

Press Clippings 11/04/20

---The Courier-News--- 11/04/2020

Return in U-46 to start Nov. 9

Officials: Precautions in place in order to keep students safe

By: Karie Angell Luc

District U-46 plans to bring pre-K to second grade students back to school next week despite a rapid rise of potential COVID-19 cases that need contact tracing.

U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders told the school board Monday the district has “682 open suspected cases that we are contact tracing across U-46. And that’s without having a lot of kids within our school buildings at this time.”

However, precautions are in place so that the return should be safe if the rules are followed, he said.

After the Nov. 9 return for the younger grades, small groups of middle and high school students will follow Nov. 16 and grades three to six will start returning Nov. 30.

Under the hybrid program planned, students will be in school on a part-time basis and doing remote learning the rest of the time.

“As we (start returning students to classrooms), I have to continue to plead with our parents and our faculty that we need continued flexibility and understanding from everyone,” Sanders said.

“Our ability to reopen successfully really relies on several assumptions,” he said. Among them, state and local authorities must allow the district to open and there must be enough staff to teach in person, he said.

The district also must keep up with the rapid increase in contact tracing and respond to reports of anyone showing COVID-19 symptoms, even if they’ve not been confirmed to have the virus, Sanders said.

If someone with symptoms has been within 6 feet of others for a period of 15 minutes or more, exposure must be traced, according to government health guidelines. The district will initiate contact tracing immediately and will notify anyone who may need to potentially quarantine.

District officials have been relying on families to self-certify their children don’t have a fever before returning to school in person, a method approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.

“We do review the metrics and we review these metrics on a regular ongoing basis across all of our U-46 communities,” said Suzanne Johnson, deputy superintendent of instruction.

Despite a substantial spread of local COVID-19 cases in U-46 communities, “guidance from our local county health departments is that we are able to proceed with planning for a return to in-person hybrid instruction as long as we follow our social distancing and other safety guidelines to do so,” Johnson said. However, “that guidance is changing on a regular basis as well,” she said. “We continue to monitor this very closely and we need to make adjustments based on that guidance.”

All students must wear face masks while in school and families are encouraged to work with their children to make sure new habits and safety behaviors — like social distancing and hand washing — are instilled before they return to school, Johnson said.

“It really is a community effort,” she said.

Local health departments say most COVID-19 transmission is community spread, stemming from group gatherings at home or public places, like private youth sports events or restaurants and bars, Sanders said.

“It doesn’t come typically from educational settings,” he said.

Other school districts have been able to implement a hybrid schedule successfully and county health departments are saying that “having kids in school is important,” Sanders said.

“We’ve learned a lot in these past few months,” he said. “Now we know that we can do this safely.”

The Examiner of STREAMWOOD

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"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
November 4, 2020

Tidbits column:
Quirky mornings
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Sabres XC teams
end their seasons
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Contradictions surround SRO use in Dist. U-46

By Seth Hancock

Contradictions abounded as the Board of Education in School District U-46 discussed the future of School Resource Officers (SRO) in secondary schools at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 19 which was held electronically due to COVID-19 regulations.

With reservations, the board did vote 6-1, Veronica Noland voting no, for three contracts (Bartlett, South Elgin, Streamwood) on Nov. 2, the City of Elgin's contract was not yet available for a vote, at a cost of \$581,543 (3.1 percent increase from \$563,961) for salaries and overtime/event security. Of note is the schools that would use the SROs remain mostly closed down due to the district's reopening plan.

"We have wonderful SROs," Noland said, but "I can't have my vote be part of that systemic racism."

Without one single incident or accusation of problems cited from U-46 SROs, the board suggested the district should look for other options because a handful of public comments were made and they want to follow the cues of partisan organizations, such as Black Lives Matter which admits its roots are Marxist. Public commenters explicitly called police racist and white supremacists while stating they target illegal immigrants.

"The power and the versatility of the Black Lives Matter movement is telling us what our black and brown communities feel about the police," said board member Kate Thommes. She added there continues "to be more and more issues with the police culture in our country" and "our times are changing."

