Press Clippings 06/10/20

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More than 2,700 students in U-46 to graduate virtually By: Rafael Guerrero

More than 2,700 high school seniors in School District U-46 are set to graduate in a virtual ceremony Saturday.

Typically, the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates hosts all five U-46 high school commencement ceremonies. However, the coronavirus pandemic and concerns over large gatherings prompted school districts to adjust how to celebrate the milestone accomplishment.

"This is not how any of us expected to celebrate the Class of 2020, but we have done our best to make this virtual ceremony meaningful for our graduates and their families," Superintendent Tony Sanders said in a news release. "I am proud of how our seniors have faced this challenge, with resiliency, humor, kindness and understanding. We are celebrating differently this year, but we are still united."

The ceremony is scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday. Families will receive instructions on how to access the ceremonies, a news release said. The recorded ceremonies will be posted on U-46's social media platforms following the livestream.

The schools delivered caps and gowns to the graduating students weeks earlier. The senior students have received instructions on how to upload a photo of themselves in their cap and gown.

School principals, administrators and senior student speakers recorded commencement speeches at South Elgin High School on a decorated stage, the news release said.

District officials have not ruled out future in-person events recognizing the seniors, as funds have been set aside for each school. Spokeswoman Mary Fergus said these events would happen once it is considered safe to have large gatherings again. A date for such events has not been scheduled, she said.

The Class of 2020 graduation rate was 83%, which was one percentage point lower than the Class of 2019, according to district data. The state's graduation rate for the Class of 2020 was 86%.

South Elgin High School has the largest graduating class in U-46, with 628 students. Elgin High School will graduate 624; Bartlett, 592; Larkin, 463; and Streamwood, 438.

Forty-seven students, meanwhile, will graduate with their high school diploma and some college credit as part of the district's partnership with Elgin Community College in a dual-credit program. It is expected the first group of dual-credit students to graduate with both a high school diploma and associate degree will be part of the Class of 2022.

"Being in an environment other than my home is a huge motivator, and that was lost during online learning," Larkin High School graduate Celina Sarangaya said in the release; she is among the 47 dual-credit students. "So I had to constantly remind myself why school is so important to me: to become a first-generation college student and achieve the life my parents came to America for."

Another 182 students earned the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy and 252 students earned a state commendation of biliteracy.

The State Seal of Biliteracy is awarded to students who demonstrate proficiency in one or more non-English languages. The commendation is awarded to students who showed progress in reaching proficiency in a non-English language.

Students who earn the biliteracy seal qualify for two years of credit in that language at any Illinois post-secondary institution. Most students who earned the seal or commendation in biliteracy was for Spanish, according to district data.

The 52 students who graduated in the top 2% districtwide were recognized by the school board June 1. Their profiles are posted on the district's Class of 2020 webpage and will be highlighted on social media throughout June.

New service station under discussion See Page 7

U-46 lauds its top academic seniors See Page 13

Committee discusses possible tax rebate offer

As the Village Board of Trustees considers a proposed Culver's coming to Bartlett, it will also decide on a proposed sales tax rebate for the business.

The board discussed the proposed Culver's on Illinois Route 59 and just north of Schick Road at its committee of the whole meeting on Tuesday, May 19 which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

A site review and request for special use permits is awaiting a public hearing and review from the Plan Commission, but the board offered posi-

tive feedback at the May 19 meeting. The petitioner is also asking for a 50 percent sales tax rebate which would last 10 years and have a not to exceed amount of \$125,000.

Scott Skrycki, assistant administrator, said the estimated cost of the project is \$3.8 million and based on projected annual revenue the village would receive \$40,000 a year between sales tax and home rule sales tax. If the rebate were approved, it would receive \$30,000 a year for the length of the agreement.

"We believe this restaurant will have

extremely positive effects on the Village of Bartlett," Skrycki wrote in a memo. "This project will employ approximately 20 people during construction at various times. Once open, we will have approximately 25 full time (35-50 hours per week) and 25 part-time (15-20 hours per week) which will consist primarily of local

The village offers a similar rebate to just one other business, the Ace Hardware in the Streets of Bartlett.

