

## **Press Clippings 1/12/2022**

### **Daily Herald**

#### **Elgin's MLK prayer breakfast to be held online Saturday--- 1/12/2022**

**By Rick West**

Though organizers of Elgin's 37th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. prayer breakfast would prefer holding this year's celebration in person, they took King's words to heart when deciding to make the event virtual.

King's words as well as this year's theme is, "The time is always right to do what is right," which resonated with organizers trying to put attendees' safety first while the threat of the easily transmittable omicron variant of COVID-19 remains.

"To us, it's what's right," said co-chair Janice Hare. "We are living in a time of change and we have to accept change."

The event now will be held over Zoom from 9 to 10:45 a.m. Saturday. It is open to the public and donations are encouraged to support the organizing committee's community food drive and youth scholarship programs.

Last year's celebration also was held online and broadcast on the city's Facebook page.

"It was fantastic, our feedback was so positive," Hare said. "Having the blueprint already established makes it easier this time."

The Zoom link will be posted on [cityofelgin.org](http://cityofelgin.org) and various social media channels on Friday.

The event will feature prayer offerings from several local pastors, recordings of singing and dancing performances by local groups and a keynote speech from Dr. Toya Webb, Elgin Community College's chief marketing and communications officer.

"She's a bright, brilliant helper and supporter," Hare said. "To me she's all that and a bag of chips."

The event will include presentations to the annual MLK Humanitarian Award and scholarship winners. This year's Humanitarian Award recipients are Jay Wittmeyer of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, John Sutton of State Farm Insurance, and the Elgin YWCA.

Scholarships of \$1,200 each were awarded to Jonathan Aguinaga of **Larkin High School**, Gabrielle Stephen of **Bartlett High School** and Janalis Harrison of **Elgin High School**.

The prayer breakfast is part of the Elgin Human Relations Commission's weekend of activities celebrating King, though the pandemic has altered most of the schedule.

Hare said the annual Youth Day celebration is postponed until February and a date will be announced soon.

For the 11th year, more than 30 churches will conduct food drives as part of the celebration. To donate money, visit [lf-forms.cityofelgin.net/Forms/MLK-Food-Drive](http://lf-forms.cityofelgin.net/Forms/MLK-Food-Drive). Each dollar donated can purchase 8 pounds of food, organizer Joe Wars said.

## **Elgin Courier-News**

### **Elgin Martin Luther King Jr. Day events going online ---**

**1/12/2022**

**By Mike Danahey**

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and the recent rapid rise in coronavirus cases, the Elgin's Human Relation Commission recently decided that its 37th annual Saturday Prayer Breakfast in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. set for Saturday, Jan. 15 will once again be held virtually, while a youth day celebration scheduled for Monday, Jan. 17 has been postponed until sometime in February.

A scholarship funding drive and a food drive are taking place as planned, event organizers said. MLK Committee member Joe Wars said the online event will begin at 9 a.m. Jan. 15. King was born on Jan. 15, 1929.

Wars said Toya Webb, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer for Elgin Community College, will be the event's guest speaker. Webb also is a life coach who has been a TEDx speaker.

While the in-person breakfast was to take place in the Jobe Lounge at ECC, Wars said details of how and where to watch the event for free online should be up and running at **[www.cityofelgin.org/1023/Martin-Luther-King-Jr-Events](http://www.cityofelgin.org/1023/Martin-Luther-King-Jr-Events)** by this weekend.

Those who purchased tickets to the prayer breakfast may get a credit to be put toward the breakfast in 2023 or request a refund by email at **[mlk@cityofelgin.org](mailto:mlk@cityofelgin.org)**.

A youth day celebration honoring King for students ages 12 - 18 had been planned to take place in the Heritage Ballroom at the Ed Schock Centre of Elgin on Monday, Jan. 17, the date of federal holiday that marks King's birthday. Wars said that gathering has been postponed until a yet-to-be-determined date in February.

The MLK Committee also is in the midst of its 11th annual food drive, which Wars is chairing.

The city, **Elgin Area School District U-46** and local businesses are collecting canned goods through Sunday, Wars said. On that day, supporting organizations will be bringing the donated food items to the Food for Greater Elgin food pantry, 1553 Commerce Drive, Elgin.

Monetary donations to the food drive can be made by going online to **forms.cityofelgin.net/Forms/MLK-Food-Drive** or by writing a check payable to the City of Elgin and sending it to the MLK Committee, 150 Dexter Court, Elgin IL 60120.

