 school year, updated timing for the transition of grade 6 to middle school to now occur in the 2026-2027 school year, initiation of design phase for construction of a new middle school, and initiation of design phase for additions at Kimball Middle School and Kenyon Woods Middle School,” the resolution stated.

The Sept. 18 special meeting referred to in the resolution described some of the projects already in the works.

The Hawk Hollow project is expected the break ground in February 2024. The project was approved and budgeted for with district reserves of prior to the debt referendum approval.

The planned new middle school in Elgin is estimated to cost \$90 million to \$130 million with plans for it to be ready by 2026-2027. Renovations at Kimball (\$40 million to \$60 million) and Kenyon Woods (\$30 million to \$40 million) are also estimated to be ready by 2026-2027.

The number of middle schools in the district would remain at eight when all is said and done with Hawk Hollow being converted and a new school built and the retiring of Abbott and Ellis middle schools after the 2025-2026 school year.

The total middle school capacity would be 6,975. Middle school enrollment is expected to drop, even with sixth grade being added, by an average of 144 a year from 7,062 in 2023-2024 to 5,622 in 2032-2033.

Elementary enrollment is expected to drop by nearly half from just under 20,000 in 2018 to around 11,000 in 2032. Other middle and elementary projects are planned, but nothing specific has been set yet.

- The Examiner -

Expense items passed by District U-46 board vote

By: Seth Hancock
November 8, 2023

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** voted 6-0, Veronica Noland was absent, to approve \$528,131 in expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 23.

The largest item is \$385,303, from the operations and maintenance fund, with Cunningham Recreation: Playcore to replace playground playsets at five elementary schools (Bartlett, Fox Meadow, Huff, Ronald D. O'Neal, Spring Trail).

The proposal states: "Plant Operations utilizes the Playground Inventory Index to replace playground equipment by tracking the age, type, and condition of the equipment, as well as repairs both required

and completed.... While these sites have multiple playsets on property, the playsets requiring replacement are between 22 and 29 years old, far exceeding the 15 to 20-year lifespan of a playground playset. These sets have become obsolete and parts are no longer available to replace certain key components of the structures.”

Two contract renewals with McGraw-Hill were presented, both education fund items.

The largest of the two is \$59,661 for a one-year renewal of licenses for the 11th-grade United States history and dual language United States history resource US History and GeographyModern Times. The other is a one-year license renewal costing \$56,538 for the 8th-grade United States history and dual language United States history resource Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States-Early Years.

Additionally, an operations and maintenance fund item costing \$26,629 with Peters Electric and Technology was presented. It was for emergency electrical repairs at Bartlett’s Liberty Elementary School that were already completed on Aug. 12.

The proposal stated that “electrical feeds that run underground... failed and an electrical service shutdown was required to replace them.”

“All five electrical mains were replaced at Liberty Elementary School prior to the start of the school year providing uninterrupted electrical service, allowing staff and students to be welcomed back to a fully operational, and a comfortable learning environment,” the proposal stated.

Also approved by a 6-0 vote was \$16.9 million in itemized bills.

- The Examiner -

Sabres football ends 2023 with 2-7 record in UEC

By: Seth Hancock
November 8, 2023

The **Streamwood** football team wrapped up the 2023 season going 2-7 overall and in the Upstate Eight Conference.

The Sabres’ wins were in a 20-12 victory over Elgin in Week 3 and a 30-14 win over Fenton in Week 8.

Week in and week out, Streamwood was generally the smaller team with fewer players. But Sabres coach Keith McMaster said that didn't deter his squad.

"Our team competed in most matchups," McMaster said. "Every week we were generally the underdog in terms of roster, size and skill set. But the kids played hard and never quit."

The team, that primarily consisted of juniors (12 total), has gained valuable varsity experience. The Sabres also had five sophomores.

"Having a smaller roster, the younger kids get a lot of opportunities to play," McMaster said. "This experience goes a long way along their journey. There will be some players that have one, two years varsity experience as underclassmen for next year. There are some good skill positions already set up and we're looking to retool the offensive line and defensive line somewhat. With the conference shaking things up a little this year, there's a chance to get more wins and hopefully a playoff berth next season."

Streamwood will lose 10 seniors. It will also have a new coach next season as McMaster resigned at the end of the season in order to spend more time watching his son play college hockey at DePaul in his senior year next season.

The Sabres' seniors include Oscar Villalpando, John Ray, Ihan Lopez, Noah Rodriguez, Taro Ishikawa, Alex Trimino, Ryen Gunnoe, Cris Marquez, Zack Mackowiak and Bob Crumlett.

"Again, the senior group played hard and never quit. But the word that most the other coaches used for this team was 'tough,'" McMaster said.

"These kids battled no matter the score and many played less than 100 [percent] for most of the season. Hopefully the kids next season take that toughness along with them, improve their skills and compete at an even higher level."

- Chicago Tribune -

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

By: Rick Armstrong

Nov 07, 2023



Batavia's Ryan Boe (21) signals a play against Lincoln-Way Central during the third quarter of a Class 7A second-round playoff game in Batavia on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Sandwich zooms up the rankings topped by Batavia and Geneva, while Geneva's Nate Stempowski and Batavia's Ben Brown are the players of the week.

Top 10

With records through Sunday and previous rankings in parentheses.

1. Batavia 10-1 (1)

Ryan Boe passes for 243 yards, three TDs in 45-17 win over Lincoln-Way Central.

2. Geneva 9-2 (2)

Tony Chahino, Michael Loberg, Troy Velez catch TD passes in 42-7 rout of Lake Forest.

