

## **Press Clippings for 10/26/2022**

# **--- The Streamwood Examiner ---**

## **Contract, itemized bills ratified by U-46 board vote**

**Oct. 26, 2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** approved of a contract renewal with One Hope United at its Monday, Oct. 3 meeting.

The vote was 6-0, board member John Devereux was absent.

The contract will cost \$357,500 which will be paid for through Illinois Preschool for All grant funds.

“The Illinois State Board of Education Early Childhood Block Grant provides grant funds to collaborate with childcare centers in order to provide early childhood education in a facility that offers extended day childcare to families,” the proposal states. “**U-46** does not offer extended day childcare within the district preschool programs.”

The proposal added: “**U-46** subcontracts with One Hope United Elgin Child and Family Resource Center... to provide additional preschool slots within the childcare facility. The current maximum number of preschool slots is 90, based on a maximum number of 15 students per classroom. If permitted by the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services Restore Illinois Daycare Guidance, the number of slots may increase to a maximum number of 120. The subcontract pays for the salary and benefits of three teachers, three teacher assistants, facility expenses, and materials.”

The contract provides for before and after school care for the families whose children receive those slots. The proposal states this will allow children to “experience continuous care and fewer transitions between programs.”

Also approved 6-0 by the board were the terminations of two bus drivers, Brandon Carodine and Deanna Johnson. No details were provided.

The board unanimously approved \$7.2 million in itemized bills, \$4.3 million coming from the education fund as the highest category.

# **--- The Bartlett Examiner ---**

## **Dist. U-46 Board approves expenses, resolution items**

**Oct. 26, 2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** approved of \$750,755 in expenditure items at its Sept. 26 meeting.

The votes were 6-0, board member Eva Porter was absent.

The largest item was \$359,569 (operations and maintenance fund) to purchase playsets for six elementary schools from Game Time. The proposal stated the current sets “are in extremely poor condition due to age and require replacement to mitigate safety issues,” with each set ranging from 19 to 25 years old.

Also, from the operations and maintenance fund, was \$78,264 to replace snow removal equipment at three high schools through AHW LCC as well as \$44,920 with Warehouse Direct for a painting project on the second floor of **Streamwood’s Tefft Middle School**.

Several education fund items were approved including a two-year contract with NOW Arena costing \$168,000 for use of the Hoffman Estates facility for high school graduations. Two contracts were approved for principal preparation/coaching and mentoring programs for a combined 24 resident administrators with Northern Illinois University (\$50,788) and the Illinois Principals Association (\$49,216).

A series of resolutions were also approved by 6-0 votes, including one supporting the Teacher Retirement System’s (TRS) supplemental savings plan, which is a 457 retirement plan. The district already offers a 457 plan, but TRS requires that their plan be offered as an option.

A mutual use agreement will allow Judson University use of **Streamwood High School’s** Millennium Field for football games as their field is under renovations while Streamwood’s baseball team will be able to host some home games at Judson. An intergovernmental agreement with the Village of South Elgin was approved allowing the village’s parks & recreation department to use U-46 facilities and vice versa.

The board also voted 6-0 on \$14 million in itemized bills.

# --- The South Elgin Examiner ---

## Letters to the Editor

Oct. 26, 2022

By Ken Walters

Taxpayer set-up to pay for new U-46 debt has already begun

Dear Editor,

Statement from last year's 2021-2022 school year U-46 budget document "executive" summary: Currently, with no plans for new building construction, District management anticipates the outstanding debt to decline over the next few years.

Compare to this year's 2022-2023 school year U-46 budget document "executive summary: Any new building construction would be funded by new outstanding debt.

And now the U-46 phone and on-line survey set-up for a \$350M renovation and middle school expansion program or a general \$180M bond issuance.

What changed from one school year to the next? Well, really nothing. School administration's year-to-year standards continue: Higher spending, fewer students, mediocre achievement scores, more administrators, fewer teachers (certified staff) than two years ago plus a school board that acquiesces to school administration and fails in their duty to their bosses – the taxpayers.

What may have gotten school administration's attention? The reality that the on-going year-over-year loss of students is affecting the need for so many to reign over a much smaller kingdom. Their answer to loss of student population is shabby facilities that cannot compete with other school districts; to increase property taxes during a very high inflationary period; and to call the bond issue if approved "not a tax increase" lacks transparency and is downright disingenuous.