Last year, while discussing the lobbying activities of the Illinois Association of School Boards, the U-46 board unanimously opposed rural and downstate school districts, who don't have the resources for SROs, the option to arm staff or even seek other security options, U-46 citing that SROs are the only ones with the training that could be trusted in schools. Thommes said last year she was a "strong believer there will not be guns in U-46 schools... unless they're with trained law enforcement."

Now, the board says SROs are not sufficiently trained and it needs to micromanage them despite SROs not being employed by the district but by their police departments. Sue Kerr, the

board's president, did say: "Our job as a board is not to get into the weeds and tell them we're going to do this, this and this."

Board members, like Thommes along with Eva Porter and John Devereux, suggested SROs must get additional training including sensitivity, cultural, bias and special needs training from the district. Superintendent Tony Sanders said: "If we offer it, they will come. They always do."

"I don't think the training that they get is enough to meet the population or some of the situations that we have in our school, which is students," said Porter despite the district saying last year that SROs must get a series of school-specific training mandated by the state. Board member Melissa Owens said they need to get "very specific training from us," and "I think we're all struggling with this."

Porter claimed "SROs, or the police, is a person to fear" for some students and said their roles need to be defined despite the contracts always literally defining the "duties and responsibilities."

Thommes suggested there be a moratorium placed on SROs' abilities to arrest, except for "maybe" if a weapon is involved or staff member attacked.

"I don't think you see a lot of arrests... for those minor things" already, Sanders said and added a moratorium would put "us at liability to be charged with obstruction of justice."

Devereux suggested U-46 follow the Chicago Public Schools model which eliminated some SROs in favor of more social workers, counselors and hall monitors. Board member Donna Smith suggested having both, including SROs.

Noland cited and agreed with an openly racist quote by former board member Traci Ellis suggesting white students act out more than U-46's data suggests. She said: "We somehow have the most well-behaved white students."

"Only black and brown kids are seeming to be disciplined in our schools," Noland claimed. Arrest data actually shows that total arrests have dropped from 343 in 2013-2014 to 29 in 2018-2019 with all racial categories having arrests. In fact, two categories had no arrests the last two years including Asians and American Indians, both of which would be students of

color.

Arguably, discipline measures, have been artificially lowered due to "restorative practices," in U-46.

"We have separated discipline," Sanders said. "SROs cannot get involved in student discipline. They do not get involved in discipline. They do not investigate it. They have no role in any expulsions that come before the

board."

Noland told the board to not use language that suggests students should feel safe around police. The district and police departments obliged by removing language from the contract stating SROs "promote positive attitudes regarding the role of law en-

See SRO, pg. 8



Passed but not forgotten

Though Halloween has passed many of the holiday's decorations endure at area homes at least until it is time for them to be replaced with Christmas-related ornamentation. Such was the case at this village residence on Monday, Nov. 2.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

U-46 Board approves union pact, expense items

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved a union contract as well as \$1.2 million in expenditures at its meeting on Monday, Oct. 19 which was virtual due to COVID-19 regulations.

The four-year union contract was with the Educational Support Services Organization. The board held no public discussion.

Jeff King, deputy superintendent of operations, responded to an inquiry from *The Examiner* seeking details and said it includes "a lump sum paid in the first year which ranges from \$750-\$1,250 depending on the employees

grade level," a 3 percent raise in the second year and 2.75 percent the third and fourth years.

Language changes included vacancies, sick leave, job descriptions, vacation limitations and snow removal," King added.

Three "emergency" items were presented and approved that same evening, all to be paid for through the education fund.

Included was \$532,232 with School Specialty for elementary supplies for 10,740 students which include items like scissors and crayons.

Board member Melissa Owens asked which students will receive the sup-

ply kits and Jaimie Giraldo, fine arts coordinator, said "at this time, this provides kits for all of our students who receive free or reduced lunch only" with kits including "traditional school supply items that are on a lot of the elementary schools' school supply list."

Board member Kate Thommes said her family personally "got our money's worth" of taxpayer funded supply handouts. She said: "My family, we got one of the secondary art distance learning supply kits and it was really nice. We were really pleased with what we got, and there was a good supply of stuff."