Trustee Vince Carbonaro noted that the previous owner of Ace Hardware went out of business with the rebate. He asked: "Is there any penalty if they

Skrycki reiterated that it lasts 10 years and is capped at \$125,000, and he added: "If they were for some reason not operating after a certain amount of years, then that agreement would be concluded."

Paula Schumacher, village administrator, noted: "It's a sales tax rebate, so it's what's being generated."

"I think this is a wise investment for the Village of Bartlett, and certainly for the Route 59 corridor," said Trustee Aaron Reinke. Carbonaro, Trustee Michael Camerer and Village President Kevin Wallace all con-

Work on IDOT project moving toward an end

By Seth Hancock

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) road project at Illinois Route 59 and Stearns Road is expected to wrap up soon according to village officials.

The project was a topic at the Village Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, June 2 that was held virtually due to the COVID-19 shutdown. Trustee Raymond Deyne raised the issue.

"What's going on with 59 and Stearns? Are we ever going to finish that intersection?" Deyne asked later adding: "A month, two months, another four years?"

The project began back in 2018 according to an IDOT press release, and it was expecting completion in the summer of 2019.

"It should be done by the end of the month," said Dan Dinges, director of public works. "They are getting close. They have restoration, they have to transfer over to the permanent signal still and then pull the old temporary signals, get the final stripping done and signage."

Dinges added: "They're getting awfully close, but yes it does seem like it's taking forever."

The project has caused headaches for motorists in the past, but some of the major lane closures have ended.

"I drive on it pretty regularly, and it looks pretty good," said Trustee Michael Camerer.

IDOT detailed the work: "The scope of the project includes widening, pavement patching, curb and gutter work and traffic signal modernization. The project also consists of pedestrian improvements, including new sidewalks on all sides of the in-

Deyne said he's received questions about the project on the golf course as he quipped: "I go to the golf course and then these guys rag me unbelievably about 59 and Stearns."

Also raised by Deyne was the American flag at Bartlett Hills Golf Course. He said some veterans had raised con-

"They said the flag at the golf course was in tatters and was in disarray, and they were wondering if the village can replace the flag?" Deyne asked.

Paula Schumacher, village administrator, stated: "Of course we can."



A sign in front of South Elgin's Willard Elementary School announcing the continuation of the free U-46 meals program being extended into summer. The meals will be available at all schools throughout the district.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Summer program data announced by U-46

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 announced summer program information as well as its intent to continue providing taxpayer funded meals through the summer as the 2019-2020 school year ended last week.

The last day of school was Tuesday. May 26 as the year ended with distance learning due to the COVID-19

"This is not the last day of school that any of us envisioned," Superintendent Tony Sanders wrote in a message. "Our world has changed since school doors closed on March 13 and we have all had to adapt and learn a new way of teaching and learning - while also providing comfort and care - and staying safe and socially distant. Our planning for next school year is underway, though much of it depends on the guidance we expect to receive from state and federal authorities."

The previous week, U-46 announced that virtual summer school would begin for secondary students on June 8, and Sanders stated the same would be

"Our virtual elementary summer programming also begins on June 8th," Sanders said. "We will communicate with select elementary students who are eligible for engaging distance learning opportunities this summer."

The district will continue to conduct its summer reading challenge along with public libraries while online resources used for distance learning will be available to all students through the summer.

The district's summer program SAFE has been cancelled "due to our current and foreseeable restrictions on in-person activities and gatherings, in compliance with State Board of Education guidelines," Sanders wrote.

Recently, the district announced that it had reached 1 million taxpayer funded meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack) to anyone, no questions asked or paperwork needed, and Sanders stated that U-46 "will continue to distribute meals at 14 sites through at least July 31."

Health requirements were also posted for students for the 2020-2021 school year with one change being a requirement for incoming freshmen to complete a dental exam. Dental exams were already required for first, second and sixth graders.