Most school districts contiguous to U46 school boundaries are also experiencing lower student population and facility under-utilization. Anyone looking at school district boundary changes? Consolidation?

How about an alternative proposal that should be net positive for students (improved facilities), teachers (improved facilities; additional classroom supplies; potentially higher pay), and taxpayers (reduced school district operating expense resulting in a lower property tax

burden)? Consolidate schools and sell off those school buildings and properties that are no longer necessary. Capture the proceeds up to \$180M as a proxy for the bond issuance. All proceeds greater than \$180M are to be utilized to pay down and eliminate existing debt principal and interest where possible with all residual dollars directly returned to property owners. A 45 percent reduction in school administration and 35 percent reduction in technical/other headcount which brings these two cost areas back to the total number of employees in school year 2017-2018 when there was a substantially higher student population in U-46. Annual savings estimate: \$15M to \$20M. Re-purpose 50 percent of this savings into teachers salaries and to improve teacher retention and the additional 50 percent into building improvements and classroom supplies. There is no debt issuance required to meet the Unite-46 building and maintenance goals. Just some imagination and financial creativity.

U-46 2022-2023 school year budget documents do show that overall school utilization – students seated in a desk versus total number of desks – that 7 to 8 desks out of every 20 desks will be unoccupied. This is NOT due to COVID protocols. Selling off 25 percent to 40 percent of school buildings and properties based on school district real estate value of \$1.5B will achieve gross sale proceeds of \$375M to \$600M. Cha-ching! As stated in a prior paragraph, NO bond issue needed.

There is some good news. 2023-2024 school year debt payments decrease by \$22.5M. This is due to payments for prior bond issues being completed in the current school year. Yes - tax relief. Unless our existing school board members mess this up.

What should we expect? A bond issue as part of the election process along with school board member replacement voting on April 4, 2023.

Four school board members are up for replacement on April 4, 2023: Kerr, Thommes, Devereux, Porter. If any of these four board members seek re-election, replacement not re-election is the only choice. If you are fiscally-minded, will represent your constituents, students, and teachers first, want to improve student achievement, and will not be an automatic “yes” to everything asked by U46 administration please consider running for the U-46 School Board. Below is the link to the IASB School Board Election Calendar or Google: Illinois school board elections 2023.

# --- Elgin Courier-News ---

## Dominant debut: Freshman Haley Burgdorf powers St. Charles North past Streamwood in regional opener. ‘I was excited to get on the court.’

Oct. 26, 2022

By Paul Johnson



St. Charles North's Haley Burgdorf (23) hits the ball against **Streamwood** during a Class 4A **South Elgin** Regional semifinal on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

It was hard to tell this was [Haley Burgdorf's first postseason match](#).

The freshman outside hitter was her usual dominant self Tuesday night for St. Charles North in a Class 4A **South Elgin** Regional semifinal against **Streamwood**.

“She doesn’t care who’s across the net from her,” [North Stars coach Lindsey Hawkins](#) said. “Her goal is, ‘Playoffs, it’s go time. We’re going to get this done.’”

“That’s a really rare thing to see, especially from a freshman. You see that, and it makes me very excited for her future.”

Her future may be bright, but the present is pretty good, too. Burgdorf put down a match-high eight kills as top-seeded St. Charles North cruised to a 25-12, 25-12 victory.

The North Stars (28-8) will face DeKalb at 6 p.m. Thursday in the regional championship match. The Barbs (12-20) topped **South Elgin** 25-21, 25-23 in the other semifinal.

How about that?

“It was fun,” Burgdorf said. “I was excited to get on the court, especially to play with these teammates and really get to test one another and really go at it.”

Burgdorf and Maryland-bound junior outside [Katherine Scherer](#) have formed a potent offensive duo. Scherer added four kills and two blocks Tuesday for the North Stars.

For the season, Burgdorf now has 238 kills, followed by Scherer with 237. And while the focus is on continuing to win, there’s a nice competition going on between the two.

“It’s a really good dynamic,” Scherer said. “It’s great to have another person I can rely on for support, especially during practice. We always compete with each other, and it’s a healthy competition.”

Burgdorf quickly gravitated to Scherer when the season started.

