

Press Clippings 03-17-21

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U-46 hybrid students moving to full in-person classes after spring break

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy



Alma Luna is among the first students to arrive at South Elgin High School for first day of in-person learning in the transition program earlier this year. Elgin Area School District U-46 is moving to full in-person learning for students currently attending hybrid classes starting April 7. *Rick West | Staff Photographer*

Elgin Area School District U-46 students now attending under the hybrid plan will return to in-person classes five days a week after spring break, officials said.

The move comes on the heels of revised guidance from state health and education authorities relaxing social distancing rules from 6 feet to 3 feet for students and fully vaccinated school employees. Unvaccinated teachers are urged to remain 6 feet from students.

Superintendent Tony Sanders said an expanded in-person model is possible because 53% of U-46 students are learning remotely and will remain in that mode for the rest of the school year. The 47% of students who opted for hybrid instruction to start second semester will move to full in-person classes April 7.

Face coverings are required. Other factors being considered before schools can return to full in-person instruction include employee vaccinations, how many students can safely be accommodated with social distancing protocols, transporting no more than 50 students on a school bus, providing food service in cafeterias and possibly outdoors, and equitable instructional strategies.

Schools must continue contact-tracing and isolating suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases, but they don't have to screen for certain symptoms, such as congestion, runny nose and abdominal pain because there are too many false positives, according to health guidance, Sanders said.

"We've increased already and will continue to increase our schoolwide cleaning and disinfection," Sanders told the school board Monday. "We've increased the number of hand-washing stations across all schools and departments. The self-certification app that we've developed is still required by staff and students."

Sanders said students attending in person can switch to remote learning at any time, but the reverse would not be possible for remote learners.

Elementary students will switch to in-person classes for four hours Mondays and six hours daily Tuesday through Friday. Middle and high school students will attend in person Monday through Friday following traditional schedules, and similarly for students in the Dream Academy, Central School Programs and other special programs. Teachers simultaneously will instruct students learning in classrooms and remotely.

Employees are expected to return to schools April 6, which will be a remote learning day due to many schools being used as election polling sites. Of the district's roughly 6,800 employees, about 3,900 will be fully vaccinated by then.

For teachers and students, April 7 will be almost like the first day of school as they reestablish school culture and learning expectations, said Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction.

Social-emotional learning will be a key component of the daily schedule. Students might participate in whole or small group instruction, receive individualized coaching, participate in breakout rooms, work asynchronously, learn from prerecorded lessons or have access to instructional resources outside class time.

They will be allowed lunch and movement breaks. Remote and hybrid learners might not be required to be on screen for an entire class period.

"The dependency on technology-based learning will be diminished (for in-person students)," Johnson said. "The goal is to provide a better opportunity for engagement and connection between teachers and students. We will need to continue to provide even more resources and professional development and training with that. We have work to do as we make this shift. None of this has been easy."

Several school board members said parents and teachers are concerned about equity between in-person and remote instruction.

"(Teachers are) already overwhelmed trying to be sure that they're giving each of their students everything that they need. ... They are hanging by a thread," school board member Kate Thommes said. "I just want to be sure that we do everything we can to support them."

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved nine human resources (HR) resolutions at its meeting on Monday, March 8.

The annual resolutions were primarily for “honorable dismissal” resolutions said Ann Chan, assistant superintendent of HR. Also included were non-renewals and reclassifications.

In total, the resolutions effect 129 total staff including 117 teachers, eight administrators and four classified staff.

“In order to follow state guidelines that allow for staff dismissal up until 45 days before the end of the school year, the assistant superintendent of human resources annually presents personnel categories

that are eligible for possible dismissal," said Superintendent Tony Sanders.

Sanders added: "Depending on the budget situation and when programs and classes are determined for the next school year, some of these individuals may be rehired providing they have proper licensure. While the Board of Education takes this action very seriously, dismissal consideration is customary at this time of year in order to follow state requirements."

For teachers, there were 88 included in a resolution for honorable dismissal of teachers, 26 in non-renewal of first-year through third-year probationary teachers and three dismissals of final-year probationary teachers due to program closure.