With MusicFirst, the district will spend \$339,101 for online learning applications and USB microphones for 4,750 secondary music students. The district will spend \$183,728 also with School Specialty for secondary art supplies like sketchbooks, pens, pencils and pencil sharpeners for 4,903 students.

Also approved was \$169,500 to hire Virtuoso Education Consulting, LLC for nine months to do data analysis and hold monthly meetings regarding disproportionality data. The board additionally unanimously approved of \$7.7 million in itemized bills.

Pet of the Week



Looking to be rescued

Beautiful Zelda is patiently waiting to be rescued by a dashing hero. A kind citizen found this little lady outside with her kittens and brought her to the shelter once she was done with her motherly duties so she could find a family to make her a spoiled house cat. He described her as loving and needy and kind of a food hog! She's only 4 years old and ready to be adopted!

All those interested may get the adoption process started by completing an adoption application at bit.ly/OurAdoptables and a staff member will reach out to schedule a time for a meet and greet.

(Photo courtesy of County Animal Control)



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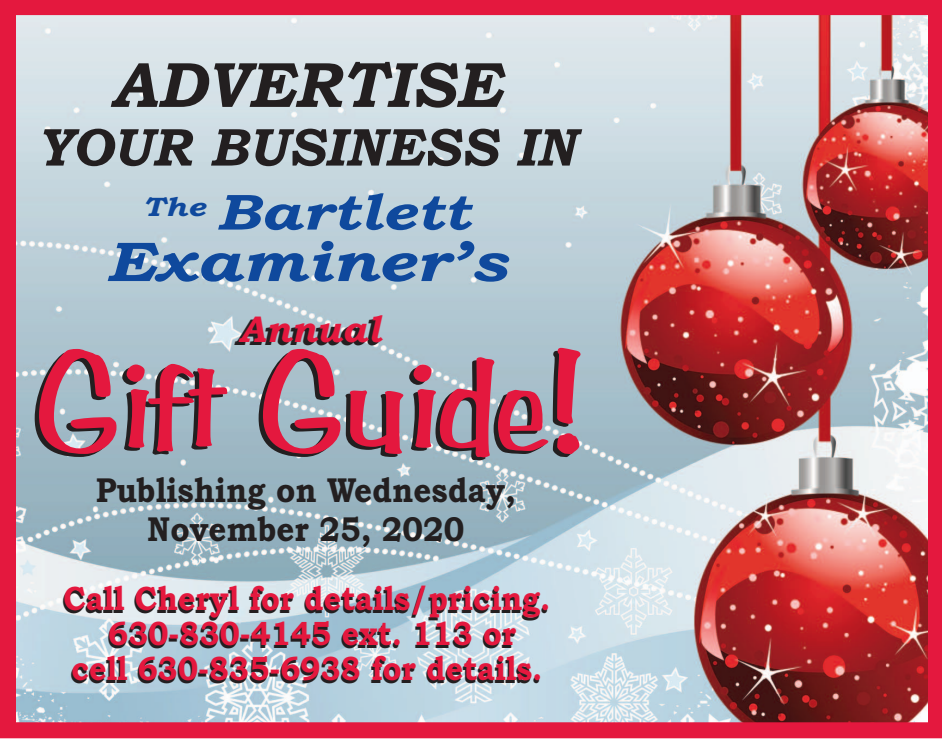
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Sabres girls cross country end season at regional

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood girls cross country team capped the modified 2020 season, due to COVID-19 regulations, at the Lake Park Regional on Saturday, Oct. 24.

The Sabres finished 11th at the meet led by sophomore Ashley Harrison who ran a time of 22 minutes, 33.43 seconds.

Of their five resulting finishers, three of the Sabres runners were not seniors while two of the seven racers were underclassmen. Junior Victoria Sinclair (68th, 23:07.28), senior Rani Patel (73rd, 25:18.92), junior Nicole Barceñas (74th, 25:22.13) and senior Joselynn Bolanos (75th, 25:28.77) rounded out Streamwood's top five.

"I have felt good about our team's performances this year," said Streamwood coach Dylan Lau. "We are a young team and learning as we go."