Originally planned for replacement last summer the project is now being completed for whenever students finally return to classes in the for elementary summer school. wake of the coronavirus pandemic. (Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Details for parade honoring Class of 2020

According to organizers, final details are complete for a Saturday, June 13 car parade honoring the Bartlett High School Class of 2020. The parade will begin at 10:30 a.m., with line-up starting at 10 a.m. at a staging area in the parking lots on the southeast side of the Bartlett Metra Station.

The parade route, which starts at E. Railroad Avenue and S. Berteau Avenue, will turn west along E. Devon Avenue, south along S. Bartlett Road, west on W. Schick Road, ending with a drive around Bartlett High School and exiting onto Petersdorf Road.

Entry to the parade staging area will be from the intersection of E. Railroad Avenue and Main Street with cars turning east to drive in front of the train station.

All Bartlett High School seniors are invited to participate in the parade by wearing their caps and gowns, decorating their cars, and having a parent or family member drive the car while the senior sits in the front passenger seat. All state-issued guidelines for social distancing and wearing masks if outside the cars should also be followed

Photographers will be positioned along the parade route, and photos will be available for downloading from site links posted on the Bartlett High School Parents/Students Class of 2020 Facebook page, which seniors and their parents may access for any additional updates.



Bartlett High School class of 2020 parade route on Saturday, June 13.

Orders cast shadow high school fall sports

By Seth Hancock

Uncertainty remains as to when things will return to some normalcy as COVID-19 shutdown orders persist.

For high school athletes, the shutdown has already cancelled the 2019-2020 spring season and interfered with the conclusion of some winter sports. Several state tournaments were cancelled this past winter in the middle of the playoffs which effected teams like the St. Charles North boys basketball team which was headed to the sectional finals game when the season was halted.

Although fall coaches are still planning for the upcoming 2020-2021 season with anticipation that athletics will be allowed to return, the shutdown will still have an effect as summer camps and summer leagues are being cancelled leaving coaches without one of the key times for player evaluation for the upcoming seasons.

Streamwood boys soccer coach Matt Polovin is used to scheduling some summer friendly games for his Sabres while also preparing for workouts in June. His summer soccer camps are normally held in July.

"Everything is cancelled right now," Polovin said. "I was told I can't even do my camp at the end of July."

Although not able to work with his team in person, Polovin said he is able to keep in touch with his players.

Polovin said the Sabres will have to run a "virtual summer camp" akin to the distance learning going on across the country. He said he is providing drills and activities for his guys to stay in shape and hone their skills on their own.

"I always tell them to make sure to do things safely," Polovin said. "The last thing I want is a bunch of guys getting together to workout. I just want them to get as many touches on the ball as they can and giving them a bunch of fitness things to do. A lot of the stuff are things they can do in their house."

Polovin added: "I'm sure it's difficult being confined. It's tough whoever you are, so I'm not putting any demands on them. I'm just telling them if they want to be successful when we return, they have to put in the work on their own. It's up to them."

Several area football teams, like the Glenbard North Panthers, are using Hudl and Google to send lessons to players.

The Panthers did get some encouragement last week from Chicago Bears linebacker Roquan Smith who tweeted a special video message for Glenbard North.

"I just want to encourage you guys to continue to work hard," Smith said. "I know time is a little bit tough right now, but just work hard. Light will eventually shine this fall. Things will go back to normal. So, just continue to work hard and do the right things and listen to your coaches and make a run for it all. Good luck to you guys, and I'm wishing you all the best. I'll be cheering you on from afar."

Four U-46 resolutions to see June 15 board vote

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 is set to vote on four resolutions at its upcoming meeting on Monday, June 15.

The items were presented at the June 1 board meeting which was held virtually.

Included is a resolution authorizing the transfer of interest earnings from the working cash fund to the operations and maintenance fund.

Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations, said it's "an annual resolution,"

See U-46, pg. 13

BARTLETT Read! Learn! Connect!

Reopening Updates

BPLD is open to the public on a partial scale. Patrons may only come in to pick up items requested / put on hold. Check the website at www.bartlettlibrary.org for hours open to the public and new safety guidelines for when entering the building.

