

Press Clippings 3/17/2022

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

Elgin News Digest: U-46 replacing tennis courts, buying kindergarten furniture --- 3/17/2022

By Mike Danahey

U-46 planning to buy new kindergarten furniture

The **District U-46 School Board** has tentatively approved spending \$378,000 to purchase new furniture and materials for its kindergarten classrooms.

Contracts include \$8,807 to Kaplan Early Learning Co., \$47,674 to Lakeshore Learning Materials, \$296,817 to School Specialty, \$22,125 to Constructive Playthings and \$2,174 to Ikea.

The items purchased will be paid for with money from the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund and should be delivered to schools by the end of May.

According to documents, the furniture and materials have not been updated since 2016-17. Some equipment being replaced is 10 years old or older.

The board will vote on the contracts at its March 21 meeting.

U-46 to spend more than \$1M replacing tennis courts

The **School District U-46 School Board** on March 21 is expected to award two contracts worth more than \$1 million to Schroeder Asphalt Services Inc. to redo the tennis courts at Larkin and Elgin high schools.

Both courts are to be fully removed and replaced, and new lighting and fencing installed, according to district documents.

The Larkin court will cost \$517,777 and the Elgin court \$547,777. Work will begin in early May and should be done by the end of July.

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

U-46 to save \$488,000 by switching from Comcast to MetroNet for internet system --- 3/16/2022

By Mike Danahey

School District U-46 is switching internet systems in a move that will not only save money but offer more secure and faster use speeds.

The district currently uses Comcast, which is a public communications network, but will be moving to a private network system provided by MetroNet, officials said.

School board members approved the \$2.8 million, 5-year contract at their March 7 meeting. The cost includes a dark fiber network and service fees for getting information from building-to-building within the district.

Contract provisions also gives the district five, 1-year renewals, at a total additional cost of \$2.5 million.

Eighty percent of the expense will be funded by the Federal Communications Commission. The district's cost is \$566,280, U-46 Director of Operations Bruce Phelps said.

By making the switch, U-46 will save about \$488,000. Installation will be complete by May 2023, a month before the Comcast contract expires.

With Comcast, U-46 uses a public Wide Area Network for its own data, a network it shares with other Comcast customers. Such data cannot be accessed by the general public but only by those given access to it, such as students, families, staff and the school board.

With MetroNet, "the district will have sole rights of use for our fiber and own the equipment that lights our fiber that will move that data," Phelps said. "There will be no other users' data traveling through our network."

Daily Herald

Kimball Middle School girls' basketball teams celebrate perfect seasons --- 3/16/2022

Submitted by Kimball Middle School



Kimball Middle School girls' eighth-grade basketball team after winning the championship game against Taft Middle School. Pictured, from left, are: Isabella Tuttle, Kenira Johnson, Cindy Rosas, Leslie Vargas, Sanaii McPherson, Mariah Chandler, Yuritzi Olvera, Mia Carter, Alizeya Moya, Daijah Malone, and Mackenzie Wemken. *Courtesy of Kimball Middle School*

The seventh- and eighth-grade girls' basketball teams at **Kimball Middle School** in Elgin are celebrating a perfect 11-0 season.

The girls worked hard and both teams finished the season with championship wins. Congrats girls!