For more information contact Wars at 847-742-2228.

Donations are still being taken to fund the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship, which is awarded annually to local high school seniors heading to college who have demonstrated an active interest and meaningful involvement in the areas of human rights, civil rights, social justice and/or world peace, thus reflecting the ideals and life of King.

In 2021, Jonathan Aguinaga from **Elgin Larkin High School**, Gabrielle Stephen from **Bartlett High School** and Janalis Harrison from **Elgin High School** each received a \$1,200 scholarship from the fund. Since 2007 the fund has granted 27 local students a total of \$19,000.

To donate to the scholarship fund, go to **www.cityofelgin.org**.

Wars said there might still be time to buy a commemorative T-shirt or sweatshirt honoring King, where proceeds from sales go to the scholarship fund. To shop for a shirt, go to **www.customink.com/fundraising/elgin-mlk-scholarship-fundraiser**.

## **Kane County Connects**

### **School Closing Update: All Kane County public schools open Wednesday, Jan. 12 --- 1/12/2022**

All Kane County public schools appear to be open today (Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2021), according to information posted on school district websites.

Central High School in School District 301 was closed Monday (Jan. 10, 2022) due to staffing shortages but appears to be open. There is no message on the website saying any school is closed.

All schools in **U-46** were back up and running Monday, according to the most recent post on the district's website.

**Two U-46** schools were closed Friday (Jan. 7, 2022) as well as the preschool program at Horizon Elementary.

Several Kane County school districts returned to in-person classes Monday, Jan. 10. All will be off for Martin Luther King Day on Jan. 17. Click the links below for updates from each public school district in Kane County.

# **Wednesday Journal of Oak Park and River Forest**

## **D97 narrows superintendent candidates to final 2 ---**

### **1/11/2022**

**By F. Amanda Tugade**

Two finalists are vying to become the next superintendent of Oak Park Elementary School District 97, according to a districtwide email announcement sent to families, Jan. 8.

Of the top six candidates, the D97 Board of Education narrowed its list to Kim Nalls, assistant superintendent of human resources and benefits for Rich Township High School District 227, and Ushma Shah, interim chief portfolio officer for the Chicago Public Schools Office of Portfolio Management.

As a chief portfolio officer, Shah supports and supervises six of CPS' instructional and operational departments, including its charter and alternative schools, as well as analyzes enrollment and demographic data, according to her LinkedIn profile. Shah also served as assistant superintendent of elementary schools and a chief of equity and social justice at **Elgin School District U-46** and has held other positions, including a middle-school teacher and principal, the email announcement stated.

During Nalls' career in education, she served as an assistant superintendent of human resources and technology and assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction at Proviso Township District 209. Nalls is also a former high school principal, guidance counselor and elementary school teacher, the email announcement stated.

The school board began its search last summer, working alongside representatives from the search firm, Hazard, Young and Attea (HYA), to find D97's new superintendent. Over the last couple of months, HYA conducted screening interviews with 13 of the total 19 applicants and presented a slate of candidates to the board. From there, board members selected their favored six and interviewed them during executive sessions at school board meetings.

With Nalls and Shah now named, board members are inviting the community to participate in an online forum, Jan. 12. The forum will be held over Zoom and allows attendees to meet Nalls and Shah and ask questions, said district spokeswoman Amanda Siegfried. The forum starts at 6 p.m. and runs for about two hours. Nalls will be featured during the first hour of the forum, from 6 to 7, while the latter half of the program will be reserved for Shah, from 7:15 to 8:15. The link to access the Zoom meeting can be found on the school website: <https://www.op97.org/news/1730111/d97-superintendent-finalists-and-virtual-community-forum-on-jan-12>.

According to the email announcement, Nalls and Shah will have about 10 minutes to introduce themselves, share why they believe they are a fit for the superintendent position and talk about their professional experiences and accomplishments. Then they will answer questions from the community.

HYA President Max McGee and Constance Collins, the firm's senior associate and former D97 superintendent, are to take on the Q&A portion of the forum. District families, local residents and other stakeholders are encouraged to submit their questions to [op97forum@gmail.com](mailto:op97forum@gmail.com) before 5 p.m. Jan. 11.