“I love to see her go up and have me follow her because I like to learn different things and learn how I can get better,” Burgdorf said of getting kills. “Just have a fun time with her.”

Scherer took Burgdorf under her wing from the start of the season.

“I watch her from the back row go up and get a huge kill and go crazy,” Scherer said. “It’s great to have multiple weapons on the team.”

**Streamwood** (5-29) tried to slow them down by playing as stout a defense as it could.

Alejandra Caballero Mondragon led the **Sabres** with seven digs, while Kaleigh Allender had six. Allender and Kaitlin Culli paced the offense with three kills apiece.

“I knew they were going to have some big guns and we were ready for it,” **Streamwood** coach Michele Mueller said. “We decided we were going to play some great defense, challenge them to swing two, three, four times to earn their kill.

“They frustrated their hitters a little bit and that was the game plan — control what we can control.”

While the statistics are nearly identical across the board for Burgdorf and Scherer, Hawkins sees the unique qualities in each player.

“Haley really looks up to Katie,” Hawkins said. “Haley also has that mentality where she’s going to come out and kill no matter what. She’s got that going for her.

“Katie just has the raw skill and talent. They bring different talents, but it’s nice to have them, especially when they’re both in the front row.”

The North Stars also talked about the pressure that comes with being a top seed.

Hawkins addressed that situation Tuesday by bringing in members of St. Charles North’s state championship softball team to talk to her players before the match.

“Every day you have to get better and every day could be the last, so you better embrace it and cherish it and you better go after it,” Hawkins said. “It was a very good message.

“They were near tears and they were inspired. It was awesome.”

To read the full article, click [here](#)

## **--- Elgin Courier-News---**

### **Ground game proves to be a real home run**

**Oct. 26, 2022**

**By Paul Johnson for Beacon-News**

#### **FOOTBALL**

Green focuses on baseball after his freshman year. As a senior, he turns into **South Elgin’s** leading rusher.





**South Elgin** senior Jordan Green came out for football for the first time since his freshman year and led the **Storm** in rushing during the regular season. Paul Johnson/Beacon-News

If you told **South Elgin's** Jordan Green that he would be the leading rusher on an undefeated team heading into the playoffs, it would have been pretty hard for him to believe.

Green, a 5-foot-9, 200-pound running back, hadn't even played football since his freshman year with the **Storm** until he ultimately decided to come back out for his senior season.

"I couldn't even imagine," Green said. "It's surreal."

The regular-season results couldn't have been much better. Green has been the real deal for **South Elgin** (9-0), rushing for 685 yards and 10 touchdowns on only 62 carries.

The host **Storm** begin the Class 8A playoffs at 6 p.m. Friday against Belleville East (5-4).

"It's pretty satisfying," Green said. "I didn't plan on playing football past freshman year, so I focused on baseball. I figured I would give it a shot. It's been the time of my life."

Several factors played into his decision not to play his past freshman year. Green, an outfielder by trade, suffered a severe wrist injury his sophomore year.

"I blew everything in my wrist, dislocated it, tore ligaments, fractured it," Green said. "I still have limits on it."

As he recovered, the fall 2020 season was wiped out due to the pandemic. Then the Storm played 2021 seasons in the spring and fall, a time frame that wasn't conducive to coming back out for football even if he wanted to.

In the offseason, however, Green decided to give it another shot.



“No one really talked me into it, but it was my last year and I like playing with my friends,” Green said. “I ended up coming out and doing the lifting and now we’re in the season.

“It was something I wanted to do — have fun. The game is a lot faster from freshman to varsity. It was a big jump, but I grasped it pretty well. I’m still learning as I go.”

**South Elgin** coach Dragan Teonic wouldn’t just let a player come out if they didn’t put in the work, though. It wouldn’t be fair to the other players who paid their dues for four years.

That was never a concern with Green.

“He came back this offseason, didn’t miss a day, handled his business like a pro,” Teonic said. “That’s why we don’t turn our back on kids. They change and they grow and they blossom. So much changes from 14 to 18, it’s unbelievable. You wait and sometimes you get lucky.

“It was a perfect fit. He played exceptionally well.”

Green has been a home-run hitter for **South Elgin’s** offense.

His big breakout came against rival **Bartlett** in Week 8. Green ran for 168 yards and three TDs in a 53-7 win. The amazing part of the performance was he needed just four carries.