Share Your Story

While we are apart, it is important to remember we are all one community. Together, we have strength, and this project we are asking you to take part in will be a compilation of our lives at this point in history. What is your story? Learn more at bartlettlibrary.org.

Family Trivia

Wednesday, June 10 and 17, 11 a.m. Join us for family trivia! Check in on the day of the event around 10:45 a.m. A link to sign up will appear on the library's social media platforms then.

> It's Storytime! Wednesday, June 10, 7 p.m.

Even when the building is closed, we want to bring Storytime to you! View a new video every Wednesday night on the library's Facebook page.

> Online Chess Club Thursday, June 11, 4 p.m.

Since we can't meet to play chess at the library, we will be hosting online chess tournaments for all ages. Go to this link to register (Must be typed exactly as shown here to work): http://bit.ly/BPLDChess.

Flannel Story Fun Friday, June 12, 11 a.m.

Join us for a Flannel Board storytime! Each week, a new video will be posted to the library's Facebook page.

Online Teen Gamers Lounge Friday, June 12, 4:30 p.m. Grades seven to 12. Join us on our

Discord server to unwind, hang out with other teens, and play some fun Jackbox Games! The server will be open for chat during the program. Find our Discord server on our online calendar or our Facebook Event Page.

> **Creativity Corner** Saturday, June 13, 10 a.m.

Join Staffer Amanda as she walks through fun crafting skills that can be re-created right from home. View the videos on the library's Facebook page.

Babies and Tots Monday, June 15, 9 a.m.

Even when the building is closed, we want to bring the Babies and Tots Storytime to you! View a new video every Monday morning on the library's Facebook page.

Library Board Meeting Monday, June 15, 7 p.m.

The Board Meeting takes place on this date. Head here for more details: https://bit.ly/bpld-trustees

Draw and Tell Storytime Tuesday, June 16, 11 a.m.

Join us for a Draw and Tell Storytime! Each week, a new video will be posted to the library's Facebook page.

Online Trivia Tuesday, June 16, 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. A link to sign up will appear on the library's social media platforms then.

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



Bartlett Park District's Park Bench ...have a seat and we'll fill you in

The following programs and services are provided by Bartlett Park District, some require advance registration. For more information, call 540-4800 or visit www.bartlettparks.org.

Welcome Summer! Although things are not the same this summer we are ready to celebrate and have fun.

Many programs have had to be adapted to fit into the new Restore Illinois Phase 3 guidelines. The PDF of the Summer Program Guide on the website has been altered to reflect changes and will continue to be a fluid document so that we can keep the most up to date information about the program/services at your disposal.

Summer Day Camp

Camp registration is being taken and three different styles of camps are being held: Sports, Nature, and Sunshine. You can find information on these camps on our website under the program/camp menu and submenu. Additionally the flyers for these camps have replaced the previous camp pages in the PDF of the Summer Program Guide on our website. The first three weeks of camp are available for registration. Camp begins June 15. We are hopeful that we will be moving into Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan in July and can expand our offerings.

Outdoor Group Fitness Classes

We were able to begin conducting group fitness classes outdoor with up to 10 participants and will continue to offer these until we reach Phase 4 of Restore Illinois. Each class required registration and a fee of \$8. Classes are held at the Jim Jensen Pavilion just off Stearns Road. The class listing is available on our website under the alert bar as well as online by searching fitness classes.

LIFECENTER

All memberships to LIFECENTER were frozen when we had to close the facility. EFT processing was frozen. If you were a paid in full annual member your membership will be extended to replicate the time we are closed. During Phase 3 only one on one personal training sessions may be offered.

Sports Classes

We have many sports classes going on both virtually and in person. Please check the website and the Bartlett Park District Official Facebook page for up to date information and offerings.