Also racing at regionals were freshman Reyna Saldivar (76th, 26:51.7) and senior Estefuny Nieto (77th,

27:26.07). Streamwood will also lose senior Barbara Salgado.

As the season comes to an end, the Sabres like other teams hope for a return to a normal season next year.

As a result of restrictions, meets had smaller crowds and results were often delayed. The Upstate Eight Conference did not hold a final conference meet while all teams in the UEC competed solely within conference this season with dual meets each week.

The UEC final standings have not been released yet for the season. Streamwood did end its UEC schedule with a loss at Fenton on Saturday, Oct. 17.

Regardless, athletes were glad just to have a season.

"I am pleased with how my team has performed this season," Lau said. "We have improved every race."

Lau added: "It does feel good to have a season. The kids were excited to be at practice and appreciated the process more."

A View from the Cheap Seats



The Uncivil War

By Rich Trzupek

I write this column aware that when it comes out in print on Nov. 4 one of two things will be true: 1) we'll know who won the presidential election, or 2) we won't. In the first place, approximately 50 percent of the country will be pissed off at the other 50 percent. In the second place, everyone will be pissed.

We'll get through it, just as we we'll get through COVID craziness. We always do. Americans are nothing if not survivors. We whine and moan with the best of them, but when the chips are down, Americans come through.

I do not believe it is possible to stay mad forever, at least not without going mad. In the coming months people are going to talk a lot about "healing" and "coming together" and other such nonsense. We're a nation of two minds with regard to just about every important issue of the day. That's not going to change anytime soon.

If we're going to continue to engage in the kind of civil war that we've been fighting for the past 20 years, we need to stop being uncivil about it.

We couldn't know it at the time, but politics in America changed fundamentally with the presidential election of 2000. The losing side – Gore supporters – were spectacularly angry about the result and how it was decided. President George W. Bush spent the next eight years in office, except for a brief respite after 9/11, fending off viscous attacks from the left and the mainstream media, the likes of which hadn't been seen since the early, rough and tumble days after Washington retired from public life.

Americans have always made fun of their presidents, sure. But not like that. There was an animosity aimed at this essentially good man that made almost every attack aimed his way justifiable in the minds of the attackers. Bush took it. Never fought back and never let it throw him. He believed he had to maintain the dignity of the office, no matter how much fecal matter was flung at him.

President Obama endured much the same sort of insults, not from the MSM of course, which by this point hardly tried to disguise their party affiliation any longer. Nor did the anger have to do with the melanin concentration in his skin. Except for a few tired, unreformed rednecks living in the hills of West Virginia, nobody

cared about melanin and, contrary to popular belief among some, I am convinced fewer care every day.

The root cause of attacks against Obama was the same as the root cause of attacks aimed at Bush; the policies that each championed. And that is of course fine. We should have policy discussions, but we don't. We have name-calling sessions. Most reasonable people find the rants stupid and counter-productive. But, that's where we are.

Donald Trump knew he would never, ever get a fair shake from the MSM. They and their party would go after him every bit as nastily as they went after a gentleman like Bush. So the Donald changed the game. He could be nasty too. There is no doubt that he has communicated in ways that are uncivil and un-presidential, but he didn't create the angry divisions we deal with these days. He rather recognized they exist and took the only route I believe he had available to him: he fights back.

Whomever wins or has won when you read this, my prayer is that we can at least try to get back to discussions that are not about insulting people, but are about the details of the issue. Most of all I pray that we can regain the ability to recognize the fact that most people are, at their core, good people who want good things for all. We may not agree on the best road to take to Zion, but the vast majority of us sure want to get there with our fellow travelers.

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Connections

Poplar Creek Public Library

Visit pclib.org or call 837-6800 for our latest news and current hours of operation. Social distancing measures in place and masks are required.

Turkeys in Disguise Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 3:30 p.m. In-Library

They may try to run, but can they hide? Kids grades K to three, come and have some fun as we turn some turkey's into superheroes so they can ward off farmers before Thanksgiving dinner.

Space is limited; call 483-4923 to register. Face masks are required in the library. Classes will take place following social distance guidelines.

Curbside Pickup

For your convenience, Curbside Pickup is available at our Branch and Main libraries. To learn how to place a hold, or if you have questions, please visit pclib.org or call 837-6800.

