

Press Clippings 08/19/20

---The Courier-News--- 08/19/2020

U-46 handing out computers, class schedules to prep students for fall sessions of e-learning

By: Rafael Guerrero

Computers and iPads will be distributed and student schedules sent out this week in preparation for District U-46's return to remote learning Monday, district officials told the school board Monday.

The last board meeting before the start of a new school year is typically a chance for administrators to provide one last look at back-to-school preparations, which this year are unlike any other thanks to the coronavirus pandemic.

"The board has seen the work of this team – the cabinet, the administrators, the teachers, the paraprofessionals, bus drivers," Superintendent Tony Sanders said. "There is no shortage of work, and there's not one person that has not stepped in and leaned into the work when it was necessary.

"I know my team has not slept since March 13," he said, referring to the last day in-person classes were held.

Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction, said families were notified to pick up district-issued Chromebook computers or iPad tablets this week. Anyone who was not alerted is asked to call their child's school immediately, she said.

In order to assist low-income students, the Elgin-based district has extended its partnership with Comcast to provide \$10-per-month internet access to qualifying families, Johnson said.

Deputy Superintendent of Operations Jeff King said school computer servers are well equipped to handle an increase of students and staff doing live instruction or accessing online materials.

"Basically, we were preparing three or four years ahead of time for when we would be (one device per student). I am confident that we will handle the volume," King said.

Schedules and teacher assignments will be released before the end of the week, a subject the district has heard a lot of complaints and questions about in the last week, Johnson said.

A typical elementary school day will involve live, simultaneous instruction in the mornings and prerecorded lessons, independent learning activities, and assignment and exercise completion time in the afternoon, she said.

Middle school and high school students will spend four of their eight daily class periods in live, synchronous instruction. The other periods will be spent in prerecorded lessons, group activities and activities/lessons.

Elementary school days are to start at 8 or 8:30 a.m. and run until 2 or 2:30 p.m., depending on the school. Middle schools will start at 9 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. and high schools will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:25 p.m.

The district still has 60 vacant teaching positions to fill, although they have made offers to 11 applicants, Human Resources Assistant Superintendent Ann Chan said. Most of the vacancies are in special education and dual-language programs, she said.

Since June, U-46 has hired 400 people across all departments, Chan said.

Several organizations have stepped up to provide childcare services for families who cannot stay home with their children, with programs being offered by the city of Elgin, the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA and other groups, King said.

"It's still evolving but there's at least 15 sites right now that have something out there that parents can sign up for," he said.

Some childcare services are being provided inside the district's high school buildings, which will largely remain closed through the end of 2020.

Sanders said rumors that the daycare services are preventing high school students from returning to their buildings or limiting access are not true.

"Our challenge is size. You're seeing this not just in U-46 but the entire northwest suburbs," Sanders said.

"We have 2,000 to 2,800 students typically coming through your doors on a daily basis ... the ability to monitor and protect the health of students when we're told that six feet of social distance, mask wearing and limiting congregating areas to less than 50 people is nearly impossible.

"We don't want to keep them out of our high schools. We will find ways to bring them into our high schools," he said.

---Daily Herald--- 08/19/2020

ECC's Project Backpack delivers for students this fall

Submitted by: Elgin Community College



Elgin Community College student life employees prepare the backpacks for local students. Courtesy of Elgin Community College

Project Backpack, a community effort to provide backpacks and supplies for families of Elgin Community College District 509, looked a little different this year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Elgin Community College was unable to host the event as in years past.

The committee worked to develop an alternative plan for supply delivery to those in need.

For the safety of families and employees, backpacks will be distributed through the local school districts, until supplies last. Proof of fall enrollment and a photo ID may be required.

For students in the Elgin Area School District U-46, some schools have received backpacks and will distribute them at their discretion.

If your school does not contact you to pick up a backpack by Sept. 7 and your U-46 student needs one, call (847) 888-5000, ext. 4211 or ext. 6768.

For other qualifying K-12 districts, parents are asked to reach out to their child's school social worker for information on backpack availability and distribution.

"While we could not host our event this year, our community truly rallied around students and their families," said Megan Highland, student life coordinator, and Project Backpack committee chair. "Thanks to donations from business sponsors and individuals, we were able to fill 1,512 backpacks for the 2020-21 school year."

