Press Clippings 07/01/20

---The Courier-News---07/01/2020 New health practices for school year

U-46 likely to require face masks, hand-washing stations, office shields **By: Rafael Guerrero**



School District U-46 officials and board members Monday discussed how to reopen schools in August now that the Illinois State Board of Education has issued guidance on how districts should proceed. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News)

Mandatory face masks, portable hand-washing stations, Plexiglass shields for main offices and a mix of in-person/remote instruction likely await School District U-46 students and staff when classes resume in August, district officials said.

Last week, the Illinois State Board of Education laid out guidelines for schools and instruction in a post-pandemic world. On Monday, U-46 officials presented the school board with its tentative plans for reopening schools in the 2020-21 school year.

The district is conducting a districtwide survey on reopening, which is available now on the U-46.org website. Results will be shared at the July 20 board meeting, where more concrete recommendations will be made.

"I think you're going to see quite a bit change," Superintendent Tony Sanders said. "This is what we know at this moment in time. But as I said in the beginning, by the time we get to August I think even more might change as we learn more about (COVID-19), as we learn what other states might be doing, as we learn what other districts across the state are doing."

In order for schools to allow in-person instruction, the state will require face coverings at all times while indoors, including at any of U-46's schools and facilities.

"Masks will be the norm in every single one of our buildings," Sanders said.

Schools have more leeway when addressing how to check children and adults for COVID-19 symptoms. State guidelines allow schools to either conduct temperature checks on everyone coming into the buildings or for individuals to "self certify" for symptoms.

District School Safety and Culture Director John Heiderscheidt said self certifying means students, teachers and others are expected to check themselves for symptoms ahead of arriving at their schools and stay home if they think they could be sick. Given the size of U-46, the district will likely pursue the self-certify option, he said.

Daily temperature checks or installing body temperature technology would be time consuming and expensive, Sanders said.

"We're entering into a social contract, much like our student code of conduct or our behavior contracts," Heiderscheidt said. "That social contract is that when you come to work you're saying you self checked first. ... If you're sick, please don't come to work. If you as parents or your kids or you as a student are feeling sick, check your symptoms."

The district will need to purchase masks, thermometers, hand sanitizer, disinfectant materials and other hygienic and public health products, officials said.

No cost estimate was provided.

Chief Financial Officer Jeff King said they are purchasing portable handwashing stations that will be installed in cafeterias and hallways in order to reduce the number of people needing to wash hands in bathrooms.

Acrylic shields are being installed in the lobbies and main offices of schools and other facilities.

The state's guidelines address a number of topics and concerns. Desks should be arranged to keep students 6 feet apart, if possible, school buses should have no more than 50 passengers at a time. School cafeterias are advised to keep capacity at 50 students or fewer.

Those things are being discussed, King said. Some students may have to eat meals in classrooms and pick-up/drop-off traffic outside schools will be difficult if parents opt to drive their children to school rather than let them ride on buses, he said.

Sanders said the district is also creating an alternative plan should there be a resurgence of COVID-19 before school resumes or after classes start. One option floated Monday called for a hybrid of in-person and online instruction, with students in class at least twice a week and remote/distance learning on the other days.

Administrators have been advised to prioritize early childhood and special education classes and services for in-person instruction, given the greater need for student-to-teacher interaction in those classrooms, Sanders said.

In the meantime, the school board Monday approved an extension of its emergency resolution suspending some district policies due to the pandemic. Provisions include allowing the school board to meet virtually and the superintendent to temporarily close buildings after notifying the board, and will be in place until the end of August.



U-46 planning for new school year See Page 5

Village accepts latest audit report See Page 8

U-46 passes resolution 'Call to Action for Equity'

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved of a "Call to Action for Equity" resolution at its meeting on Monday, June 15 which was held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

The vote came on the heels of U-46 embracing Black Lives Matter (BLM), a Marxist political organization.

