

## Press Clippings 5/26/2022

### ABC-7 Eyewitness News

#### Texas mass shooting prompts extra precautions, law enforcement presence at schools --- 5/25/2022

By John Garcia

Note: To see ABC-7 Eyewitness News interview with Superintendent Tony Sanders, click on link below.

<https://abc7chicago.com/school-safety-shooting-plan-training/11894438/>

ELGIN, Ill. (WLS) -- A police car sat in front of Huntley High School Wednesday. The school was one of many in the Chicago areas that had visible signs of increased security, including a law enforcement presence, in the wake of the latest school shooting.

Joliet Police were also on heightened alert, sending a tweet announcing an increased police presence at schools after a gunman killed 21 lives, creating an anxious time for students, parents and teachers.

"It really comes down to training our staff and making sure that people know what to do when there is a tragedy that strikes like this," said **District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders.**

The superintendent of the state's second largest district sent out a note to staff, offering talking points for students.

"Try to reassure kids to the best of our ability even though they'll feel anxiety. Who wouldn't," Sanders said.

It also reassured staff and parents of the security plans in place and reminded them that despite the increased number of mass shootings, schools are still statistically the safest place for kids to be.

"We work and train so that as we move forward if anything like this ever occurred, that we are all operating as one smooth machine to try and mitigate any type of loss at all," said Carter Larry, president of the Northern Illinois School Safety Administrators Association.

Larry said his group focuses on training to help schools be as prepared as possible in the

event of a school shooting.

He said it may not be possible to stop a shooter intent on taking lives but with proper planning, officers can hope to minimize the loss of life.

One of the most recent mass shooting incidents in the Chicago area was not in a school but at the Henry Pratt company in Aurora in 2019 when an employee killed five co-workers.

The school district has tried to learn from that tragedy.

The best thing we can do is prepare, reduce the number of targets and reduce access," said Kevin Triplet, safety officer for West Aurora School District 129. "Hardening our targets, reducing access to our buildings, challenging people as they come into our buildings, locking our classroom doors, increasing our ability to communicate with each other."

In addition to reviewing security, District U46 has also increased mental health. They have already budgeted to hire additional guidance counselors and social workers.

## **Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News U-46 superintendent briefs parents on existing and forthcoming safety, mental health measures in wake of Texas school shooting --- 5/25/2022**

**By Mike Danahey**



Superintendent Tony Sanders issued a statement on the safety and mental health measures in place at District U-46 in wake of this week's school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. (Rafael Guerrero / The Courier-News)

**Superintendent Tony Sanders** issued a statement in response to the school shooting in Texas, emphasizing **District U-46's** new and existing safety measures and offering guidance to parents on how to help their children understand what happened.

“Please know that the safety and security of our schools is our top priority,” Sanders said. “As a precautionary measure, we have asked our local police departments for additional police patrols and security presence throughout the district over the final days of school.”

U-46's last school day for the 2021-22 academic year is Friday.

Sanders noted that every U-46 school holds an annual “run, hide, fight” drill for students and staff in collaboration with local police.

Beyond that, exterior doors to U-46 buildings are locked at all times and employees have electronic fobs that give them access to those specific doors they are approved to enter, he said.

“We do not allow visitors without the permission of the principal and checking in at the building's front desk/main office,” Sanders said. “Students and staff are continuously reminded to never open doors to people outside and should notify a school administrator or teacher if someone is trying to get into the school.”

The superintendent said U-46 strongly and regularly urges students, staff, parents and community members to report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

“The district takes all threats to safety seriously, whether it is scrawled on a bathroom stall or posted on social media,” Sanders said. “We remind students to report to their school teacher, principal or the local police so an investigation can happen efficiently and effectively.”

For students who may need support in coping with the Uvalde, Texas, shooting, in which 19 children and two teachers were killed Tuesday and 17 other people injured, Sanders said crisis teams made up of social workers, counselors and psychologists are available at every school.

He also shared tips from the National Association of School Psychologists and Common Sense Education to help parents talk to their children about high profile acts of violence.

Those include offering the time and space to talk or ask questions about the recent shooting; limiting television viewing and social media exposure about the event; and maintaining a normal routine.

Sanders also mentioned there will be additional mental health support coming in the next school year.

Every elementary school will have a full-time assistant principal and seven additional full-time staff members to focus on social-emotional learning throughout the district.

Staff will receive training on Trauma-Informed Care and other crisis training. U-46 also will be hiring at least 15 more social workers or guidance counselors, Sanders said.

## **The Examiner of Bartlett**

### **Updated travel guidelines adopted by U-46 --- 5/25/2022**

**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, via a 7-0 vote, of updated travel guidelines for district staff and board members at its May 2 meeting. The updates increased the reimbursement levels for certain travel expenses for district staff. A memo from Ann Williams, deputy superintendent of operations, stated the guidelines were originally adopted in 2016.

“Since that time, travel costs and convenience fees have changed substantially,” Williams wrote. “As such, the Executive Cabinet reviewed the guidelines and discussed potential changes.”

Williams added: “According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, airline fares have declined since 2016 while lodging and food away from home costs have increased substantially. As such, the recommended changes include a [\$5 increase to the dinner per diem, and a \$50] maximum baggage fee reimbursement.”

Meal reimbursements will remain the same for breakfast (\$10) and lunch (\$15) but increase from \$20 to \$25 for dinner. Previously, baggage fees were not reimbursed in the guidelines.

“In addition to travel inflation, new flight convenience options are available to consumers,” Williams wrote. “As examples, early boarding and seat selection fees are commonplace on most airlines today. While we do not recommend reimbursing these fees, we propose adding language to address them within our travel guidelines.” Williams added: “Finally, while airline fares have not exceeded 2016 levels, recent world events are impacting current rates. As such, we also proposed language that adds clarity on how to handle requests for exceptions.”

Approval for travel expenses has been reduced from a 35-day notice to 30. Round trip airfare maximum remains at \$500 and automobile travel at \$250, but the guidelines now allows for exceptions to be submitted for review. The guidelines previously banned first class airfare. That remains, but business class has also been added.

Board members and cabinet-level administrators are allowed reimbursements up to \$100 per meal for “business meals.” That remains in the guidelines, but added was a prohibition for reimbursement for alcohol.

## **The Examiner of Bartlett**

### **Storm streak on to sweep Rams, win UEC title--- 5/25/2022**

By Seth Hancock

The **South Elgin** baseball team, which hosts regional play, will enter the postseason with some momentum taking in a 12-game win streak including capturing the Upstate Eight Conference title.

The Storm entered its final UEC series, which ended with just two games instead of three because of weather, a half a game behind opponent Glenbard East. South Elgin, now 24-3 overall and 22- 2 in the UEC, took both games to cap ture the title including a 9-3 victory in the opener on Thursday, May 19 at Glenbard East.

Senior Drew Piaskowy tossed a complete game allowing seven hits, walking two and striking out seven. Offensively, the Storm gave him plenty of run support with four-run innings in the third and fourth, and the hosts were held scoreless until a three-run seventh.

“It was a good battle, but we were able to score a few runs and get on top,” said South Elgin coach Jim Kating. “They’re a good team and they started coming back in the last inning when we made some mistakes. We have to get back on track regarding that, but Drew pitched a good game and the kids played very well.”

Ben Karpowicz (2-for-4, RBI) had a pair of doubles while Owen Cutinello (2-for-4, RBI), Keenan Oldani (RBI) and Jesus Munoz Aparicio had one each. Matthew Jachim was 2-for-4, Josh Genz and Alex Tinio each had two RBI and Kyle Steinhofer drove in a run.

“This was a big game for us,” Karpowicz said. “To take the first game of the series and get a nice win is good. Drew pitched well and was more free with the lead and he was able to keep them off-balanced.”

South Elgin then clinched the title at home with a 3-2 win on Friday, May 20. Jackson Bessette was 3-for-3 with a double, home run and RBI while Genz (2-for-4) and Steinhofer each drove in a run, and Karpowicz got the win on the mound.

## **The Examiner of Streamwood**

### **Sabres softball drop pair, then win regional opener ---**

**5/25/2022**

By Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood** softball team was unable to keep up with Hampshire as the Sabres dropped a 15-0 nonconference game on Monday, May 16 at Hampshire.

Hampshire put three runs on the board in the bottom of the first inning and scored in each of its frames at the plate capping the scoring with a ninerun fourth to end the game in five innings by the 10-run rule.

Sophie Saflarski suffered the loss allowing 20 hits and walking two. Streamwood's offense was held to three hits including a 2-for-2 performance from Nicole Barcenas while Kailey Pawlikowski added a hit.

Streamwood dropped a 14-0 game in its regular season finale against Upstate Eight Conference foe West Chicago on Thursday, May 19 at Streamwood. West Chicago, which led 4-0 after two innings, posted five-run frames in the third and fourth to pull away.

Saflarski allowed 14 runs, only six earned after nine Sabres' errors, off 14 hits and a walk, and she struck out one. Ashley Harrison tallied Streamwood's only hit. The Sabres, seeded 17th, enter the Bartlett Regional 1-19 overall. Although struggling to find wins this season, Sabres coach Colleen Hill said earlier this year that the team is young and learning.

"We have players stepping up into new roles on the team as we are young and many new faces in every position," Hill said. "We've been improving on our mental toughness this season."

**Note: The Sabres opened the Bartlett Regional with a 15-1 victory over Elgin on Monday, May 23. That win vaulted Streamwood into a semi-final regional contest against St. Charles East on Tuesday, May 24, a game played after The Examiner deadline. Both games will be highlighted in a story appearing next week in the June 1 Streamwood Examiner**

## **The Examiner of Streamwood**

### **Streamwood soccer team swept away by North --- 5/25/2022**

**By Seth Hancock**

The **Streamwood** soccer team couldn't combat a slow start as the No. 14 Sabres fell 8-0 to No. 1 St. Charles North in the Streamwood Regional semifinals on Tuesday, May 17.

St. Charles North scored four goals in each half, and it netted its first goal in the second minute.

Sabres coach Matt Polovin called it "our worst game of the season" as he could tell during warmups his squad may have a slow start.

"We started out flat and gave up a goal two minutes into the game," Polovin said. "After the first two goals were given up the team actually settled down a bit and started moving the ball around better and played much harder and smarter. But North kept up their pressure and attacking only to score four more times in the second half. They, by far, were the best team we saw all season, but we played so well the week before against a great Batavia team only losing 2-0 and had multiple chances to tie or even win the game. But the Regional game just wasn't meant to be for us."

Streamwood ends the season 7-13-1 overall and will lose five seniors: Jeidy Salazar, Esther Cardenas, Karla Morales, Erinn Kelly and Diana Herrera.

“Looking at the season as a whole, it was one of the strangest seasons I have ever been a part of with not being able to put the same line up on the field back-to-back games,” Polovin said. “We had vacations, family emergencies, injuries and it was difficult to get any type of consistency. But the girls still played very well in many games winning seven games, including a 2-0 win over Sycamore and a 3-2 win over Elk Grove. The girls never gave up in any game no matter the score.”

Polovin said all five seniors have been with him “in some capacity” for four year and “will be missed for sure.” Cardenas and Herrera will play in the U.S. Youth National Championships this summer in Orlando for Polovin’s club team.

“It will be fun to see them play for the National Championship and finish their soccer careers,” Polovin said.