“The line did a fantastic job and I got to the second level,” Green said. “The safety would overrun me and I would cut him off. That’s what happened on every run. My thought process was to hit the boosters.”

That’s exactly what he did, which was no surprise to Teonic.

“Jordan is explosive,” Teonic said. “I knew he was fast, but when you see him outrun other teams, it’s impressive. The difference is he has that one more gear.

“He can bust a 20, 30-yard run and make it 60.”

Green couldn’t have predicted that before the season, but now he’s in the middle of a team hoping to make the deepest run in program history, a journey that starts Friday.

“It’s fun being in this environment,” Green said. “We know we should win. We still have to play to a level. That’s the challenge we put on ourselves — to play our best.

“I believe we can make it as far as we want to make it.”

Paul Johnson is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.

## **– The Elgin Courier-News –**

### **LOCAL SCOREBOARD**

**Oct. 26, 2022**

## Compiled By Josh Crockey

### FOOTBALL

#### HIGH SCHOOLS STATE PLAYOFFS

##### First Round

All games in bracket order

#### FRIDAY'S GAMES

##### CLASS 8A

(17) Neuqua Valley 7-2 vs. (16) Lane 7-2 at Lane Stadium, 6 p.m.

(25) Stevenson 6-3 at (8) Warren 8-1, 7 p.m.

(29) Belleville East 5-4 at (4) South Elgin 9-0, 6 p.m.

(31) Oswego East 5-4 at (2) York 9-0, 7 p.m.

(18) Marist 6-3 at (15) Naperville North 7-2, 7 p.m.

(19) Naperville Central 6-3 at (14) Lyons 7-2, 7 p.m.

##### CLASS 7A

(24) Brother Rice 5-4 at (9) Jacobs 8-1, 7 p.m.

(29) Maine West 5-4 at (4) St. Charles North 8-1, 7:30 p.m.

(21) Geneva 6-3 at (12) St. Rita 7-2, 7 p.m.

(18) Batavia 6-3 at (15) Rockford Guilford 7-2, 6:30 p.m.

(26) Libertyville 5-4 at (7) Yorkville 8-1, 7 p.m.

(22) Larkin 6-3 at (11) Lake Zurich 8-1, 7 p.m.

##### SOUTH ELGIN

Larkin 3, Huntley 1

#### CLASS 2A REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

## SYCAMORE

Sycamore 3, Kaneland 1

## FRIDAY'S RESULTS HIGH SCHOOLS

### FOOTBALL

#### WEEK 9

#### UPSTATE EIGHT

East Aurora 27, Fenton 20

Glenbard East 41, Bartlett 0

Glenbard South 43, **Elgin** 22

**South Elgin** 48, Streamwood 6

West Chicago 55, **Larkin** 6

To read the full article, click [here](#)

## --- The South Elgin Examiner ---

### Undefeated **Storm** football wins UEC crown again

**Oct. 26, 2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The **South Elgin** football team will enter the playoffs after completing its third straight undefeated regular season.

The **Storm** won its fourth straight Upstate Eight Conference title with a 48-6 win over **Streamwood** to finish 9-0 overall and in the UEC on Friday, Oct. 21. **South Elgin** has now won 24 straight UEC games.

On Saturday, playoff pairings came out with the **Storm** earning the fourth seed. **South Elgin** will host No. 29 Belleville East in the opening round.

**Storm** coach Dragan Teonic said there's still plenty to work on including "ball security, pad level, tackling and special teams play" as they prepare for the postseason.

"There is nowhere to hide in 8A," Teonic said. "Everybody has a pedigree, and there's very few teams that don't. You have your typical powerhouse teams that show up every year. At the end of the day, you have to play football."

**South Elgin** is averaging 48.6 points per game as its ground game has come up big with big rushing games from senior Jordan Green, junior Ari Kravis and junior Lucas Noworol. The

**Storm** had five rushing touchdowns in its finale against Streamwood while sophomore quarterback Nathan Downey threw for a pair of TDs.

On the other side of the ball, Teonic said the **Storm's** "played good defense for our fifth straight year" as **South Elgin** has allowed 12.2 points per game on average this season.

As for Belleville East, it's scored 30.4 points per game and allowed 23.6 points per game this season.