Siegfried said attendees will be asked to complete a survey and provide written feedback about the candidates after the forum. The board plans to review those responses before making any final decisions. A link to the survey will be shared after the event.

The board plans to announce the final candidate by the end of the month, Siegfried said.

For more information on District 97's superintendent search, visit [www.op97.org/boe/superintendent-search](http://www.op97.org/boe/superintendent-search).

## **The Markup**

### **Machine Learning: This private equity firm is amassing companies that collect data on America's children ---**

**1/11/2022**

**By Todd Feathers**

Over the past six years, a little-known private equity firm, Vista Equity Partners, has built an educational software empire that wields unseen influence over the educational journeys of tens of millions of children. Along the way, The Markup found, the companies the firm controls have scooped up a massive amount of very personal data on kids, which they use to fuel a suite of predictive analytics products that push the boundaries of technology's role in education and, in some cases, raise discrimination concerns.

One district we examined uses risk-scoring algorithms from a company in the group, PowerSchool, that incorporate indicators of family wealth to predict a student's future success—a controversial practice that parents don't know about—raising troubling questions.

"I did not even realize there was anybody in this space still doing that [using free and reduced lunch status] in a model being used on real kids," said Ryan Baker, the director of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Learning Analytics. "I am surprised and really appalled."

Vista Equity Partners, which declined to comment for this story, has acquired controlling ownership stakes in some of the leading names in educational technology, including EAB, which sells a suite of college counseling and recruitment products, and PowerSchool, which dominates the market for K-12 data warehousing and analytics. PowerSchool alone claims to hold data on more than 45 million children, including 75 percent of North American K-12 students. Ellucian, a recent Vista acquisition, says it serves 26 million students. And EAB's products are used by thousands of colleges and universities. But parents of those students say they've largely been left in the dark about what data the companies collect and how they use it.

"We are paying these vendors and they are making money on our kids' data," said Ellen Zavian, whose son was required to use Naviance, college preparation software recently acquired by PowerSchool, at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Md.

After growing concerned about the questions her son was being asked to answer on Naviance-administered surveys, Zavian and other members of a local student privacy group requested access in 2019 to the data the company holds on their children from the district under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). But to date, she has received back only usernames and passwords.

"Parents know very little about this process," she said.

The ed tech companies in Vista's portfolio appear to operate largely independently, but they have entered into a number of partnerships that deepen the ties of shared ownership. PowerSchool and EAB, for example, have a data integration partnership aimed at "delivering data movement solutions that drive value and save time for Districts." The two companies also signed another deal last year that made EAB the exclusive reseller of some PowerSchool products.

EAB did not respond to requests for comment.

To piece together the extent of the companies' data collection, The Markup reviewed thousands of pages of contracts, user manuals, data sharing agreements, and survey questions obtained through public records requests.

We found that the companies, collectively, gather everything from basic demographic information—entered automatically when a student enrolls in school—to data about students' citizenship status, religious affiliation, school disciplinary records, medical diagnoses, what speed they read and type at, the full text of answers they give on tests, the pictures they draw for assignments, whether they live in a two-parent household, whether they've used drugs, been the victim of a crime, or expressed interest in LGBTQ+ groups, among hundreds of other data points. Each Vista-owned company doesn't necessarily hold all the data points listed here.

Some of those data fields were recorded in the traffic between students' computers and PowerSchool servers when students used their accounts. The Markup reviewed the accounts with students' permission. Other data fields were listed in districts' data privacy agreements with PowerSchool and the data library—a list of all available data fields—for one district's PowerSchool database. Our review offers a more detailed picture of the company's data operations than PowerSchool publicly discloses, but it is likely an incomplete portrait.

According to its contracts with school districts, PowerSchool has the right to de-identify the data it holds on their behalf—by removing fields such as names and social security numbers—and use it in any way it sees fit to improve and build its own products.

In some districts, such as Miami-Dade County Public Schools, recent PowerSchool contracts have exceeded \$2.5 million for a single year, according to copies of the deals obtained through public records requests.

“It’s hard for me to understand how PowerSchool would not be paying for the privilege” of extracting so much student data, said Alex Bowers, a professor of educational leadership at Columbia University’s Teachers College. “You don’t pay the oil company to come pump oil off your land; it’s the other way around.”

PowerSchool declined to answer specific questions about the data it collects and how it uses that information.