If you are a Fall 2020 ECC student and need a backpack, visit the ECC Spartan Food Pantry on campus in Building B, Room B175, between 10 a.m. and noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays starting Tuesday, Aug. 18.

Proof of fall enrollment and a photo ID are required.

The food pantry will also have pre-assembled food package options available for ECC students in need.

The Project Backpack Committee is made up of individuals from Elgin Community College, ECC Faculty Association, Community Crisis Center, ECCP3, Kane County Regional Office of Education, KCT Credit Union, **Elgin Area School District U-46**, and Centro de Información.

For the most up-to-date information on Project Backpack, like the project at www.facebook.com/ECCProjectBackpack/ and visit project-backpack.org.

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

Volume 26
Number 15

"IF I WERE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A NEWSPAPER OR A NEWSPAPER WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT, I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CHOOSE THE LATTER." THOMAS JEFFERSON

50 cents
August 19, 2020

IGA clears way for
new bus shelters
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Some U-46 student
schedules delayed
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ISP try to shed blame for excessive FOID backlog

By Seth Hancock

The processing time for new Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card application by the Illinois State Police (ISP) remains well beyond its statutorily required timeframe, and the ISP issued a partisan statement blaming the state's previous governor while lauding the current governor.

The delay has led to a lawsuit being filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Eastern Division against ISP by the Illinois State Rifle Association and the Second Amendment Foundation.

The FOID Card Act of 1968 requires citizens to ask permission and pay a fee, currently \$10, in order to exercise their Second Amendment rights. It requires ISP to "either approve or deny all applications within 30 days from the date they are received."

As previously reported by *The Examiner*, the ISP's Firearms Services Bureau (FSB) phone line stated an average of 95 days to process new FOID applications as of Aug. 5, and the 95-day wait remains as of Aug. 15. Less than half, 82,451, of the 218,522 new applications have been processed.

Although the lawsuit against ISP includes four individual cases from this year, it states these waits have "been

true for years, and it has only become worse as applications for FOID cards have surged in response to recent looting and violence."

Beth Hundsdoerfer, ISP's chief public information officer, told *The Examiner* that there has been a "huge increase since March" when Gov. JB Pritzker shutdown the state due to COVID-19. Along with the economic insecurity caused by the shutdown, protests regarding police reform have led to rioting and looting.

There was a 148 percent increase in new FOID applications for the month of June compared to 2019, from 25,359 to 62,823, according to the ISP data. There were 147,652 applications for the four-month period of March through June compared to 62,257 total from the previous four-month period between November 2019 to this February. July of this year saw 35,817 applications.

Prior to 2020, ISP did not separately track new FOID application data and renewals. As of July this year, \$2.2 million has been collected from new application fees and the FSB has received \$655,566 from that.

According to Illinois statute, under 430 ILCS 65/5, \$6 of each new application fee "shall be deposited in the Wildlife and Fish Fund in the State

Treasury," \$3 "shall be deposited in the State Police Firearm Services Fund" which administers the FOID program and \$1 "shall be deposited in the State Police Services Fund."

A statement from the ISP blamed Gov. Bruce Rauner, a Republican, for its current inability to process applications in a timely manner under Pritzker,

a Democrat.

"The Illinois State Police agree FOID applications should be processed quickly and within the statutory guidelines," the ISP states. "Financial instability brought on by the lack of a budget in the prior administration

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Current events fuel need for U-46 review of SROs

By Seth Hancock

Engaging in much ado, the Board of Education in School District U-46 discussed School Resource Officers (SRO) at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 3 which was held electronically due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

The discussion was requested by the board, not because of any allegations of concerns from district SROs but rather because of national news regarding police which was spurred on by an incident in Minneapolis.

"My concern is that to make sure that we assure the parents and the students in lieu of everything that has been going on in the media lately and the mindset that to some students, especially some communities of the black and brown communities, that the policemen are not their friend," said board member Eva Porter.

Porter asked about training and "how do we break down that systemic barrier to dispel that they're being treated fairly?"

Ana Lalley, Elgin's chief of police, said "everyone has a bias" and Elgin's officers, including SROs, are trained on how to "manage those biases." She said they have emotional intelligence and "implicit bias" training.

Porter asked if it addresses the "situation that we find ourselves in right now in light of new findings" which Lalley said there's continual training including around issues of race and bias. She later said last year the department was trained on issues related to autism, hearing-impaired and LGBTQ issues.

Regarding special needs students, board member Kate Thommes asked: "How is a police officer better qualified to deescalate a mental health crisis than a licensed clinical social worker or our school psychologist or a school nurse?"

Superintendent Tony Sanders said the district is continuing to add such employees, this despite the continued enrollment declines.

"We recognize the need for social workers and counselors as well," Sanders said. "This is not to say that we're minimizing the impact that social workers and counselors have on a child's life."

"I believe that our SROs, I know that our SROs have an awareness and know those students" and know where the special education classrooms are said John Heiderscheidt, director of school safety and culture.

Thommes said "not every student who has autism" is in special education classrooms and "it's not enough to know that they exist.... We need to really focus on that training."

Board member Veronica Noland asked about the consistency between police departments in U-46 regarding issues like training and body cameras.

Courtney Stoeber, SRO at Streamwood's Tefft Middle School, said her department has annual training as does Bartlett's said Rich Bosh, SRO at Bartlett High School. Bosh noted that SROs across the district have monthly meetings with Heiderscheidt and there is consistency.

Board member Donna Smith said she was "so proud" of the district and they're "doing a great job" as the district reported large drops in the number of arrests.

U-46's data showed a drop in arrests from 343 in 2013-2014 to 29 in 2018-2019, however that drop is as a result of efforts by the district to implement "restorative practices" in discipline. No evidence was provided showing that schools are safer or there is less violence.

Board member John Devereux asked about what student activities must be reported to the police and Heiderscheidt said weapons and drug offenses are among those activities and "not necessarily do we request (SROs) to act upon it nor can we be a complainant on that."

Devereux suggested there be a survey or discussions held to receive student perspectives.

Olivia Howell, the student advisor to the board, said it was "intimidating" to have SROs in full police uniform. She said at her school, South Elgin High School, its SRO was injured breaking up a fight and "we've had a couple I believe."

Heiderscheidt said he was not sure if every student arrest was made by an SRO when questioned by board member Melissa Owens, and he said there are no state or federal grants to fund SROs.

Owens said she wanted a "holistic approach" in contract language and was concerned that it says SROs "enforce all laws and municipal ordinances." SROs, however, do not enforce the Student Code of Conduct.

Heiderscheidt said "many things" in the code of conduct are illegal activities like fighting and weapons. He said incidents are now investigated by the school administration which then reports it to the SROs.

Owens responded "the first word is 'enforce' and that concerns me" and said it's "saying that we view SROs having a certain job." She said Denver's school district's contract states SROs "differentiate between disciplinary issues and crime problems and respond appropriately."



Fire station work

Work continues on the village's newest fire station on Park Boulevard. The site was full of activity last week as workmen performed a variety of tasks at and above the new structure.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

IHSA issues guidelines for fall sports season

By Seth Hancock

The IHSA has released its sport-specific guidelines for the 2020 fall season as COVID-19 regulations remain.

Boys and girls cross country, boys and girls golf, girls swimming and diving and girls tennis have been able to start practice last week, on Aug. 10, and their first contests can take place on Monday, Aug. 24. The season ends on Oct. 24.

Potential state series events are to be determined, but the IHSA recommends certain dates be left open for each sport if such events are to take place.

The guideline state that the onerous regulations within “are intended to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets and potential for illness through safe practices such as social distancing, proper hygiene, and appropriate protective equipment.”

“With the changing nature... these guidelines may change,” it adds, and this “is not an exhaustive list, and school officials may take additional

measures based on requirements set forth by their school district and/or local health officials.”

All competitors are expected to remain six feet apart, including for transportations, and no handshakes, fist bumps or physical touching at all is allowed. Fall sports will be primarily limited to smaller meets, like duals and triangular events, as events will be limited to 50 people including athletes, coaches, officials, etc.

Competition is also limited to conference opponents and nonconference opponents within a school’s region. Awards are expected to be sent through mail with no ceremonies allowed.

Athletes are “always require(d)” to wear face masks unless “engaged in training, competing, or other strenuous physical activity,” and if eating they are expected to immediately put the mask back on when done. Coaches, spectators and media are also told to obey the mask mandates.

U-46 student schedules encountering delays

By Seth Hancock

Schedules for students in School District U-46 are expected to be released by the end of this week.

The first day of the 2020-2021 school year was shifted from Aug. 12 to Aug. 24 and will start in all distance learning under the continued COVID-19 regulations after approval by the Board of Education at a July 27 special meeting.