There were two administrators each included in the non-renewal of administrative contracts and the honorable dismissal of non-certified administrators, non-renewal of administrative contracts and re-assignment of tenured administrators due to restructuring of certain administrator positions and non-renewal of administrative contracts of first-year through third-year non-tenured certified administrators. There was one non-renewal of a non-certified administrator and one non-renewal of administrative contract and notice of intent to reclassify tenured principals and assistant principals.

For classified staff, all four were honorable dismissals of educational support personnel for funded projects.

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, of \$312,695 in expenditure proposals including an equity audit at its meeting on Monday, March 8.

The equity audit will cost taxpayers \$163,250, which will be paid for through the "education" fund, with Curriculum Management Solution.

The goal is to "identify institutional policies and practices that either advertently or inadvertently create discriminatory trends in data that negatively affect student outcomes," according to the proposal.

The proposal states: "We will use the findings from the equity audit to inform our work across every layer of the organization including, but not limited to: professional development, curriculum and teaching resources, hiring and retention practices, and equitable allocation of resources to meet the goals established by the Equity Committee."

U-46 openly opposes equality in favor of equity. It defines equality as "giving all students the same support" and equity as "supporting each student according to their need."

Additionally, taxpayers will pay \$65,000 (education fund) for a part-time website consultant, Ellen Kamps. The one-year contract states that Kamps will work between 15 and 30 hours a week.

A contract with Workforce Software was approved costing \$49,945 (education fund) for annual support and licensing updates as was a project with High Efficiency Professional Abatement, Inc. costing \$34,500 (operations and maintenance fund) for lead and asbestos abatement as well as demolition pertaining to a library relocation project at Elgin's Lowrie Elementary School.

Also approved with a 7-0 vote was \$3.5 million in itemized bills.

By Kristin Carreno
At the Village Board meeting on Thursday, March 4, trustees voted unanimously in favor of purchasing a 2022 Freightliner 108 SD tandem axle dump truck cab and chassis for the Public Works Department at a cost of \$99,807 from TransChicago Truck Group, Elmhurst.

According to Director of Public Works Matt Mann, the 2021 budget includes the replacement of one tandem axle dump truck.

"The old truck to be replaced is a 2006 Sterling dump truck," said Mann.

The low price was obtained through the Sourcewell Purchasing Contract and includes

delivery, according to Mann.

"By some good fortune the price is about \$100 cheaper than last year even though it's a new model," Mann said.

According to Mann, Sourcewell also establishes and provides competitively solicited purchasing contracts and discounts for municipalities.

"The old truck will be sent to auction," Mann added. "The remaining equipment including the plow, the spreader and the saw will be bid out at a later date."

Mann said the extended warranty includes five years or 100,000 miles on the engine and wiring and five years unlimited mileage on the transmission.



On Saturday, March 13, the Poplar Creek Library hosted a forum featuring candidates running for local offices. Among the 14 candidates appearing before cameras to respond to questions were those running for the Streamwood and Hanover Park village boards as well as candidates vying for the School District U-46 and Elgin Community College boards. Information on how to view the interviews prior to the April 6 is available on the Poplar Creek Library website or by calling 837-6800. *(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)*

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Police Reports

BARTLETT

Sunday, March 7

★ At 1:33 a.m., police responded to the 900 block of Sycamore. Kassandra Walczyk, 23, of the Sycamore address, was arrested for domestic battery. She was processed per department procedures and then transported to DuPage County Jail.

★ At 6:58 a.m., police responded to the 500 block of Nicole for a report of a fight. The officer separated the combatants and was able to restore peace.

★ At 9:57 a.m., in the vicinity of Lake and Illinois Route 59, Casmiera Smith, 21, of the 600 block of Dean, South Elgin, was arrested for aggravated speeding. She was processed per department procedures and released on an I-bond with a March 25 court date.

★ At 4 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of Daniel for a report of a domestic in progress.

Monday, March 8

★ At 6:38 a.m., in the vicinity of Lake and Park, Graciela Gomez, 48, of the 2400 block of Leslie, Hanover Park, was arrested for aggravated speeding. She was released on an I-bond with a March 30 court date.

★ At 11:32 a.m., in the vicinity of Lake and Red Oak, Charles Vargas, 49, of the 0 block of Samuel, Streamwood, was arrested for aggravated speeding. He was released on an I-bond with an April 28 court date.

★ At 12:35 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of Seventh for a report of a verbal domestic that resulted in complainant's girlfriend leaving with some of complainant's property. The officer attempted to contact the girlfriend with negative results.

★ At 3:10 p.m., police responded to the 400 block of Snowdrift for a complaint that a neighbor was not picking up after his dog. The officer advised the neighbor to do so in future.

★ At 3:29 p.m., in the vicinity of Lake and Bartlett, Gregory, Ellison, 65, of the 1900 block of Fleetwood, Elgin, was arrested for aggravated speeding. He was released on an I-bond with an April 28 court date.

Tuesday, March 9

★ At 6:29 a.m., in the vicinity of Lake and Illinois Route 59, Jesus Chicas, 48, of the 0 block of Stonefield, Glendale Heights, was arrested for aggravated speeding. He was released at the scene on an I-bond with a March 30 court date.

★ At 7:36 a.m., in the vicinity of Stearns and Sayer, Joanna Luscombe, 35, of the 0 block of Coolidge, Streamwood, was arrested for aggravated speeding. She was released at the scene on an I-bond with a May 10 court date.

★ At 7:50 a.m., in the vicinity of Stearns and Sayer, Santeliz M. Vargas, 44, of the 2100 block of South Tonne, Arlington Heights was arrested for aggravated speeding. He was released at the scene on an I-bond with a May 10 court date.

★ At 9:43 a.m., in the vicinity of Stearns and Sayer, Amanda A. Yamour, 33, of the 25000 block of North Northbridge, Hawthorne Woods, was arrested for aggravated speeding. She was released at the scene on an I-bond with an April 26 court date.

★ At 10:11 a.m., police responded to the 1100 block of Buttercup for a report of a fraudulent unemployment

claim being filed using complainant's personal information.

★ At 10:15 a.m., police responded to the 900 block of Oceanside for a report of an unauthorized Verizon account being opened using complainant's personal information.

★ At 1:38 p.m., in the vicinity of Bartlett and Westridge, Kameron C. McGee, 35, of the 4900 block of West Crystal, Chicago, was arrested on a pair of outstanding Cook County bond forfeiture warrants. He was processed per department procedures and later posted bond and was released with an April 20 court date.

★ At 3:55 p.m., police responded to the 300 block of Ashford for a dispute regarding the return of a borrowed book.

★ At 4:55 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of Hillcrest for a report of harassment via social media.

★ At 6:34 p.m., police responded to the 1400 block of Quincey Bridge for a report of an ongoing neighbor dispute.

★ At 6:51 p.m., police responded to the 100 block of Lake for a report of a disturbance.

Wednesday, March 10

★ At 9:15 a.m., in the vicinity of Lake

Former Bartlett High teacher found guilty of reckless conduct

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin announced last week that a six-person jury found a former Bartlett High School chemistry teacher guilty of reckless conduct for injuring a student during a science demonstration. Additionally, the jury also found Garry Brodersen, 66, of Carpentersville, guilty of one count of endangering the health or life of a child. Both charges are Class A misdemeanors. In reaching their verdict, the jury deliberated for approximately four hours following a two-day-long trial in front of Judge Paul Marchese.

On May 15, 2018, Brodersen was performing a science demonstration for his class. During the demonstration, he poured liquid nitrogen on a student's chest and groin area. The chemical caused burn injuries to the stu-

dent's groin and a finger. Bond for the offense was set at \$15,000. Brodersen posted \$1,500, the necessary 10 percent of his bond, and was released from custody.

"Mr. Brodersen displayed extremely poor judgement when he doused a student with a dangerous chemical during a science demonstration," said Berlin. "I would like to thank Judge Marchese for ensuring a fair trial for both sides as well as the jury for their service, particularly while the pandemic, while less severe than before, is still a fact of life. I would like to thank Assistant State's Attorneys Jennifer Nielsen and Adam Rodriguez for their efforts on this very disturbing case."

Brodersen's next court appearance is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, for filing of post-trial motions or sentencing.



Read! Learn! Connect!

Online Programming
Until further notice, BPLD programming will remain being offered in an online capacity.

Springtivities
Now to May 31
Grades one to six. Join us this spring to complete 15 engaging and guided activities via our READSqured platform found on our website. Participants will have a chance to explore creativity and imagination.