“At PowerSchool, ensuring student equity, privacy, and access to good quality education is our top priority and is foundational to everything we do,” Darron Flagg, the company’s chief compliance and privacy officer, wrote in a brief statement to The Markup. “PowerSchool strictly and proactively follows legal, regulatory, and voluntary requirements for protecting student privacy including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), state regulations, and the Student Privacy Pledge. PowerSchool customers own their student and school data. We do not sell student or school data; we do not collect, maintain, use, or share student personal information beyond what is authorized by the district, parent, or student.”

### **A Cautionary Tale: Elgin, Illinois**

Many of PowerSchool’s newer product lines, including its predictive analytics tools and personalized learning platform, require troves of student data to train the underlying algorithms. But experts who reviewed The Markup’s findings said that some of the data being used for those purposes is bound to lead to discriminatory outcomes.

Consider **School District U-46 in Elgin, Ill.**, which was the only district—out of 27 we submitted public records requests to—that provided a complete list of the data PowerSchool

warehouses on its behalf. The district also provided documents detailing how PowerSchool's predictive analytics algorithms draw on some of that data to influence students' educational journeys.

U-46's PowerSchool database contains nearly 7,000 data fields about Elgin students, parents, and staff, according to a copy of the data library The Markup obtained.

As early as first grade, algorithms from the company's Unified Insights product line start generating predictions about whether students are at low, moderate, or high risk of not graduating high school on time, not meeting certain standards on the SATs, or not completing two years of college, among other outcomes. The district's documents describe dozens of different predictive models available via PowerSchool, although U-46 says it does not use most of them.

The district begins displaying student on-time graduation risk scores to teachers and administrators beginning in seventh grade, according to Matt Raimondi, Elgin's assessment and accountability coordinator.

Free and reduced lunch status—a proxy for family wealth—and student gender are among the most important factors in determining that risk score, according to the documents. At one point, Elgin's models—developed by a company called Hoonuit that was acquired by PowerSchool in 2020 and rebranded as Unified Insights—also incorporated student race as a heavily weighted variable.

Flagg, from PowerSchool, said race was removed from the models in 2017 before the company acquired Hoonuit.

The predictive models also draw on data points like attendance, disciplinary history, and test scores.

Learning analytics experts told The Markup that the use of demographic data like gender and free and reduced lunch status—attributes that students and school officials can't change—to predict student outcomes is bound to encode discrimination into the predictive models.

"I think that having [free and reduced lunch status] as a predictor in the model is indefensible in 2021," said Baker of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Learning Analytics. Baker has consulted with BrightBytes, a competitor of PowerSchool in the K-12 predictive analytics space.

"Unified Insights does provide the option for school districts to include free and reduced lunch status to enable districts to reduce dropout risk associated with economic hardship and



identify additional social service supports that may be available to impacted students,” Flagg, from PowerSchool, wrote in an email.

“Including these things that are not within the control of the family or the school is highly problematic,” said Bowers, from Columbia University Teachers College, because even the best-intentioned school cannot change all the systemic gender and wealth disparities that affect a particular student. Basing the risk scores so heavily on those factors therefore obscures the impact of other factors a school may be able to influence, he said.

Raimondi said U-46 has chosen not to use many of the predictive models PowerSchool makes available because of their reliance on immutable student characteristics

“Especially down at the early grades, we don’t even make it visible to any users besides myself and a programmer,” he said. “The models at the lower grades, they’re not that accurate and they rely a lot more heavily on demographic-type data.”

Each year, Elgin’s dropout risk model misses about 90 students in each grade level, out of 3,000 students per grade, who do not go on to graduate on time, according to a presentation prepared by a PowerSchool data scientist and obtained by The Markup.

“We have no comment on the sensitivity/specificity of the models,” U-46 spokesperson Karla Jiménez wrote in an email.

The Markup has previously reported on a similar dropout prediction tool EAB sells to colleges and universities. Some of those schools incorporated race as a “high impact predictor” of success, and their algorithms labeled Black students “high risk” at as much as four times the rate of their White peers, effectively steering students of color away from certain majors. After our reporting, Texas A&M University dropped the use of race as a predictive variable.

## **The Data Empire Is Growing**

Vista Equity Partners has been expanding its reach in the educational software industry for years. Along with that expansion, it’s put together a portfolio of companies that amass data and effectively track kids throughout their educational journeys.

Since 2015, when Vista first purchased PowerSchool from Pearson for \$350 million, Vista has been on a spending spree, acquiring other ed tech companies that collect different kinds of student data.