In a statement from Superintendent Tony Sanders, student schedules were delayed.

“As we navigate the beginning of this unique school year and consider our recent family survey responses, we have had to shift our timelines for releasing some information, including student schedules,” Sanders wrote. “We are working to integrate new information, including the family survey responses regarding their distance

learning preferences for elementary and middle school students.”

Sanders added: “We appreciate your patience and understanding as we develop some new programs and procedures during the 2020-21 school year.”

High school schedules should be completed as Sanders stated they would be released as early as Friday, Aug. 14 with completion on Tuesday, Aug. 18. Middle school schedules and elementary teacher assignments are expected to be ready by Friday, Aug. 21.

Distance learning is expected to remain in place through the end of the first quarter, Oct. 22, for all students while a hybrid model (mix of in-person and distance) is planned to begin in the second quarter for kindergarten through middle school students. High school is expected to remain in distance learning for the foreseeable future.

Poplar Creek trustee positions to appear on April 2021 ballot

According to the Poplar Creek Public Library District, it will have three trustee six-year terms and two trustee four-year terms up for election in 2021.

Trustees on the board are responsible for overseeing the management and fiduciary responsibilities and good stewardship of the library district. The Poplar Creek Public Library District includes parts of Bartlett, Bloomington, Hanover Park, Hoffman Estates, Keeneyville, Schaumburg and Streamwood and represents over

70,000 residents.

Anyone who is a legal resident of the district and a registered voter is eligible to run for trustee. A candidate must submit a petition packet to get on the April ballot. Election packets may be picked up from the Main Library’s Administrative Office. A September date will be posted on the district’s website. All directions and materials will be included in that packet. If anyone has questions, please contact Debra Stombres, executive director at 837-6800 (Option 1).

Police reports

Continued from page 2

Cormick, 50, of the 1500 block of West 112th, Chicago, was arrested for aggravated speeding driving while license suspended and no insurance. McCormick was processed per department procedure and later released on an I-bond with an Oct. 5 court date.

★ At 3:05 p.m., in the vicinity of Illinois Route 59 and Struckman, Jennifer P. Jolevski, 46, of the 500 block of Ivory, was arrested on a failure to appear

warrant. Jolevski was processed per department procedure and later released on an I-bond with a Sept. 9 court date.

★ At 4:39 p.m., police responded to the 500 block of Adare for a report of a domestic in progress. The officer separated the parties involved and was able to restore peace.

★ At 6:59 p.m., in the vicinity of Western and West Bartlett, Claudia M. Fontela, 47, of the 900 block of Kingston, was arrested for failure to yield at a stop sign and driving while license suspended. Fontela was processed per department procedure

Serve a Sweet Treat: CARROT CAKE

This Carrot Cake recipe is a traditional take on the timeless treat and created using everyday ingredients.



CAKE INGREDIENTS:

- 2-1/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1-1/4 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1-1/2 cups carrots, shredded
- 1 cup crushed pineapple with juice
- 2/3 cup walnuts

FROSTING:

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese
- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 5-1/2 cups powdered sugar

PREHEAT OVEN TO 350 F.

In large bowl, sift flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon and baking powder.

In mixing bowl, cream together oil and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Gradually add in carrots and crushed pineapple.

Add dry mixture to wet ingredients and beat until smooth. Fold in walnuts.

Pour batter into two lightly greased 8-inch round cake pans and bake 25-30 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean.

Allow cakes to cool completely. Remove cakes from pans and slice off tops to level cakes

TO MAKE FROSTING:

In mixing bowl, cream together cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Gradually add in powdered sugar and mix until smooth.

Spread two large spoonfuls frosting over top of one cake and stack second cake on top. Frost entire cake with remaining frosting.



**CARRIERS
WANTED**

to deliver
The
Examiner

Call Sharon at
630-830-4145 ext 107

and later released on an I-bond with a Sept. 1 court date.

Thursday, Aug. 13

★ At 11:30 a.m., police responded to the 1600 block of Cayman for a fraud complaint. Complainant reported receiving a call from someone purporting to be from the Social Security Administration.

★ At 12:39 p.m., police responded to the 200 block of Main for a customer dispute.

Friday, Aug. 14

★ At 6:30 a.m., police responded to the 300 block of Joan for a miscellaneous investigation.