3. Sandwich 8-3 (9)

Simeion Harris runs for 156 yards, two TDs, adds two receiving TDs in 54-6 rout of Dyett.

4. **South Elgin** 9-2 (3)

Ishmael George catches three TD passes, sets school's single-season mark with 20.

5. Kaneland 7-4 (4)

Knights miss defensive end/running back Josh Mauthe in 35-14 loss to Lake Zurich.

6. Aurora Christian 8-3 (5)

Hope avenges only loss of season in third week to conference rival Eagles.

7. Yorkville 6-4 (6)

Season over.

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

Season over.

9. Oswego 6-4 (8)

Season over.

10. West Aurora 5-5 (10)

Season over.

Offensive Player of the Week

Senior quarterback Nate Stempowski runs for 149 yards and throws for 114 yards and three touchdowns to lead Geneva to 42-7 rout of Lake Forest in second round of Class 6A playoffs. Stempowski only played half of the third quarter.

Defensive Player of the Week

Senior linebacker Ben Brown found a home for Batavia in Lincoln-Way Central's backfield Saturday during a 42-17 win in a Class 7A second-round playoff game. He had six tackles and five for loss, including three sacks. He also forced a fumble and had two quarterback.

- Daily Herald -

Boys soccer: Fox All-Area Team

By: Chris Walker

11/7/ 2023



St. Charles East's Logan Lewarchick is part of the Daily Herald's 2023 Fox Boys Soccer All-Area Team. (Sandy Bressner/Shaw Local News Network)

Fox All-Area Team

Player School Pos Year

Ali Ahmed Crystal Lake South F Jr.

Alvaro Alanis Marmion MF Sr.

Jack Bakey Huntley GK Sr.

Walter DelaPaz St. Charles North MF Sr.

Adrian Diaz **Larkin** F Sr.

*Nolan Getzinger Crystal Lake South MF Sr.

Trent Giansanti Geneva F Sr.

Ashton Kerrigan **South Elgin** F Sr.

Logan Lewarchick St. Charles East MF Sr.

Giovanni Magana Marmion MF Jr.

Eduardo Nava **Elgin** F Sr.

Stefano Nava St. Charles North D Sr.

Pas Ndayishimiye West Aurora D Jr.

Hudson Nielsen Huntley MF Sr.

Liam O'Donoghue Geneva MF Sr.

A.J. Sabanovic **Streamwood** F Jr.

Aaron Saldana **Elgin** MF Jr.

Roberto Salinas **Elgin** D Jr.

Power Selemani West Aurora F Jr.

Jake Walker St. Charles East D Sr.

*Fox All-Area Captain

Honorable mention

Alex Alcala, **Streamwood**, jr., Charlie Ames, Burlington Central, sr., Owen Armstrong, Jacobs, sr., Kaleb Boer, Burlington Central, sr., Stephen Boldt, Westminster Christian, sr., Jack Breunig, Huntley, sr., Jackson Carey, Hampshire, jr., Diego Flores, Dundee-Crown, jr., Michael Happ, Kaneland, sr., Pierce Johnson, Crystal Lake South, so., Sam Keen Kaneland, sr., Casey Kriz, St. Charles North, jr., Martin Leon, Dundee-Crown, sr., Reece Leonard, Geneva, jr., Mactzil Lopez, Marmion, sr., Shauri Mateso, West Aurora, sr., Jake McVey, Aurora Central, sr., Fran Montoya, Larkin, sr., Ryan Nguyen, **South Elgin**, sr., Kyle Nordengren, Cary-Grove, sr., Kyle Paler, Huntley, sr., Edgar Perez, **Elgin**, sr., Jordan Rolon, St. Charles East, sr., Adan Rueda, Bartlett, jr., Owen Stahl, Batavia, sr., Jonah Stueck, **South Elgin**, sr., Nevin Volarath, Jacobs, sr., Marcus Walker, St. Charles East, sr.

- Daily Herald -

This week's boys soccer Top 20

11/7/ 2023



Crystal Lake South's Nico Velasco celebrates his first half goal during the IHSA Class 2A state championship soccer match against Peoria Notre Dame on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at Hoffman Estates High School.

Boys soccer

Final

Team Comment

1. Crystal Lake South (22-4-1) Gators claim second 2A state title
2. Naperville North (22-2-3) Radeke-Stokes headline returning class
3. **Elgin** (16-3-3) One win from first state trophy
4. St. Charles East (19-8-0) Saints enjoyed memorable playoff run
5. Leyden (18-5-1) All-state MF Salgado led to sectional final
6. Palatine (20-1-3) Noga All-Area Cook captain
7. York (16-5-0) Attack will miss Glodz, Herrera, Waski
8. Round Lake (16-6-1) Jorgie Martinez earns All-State
9. Benet Academy (14-4-3) Nick Roe two-time All-State
10. Timothy Christian (18-7-0) One win away from 3rd straight state trophy
11. Stevenson (16-3-1) Bacher, Inthisone back to inspire Pats attack
12. Naperville Central (12-6-7) Senior Patrick Bohan All-State defender
13. Hinsdale Central (12-6-2) Scoring star Davies two-time All-State
14. Wauconda (13-3-2) Karsten Ternes All-Area Lake captain

15. Huntley (16-6-1) All-State MF Nielsen led FVC co-champs
16. **Streamwood** (15-5-4) Junior A.J. Sabanovic named All-State
17. Marmion (12-4-3) All-Stater Magana helps Cadets' move to 3A
18. West Aurora (19-4-0) Southwest Prairie champions
19. Lake Zurich (12-5-2) All-State senior Goldberg led NSC champs
20. Grayslake Central (12-5-0) Fein and Garcia-Perez both All-State