

Press Clippings 08/21/20

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U-46 proposes \$600 million in spending

Includes nearly \$3M surplus; expenses up 1% over last academic year

By: Rafael Guerrero

School District U-46's proposed 2020-21 budget comes in just shy of \$600 million and includes a nearly \$3 million surplus.

The tentative spending plan was presented to the school board this week, and is expected to be finalized in late September.

Administrators anticipate the district will collect \$602.4 million in revenue, which will be more than enough to cover the proposed \$5.2 million expenditure increase, data shows. Expenses are about 1% more than last year.

The revenue gain comes in part from property taxes, which are projected to increase by \$9 million, officials said. They make up about 53% of U-46's overall revenue. If all goes as planned, there should be a \$9.6 million tax abatement for property owners, which is similar to what was abated in 2019-20, Director of Financial Operations Dale Burnidge said.

Melissa Owens praised district officials for working to hold the line on expenses in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I do reiterate what (other board members said about) keeping our expenses flat and at the same time continuing to work with the abatement, continuing to hold the impact to all of our families because we know there's a lot of uncertainty and a lot of anxiety out in the public with the way the pandemic is going," Owens said.

The state's contribution to the district in evidence-based school funding is \$197 million, about the same as last year, officials said. This will be the first year it hasn't gone up since the formula change went into effect in 2017.

State funding in general, however, will be down about \$5 million as a result of the pandemic, according to the tentative budget.

The loss will be offset by \$5 million in federal funding, about half of which was as a result of the CARES Act, set up to offset the economic impact from COVID-19 on government operations. Burnidge said the \$2.5 million CARES Act money will pay for such things as hand-washing stations, personal protective equipment and some e-learning expenses. Overall, U-46 received \$7.8 million in CARES Act funds, but the remaining \$5 million was spent in the 2019-20 fiscal year, he said.

Salary costs, which at about \$314 million total this year is the largest expense U-46 has, will increase by about \$11 million as a result of pay raises in union contracts, Burnidge said. The district also will pay 5% more in staff healthcare insurance premiums.

New this year, U-46 is required to report how much it allocates for student activity funds like student clubs and organizations. The amount for 2020-21 is \$5.3 million.

Other notable expenses include \$43 million for bond principal and interest payments and \$25 million for capital building projects.

"Overall, without the new requirement for the new student activity accounts, the overall budget is pretty much flat to the previous year," Burnidge said.

A public hearing on the U-46 budget is scheduled Sept. 14, and board members are to vote on the final budget Sept. 28. Although U-46's fiscal year begins July 1, a budget does not have to be approved until Sept. 30.

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Elgin Area School District U-46 welcomes 6 new principals

Submitted by: Elgin Area School District U-46



Krystal Bush, Larkin High School principal

Elgin Area School District U-46 is preparing for the 2020-21 school year with new leaders stepping into top administrator roles. Some of these professionals have recently joined the district, or have been promoted from within U-46 to serve a new role. U-46 District and school administrators oversee schools, districtwide programs and services, collaborate with staff and teachers, and guide our families to help students achieve academic success.

"These leaders bring with them energy, passion, and a dedication to helping us meet the needs of each and every student," said U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders. "As we head into a school year that will demand innovation and flexibility, I am very glad to have them on our team."

The following educators will take on new challenges and responsibilities across our schools. They have been named to positions that were left vacant due to retirements, resignations, or other opportunities within the district.

High school principals

Krystal Bush, Larkin High

Krystal Bush, who has worked in public education for 30 years, is the new principal of Larkin High School. She most recently served as principal of DREAM Academy High School in Elgin, an alternative educational option which encompasses 14 programs that give students an educational opportunity that maximizes their individual potential.

Prior to being promoted to principal at DREAM Academy, she served in multiple administrative roles in U-46 including associate principal at South Elgin High School, assistant principal at Liberty Elementary School in Bartlett, and dean of students at Streamwood High School. Bush began her teaching career in 1990 as a physical education and health teacher.

Bush believes in building strong relationships with staff, students, and families in order to be able to understand their needs and work to support them toward success. In all of her roles, she worked to elevate student voice, develop opportunities for collaboration among staff members to share best practices, and engage the parents and community to support continuous school improvement.

Bush earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education with a focus on health and physical education from Xavier University, New Orleans, LA, and a Master of Arts degree in educational leadership from Concordia University. She is working toward earning her doctorate in educational leadership from National Louis University.



Kurt Johansen, South Elgin High School principal

Kurt Johansen, South Elgin

Kurt Johansen has been named the new principal of South Elgin High School. Until joining U-46, Johansen was the assistant principal at Glenbard East High School, a role he had held since 2013. He served in the same school, located in Lombard in Chicago's western suburbs, as a dean of students beginning in 2009.

Johansen began his teaching career in 2003 as a special-education teacher at East Leyden High School in Franklin Park.

