

## Press Clippings for 11/30/2022

### – The Examiner –

Story posted on The Examiner of Bartlett, Streamwood and South Elgin

## Trend continues in U-46 for declining enrollment

Nov. 30, 2022

By Seth Hancock



#### Change in the making

The sign above an entrance to Hawk Hollow Elementary School and the school are slated for change. Enrollment in School District U-46 schools continues to decline and the district plans to convert the facility into a middle school by the start of the 2023-24 academic year.

Since 2014 total district enrollment has dropped by nearly 13 percent or a reduction of 5,149 students.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)



#### Declining enrollment

Enrollment at School District U-46 schools continues to decline and the district has recently released updated statistics to include the 2022-23 academic year. Since 2014 total district enrollment has dropped by nearly 13 percent or a reduction of 5,149 students. Tefft Middle School was among district middle schools with the largest student loss this academic year, having 79 less students than last year.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)



#### Declining enrollment

Enrollment at School District U-46 schools continues to decline and the district has recently released updated statistics to include the 2022- 23 academic year. Since 2014 total district enrollment has dropped by nearly 13 percent or a reduction of 5,149 students.

South Elgin High led all district high schools with the largest student loss this academic year, having 130 less students than last year.

(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)

Enrollment in **School District U-46** dropped by 2.1 percent, a loss of 769 students (36,107 to 35,338 total), in the 2022-2023 school year, according to a presentation given to the Board of Education in October.

This is the eighth straight year of enrollment declines, this being the second largest single-year loss during that span. Enrollment has dropped 12.7 percent since 2014, a loss of 5,149 students since 40,487 in 2014.

**Brian Lindholm, chief of staff**, said the district expects to lose “several hundred students per year” to somewhere between 30,000 and 32,000 total students in 2026. He said the district expects enrollment to “stabilize” to a “new normal” by then.

**Lindholm** began by saying the “lasting impact of COVID-19 on education in Illinois” has caused enrollment declines “larger than can be explained by state demographics alone.” “The enrollment decline is due both to declining birth rates... as well as an increasing number of students being homeschooled, although this is difficult to verify as Illinois does not require homeschooling families to register with the state or local district,” **Lindholm** added. He said the charter school has also affected enrollment, but there is no evidence of private school enrollment effecting the **U-46** numbers.

The district only saw an increase in enrollment at the early childhood level, an increase of 78 from 1,030 to 1,108.

Elementary enrollment dropped by 187 students (16,995 to 16,808). Two schools increased by over 30 students, **Prairieview** (80) and **Clinton** (31), and four saw a decline of over 30: **Ontarioville** (-62), **Hawk Hollow** (-60), **Bartlett** (-40) and **Century Oaks** (-33).

**Lindholm** noted this is a transition year for **Hawk Hollow**, which is being converted into a middle school. That effected the decrease at **Hawk Hollow** and the increase at **Prairieview**, where elementary students were allowed to enroll prior to the middle school conversion.

Middle school enrollment dropped by 473 students (5,582 to 5,109). All eight schools declined, six by more than 40 students: **Abbott** (-96), **Kenyon Woods** (-88), **Tefft** (-79), **Ellis** (-77), **Larsen** (-59) and **Eastview** (-47).

High school enrollment dropped by 258 (12,212 to 11,954) with the **DREAM Academy** (42) and **Larkin** (30) the only schools with an increase. **South Elgin** (-130), **Bartlett** (-93), **Elgin** (-70) and **Streamwood** (-29) all saw reductions.

# – The Examiner of Bartlett –

## U-46 compromises on ban of anonymous comments

Nov. 30, 2022

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved, via a 7-0 vote, of changes to Policy 2:230, concerning public comments at board meetings, at its Monday, Nov. 7 meeting.

Included was new language attempting to limit anonymous comments to be made at board meetings.

Initially, **Superintendent Tony Sanders** said he requested to have a ban on anonymous public comments into the policy, a request that came after an anonymous teacher's critical comments on the district were read at a September board meeting.