In 2017, PowerSchool bought SunGard K-12, which provided human resources and payroll software for schools. In 2019, it purchased Schoology, a widely used learning management system that served as the digital backbone for many schools’ curriculum and lesson plans. It

acquired Hoonuit, which provides the predictive risk scoring used by districts like Elgin, in 2020.

Last March, it completed the purchase of the college preparatory software Naviance, and in November it purchased Kickboard, a company that collects data about students' behavior and social-emotional skills. In presentations to investors, PowerSchool officials have said more acquisitions are a key part of the company's growth plan.

EAB has been on a similar purchasing spree, acquiring companies like Wisr, YouVisit, Cappex, and Starfish that are used for college recruitment, advertising, and tracking students on campus. It also announced the creation of Edify, a "next-generation data warehouse and analytics hub" designed to "break down data silos."

Last June, Vista also acquired a co-ownership stake in Ellucian, which sells a variety of educational technology products. The company claims to serve more than 26 million students across 2,700 institutions.

That consolidation of data and power has triggered a backlash from privacy-minded parents, some of whom have been trying, unsuccessfully, to find out what the deals mean for their children's sensitive data.

Piercing the veil of secrecy can be difficult, even when parents turn to privacy laws designed to increase transparency.

Illinois, for example, has a state law that requires school districts to post specific information about the ed tech vendors they use, including all written agreements with vendors and lists of the data elements shared with those vendors.

Despite that, districts like Chicago Public Schools have yet to post any of the required material pertaining to PowerSchool and Naviance. CPS has, however, posted data use disclosures for other vendors. Across Illinois, 5,800 schools use PowerSchool software, according to the company.

FERPA has also proven of little use for some parents.

Cheri Kiesecker, a Colorado parent of two, said that she requested her children's records under the law from PowerSchool earlier this year after it completed the Naviance deal.

"Each school district owns and controls access to its students' data, Flagg, from PowerSchool, wrote in an email to The Markup. "Any requests from parents for access to their children's data must be managed through their respective school districts.

PowerSchool instructed Kiesecker to request the records through the school, which she did. When PowerSchool did not comply with the school's subsequent request by the statutory 45-day deadline, her school's attorneys sent a legal demand to the company, which The Markup reviewed. To date, Kiesecker said, she has still not received her children's complete records, although PowerSchool has provided partial documentation.

Deborah Simmons, a Texas parent, said she began looking into the Vista-owned companies after discovering that her school had automatically uploaded her child's data into Naviance. She filed public records requests and grievances with her school but still doesn't know the full extent of the data the companies hold or who else it's been shared with.

"These tech companies want to eliminate the data silos and merge and streamline all of this stuff, but no, our children aren't products," Simmons said. That's what they do, they treat our children like products. They're human beings and they deserve privacy and freedom."

## **The Examiner of Bartlett**

### **Unanimous board ratifies series of U-46 expenses ---**

**1/12/2022**

**By Seth Hancock; Note- This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin**

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** unanimously approved, via a 7-0 vote, of \$919,500 in expenditure items at its Dec. 13, 2021 meeting.

Included was an 18-month contract costing \$584,000 with Northern Illinois University for 35 paraeducators to receive learning behavior specialist (LBS1) licenses by June 30 2023 through the Licensed Educators' Accelerated Pathway (LEAP) program. The cost is up from \$500,000 presented on Nov. 15, 2021 but no board members questioned the increase nor are there any changes in the proposal.

It will be funded initially through the education fund with the nation's taxpayers expected to reimburse it through Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds.

Paraeducators who receive the LBS1 endorsement must commit to five years with the district in a LBS1 position, the proposal stated.

Presented and approved that evening was a \$335,500 (education fund) with Pace Systems Incorporated to provide a "dedicated network and systems engineer" and a "security vulnerability assessment of all of our systems to identify and address potential threats and ensure maximum protection," the proposal states.

The proposal added: "Two of our senior network engineers have given notice that they are resigning from their positions in U-46 in January 2022. There is a very competitive market

and high salary expectations for positions like these which has made it difficult for the district to fill with permanent replacements. The school district requires specific skill sets to protect the district infrastructure and our digital assets from harmful ransomware attacks and other threats that would compromise our data. This contract with Pace Systems will ensure that these needs are met at a reasonable cost to U-46.”

Also unanimously approved was \$15.3 million in itemized bills as well as a personnel report with three new positions, two human resources generalists and a food and nutrition services manager.

## **The Examiner of Bartlett**

### **U-46 strips Sabres coach of honor due to policy --- 1/12/2022**

**By Seth Hancock; Note – This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and The Examiner of Streamwood**

Questions go unanswered on **School District U-46's** decision to strip an honor bestowed on Streamwood girls' basketball coach George Rosner.

Rosner had announced this would be his final season coaching the team after a 41-year varsity coaching career, including 37 years in U-46. During that career he had amassed 461 victories.

At a Nov. 30 game, Streamwood High School surprised Rosner by renaming the gym George Rosner Arena. It was a packed crowd with family and friends surprising him, including the first player to ever score for him during his grade school coaching.

“It’s beyond words. I didn’t expect it. I never deserve these things, but it was an eventful night in people coming from everywhere,” Rosner said at the time.

“He always looks out for us,” said senior Sayuri Ishikawa. “If we have a test together, he’s always texting us, making sure we’re good, sending pictures of his grandkids and stuff like that. In school, he’s always making sure our grades are straight and everything.”

However, during Christmas break while classes were not in session, U-46 removed the sign dedicating the gym. Under board policy 4.076, it states the “Board of Education is responsible for the naming of school facilities and any portions of facilities, such as... gymnasiums,” and anyone still alive “shall not be considered.”

A process for naming requires public meetings, thus removing Streamwood’s ability to surprise Rosner.

The Examiner learned that a compromise was offered asking the district to keep the sign up through the remainder of Rosner’s final season which the district refused.

Despite multiple attempts, the district did not respond to confirm the compromise. U-46 also did not respond about whether or not there is a process for Streamwood to seek an exception to the board policy.

A petition on change.org has been started with 1,700 signatures seeking to change the board policy and reversing the district's decision.

## **The Examiner of Bartlett**

### **U-46 Board approves boys lacrosse application --- 1/12/2022**

**By Seth Hancock; Note – This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and The Examiner of Streamwood**

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** voted unanimously in favor of an application to create a cooperative boys lacrosse team across all five high schools at its Dec. 13 meeting.

Superintendent Tony Sanders said the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) requires the board's approval of the application.

Fil Torres, East Aurora High School's athletic director (AD) and the president of the Upstate Eight Conference (UEC), stated in a letter that U-46 schools are "the only school(s)/team in our conference who participate in lacrosse."

South Elgin High School already co-opted with Elgin and Larkin high schools while Bartlett High School was co-opted with Streamwood High School.

The U-46 schools "have agreed to enter into a co-op for [boys lacrosse] for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school year," wrote Jeff Bral, Bartlett's AD, in a letter to the IHSA. "Over the past few years, we have seen numbers dwindle for numerous reasons. Due to the fact we anticipate only 8-12 players for the previous Bartlett HS co-op with Streamwood, we have made this adjustment. We have received a letter from our conference, the Upstate Eight, even though we are the only team in the UEC. We have also obtained 9 other letters from our opponents. South Elgin will be the host school."

The co-opt received letters of support from the ADs at Dundee-Crown, Glenbard West, Waubonsie Valley, Neuqua Valley, Geneva, McHenry, Jacobs, Conant and Carl Sandburg high schools.

The application stated that there have been only 0 to 3 players participating from Elgin, Larkin and Streamwood in previous years and Bartlett is projecting at most 10 this year. South Elgin projects 40 players this year.

"Co-opting gives all these students opportunities to be in an activity that we wouldn't be able to host if it was just school-based," said board member Dawn Martin.

## **The Examiner of Bartlett Hawks, Storm split pair of games at South Elgin --- 1/12/2022**

**By Seth Hancock; Note – this story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin**

The **Bartlett boys' basketball team** finished strong to down Upstate Eight Conference rival South Elgin 70-49 on Friday, Jan. 7 at **South Elgin**.

The Hawks' 7-foot-3 senior center Conrad Luczynski had a huge night with 29 points and 17 rebounds along with four blocks, assists and steals.

In the first half, it was almost all Luczynski who scored 16 points for a 24-23 lead at halftime. Only three players scored in the half for Bartlett which didn't lead by more than four, but nine got on the board in the second half.