Trustee election packets

Interested in serving on the library's Board of Trustees? The Poplar Creek Public Library District has candidate election packets available for pick up at the Main Library located at 1405 S. Park Ave., in the Administrative Offices, located on the second floor. Visit pclib.org or call 837-6800 (opt. 1) for more information.

Chair Yoga

Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m.
Online and In Library

Relax and renew with a session of chair yoga with instructor Karen Fotopoulos, with Discover Yoga with Karen. Upon registering, you can pick whether you want to attend via Zoom or in the library. If you want to attend via Zoom, please provide your email address when you sign up.

Your Military Ancestors

Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.
In-Library and Online

Were your ancestors in the military? Learn about military records, including pensions, from the American Revo-

lution through the Vietnam War. Registration required; space is limited for in-library seating. Please provide your email address when registering to receive Zoom instructions. Questions? Call 483-4929.

Excel Basics

Monday, Nov. 9 at 2 p.m.
Online (Zoom)

Learn to navigate basic features of Excel including cell formatting and simple functions. To register for this Zoom class, please email Steven at szanfardino@pclib.org.

Adult Craft

Tuesday, Nov. 10 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Online and In-Library

Turn a pumpkin into a literary centerpiece by decorating it with book pages and some fall flowers. Register online at pclib.org or call 483-4925. Supplies are limited; masks required in the library.

Understanding Interview Questions
Wednesday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
In-Library & Online

Learn about why behavioral interview questions are asked, how to respond and better brand your skills, accomplishments, and experience. To register, call 483-4929 or visit our events calendar at pclib.org.

Basics of Medicare

Thursday, Nov. 12
6 p.m. Online (Zoom)
7 p.m. In-Library

Confused about where to start with Medicare? Join us for an informational session with Certified Licensed Illinois Insurance Agent Bruce Mancherian. Register online at pclib.org or call 483-4929. Space is limited for the in-library session (masks required); email required for online (Zoom) session.

For a complete listing of scheduled classes/events at Poplar Creek Public Library, 1405 S. Park Ave., in Streamwood or Sonya Crawshaw Branch, 4300 Audrey Lane in Hanover Park, visit www.pclib.org. Questions? Call 837-6800.

IDNR announces changes to its pheasant hunting program

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has announced changes to controlled pheasant hunting for the 2020-21 hunting season. The changes, health and safety protocols implemented in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, will provide greater protection to both the hunting public and site staff during the season.

Standby controlled pheasant hunting permits will not be available this hunting season. Pheasant hunters will need to acquire a reserved controlled pheasant hunting permit to hunt on controlled pheasant hunting sites. Reserved controlled pheasant hunting permits can be acquired through the online reservation system available on the Controlled Pheasant Hunting website at this link: <https://dnr2.illinois.gov/controlledhunt/>. To make acquiring a reserved permit more convenient, hunters will be able to reserve a permit until noon the day before a hunt date.

On IDNR-operated sites, the daily fee for permits acquired online for controlled pheasant hunting is \$30 for resident hunters and \$35 for nonresident hunters. The daily permit fee applies to each individual hunter. Hunters are required to pay for permits acquired online over a secure system using a major credit card. A transaction fee of \$1 for a single hunter or 2.25 percent of the permit fee for multiple hunters will be assessed for each permit, except for permits for the Illinois youth

pheasant hunt. Illinois Youth pheasant hunt permits are issued at no cost. All but one of the controlled pheasant hunting sites have ample reserved permits available for all days of the controlled hunting season. Illinois youth pheasant hunt permits are also available for all but one controlled pheasant hunting site. Hunters are encouraged to make the necessary planning adjustments now to hunt on the sites on the hunt dates desired.

Hunter check station procedures will also change on controlled pheasant hunting sites as part of health and safety protocols. Hunters are advised to wear an appropriate face covering and maintain appropriate social distance when in the hunter check station area. Hunters should also pay attention to advisory signs with information about check-in procedures. Check-out procedures will also change at many controlled pheasant hunting sites this season. Check-out procedures will be announced during the registration process.