The resolution states that an equity policy was put in place in 2014 as the district has put an emphasis on equity over equality. U-46 defines equity as "supporting each student according to their need" and equality as "giving all students the same support."

That 2014 policy's objective is that "all students will meet or exceed college and career ready standards" by graduation according to the resolution

The resolution states that the deaths of George Floyd while in police custody in Minneapolis, Breonna Taylor who was killed by police during a noknock raid in Kentucky and Ahmaud Arbery who was killed by residents in Georgia as the reason for this U-46 "call to action."

Floyd's death has sparked racially-charged protests around the country. The resolution notes the protests but does not make mention of the violent looting and rioting that has also occurred.

"We believe that a public statement is not enough to compel action to address the persistent policies, practices, and structures that continue to marginalize students, staff, and community members of color.... We reaffirm our commitment to equity and educational justice, and will seek to address the equity issues impacting our schools and the entire U-46 community," the resolution states.

U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders said all residents need to be on board with the district's agenda.

"We need everybody working to support us in this important, important work," Sanders said.

Board member Eva Porter said "words must be followed by action....
The protests that you see on TV is a demonstration of hurt and pain in the community and a call to action."

Porter said U-46 should use taxpayer dollars to increase its technological and food handouts, to provide ongoing racial training to staff and to hire staff "that reflect our diverse population for all students." She said: "We need to act as if there was a pandemic every day."

"We must take a deep look into how we are serving our brown and black students.... We need to make sure that we have people that look like black and brown and white children that we represent in this district," Porter said.

Recruitment and retention of staff "that reflects the diversity of the student body" and offering ongoing racially-charged professional development are included in the resolution which also calls to remedy "any practices that lead to over-representation of students of color in special educa-

tion and student discipline" and "that lead to under-representation of students of color" in gifted programming.

Porter also said resources need to be purchased that "reflect everybody" and the resolution calls for "culturally relevant" resources to be purchased.

What should be noted is that the current board has unanimously approved all 18 curriculum proposals presented with little discussion and no discussion on the content of resources. On the previous board, which included five of the current seven members, a former board member's opposition to several curriculum items due to their one-sided, politically-charged resources were mostly ignored or she was met with ridicule from colleagues during board meetings.

Sue Kerr, the board's president, said: "One thing I like about this is that it's not just a resolution, it's a call to action."

Board member John Devereux said that "recent events... have put a

bright light on the challenges placed on our black and brown students" and U-46 needs to "acknowledge where we're falling short."

"We need everybody engaged in this," said board member Melissa Owens. "This is a societal problem that none of us are going to solve on our own."

The vote came two days after U-46 posted a video supporting BLM on the day of the district's virtual graduation.

"As we celebrate our graduates today, our high school principals took less than 8 minutes and 46 seconds the time that it took to kill George Floyd - to share some thoughts about who and what matters in this critical moment in our nation's history," U-46 described the video.

BLM lists on its website one of it's core beliefs being to "disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure," and co-founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors said: "We actually do have an ideological frame. We are trained Marxists."

Summer condition camps open at area high schools

By Seth Hancock

Area student athletes returned to their schools last week to start summer conditioning under the IHSA's return to play guidelines, and athletic directors (AD) are reporting success.

Since schools were closed down in late March under Gov. J.B. Pritzker's COVID-19 shutdown orders, athletes have had to stick to virtual training with their teams.

South Elgin started its conditioning camps on Monday, June 22, and Storm AD Mike Jezioro said it was a good start. South Elgin held two morning conditioning sessions outside a day Monday through Thursday.

"Our conditioning camps have gone well," Jezioro said. "It is great to see our students back on campus and working with our teachers and coaches. It feels like it has been so long since we have been with each other and it is good to get back together."

Jezioro added: "I feel that it is important for the students to be around each other and we can see how excited they are to be back together.... Our turn out has been very good at South Elgin. Our kids are excited to get back with each other and our coaches."