At Glenbard East, Johansen has led instructional support teams, coordinated and developed school schedules, led committees in passing a \$35 million referendum, managed and maintained the school's operating budget, oversaw all union support staff, and coordinated the commencement ceremony. He cited that his greatest joy was in collaborating with colleagues across departments to provide real-world learning opportunities for students, from an incubator lab for the business department to designing a stem cell lab for biology students, as well as bringing together multiple disciplines for a food truck startup. He strives to seek new, creative, and innovative ways to increase capacity for students.

Johansen earned a Bachelor of Science in Special Education and a Master's degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Northern Illinois University, a Type 75 Administrative Endorsement from Aurora University, and a Doctor of Educational Leadership from Western Illinois University.

Middle school principals



Christine Zugel, Abbott Middle School principal

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Christine Zugel, who has served as the assistant principal at Abbott Middle School in Elgin since 2013, has transitioned to a new role as the school's top leader.

Zugel joined U-46 in 1991 when she was hired as a language arts teacher at Kimball Middle School in Elgin. She served in that role until 2003 when she joined the staff at Abbott Middle School as a teacher.

As assistant principal at Abbott, Zugel has worked collaboratively with teachers on implementing new safety and academic systems and procedures that will better serve students. She has handled budgeting and evaluation responsibilities as well as managing day to day building operations, and served as interim principal at Abbott starting in March 2020.

Zugel earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University, and a Master's degree in educational administration from Aurora University.

Elementary school principals



Jonathan Miquelon, Clinton Elementary School principal

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Jonathan Miquelon, a graduate of U-46's Larkin High School, has been named the principal of Clinton Elementary School in South Elgin.

With 15 years of experience in education as a teacher and administrator, Miquelon brings a student-centered focus to his role with experience collaborating with students, families, school staff, and district leaders to best support student success.

Miquelon joined the district in 2005, initially working as a substitute teacher and teacher's assistant at South Elgin High School until serving as a social studies teacher at Elgin High School from 2008 to 2018. During his time as an EHS teacher, Miquelon served in leadership roles on several school wide committees, including the School Improvement Plan Team, as well as committees to support freshmen, standards-based grading, and the school's website. He also designed a Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) approach for EHS.

Since 2018, Miquelon has served as the assistant principal at U-46's Tefft Middle School in Streamwood. In addition to overseeing the middle school's science, social studies and special education departments, he has been responsible for student discipline and behavior. Miquelon has focused on learning and implementing the best practices of Trauma-Informed Care, incorporating strategies to support students through a range of challenges and emotions. In the past year, he served on both the Dual Language Committee and the Peer Assistance Review committee.

Miquelon earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and a Master's degree in educational leadership at Northern Illinois University. He attended Century Oaks Elementary and Kimball Middle School before graduating from Larkin.



Jason H. Gold, Fox Meadow Elementary School principal

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Jason H. Gold has been selected as the principal of Fox Meadow Elementary School in South Elgin. Gold has worked in education for 14 years as a teacher and administrator and brings with him strong interpersonal and problem-solving skills, experience in developing and retaining staff, and a belief in the importance of supporting student success via collaboration with families, school staff, and district leaders.

Gold most recently served as the principal of Komarek Elementary School District 94 in the Cook County suburb of North Riverside, a position he held from 2016 to the end of the 2020 school year. At Komark Elementary, a one-school district with more than 520 students, Gold has developed and implemented schoolwide policies and procedures regarding accelerated placement, homework and grading, and more. He has led internal and external communications and engagement activities for staff and families, from book clubs to newsletters, as well as operational work, from meal distribution and drive-by graduation procedures during the

COVID-19 pandemic. He supports implementation of PBIS and discipline support measures and codeveloped and implemented the school's master schedule.

From 2014 to 2016, Gold served as the Coordinator of ELA and Math Initiatives & Teacher/Principal Retention and Development in Lyons School District 103. Gold served as an assistant principal in Oak Park School District 97 from 2011 to 2014. He joined the district in 2010 as the gifted and talented coordinator. He began his career in education as a math teacher in Cary Junior High in Cary School District 26.

Gold earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education at Northern Illinois University, a Master's degree in school leadership at Concordia University, and a doctorate in school leadership at Aurora University.



Andrea Gaitán-Bustos, Sunnydale Elementary School principal

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Andrea Gaitán-Bustos brings a bilingual, bicultural, and student-centered focus to her new role as principal of Sunnydale Elementary School in Streamwood. She joined U-46 in 2008, working as a 4th grade bilingual teacher at Laurel Hill Elementary in Hanover Park and later as a classroom teacher at Lincoln Elementary in Hoffman Estates and Hilltop Elementary in Elgin, served on the School Improvement Planning teams at all three schools.

Gaitán-Bustos most recently served for the last three years as the assistant principal at Coleman Elementary in Elgin. She has also worked as a bilingual instructional coach. She has a depth of professional experiences collaborating with students, families, school staff, and district leaders to support student success. He is invested in engaging all families to feel welcomed and to be a part of school activities.

Gaitán-Bustos earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in language instruction at LaSalle University in Bogota, Colombia, a Master's degree in teaching at Aurora University, and another Master's degree in administration at Northern Illinois University. She also participated in the district's Aspiring Administrators Program. She is also a recipient of a Special Recognition Award from the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation.