

## **Press Clippings 3/23/2022**

### **The Examiner of Bartlett**

#### **U-46 Board ratifies study, realigning sixth-graders --- 3/23/2022**

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

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** unanimously approved, a resolution in support of the work in the facility master plan at its meeting on Monday, March 7.

The board was presented with the results of a facilities study earlier this year, which recommends the possibility of closing some schools. The approval of the statement creates a committee to discuss the facility master plan.

“The U-46 Board of Education recognizes that student achievement and academic success requires the development of a comprehensive educational facility master plan that includes an evaluation of enrollment trends, facility usage, facility needs, and the alignment of facilities with instructional goals and practices,” the resolution stated. “The Board further recognizes that an essential component in fulfillment of this mission is community collaboration and involvement in the development and implementation of this educational facility master plan.”

The top priority of the facility study is to move sixth graders from elementary to middle school. As part of that, the district is looking to identify a location for a ninth middle school.

Three schools are identified as possibly being decommissioned including Elgin’s Garfield and Streamwood’s Hanover Countryside elementary schools as well as Illinois Park Center for Early Learners in Elgin. Bartlett’s Hawk Hollow is identified as possibly being repurposed from an elementary to middle school.

Elgin’s Century Oaks, Lowrie and McKinley along with Streamwood’s Glenbrook and Hanover Park’s Parkwood elementary schools have been identified for replacement and Elgin’s Washington Elementary School for renovations.

In the 2022-2023 school year, the focus is on opening a ninth middle school and revising boundaries. Bidding for construction converting Hawk Hollow into a middle school would begin in June 2023.

Adjusting boundaries, moving sixth grade to middle school and prekindergarten students moving to their home elementary schools is the focus for the following three years of the plan.

# **The Examiner of Bartlett**

## **Union pact, new treasurer approved by District U-46 ---**

**3/23/2022**

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

**School District U-46** has extended the teacher's union contract for a year while a new treasurer was appointed.

The Board of Education voted 7-0 on both items at a February meeting.

Trisha Olson, chief legal officer, said the Elgin Teacher's Association (ETA) contract provides a 5.6 percent increase in new funds, or \$12.4 million. There's a 1.25 percent increase in base pay to \$51,901 total, teachers will receive a \$1,000 recognition stipend and teachers in Step T, Lane 8 will receive a 5 percent match from the district to their 403b, a 1 percent increase from the previous contract.

There's "a change in the treatment for prior experience credit on the salary schedule for newly hired teachers," Olson said. "The agreement provides for those new hires to receive one half credit of experience without limit rounding up for previous years of experience."

Olson added: "Prospective and retrospective for the 21-22 school term, stipend for teachers that planned and prepared teaching in a split overload classroom. The stipend is the equivalent of 15 hours of planning time per month over a 10-month period for an amount equal to 150 hours of planning time, compensated at the contractual rate of pay."

There are changes to ETA recognition at board meetings and prioritizing the elimination of splits for first through third grade teachers.

The board also appointed Ann Williams as the district's treasurer. Williams is the district's new deputy superintendent for operations and chief school business official, replacing Jeff King who left the district last summer.

The board had appointed Superintendent Tony Sanders as treasurer last June after King left. Having the superintendent as treasurer weakens internal controls which Sarah Boyce, associate director of education for the ACT, said such conflicts can make it easier to "commit and conceal fraud or errors in the usual course of their duties."

# **The Examiner of South Elgin**

## **Village likely to resume charging school districts ---**

**3/23/2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Village will begin charging rental fees again to school districts after waiving the fees last year.

The Board of Trustees discussed the fees during new business at its meeting on Monday, March 7.

Village President Steve Ward said that the village previously charged school districts 303 and U-46 to use their shelters but waived it last year due to COVID-19. He said the village “pay(s) them an annual fee” to use their facilities, which was not waived.

“Up until last year, we had always charged a community organization fee,” said Kim Wascher, director of parks and recreation. “It ranges from \$10 to \$25 for whatever space they’re using.”

Wascher said they also pay a deposit of between \$100 and \$500 which is returned after the usage. She said the village’s facilities are generally used by the schools for award ceremonies or concerts.

Trustee Mike Kolodziej asked if the rental fee was higher for the general public and Wascher said it was.

“My only concern is that if we have an overwhelming number of school activities taking place there because they know it’s free that that will interfere with our ability to rent it out to individuals who would be paying significantly more for that same location,” Kolodziej said.

Wascher said that school events normally take place during the week and during school hours which usually does not interfere with other events.

