

## **Press Clippings 10/6/2021**

### **---The Examiner of Bartlett---10/6/2021**

#### **U-46 Board approves varied expense proposals**

**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** unanimously approved of \$246,871 in expenditure proposals at its September meetings.

Included were two emergency items that were presented and approved on the same evening.

At the Sept. 27 meeting, the board approved \$66,600, to be paid by the nation's taxpayers through grant funds, for 2,400 COVID-19 test kits from School Nurse Supply, Inc.

Superintendent Tony Sanders said the district is waiting to receive the tests, and "if we can't get them from this vendor in a timely manner, we will not sign the contract."

The proposal claims district staff must submit to a COVID-19 shot or weekly testing under Gov. JB Pritzker's state dictates, but no legislation has been approved granting that authority. "The district is working to establish weekly SHIELD testing for staff members in our facilities, but we are anticipating it may be several weeks before our testing partner is able to secure the needed personnel to accommodate this testing," the proposal states.

At the Sept. 13 meeting, the board approved \$41,000 (grant funds) to purchase 200 picnic tables from Uline. The tables will be used in lunchrooms "to abide by the threefoot social distancing," the proposal states.

Also approved was \$72,000 (grant funds) to Northern Illinois University for English as a second language special education courses, \$37,872 (grant funds) for specialized student services consultant Don Johnson and \$29,399 (education fund) for Footprints software.

Additionally, \$12.8 million in itemized bills on Sept. 13 and \$6.8 million in itemized bills on Sept. 27 were unanimously approved.

The board also voted 7-0 to seek School Maintenance Project Grant funds on Sept. 27. Sheila Downs, director of plant operations, said the district received \$50,000 through this grant for a project last year, and they expect \$50,000 again this year to go towards a fire alarm project at Wayne Elementary School estimated to have a \$400,000 total cost.

### **---The Examiner of Bartlett---10/6/2021**

#### **Split vote ratifies pacts for school resource officers**

**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 6-1, board member Eva Porter voting no, on contracts for School Resource Officers (SRO) at secondary schools at its meeting on Monday, Sept. 27.

The contracts total \$1 million with four municipalities (Bartlett, Elgin, South Elgin, Streamwood) and were set for approval on Sept. 19, but that vote was deferred as U-46 demanded all SROs comply with Gov. JB Pritzker's mandate that school employees submit to a COVID-19 shot or follow strict testing protocols.

Pritzker made that mandate in August without any legislation giving him authority.

U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders said the municipalities "promptly got on this to make sure we got the compliance documents necessary."

Porter said she was voting no because she wants the district to mandate "more training in diversity and inclusion for the officers" that's "not just left up to the police department." The contracts do include new U-46 mandated training, Crisis Prevention Institute and Student Special Needs Awareness in Autism and Special Education.

“I think the district SROs in schools play a very important role in our district safety and protection,” Porter said, but she added the data “shows a large disproportion of arrests in a certain population of students at this time.”

However, Sanders has noted SROs only step in “if it rises to the level of criminal offense of some sort that must be reported.”

Board member Veronica Noland, who voted yes this year, voted no last year as the board admitted they had no evidence of wrongdoing from U-46 SROs but decried the police in general as systematically racist. Noland said last year that “we have wonderful SROs,” but “I can’t have my vote be part of that systemic racism.”

### **---The Examiner of Bartlett---10/6/2021**

#### **SEHS football prevails over Sabres at homecoming**

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

The **South Elgin football team** put away any hopes from **Streamwood** with a bevy of third quarter onside kicks as the Storm earned a 57-8 Upstate Eight Conference win on Friday, Oct. 1 at South Elgin.

The win culminated homecoming week, which included a powder puff game and a parade on Thursday night, while the Storm punched a ticket to the postseason to improve to 6-0 overall, 5-0 in the UEC.

“I’m really excited for them,” said South Elgin coach Dragan Teonic. “They handled homecoming with a lot of class. They’ve been great in the building and the community through the year.”

Up 21-0 at halftime and getting the ball back to start the third quarter, South Elgin was looking good. Instead, Streamwood successfully executed an onside kick to start the second half which led to the visitors pulling to 21-8.

The Storm quickly answered on their next possession, Mason Montgomery (77 rushing yards) with a 38-yard touchdown run with 6:12 left in the third quarter, and they successfully converted three straight onside kicks helping produce 29 points in just over a minute. Montgomery added an 11- yard TD run and a 45-yard TD reception from quarterback Jordan Jones, and Jalen Jones added a 53-yard TD run for a 50-8 lead with 5:03 left in the quarter.

“We did not feel like getting into a ballgame,” Teonic said. “So, I thought the on-sides were the way to go. We needed it. We needed to blow it open because they’re tough.”

Jordan Jones (81 rushing yards) had a 23-yard touchdown run and threw TD passes of 31 yards and 80 yards to Jalen Jones in the first half. Brandon Belk ran for seven yards on a fourth quarter score.

South Elgin’s defense, which has not allowed more than one touchdown in a game, had allowed only 29 rushing yards a game, but Streamwood tallied 173.

“Streamwood did an awesome job of exposing some things that we need to get right if we want to win the conference and do something in the playoffs,” Teonic said. “The score was not quite as indicative of the fight that they showed tonight.”

## **---The Examiner of Streamwood---10/6/2021**

### **Sabres football struggle ends with loss to South Elgin**

**By Seth Hancock**

As soon as the **Streamwood football team** had gained momentum, **South Elgin** stole it back as the Sabres fell 57-8 in Upstate Eight Conference play on Friday, Oct. 1 at South Elgin. The Sabres had moved the ball effectively in the first half, including a nearly nine-minute opening drive, but came away with no points and a 21-0 deficit at halftime.

Needing to get back into the game, Streamwood went for an onside kick to start the second

half which Richard Santiago recovered setting up an eventual 17- yard touchdown run from Michael Estrada (129 rushing yards). Estrada added a two-point conversion run to pull to 21-8 with 6:39 left in the third quarter.

However, just over a minute and a half later the score was 50-8 with 5:03 left in the third quarter as South Elgin scored on its next possession then successfully converted three straight onside kicks, all turning into touchdowns.

“They did a good job on their onside kicks and it’s something our kids have to be coached up some more on, and that falls on me as coach,” said Streamwood coach Keith McMaster. “We need to work on our football IQ, work on some of our defense. That’s where we’re struggling and that’s what we need to fix.”

Davidas Petreikis had a fumble recovery in the first half for Streamwood’s defense.

Streamwood, which hopes for a postseason appearance ended as it fell to 1-5 overall and in the UEC, gained 173 rushing yards against the UEC leaders who have allowed only 29 rushing yards on average this season.

“I was happy with the kids because they kept on fighting,” McMaster said. “That’s something we’ve got to build on. For the offense to be able to drive on this team is pretty impressive. But they’re a great team, both offensively and defensively, and there’s a lot of things that we have to work on.”

McMaster added: “I told the kids that it’s not how you start a season, it’s how you finish it. We need to try and finish strong, and that’s our whole motto. That’s going to be our motto next season as well.”