Chess Club
Wednesdays, March 17 and 24, 4 p.m.
Since we can't meet to play chess at the library, we will be hosting online chess games for all ages. Must type link exactly as shown here to work: <https://bit.ly/bpld-chess>.

Online Teen Create + Chat
Wednesday, March 17, 7 p.m.
Grades seven to 12: Join us on our Discord server to hang out with other creative teens while working on a library supplied craft. Pisanki Egg kits available while supplies last at the Youth & Teen Services desk two weeks before this program. You can also show off other projects you're working on! Find our Discord server on our online calendar.

Booklite Book Discussion
Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m.
Join us through Zoom to discuss "Radium Girls" by Kate Moore. The eBook and/or eAudiobook are available through Hoopla and/or Libby. Print copies are available in the library. The Zoom meeting information will be posted in the Facebook group the day of.

Teen Gamers Lounge
Friday, March 19, 4:30 p.m.
Grades seven to 12. Join us on our Discord server to unwind, hang out

with other teens, and play some games! The server will be open for chat during the program. Find our Discord server on our online calendar.

Bargain Gardens
Saturday, March 20, 10 a.m.
Don't let a limited budget keep you out of the garden! Learn tips and ideas that will save you time and money during this presentation by the Master Gardeners from the University of Illinois Extension Services. Registration required for this Zoom program.

We Love Lucy
Monday, March 22, 7 p.m.
Laugh along as we take a look at many iconic "I Love Lucy" scenes! You'll also see clips from Lucille Ball's career, showing how she ended up being one of the funniest and bravest women in movie and television history. Registration required for this Zoom program.

Trivia
Tuesday, March 23, 7 p.m.
Join us for trivia! Players will answer multiple choice questions that follow a common theme, which changes every week. Check in on the day of the event around 6:45 p.m. Info for participating will appear on the library's social media platforms then.

Staying Positive Today
Wednesday, March 24, 7 p.m.
To say that 2020 was a challenging year may be the understatement of the century. Join Wellness Coach Tom Kens as he shares 10 practices to help you navigate through these uncertain times with a positive attitude. Registration required for this Zoom program.

For a complete listing of scheduled programs at the Bartlett Public Library, 800 S. Bartlett Road, call 837-2855 or visit www.bartlettlibrary.org.



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CELEBRATING

33

YEARS IN BARTLETT

Pet of the Week



Over the moon for Luna

Luna is a female, 10-month-old shepherd mix that has a zest for life like a true adventurer. Luna’s ideal family will make her the apple of their eye (no other pets please). Her activity level could overwhelm small children (12 years and older please).

Luna is part of our Underdog to Wonderdog program, so her new family goes home with three training sessions from a local certified pet trainer, three months of follow up and an enrichment package. For those ready to up their activity game and have a lot of fun, fill out an application for Luna today!

All those interested may get the adoption process started by completing an adoption application at bit.ly/OurAdoptables and a staff member will reach out to schedule a time for a meet and greet.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)

Streamwood girls hoops end shortened season

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood girls basketball team couldn’t overcome a tough start as the Sabres fell 51-28 against South Elgin in the Ustate Eight Conference tournament opener on Tuesday, March 9 at South Elgin.

Over the first four minutes, South Elgin went on a 19-0 run that Streamwood was unable to overcome.

Senior Samantha Demarco put the Sabres on the board with 3:55 left in the first quarter and they came roaring back as Sariah Dixon (five points) and Sayuri Ishikawa (eight points) hit three-pointers and senior Vivian Sumoski’s (four points, 11 rebounds) bucket midway through the second quarter made it 24-16. South Elgin then went on to score the final 11 points of the first half as part of a 17-0 run for a 41-16 lead in the third quarter.

Despite the score differential, Sabres coach George Rosner saw some good things but said missed shots and a poor performance at the free-throw line, 3-for-13, plagued his squad.

“We had a plan, we didn’t execute it and it was just like opening up the dam,” Rosner said. “I felt that we were still doing some good things, but we couldn’t make a basket. If we make some of those baskets, some of those

layups, it’s not 19. It’s a lot closer.”

Rosner added: “It was tough to watch, but I felt I had to watch through it and we would regroup. We just went back to some things that we talked about, and I thought we executed pretty well. We just missed a ton of layups and didn’t shoot well at the free-throw line either.”