Special note for the 2020-21 hunting season: Non-toxic shotshells are required when hunting at Des Plaines SFWA, Horseshoe Lake SP, Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA, Mackinaw River SFWA, Silver Springs SFWA, Chain O'Lakes SP, Eldon Hazlet SRA, Green River SWA, Johnson Sauk Trail SRA and Wayne Fitzgerald SRA. Hunters are reminded when hunting at any of these sites that only non-toxic shotshells may in possession.

Sabres boys cross country ends season at regional

By Seth Hancock

The Streamwood boys cross country team ended the modified 2020 season, due to COVID-19 restrictions, with hopes of normalcy soon but with gratitude for the chance to compete this year.

At the Lake Park Regional, the Sabres finished the year on Saturday, Oct. 24. Streamwood did not have its full team with just four runners.

Leading the way was senior Emiliano Mendoza who ran a time of 17 minutes, 35.9 seconds for 56th. Senior Jose Banuelos (63rd, 18:34.3), sophomore Saul Villarreal (72nd, 21:09) and Juan Aguirre (73rd, 23:33.9) rounded out the squad.

Outside of Mendoza and junior Uvaldo Ramirez, the rest of the Sabres were new to cross country.

"Overall, I was happy with my team's effort this year," said Streamwood coach Weert Goldenstein. "We had six out of the eight who were first-year runners, and they really worked hard and adapted quickly to learning the sport. My other two, Uva Ramirez and Milo Mendoza, came in and did a good job leading the team."

Goldenstein said the season was "in-

teresting" overall due to the changes. All of Streamwood's matches were duals against Upstate Eight Conference teams.

As a result, crowds were smaller and results often delayed, and the UEC has still not released final standings for the season. Streamwood ended the season with an UEC loss at Fenton on Saturday, Oct. 17.

"I'm glad the guys got the chance to run and compete, but I felt like they were a little less motivated this season due to the low numbers on the team and only racing against one team at a time at our meets," Goldenstein said. "Having the bigger invites with the large crowds gives more of an impression of a serious competition than racing against one team with no spectators. But we could have had no season at all. So, I'm thankful for that."

Goldenstein added: "I'm hoping that next year we'll get back to normal and the numbers will improve. We usually have close to 20 guys on the team, and I suspect that this year's low numbers are mainly due to COVID. I'm confident once we are back in school we'll be able to bring the numbers back up again."

Kane to hold recycling event for select Halloween decor



Free pumpkin recycling event.

(Courtesy photo)

According to Kane County, the county, in conjunction with Pushing the Envelope Farm and Northern Illinois Food Bank, are offering a free pumpkin recycling event in Geneva on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to noon, to help reduce the seasonal holiday waste!

Jack O'Lanterns, pumpkins and decorative squashes are highly compostable and it is a real shame to just send them to a landfill, when the nutrients they contain could instead be returned to soil that will grow more healthy food!

When: Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: Pushing the Envelope Farm at 1700 Averill Road, Geneva.

Accepted: Pumpkins (carved or whole), decorative squashes and gourds; corn stalks; hay bales; and any other organic materials used as fall decor.

Not Accepted: It is very important to keep it contaminant-free; just like food scrap composting. In other words, only the squashes, pumpkins and gourds themselves can be composted! Jack O'Lanterns with any of the following items in or on them will not be accepted: Candles; yarn hair; stickers; googly eyes; plastic ears; plastic of any kind; and excessive amounts of paint.

SRO

Continued from page 1

forcement in society, and inform students of their rights and responsibilities as lawful citizens."

"We need to remove the threat (of police) from our lives," Noland said adding that students shouldn't have to bear the thought that police might be there to help.

Noland suggested the board only listen to certain voices when Kerr suggested the community (staff, students, general public, etc.) be surveyed.

"We ask our schools what do they want," Kerr said. "I mean it could be some of our schools say, 'we'd rather have another counselor.'"

Noland said the public can't be trusted because "if the majority of your students are not students of color, what do you think your outcome will be."

Olivia Howell, the board's student advisor, said she's done a small survey of students. She said: "Some students say they wouldn't feel safe at school without one, and some students say they wouldn't feel safe with them there."