> **Buildings Remain Closed to General Public**

The Bartlett Community Center, Nature Center, Schrade Gym, and Villa Olivia buildings remain closed to the general public during Phase 3 of Restore Illinois. The facilities are open to participants that are taking classes within the facility. ents/chaperones are not able to enter the facility during this time. All drop off and pick up will take place outside the building. If you require assistance Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. you may call the phone for the facility. BCC 540-4800, BNC 847-608-3120, and Villa Olivia 540-4170.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and support during this pandemic. We look forward to seeing you all again and being able to fully open the facilities and offering more programs and services. #wecreatefun

U-46 Board primed for vote on varied proposals

By Seth Hancock

A pair of curriculum proposals are among four work session items along with expenditure proposals totaling \$1.7 million that will be voted on by the Board of Education in School District U-46 at its upcoming meeting on Monday, June 15.

A revision to the district's welding curriculum was presented with an estimated cost of \$34,359 for resources and professional development. It will revise the welding technology pathway with resources identified for three courses: Welding Fundamentals (sophomore), Welding Technology I (junior) and Welding Technology II (senior).

"The welding pathway started in the 2017-2018 school year and has seen rapid growth since then," said Tracy Stewart, coordinator of career and technical education. She said by the end of the three-year pathway, students will be certified by the American Welding Society.

The welding program is offered at Elgin High School, and board member Melissa Owens clarified that all students in the district can enter the program as can some outside students. Stewart said all U-46 students have access and some students from Burlington Central School District 301 also attend.

A Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum proposal was presented with a total estimated cost of \$183,500, a cost of \$91,750 each for the STEM-Design and Modeling and STEM-Au-

tomation and Design courses.

The proposal pertains to the middle school PLTW program, and Owens asked if this will lead to adjustments to the high school level which Neal Ford, a PLTW teacher at Bartlett's Eastview Middle School, said it "directly feeds into the high school system" and no adjustments need to be made.

The board will also vote on changes to the Student Code of Conduct which Robin Barraza, coordinator of student discipline, said are "primarily limited to reorganizing sections, removing duplicate extraneous information and update language to better align to Illinois school code and board policy language."

Barraza said the code continues "restorative" disciplinary practices over "exclusionary."

The code has sparked controversy in the past as the district openly states it will use discriminatory practices giving preferential treatment to students based on their group status.

Under the Statement on Student Behavior and Equity section, the code states: "We are committed to applying school discipline policies and practices in a fair and equitable manner so as not to disproportionately impact students of color, students with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ students, students with limited English proficiency, or other at-risk students that have been historically marginalized in schools."

U-46 has defined equity as "supporting each student according to their

need" and equality as "giving all students the same support."

Expenditure proposals include a fouryear pact renewal with K-12 Insight for its Let's Talk! Customer service tool at a cost of \$320,000, to be paid for via the education fund if approved. The annual cost, \$80,000, will remain the same as the previous three years.

With AmeriPak, the district is asking to spend \$291,066 (food and nutrition fund) to purchase two food packaging

"Replacement of the current two manufacturing production tray lines (purchased in 2010) in the Central Commissary," the proposal states. "New machines will allow staff to implement processes for higher resolution heat sealing film using stainless steel rollers, printing tracking production codes, ingredient/product code tracking, and allergen identifiers."

Costing \$274,652 (operations and maintenance fund), U-46 is asking to purchase playground equipment for four elementary schools from Game Time. The cost includes \$83,083 for a primary playground and \$29,473 for a preschool playground at Elgin's Huff, \$54,345 for a primary playground at Bartlett's Prairieview and \$53,876 each for primary playgrounds at Streamwood's Oakhill and Elgin's Garfield.

"The playsets that have been identified are in extremely poor condition due to age and require replacement to mitigate safety issues," the proposal states.

The board will vote on a purchase of five pickup trucks from Roesch Ford costing \$184,890 (operations and maintenance fund) to replace plant operation's vehicles that were purchased between 1996 and 1998.

For renewal of Microsoft licenses from CDW-G, the board will vote on a \$144,503 (education fund) expenditure, down from \$146,426.

The district is asking for a five-term contract with Northern Illinois University in a not to exceed amount of \$144,000 for teachers to receive bilingual or English language learners (ELL) endorsements.