“We do pay these school districts quite handsomely to use their facilities,” Ward said. “We’re not talking about a few hundred dollars. We’re talking about a lot of money, a lot of money. I’m not saying we have to charge them a lot, but I think we should go back to where we were before.”

The board generally agreed that it should charge the fee again, Trustee Greg Lieser saying: “I’m all for back to business as usual.”

Wascher said that staff made it clear last year that the waiver was expected to only last a year, and the schools were thankful for that but understood it likely wouldn’t last. She noted that the fee is usually paid through funds from PTOs or student fees paid to joining school groups or sports.

## **The Examiner of Streamwood**

### **Streamwood softball loses season opener to Mustangs ---**

**3/23/2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The **Streamwood** softball team opened the season with a 15-3 nonconference loss to Rolling Meadows on Tuesday, March 15 at Streamwood.

Rolling Meadows jumped to a 4-0 lead after two frames and led 11-1 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning. Streamwood avoided the 10-run rule and went the distance thanks to a two-run triple by freshman Kailey Pawlikowski (2-for-3).

“We came out ready to compete with our newcomers and returners filling large holes in our defense,” said Streamwood coach Colleen Hill. “Our bats were slow to start but pushed across runners in crucial times to keep the game alive during the fifth inning. I am proud of this group’s heart and tenacity during the preseason. The attributes shown will carry them far this year even with the adversities against them.”

Pawlikowski scored the Sabres first run off an RBI single from senior Megan Burton in the fourth inning.

Junior Ashley Harrison and freshman Sophie Saflarski added hits for Streamwood. Saflarski went the distance in the circle allowing 15 runs, 10 earned, on 18 hits and six walks, and she struck out five.

As the season continues, Hill wants to see growth throughout the year for preparation for a strong finish.

“Our goal is to finish strong,” Hill said. “Last year we struggled at starting a game strong and finishing stronger. With a limited pitching staff our defense is learning to stay confident and poised to be able to assist making plays. This year we have a quicker team on the base paths so we are working on stepping up to the plate to score base runners.”

## **The Examiner of Streamwood**

### **Forming a true legacy at Streamwood High School ---**

**3/23/2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

*This is the second of two stories reflecting upon the career of George Rosner.*

To understand the impact of George Rosner's 41-year varsity girls basketball coaching career, 37 at **Streamwood**, requires understanding the whole point of high school sports.

Rosner is competitive. He wants to win, and he compiled 468 victories over his varsity career. But success is far more than wins for any good high school coach.

"You wanted them to enjoy playing," Rosner said. "You wanted them to have something after that hard sweat and time they put into it."

Rosner, to this day, has copies of each of the 41 booklets he's given to each team throughout his career which he hands out on awards night, his last awards night taking place on March 2.

And throughout his final season, you could see how successful Rosner's career was based on the former players, dating all the way back to his grade school coaching days, showing up to games.

"That part's really something that gets to you," Rosner said. "Throughout the season, even away games, a former player would show up. It's hard to put into words, but I really felt it. Sometimes you don't realize the impact you had on people."

Rosner's impact led Streamwood naming its gym the George Rosner Arena which unfortunately was stripped away by **School District U-46** as its regulations state it must receive board approval and the honoree cannot be alive.

"I had tears in my eyes when I heard it was going to get torn down," Rosner said, and "it hurt" when the district refused a compromise to allow the name to stay through the end of his final season. But he said "it meant a lot to me" that Streamwood wanted to name the gym after him, and he won't allow the district's "poor decision" to spoil the night that saw former players and four athletic directors show up to honor him.

Rosner said he couldn't have coached as long as he had without the help of all the assistant coaches, athletic directors and team captains and players.

A good coach knows the talent he has each year, Rosner said. This year's squad did struggle during a 3-27 campaign, but Rosner said "this group, they were fabulous" at showing up to grow each day at practice and games.

"Some years you know it's going to be a struggle.... Even when you're losing, you create an atmosphere where the kids are always coming ready to learn," Rosner said.

Rosner also had a 33-year teaching career at Streamwood High School, retiring in 2012. He taught civics helping start a student government day in the 1980s.

"You felt like you're teaching something that's important, something that you need to understand," Rosner said. "I took a lot of pride in my teaching, and I really enjoyed it."

Although not on the court, Rosner expects to return to Streamwood to continue subbing, albeit maybe a little less, and watch some games. He is also a voting member for the all-state team for the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association where he will continue to contribute to varsity girls' basketball in the state.