Senior Nicole Beach added five points.

Streamwood, which finished the season 4-9 overall, went on to drop two more tournament games, both hosted by the Sabres. They fell 45-42 to Larkin on Thursday, March 11 and 41-28 against West Chicago on Saturday, March 13.

The Sabres will lose seniors Morgan Beto, Barbara Salgado, Alyssa Santiago and Brooke Walsh.

Rosner finished his 40th season coaching and is making a determination if there will be a 41st. For the 40th, it was a strange season with COVID-19 modifications, but Rosner hopes his team learned from the experience.

“I hope they learned to appreciate basketball they came really close to not having any kind of a season at all,” Rosner said. “So, I hope they have an appreciation for being able to play on the court, putting on the uniform and representing the school.”



Connections

Poplar Creek Public Library

Visit pclub.org for our latest news, current hours of operation, and calendar of virtual/in-library programs. Questions? Call 837-6800.

Gardening for Small Spaces
Wednesday, March 17 at 7 p.m.
Online and In-Library

Join Jeannie Isman as she presents how to install and prepare a raised bed garden; tips and techniques on building a food garden at home; information on companion planting, square foot gardening and succession planting. Sponsored by the Tri-Village Garden Club and Poplar Creek Library. Registration is required as space is limited for in-library attendance; masks required. No Walk-Ins allowed. To attend via Zoom, please include your email address when registering to receive instructions. Questions? Call 483-4929.

Family Concert Series:
Elgin Symphony Orchestra
‘Peter and the Wolf’
Sunday, March 21 at 2 p.m.
Online and In-Library

Join us on Facebook Live for our Family Concert Series featuring The Elgin Symphony Orchestra’s Woodwind Quintet, performing Prokofiev’s classic tale of “Peter and the Wolf.” All ages welcome to this free virtual concert; no registration necessary-just join us at 2 p.m. the day of the performance at <https://www.facebook.com/PoplarCreekLibrary> and watch live! Limited in-library seating available; registration and masks required. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Art Council Agency.

Seeking Student Advisory Trustee
The library board is seeking a teen to represent the Teen Advisory Board and the teens of Poplar Creek Public Library. Applications are due March 18. Visit pclub.org or the Teen Department for more information. Questions? Email Hannah at hsloan@pclub.org or call 483-4941.

Vintage Weddings and Showers
Monday, March 22 at 7 p.m.
Online (Zoom)

What were some favorite trends for

weddings and showers from mid-century on through the 1980s? How did people decorate? What did they serve? Enjoy seeing some charming and easy to recreate styles and recipes for weddings and showers from cookbook collector and librarian Amy Alessio in this humorous presentation. To register, visit pclub.org or call 483-4929. Please include your email address to receive Zoom instructions.

New! Visit our Video Vault
This past year, our staff has been very busy recording programs on video. From science experiments for kids, to “how to” videos for teens and adults on topics such as photography and making a music video with a green screen. These videos and more are now accessible 24/7 and can be found in our Video Vault at <https://my.nicheacademy.com/pclub>. Questions? Call 483-4939 or visit pclub.org.

TED Talk Discussion Group:
Choice, Happiness and Spaghetti Sauce
Tuesday, March 23 at 2 p.m.
Online (Zoom)

Join us via Zoom for a TED Talk viewing followed by a discussion. TED videos are short, inspirational and/or educational videos on a wide range of topics. For detailed program description or to register, visit pclub.org or call 483-4929.

Save The Date!
A Fireside Chat:
Author John Sandford
Wednesday, April 14 at 7 p.m.
Online (Zoom)

New York Times-bestselling author John Sandford will be live on Zoom answering questions and discussing his latest release, “Ocean Prey.” Space is limited; registration required. Visit pclub.org or call 483-4925 for details.

For a complete listing of scheduled classes/events at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., in Streamwood or Sonya Crawshaw Branch, 4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park, visit www.pclub.org. Questions? Call 837-6800.



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FAMILY CONCERT SERIES:




ELGIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S WOODWIND QUINTET

Peter and the Wolf


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FACEBOOK LIVE No Registration Necessary

IN-LIBRARY SEATING Registration Required



This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



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