"In School District U-46, English Learners comprise of 34 [percent] of the student population, the proposal states. "The ELL Program currently serves over 12,000 students with over 9,000 identified as active English Learners. As the Dual Language program continues to expand, our demand for appropriately licensed and endorsed bilingual and/or ESL staff continues to rise."

With Illinois Communication Sales, Inc., the board will vote on \$132,067 (transportation fund) to replace the transportation department's two-way radio system which currently is nearly four decades old, according to the proposal.

For a contract renewal with Mindsight, the district is asking for \$115,998 (education fund), up from \$114,314, for Cisco SMARTnet license renewal which "enables the operation of the district's phone system, including voicemail, emergency responder, and contact center express (call center management)," the proposal states.

The district is asking for \$61,750 (education fund) for a contract renewal with CDW-G for AirWatch mobile device management software.

The proposal states: "Mobile Device Management software, AirWatch, allows U-46 to deploy and manage tablet devices (iPads) in an efficient manner from a central administrative console." This is an increase over the licenses managed last year at \$38,200.00."

To pay annual dues to the lobbyist group Illinois Association of School Boards, the district is asking for \$33,240 (education fund) which is down from \$40,000.

The board will also vote on a list of authorized depositories which will be PMA Securities, LLC, the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund and JP Morgan Chase and Company.

"We present this list once a year," said Dale Burnidge, director of financial services. "These are the same companies that we've used in the past."

U-46

Continued from page 12

and the transfer will be \$6.2 million.

A resolution allowing the district's treasurer to make bond and interest payments will be voted on. The authority starts on July 1 and runs through June 30, 2021.

The board will vote on a resolution to allow participation in federal and state programs.

"The District receives many federal and state grants that require Board of Education approval," the proposal states. "This annual Resolution allows the grant application and acceptance process to move ahead without each individual application coming to the Board of Education for approval."

Also to be voted on is a resolution approving of hazardous transportation area designations which have already been approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

"There have been no changes in conditions within School District U-46 which were previously classified as Hazardous Areas and approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for free transportation status," the resolution states and it "respectfully requests a continuation of those Hazardous Area designations and resultant free transportation for students residing in said areas."

The resolution includes 25 locations designated as hazardous areas.

District U-46 honors its top senior graduates

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 recognized the top 2 percent of graduating seniors at its meeting on Monday, June 1 which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

The district annually holds a special board meeting at South Elgin High School for the recognition ceremony, but this year's May 11 meeting had to be cancelled due to the shutdown.

"We are so proud of you," said Sue Kerr, the board's president. "The top 2 percent is one of the many things we've missed this year, and I'm so sad we did but congratulations and I know you will all do great in the future."

The district showed a video at the June 1 meeting showing all 52 students who made the list along with their college choices.

"These students who finish in the Top 2 Percent of their class are there because of the time, effort, and dedication they put into their academic career," Lela Majstorovic, assistant superintendent for secondary schools, said for a district press release. "While the coronavirus has created much uncertainty in our lives, I am certain that these students are bright lights who will create so much good in the world."

Of the 52 students on the list, 33 came from the three schools in *The Examiner's* coverage area.

From Bartlett High School: Riyana Chacko, Ishan Desai, Ritwick Dwivedi, Anuj Gandhi, Sydney Kelly, Jack Kline, Zev Meyer, Samuel Sampey, Garima Shah, Priya Shah, Rushabh Shah and Sareena Shah.

From South Elgin High School: Tristan Cruz, Mahima Dave, Kristin Delaney, Ryan Harvey, Andrew Jo, Penny Kapadoukakis, Pranav Khare, Kaleigh LaRue, Elijah Lopez, Kaitlyn Petratos, Brandon Snipe, Alexandra Spires and Haley Szymczak.

From Streamwood High School: Zoe Becker, Peyton Hedger, Victoria Kopko, Jenna Manzano, Fhel Vince Mejia, Sonya Padilla, Ariana Ruth Vega and Angelo Santos