Bartlett led most of the night but faced three brief one-point deficits, the last at 37-36 with three minutes left in the third quarter. The Hawks went on to finish the frame on a 9-1 run then dominated in a 25-11 fourth. Ian Smith (nine points), Martin McCarthy (eight points), Kelton McEwan (seven points) and Nathan Searce (seven points) all contributed.

"Conrad did his job in the first half, and our defense did a good job," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "The second half, the defense stayed the same, but the team started hitting shots. When you start hitting shots around Conrad, that's when we're really dangerous and that's what you saw in that second half."

The game was also in front of a raucous crowd despite U-46 limiting capacity to 25 percent.

"The fans from both sides were awesome," Luczynski said. "It was a good environment to play in."

Brian Vesta led the Storm with 17 points, and both Elias Cole Williams and Drew Cwik scored seven.

"The problem is in the second half, our offense got stagnant, and we started taking contested shots," said South Elgin coach Brett Johnson. "But then we didn't get back and defend and they made a couple threes, it forced us to do some things differently."

Earlier in the evening the **South Elgin girls' basketball team** didn't let adversity stop them as the Storm defeated **Bartlett** 59-36 at South Elgin.

The Storm were playing without two starters, Zoie Lewis and Raina Yang, and senior Ella Winterhalder was playing on an injured foot.

Despite that, Winterhalder poured in 12 of her 14 points in the first quarter as the Storm took a 21-16 lead, and South Elgin put the game away in the middle frames. Chloe Kmiec, in her first start, hit five three-pointers in the game and scored 11 of her game-high 17 points through the middle quarters, and Caroline Croft scored 10 of her 14 points as the Storm outscored Bartlett 31-10 through the second and third quarters for a 52-26 lead.

“Between Ella and Caroline, they refuse to lose,” said South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack. “They just had that look in their eye. And Chloe, she grew up tonight and had a big game.”

Caitlyn Tolentino added 10 points for the Storm.

Despite the loss, Bartlett played well and battled all night but was unable to keep up with the UEC leaders. Amadea Montijo scored 10 points, Diana Ricardez nine and Laney Stark eight to lead the Hawks.

“The hardest part with this game is that most of these girls have never played in a game like this,” said Bartlett coach Brittany Leiber. “They’ve never played in a rivalry game, but I thought they handled the pressure well. We’ve got some things to work on of course, but I thought they played well tonight.”

Bartlett (3-16, 2-6 UEC) was coming off a 55-24 conference win over Streamwood on Tuesday, Jan. 4 at Bartlett.

The Storm (14-3, 8-0 UEC) defeated Glenbard East 53-34 in conference play on Tuesday at South Elgin. Winterhalder reached the 1,000-career-points milestone and set a school record for career three-pointers, now at 202.

“I’ve been playing since I was a freshman,” Winterhalder said. “It’s been a goal of mine, and my teammates have done a great job of helping me get here.”

## **The Examiner of Streamwood Sabres girls’ hoops beaten by Bartlett and Fenton ---**

**1/12/2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The **Streamwood girls’ basketball team** was unable to keep pace with Bartlett as the Sabres dropped a 55-24 Upstate Eight Conference game on Tuesday, Jan. 4 at Bartlett.

The Sabres were held to single digits in every frame, seven points in each the first and second and five in both the third and fourth.

“Bartlett was outstanding,” said Streamwood coach George Rosner. “They’re really getting better each and every game. They’re offense was excellent, and they’re defense was excellent forcing us into turnover after turnover.”

Rosner added: “We didn’t come ready to play. Of all of our games, this was probably the worst start that I’ve seen. They were absolutely not prepared to play, and that’s on me.”

It was still a game in the first half, the Sabres trailing 12-7 after one quarter and 28-14 at halftime, but Bartlett poured in 21 points in the third to take a 49-19 lead into the final period.

Kailey Pawlikowski scored six points to lead the Sabres and both Sayuri Ishikawa and Sariah Dixon scored four.

Streamwood was off over a week after its Christmas tournament at Libertyville and winter break.

“We were definitely rusty,” Rosner said. “When you’re not playing against anybody except your own team, you get a little rusty. But everybody is basically in the same boat. That was just a very, very poor performance on our part, and I will deal with that in practice.”

The Sabres went on to drop a 65-35 UEC game to Fenton on Friday, Jan. 7 at Fenton. Streamwood is now 1-15 overall, 1-7 in the UEC.