The camps are conditioning only as sport specific camps are still not alllowed under the IHSA's rules.

The IHSA guidelines do include sev-

eral social distancing rules like groups limited to 10 participants and schools having to track participants for COVID-19 symptoms, but Jezioro said the athletes have been able to adapt to the regulations.

"They are new to all of us and we are able to follow them," Jezioro said. "It is just a process of reminding everyone here of the guidelines and that we are not able to do some of the things that we are used to. In the long run, kids will adapt and be able to handle the guidelines that they have to follow. I think for most of us we just want to be back with our students and will follow any guidelines that we have to in order to do that."

Jeff Bral, Bartlett's AD, and Jason Ziols, Streamwood's AD, both reported similar success at their respective schools via Twitter.

Bral wrote that June 22 "was an awesome day at BHS" and he was "so excited to see and talk to you all." Ziols stated "we all got to see each other for the first time in a long time" and the Sabres "have a lot of athletes SHOW-ING UP to get better physically and mentally."

While the camps are limited to conditioning only, Glenbard North's AD Matthew Bowser said that "some of our sports will continue to meet virtually as they have been doing."



Honoring the nation's birthday

With the Fourth of July holiday just around the corner an increasing number of red, white and blue was in evidence across the community such as the decorations on this village home. Happy Fourth of July to all!

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Police Reports

- ★ At 6:54 p.m., police responded to a report of fireworks in the vicinity of Lacy McKool avenues. A second report placed the fireworks at 1706 McKool Ave. Aguilar Roberto Rodriguez, 42, of 1706 McKool Ave., was arrested for sale or possession of fireworks and was issued a local ordinance citation with an appearance date of July 21.
- ★ At 8:56 p.m., police responded to a report of fireworks at 200 W. Green Meadows Blvd. Raynel Merced, 20, of 201 Egan Drive, was arrested for illegal possession of fireworks and was issued a local ordinance citation with an appearance date of July 21.
- ★ At 9:31 p.m., police responded to a report of a domestic dispute at 546 E. Shagbark Lane. Quan M. Brown, age unspecified, of the same address, was arrested for domestic battery. No further information was provided.
- ★ At 10:58 p.m., police responded to a report of fireworks in the vicinity of Country Lane and Twilight Trail. Matthew E. Korntved, 29, of 401 Country Lane, was arrested for illegal possession of fireworks and was issued a local ordinance citation with an appearance date of July 21.

- ★ At 11:13 p.m., police responded to a report of a domestic at 33 Buchanan Lane. Starkisha L. Stephens, 37, of the same address, was arrested for domestic battery/bodily harm. Stephens was transported to the police department where she was later transported to bond call.
- Sunday, June 21
- ★ At 5:34 p.m., police responded to a report of fireworks in the vicinity of N. Parkside Circle and Park Boulevard. Israel Carrillo, 47, of 500 Parkside Circle, was arrested for sale or possession of fireworks and was issued a local ordinance citation with an appearance date of July 21.
- Monday, June 22
 ★ At 7:55 a.m., police participated in a prisoner transfer with the Elgin Police Department. Sondra Leigh Graf, 55, of 1545 W. Highland, Elgin, was processed for an outstanding warrant. Graf was transported to the police department where she later posted bond and was issued a court date

of July 15. **Tuesday, June 23**

★ At 5:22 p.m., police responded to a report of a burglary in progress at 485

S. Bartlett Road. Dakari J. Allen, 20, of 22 Grow Lane, was arrested for burglary. Allen was transported to the police department where he was held pending bond call.

Wednesday, June 24

★ At 5:43 p.m., responded to the report of a vehicle rollover crash in the vicinity of N. Bartlett Road and Shag Bark Lane. Gabriella Chairez, 27, of 516 Walnut Drive, following treatment at St. Alexius Medical Center, was arrested for DUI/drugs, possession of cannabis <2.5 grams and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Chairez was transported to the police department where she later posted bond and was issued a court date of July 22.

Thursday, June 25

- ★ At 5:35 p.m., police responded to the report of an accident in the vicinity of W. Irving Park Road and Whispering Drive. Nathaniel Harris, 23, of 29 Larkspur Lane, was arrested for driving on a revoked license and failure to reduce speed. Harris' vehicle was towed and he was transported to the police department where he later posted bond and was issued a court date of July 22.
- ★ At 7:33 p.m., police responded to the report of a domestic at 1091 Bristol Court. Pearl M. Fish, 32, of the same address, was arrested for domestic battery, interfering with a report of domestic violence and resisting/obstructing a police officer. Fish was transported to the police department and held pending bond call.

First series of applications open for business recovery grants

By Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity announced this week that it will soon start releasing funds from two grant programs aimed at helping small businesses that have suffered losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest that occurred during recent protests over racial injustice.

The administration is releasing \$85 million through the Business Interruption Grant program and the Rebuild Distressed Communities grant program. The money is part of \$900 million that Gov. JB Pritzker recently announced will be released in response to economic impacts of the pandemic.

Both programs are aimed at small businesses whose operations were either restricted or completely shut down during the pandemic. They are also targeted at businesses located in "disproportionately impacted areas" — low income communities that have experienced high rates of COVID-19 cases and communities damaged during recent civil unrest.

According to a release from DCEO, the first round of Business Interruption Grants, or BIG, will make \$60 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds available for 3,500 businesses such as bars, restaurants, barbershops and salons, health and fitness centers as well as businesses in areas where there have been reports of property damage from civil unrest. The money comes from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act.

The grants will range from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and will be available to businesses that have suffered significant losses due to restricted operations, mandatory closures or property damage. To qualify, those businesses must have been in operation for at least three months before March 2020.

Businesses could begin applying for the grants starting Friday, June 26. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, July 7. Potential applicants can download an application and review the complete criteria for the program on the DCEO website. The agency said it plans to use community-based financial institutions to review applications and administer the funds. That financial assistance expected to be released starting in mid-July. Eligible businesses will be selected on a lottery basis.

The \$60 million being made available is just the first round of grants that will eventually total at least \$540 million, including \$270 million earmarked for child care providers.

In addition to the BIG program, another \$25 million will be made available through the Rebuild Distressed Communities program to support businesses that have suffered damage from civil unrest that occurred on or after May 25.

Those grants, which are funded through the state's Rebuild Illinois capital improvements program, will reimburse the costs to repairs that have already been performed for structural damage, including storefronts, entrances, electrical systems and exterior work. For work yet to be performed, program administrators will partner with local contractors and pay them to perform the work. Projects that were denied coverage by an insurance company are eligible, but applicants must submit documentation proving denial or lack of coverage.

The program will prioritize small businesses, those that are underinsured or uninsured, those that have a high community impact such as grocery stores and those located in communities that have experienced historic disinvestment. For repair work, the program will also prioritize contractors that are certified through the state's Business Enterprise Program — those that are at least 51-percent owned or controlled by minorities, women or people with disabilities.

DCEO is currently seeking one or more administrators to process the reimbursement applications. The agency said it expects businesses will be able to start applying for support in August. Additional information about and how to apply is available by emailing the Office of Grants Management at CEO.OGMgrants @illinois.gov.

changes to conduct code

By Seth Hancock
A unanimous 7-0 vote approved of updates to the Student Code of Conduct by the Board of Education in School District U-46 at its Monday, June 15 meeting which was held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

U-46 Board approves

The code is updated annually according to a memo from John Heiderscheidt, director of safety and culture, who stated this year's updates include 21 placement changes and nine content changes.

Some changes include additions to the settings in which the district claims authority to enforce the code of conduct on students.

It states the code is in effect on school grounds while adding "before, during or after school hours or at any other time when the school is being used by a school group." It also adds that it is in effect in "Distance/Blended Learning settings" as well as "Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function or event."

Another update changes the title of the "Statement on Student Behavior" by adding "and Equity." The district has stated its belief in equity over equality and defines equity as "supporting each student according to their need" and equality as "giving all students the same support."

Under that section, added language states U-46 preference for "restorative" practices over punishment.

"In conjunction with disciplinary consequences, we use behavioral interventions to help students learn social and emotional skills including self-awareness, self-management and social awareness. Through the use of restorative practices, disciplinary consequences and behavioral interventions, we resolve conflicts, encourage our school community members to take responsibility for their behavior, repair harm done, restore relationships, and reintegrate students into the school community while maintaining a safe and productive learning environment," the new language

Language is added to state that the district will follow any changes to board policy or federal law with regards to Title IX when the code is in conflict

The changes update U-46's behavioral referral procedures to include an investigation, student meeting, disciplinary alternatives, notice to student and notice to parent/guardian. It also adds language clarifying the threshold for out of school suspensions.

Heiderscheidt's memo states that a communication plan will be created along with a video regarding the code, and the teachers' union will continue discussing the disciplinary process. Additionally, the district will "strengthen the Staff Guide to the Student Code of Conduct to increase effectiveness in our process for all staff" and create "student groups at each secondary school that will be asked to review the Student Code of Conduct and our discipline process so student voice helps to improve our practice together."





U-46 working on plan for upcoming school year

By Seth Hancock

Schools will be allowed to reopen this fall according to the Illinois State Board of Education, but changes to the school day are expected.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced on June 23 that schools will be allowed to reopen under Phase 4 of his reopening

plan during the COVID-19 shutdown. However, few details have been released on guidelines.

School District U-46 announced it is working on planning for the upcoming year.

"In late May I established a Learning Transition Team with three subcom-

Regular operating hours resumed at Bartlett Library

According to the Bartlett Public Library District, regular operating hours resumed at the library on Tuesday, June 30. Library browsing, public computers and room reservations will be available for patrons, but it is unknown when in-person programming will resume.

There are some general safety guidelines that people are asked to follow:

- For everyone's safety, do not enter the building if feeling unwell;
 Wear face coverings per the gover-
- Wear face coverings per the governor's directive;
- Maintain social distancing; and
- Return materials to the designated return bins. (Staff won't be accepting items by hand.)

The study and conference rooms were available for reservations beginning June 30, and may be utilized up to 50 percent capacity. For use of study and conference rooms, reservations are required. The Art Room will remain closed, and the Meeting Room is unavailable for use as it is housing the quarantined items.

Items returned to the library will continue to be quarantined before becoming available for others. This means that returned items will remain on a patron's account for three additional days (based on Battelle's REALM Project's Phase 1 research) before library staff will check them in. Fines will not be applied for the quarantined time period

If patrons grab an item while brows-

ing but then are not interested in checking it out, they are encouraged to place those items on designated carts that staff will take and quarantine as well.

Every other computer station in the casual computing area and the computer lab will be available for public use. There will also be one 15-minute computer available for those that only need to perform quick tasks.

Inter-library loan (ILL) requests remain unavailable at this time, but are expected to resume soon. The library's OCLC function on its catalog will be accessible when full ILL services resume.

The library's normal service of providing physical library cards will resume on June 30, and patrons will no longer be able to sign up for an eCard. However, patrons may use their physical cards to continue accessing downloadable and streaming content.

There are two self-checkout stations available for patrons to use on the first floor, and one available in the Youth & Teen Services Department.

Donations for the Friends of the Library will be accepted beginning June 30

Hand sanitizer bottles are located in various spots in the building for public use, and staff members will also continue to clean within the building regularly. The Bartlett Public Library District has put these measures in place for the safety of patrons and staff.

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.

We are very excited to be moving into Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan which allows us to open our indoor facilities and offer more programs. Outlined is a brief update on facilities and programs.

LIFECENTER Health Club: We will open the health club on Monday, July 6 with safety precautions and changes to the operations adhering to the State of Illinois guidelines. Specific information is posted on our website.

Fitness Classes: Fitness classes that started outside in June will move inside in July. An updated class schedule will be posted on our website.

Summer Camps and Programs: We are continuing to offer a variety of summer camps and programs. Visit our website under the Program menu and Camp submenu for up to date information.

Youth Sports: We are excited to welcome back youth sports as practices and games are allowed to take place. Registration for fall soccer is underway – guidelines for all teams using park district fields are being developed in accordance with the State of Illinois guidelines.

Splash Central Indoor Pool: At this time the indoor pool is open for swim lessons and lap swimming. Pre-regis-

tration is required for these activities. We are waiting for guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding open swim at Splash Central.

Villa Olivia: The Food and Beverage operation at Villa Olivia will resume on July 6 with safety precautions in place and the number of people allowed limited by state guidelines. Groups of 50 or less may have events starting in July. For information on booking an event please call 540-4170.

Facility and Shelter Rental: Reservations are now being accepted for groups to rent rooms at the Bartlett Community Center or the Log Cabin as well as outdoor shelters. Visit our website under the facilities menu and rentals for more information or call 540-4895 for more information.

Playgrounds: Playgrounds are open. Use of playgrounds is at your own risk. In Phase 4 there should be no more than 50 people in a grouping. Per Phase 4 guidelines face masks should be utilized when social distancing is not possible.

Bartlett Aquatic Center/Spray Playgrounds: Bartlett Aquatic Center and spray playgrounds will not open for the 2020 season.

We are looking forward to creating fun again and cannot wait to see you back in our facilities and programs. Please visit our website: www.bartlettparks.org for additional information as it becomes available. mittees working on plans in the areas of instruction, operations, and health and wellness," Superintendent Tony Sanders said in a press release. "These teams are developing plans for what school might look like for each phase of the Restore Illinois plan."

Sanders added: "A lot of work has to be done before we finalize our plans. We need guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan which we expect in the coming days. We will need to involve our three local health departments and our Regional Office of Education to ensure our plans comply with local

guidelines."

Some of the suggestions include a modified on-campus return with social distancing guidelines like mandatory face masks and alternate schedules, hybrid learning using in-person and distance learning or continuing distance learning.

A special Board of Education meeting was scheduled to discuss plans and the district plans on sending a survey to families.

Additionally, the district has announced it has continued to hand out taxpayer funded Chromebooks for summer programming as well as taxpayer funded meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snack) through the summer.



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.

Online Chess Club Thursday, July 2, 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.

Children's Books

Read a variety of Children's books online with your BPLD card through the Tumblebook Library. Head to the library's website for more info on this service.

Online Teen Gamers Lounge Friday, July 3, 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.

Babies and Tots Monday, July 6, 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.

Books and Audiobooks

Download these for free with your BPLD card using the Libby, Over-Drive or Hoopla apps. Head to the library's website for more info on these services.

Online Trivia
Tuesday, July 7, 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.

It's Storytime! Wednesday, July 8, 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.

Summer Reading

Summer Reading has begun, and it's available for all ages! Finish the program, get a chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card! Find info on how to sign up at www.bartlettlibrary.org.

Music

Download songs for free with your BPLD card using the Freegal Music app. Head to the library's website for more info on this service.

Census 2020

Take the census at 2020census.gov! It only takes a couple of minutes to help out your community.

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

Phase 4

Continued from page 9

Stack said.

"Wear a mask when you're out in public," Stack said. "Listen to and react to the guidance that is provided about social distancing and taking caution while around other people. And certainly, if you're not feeling well, don't go out around other people that you may infect or may get an infection from."



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