The language eventually added to the policy does not ban but rather requests anonymous comments not be made.

"The Board encourages any individual who wishes to remain anonymous while providing public comment to utilize two tools provided for public input to the Board of Education: **Let's Talk!** (available on the main page of the District's website: **u-46.org**) or the Board of Education's email address: **Board@u-46.org**," the policy now states.

The original language banning anonymous comments was never provided publicly, but **board member Dawn Martin** said she "appreciate[s] that we kind of reworded it to make it not sound like we would be punishing people," and she heard "from some of the public that they were concerned on the changes."

When the changes were presented at the Oct. 24 meeting, **board members Veronica Noland and Eva Porter** both said there were many legitimate reasons for anonymous public comments.

Most board members supported banning anonymous public comments but questioned the ability of the district to enforce such a ban.

Most of the other changes to the policy were minor language changes. There was also an added line that states: "If multiple individuals wish to address the Board on the same subject, the group is encouraged to appoint a spokesperson."

# **– The Examiner of Bartlett –**

## **Holiday season begins via multiple village events**

**Nov. 30 , 2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Christmas season begins in earnest this week in the village with the Merry and Bright event and the tree lighting on Friday, Dec. 2.

Merry and Bright will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Immanuel United Church of Christ off of West North Avenue and the tree lighting from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Bartlett Park at Oak Avenue and North Avenue.

Trustee Dan Gunsteen thanked those involved in the events at the Village Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 15 including the chamber of commerce, village staff, police department, park district, volunteers and trustees.

“I think when you look at the event that is being put on this year, and the number of events that’s been added, it’s a true testament to the hard work that’s been put in by everybody,” Gunsteen said. “It’s growing year after year, so thank you very much.”

Gunsteen added: “I know it’s a one evening event, but it’s an important event to the Village of Bartlett and to the residents. And I truly believe that these types of events are what make Bartlett a great community.”

Some of the new features this year, according to Village President Kevin Wallace, are reindeer and food trucks.

The village’s website states some of the events for Merry and Bright include sanctuary tours at the church, a community tree decorating contest, Granny’s Attic Treasures (a resale shop in the educational building), bake and craft sales and free cocoa and cookies.

Santa and Mrs. Claus and their elves will be at the log cabin from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. along with a non-perishable food drive for the Hanover Township Food Pantry, horse-drawn wagon rides through downtown from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., the **South Elgin High School choir** will sing at the gazebo at 6:30 p.m., meet characters from “Frozen” from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the tree lighting will take place at 7 p.m.

Other upcoming events include a meet-up with the police department’s comfort dog Maverick on Saturday, Dec. 3 (10 to 11 a.m., Village Hall) as well as the holiday craft and gift shop pop-up (9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Arts in Bartlett Center for the Arts) and cocoa crawl (11 a.m. to 4 p.m., village-wide) on Saturday, Dec. 10.

# **– The Examiner of South Elgin –**

## **Village Board primed to vote on property tax levy**

**Nov. 30, 2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Village Board of Trustees will be voting on a property tax levy at its next meeting on Dec. 5.

The levy, presented on Nov. 7, had a public hearing on Monday, Nov. 21, where no comments were made.

The total proposed levy is \$7.2 million, a 9 percent increase from the \$6.6 million of total property taxes extended or abated for 2021.

The proposed corporate and special purpose levy for 2022 is \$5.2 million, a 12.5 percent increase from the \$4.6 million extended or abated in 2021.

Megan Golden, director of administrative services, said: “The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2021 were \$0 (prior to abatement, \$1,921,791 was levied for this purpose). The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 are \$1,932,615. This represents a 0.1 percent increase over the previous year.”

“Due to the village’s non-home rule status, the tax increase is limited to the lesser of 5 percent or the current Consumer Price Index of 7 percent over the prior year’s tax extension. Kane County requires municipalities to levy for all bond issues even though a municipality abates some or all of their bond payments.”

Included is an allowance of \$234,620. The allowance is effectively a defensive levy based on official equalized assessed valuation (EAV) numbers not being available at the time of the vote, said Steve Super, village administrator.

The estimated rate is 0.6001 percent, and it has been dropping each year since 0.6319 percent in 2018.

The village’s property tax levy represents 7 percent of a South Elgin resident’s bill, schools making up the largest portion at 60 percent for those in School District 303 and 65 percent in School District U-46.

# **– Elgin Courier-News –**

## **LOCAL SCOREBOARD**

### **MONDAY'S RESULTS**

#### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Nov. 30, 2022**

##### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

IMSA 50, Mooseheart 25

##### **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Holy Trinity 52, Rochelle Zell 48

Niles West 53, Zion-Benton 44

Rockford Jefferson 55, Genoa-Kingston 49

Genoa-Kingston (4-3): Emily Trzynka 19 points. Bryce Boylen 14 points.

##### **SATURDAY'S RESULTS**

##### **HIGH SCHOOLS**

##### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

##### **ROCKFORD TIP-OFF CLASSIC**

At Rockford Auburn

Rockford Auburn 71, **Larkin** 43

##### **RON JOHNSON TOURNAMENT**

At St. Charles East

Benet 68, Proviso East 59, championship

Benet (4-0): Brady Kunka 17 points. Brayden Fagbemi, Sam Driscoll 13 points each. Nikola Abusara 11 points.

St. Charles East 72, Willowbrook 48, fifth

South Elgin 85, East Aurora 80, seventh

## WHEATON ACADEMY TOURNAMENT

Metea Valley 78, Bartlett 50, third

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

Genoa-Kingston 62, Somonauk 26

Genoa-Kingston (4-2): Bryce Boylen 14 points. Ally Poegel, Emily Trizna 10 points.

## WRESTLING

### CHRIS HRUSKA CLASSIC

At Conant

Local teams: 4. Oswego 152.5, 5. South Elgin 136, 7. Geneva 127.5, 8. Round Lake 113.5, 9. Oswego East 88.

Local winners: 126 pounds: Brayden Swanson, Oswego. 145: Nico Clinite, South Elgin. 195: Cruz Ibarra, Oswego. 285: Adam Lambaz, Elgin.

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

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

## – Daily Herald –

### Huntley, Elgin among teams off to fast starts

Nov. 30, 2022

By Craig Brueske

Huntley's girls basketball team capped off Thanksgiving week by capturing the Dundee-Crown Tournament with a 55-38 victory over Palatine behind a career-high 25 points from Jessie Ozzauto.

Ozzauto, a 5-foot-11 senior guard, also paced the Red Raiders with 18 points and 9 rebounds during their season-opening, 50-38 win over Rockford Boylan, and duplicated the 18-point, 9-rebound effort in a 55-40 victory over St. Viator.

Ozzauto received plenty of help from her teammates, as junior Cassidy Serpe tallied a team-high 14 points with four 3-pointers in Huntley's 52-35 win over Rockton Hononegah. Ozzauto added 10 points and 8 rebounds, while sophomore Anna Campanelli had 8 points and



5 boards.

Senior Sammi Campanelli scored 7 points against Palatine, while senior Mallory Winters and sophomore Ava McFadden each had 6 points.

McFadden has provided an offensive spark with eight 3-pointers through 4 games.

“I was very pleased with the way our team played in the tournament,” said Huntley coach Steve Raethz. “We had a lot of contributions from various players in each game. I think our team has a lot of balance in terms of players who can step up and score, and I think that can be a real positive for us as the season progresses.”

Defensively, the Red Raiders held all 4 opponents to 40 points or less.

“It’s always a goal to hold opponents under 40 points,” said Raethz. “Our players take a lot of pride in playing hard on the defensive end, and I think they did a good job against four quality opponents.”

Huntley visits Jacobs Friday night.

### **DuKane update:**

A pair of DuKane Conference teams, St. Charles North and Geneva, celebrated the holiday break with successful tournament stops at Burlington Central and Hampshire, respectively.

Led by Alyssa Hughes, Reagan Sipla, Julia Larson, Katrina Stack and Ashley Wiedemann, the North Stars displayed their pressing defensive style during a 4-0 tourney finish.

St. Charles North, which held opponents to 24 points per game in 4 contests, closed out the tourney with a 68-34 triumph over Burlington Central prior to last week’s 65-25 non conference win over Oswego East. The North Stars will face Bolingbrook Saturday at Fremd.

Geneva, meanwhile, compiled a 3-1 mark at Hampshire following last week’s 61-46 victory over the host Whip-Purs. Junior Leah Palmer led the Vikings with 23 points, while senior forwards Cassidy Arni and Lauren Slagle added 8 points apiece. Slagle also had 7 rebounds.

The Vikings begin conference action at home Friday against Glenbard North.

**Elgin** starts strong:

It took **Elgin** just 5 games to reach last season’s entire victory total (4).

The **Maroons**, who got off to their first 3-0 start in more than 25 years, compiled a 4-1 mark at the IMSA/Keith McIntosh Tournament, capped by their 49-17 win over Indian Creek.

Alyssa Wysuph paced the Maroons with 16 points, while Kelly Taruc and Aamiyah Dixon added 8 and 7 points, respectively. Izzy Castro added 5 points, Mahitha Ratakonda had 4, and



Trinity Evans, Kayla Cole, and Madison King each had 3.

Castro, a sophomore, has enjoyed a superb start to her season. The 5-foot-4 guard scored a team-high 20 points in **Elgin's** 57-44 loss to West Chicago.

Earlier, she connected on a school-record eight 3-pointers during a 27-point effort in her team's 51-47 victory over Earlville.

Wysuph and Jocelyn Bardesi scored 16 points and 11 points, respectively, in **Elgin's** 51-35 win over Rockford East.

The **Maroons'** home opener is Friday against Fenton.

ACC perfect early:

Aurora Central Catholic (5-0) captured the Somonauk Thanksgiving Tournament title with a 55-44 victory over Newark on Nov. 18.

Sophomore Riley Cwinski led the way with a game-high 26 points, while junior Anna Marie Godina had 12 points.

The Chargers, who defeated Rockford Lutheran 58-43 on Monday, hosts Bishop McNamara Thursday night.

## – The Examiner of Streamwood –

### **Sabres boys hoops go 0-3 at opening tournament**

**Nov. 30, 2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The **Streamwood** boys basketball team kicked off the season under new coach Quentin Ruff at the Johnsburg Thanksgiving tournament.

The **Sabres** went 0-3 at the tournament opening with a 70-41 loss to Johnsburg on Monday, Nov. 21. **Streamwood** fell 87-58 against Grayslake North on Tuesday, Nov. 22 and 77-51 to Huntley on Wednesday, Nov. 23.

Ruff inherits a **Sabres** squad that went 5-27 last year, 3-14 in the Upstate Eight Conference.

“My goal for the team this season is to change the culture, change the way my boys think of competitiveness,” Ruff said. “There has been a tradition at **Streamwood High School** of inconsistency and I am going to change that.”

Ruff added: “My goal for the program is to change the way teams look at **Streamwood** basketball. Change the culture to where my boys compete with everything they have every night, and lastly to give **Streamwood** basketball an identity.”

Ruff was a graduate of **Larkin High School** and played basketball at Olive Harvey Junior College and Ferris State University. He’s coached two years at the JV level at **Elgin**, one at the freshman level at **Larkin** and he has two years of assistant coaching experience collegiately at Lewis University and the University of Wisconsin Stout.

The **Sabres** return one player with significant varsity experience, senior Dakota White who Ruff said will be his key player this year. Ruff said he has “some great role players this year” in seniors Jack Jeschke and Josh Wilder as well as juniors James Donato and Genaud Phillips while he has “a sophomore, Terrell Young, who will be a huge addition to the team.”

“My team’s strength this year will be playing fast, speeding teams up, transition baskets and making them have to prepare for **Streamwood High School**,” Ruff said.