

Press Clippings 6/2/2022

The Examiner of Bartlett

Expenditure proposals set for District U-46 vote --- 6/1/2022

By Seth Hancock – Note: This story also ran in The Examiner of Streamwood

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** is set to vote on \$5.6 million in expenditure items at its upcoming meeting on Monday, June 6 after being presented at its May 16 meeting.

Included are three contract renewals, the largest being \$3.2 million with the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin and \$1.5 million with Right at School for before and after school programs at 12 elementary schools. It will be paid through the education fund with the district expecting reimbursement from the nation's taxpayers through federal bailout funds.

"Having this programming available at these schools provides additional time for students to extend their learning and work in academic teams," the proposal states. "It also provides the schools added flexibility to develop innovative approaches to maximize time for instruction."

The board will vote on contract renewals for the use of Zoom (\$63,400) as well as membership dues (\$33,240) with the Illinois Association of School Boards, a taxpayer funded lobbyist group for government schools. Both are education fund items.

Three bids were presented including \$629,940 (education fund) with Sentinel Technologies, Inc. for replacement core switches for the district's core server, which the district expects 80 percent e-rate reimbursement for a net cost of \$125,000. Additionally, there's \$110,000 (operations and maintenance fund) with EHS Industries, Inc. for asbestos abatement and lead mitigation at the Educational Services Center and \$84,374 (education fund) with Warehouse Direct for science tables at Streamwood High School.

The board will also vote on a resolution declaring the need for continued use of temporary classrooms (eight double units, five single) as well as renewal of membership in the IHSA, which governs high school athletics.

The Examiner of Bartlett

U-46 state student survey contains ‘sensitive’ topics --- 6/1/2022

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

Students across the state have been asked to participate in an admittedly intrusive questionnaire called the Illinois Youth Survey.

The survey, which states its “completely voluntary,” and that it is given every two years to middle and high school students. The survey, when asking the participants age and grade level, give options as young as 9 years old while giving only sixth, seventh and eighth grade as options.

“The questions ask you about a number of different things, including health and social indicators such as substance use and perceptions, bullying, violence, and other information about your school and your family,” the survey states.

Although students do not give their names, it asks for personal information asking children to describe their sexuality while it gives the options of male, female, transgender or other for gender identification.

The survey asks a myriad of questions related to thoughts on and use of e-cigarettes, cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs and a whole host of other drugs.

Children are asked about their feelings towards their parents and family rules, where they live, where they sleep and do they think of harming themselves.

The survey introduces children to things like alcopops, glue sniffing, marijuana vaping, huffing aerosol cans, getting high with cough syrup and anti-anxiety drugs and many drugs like MDMA, LSD, cocaine, meth and heroin.

School District U-46 has been administering the survey. Bartlett’s **Eastview Middle School** sent a message to parents stating it was given during gym class on May 19.

The Eastview message stated the survey covers “potentially sensitive topics” and “some questions ask about personal behaviors that might make some students feel uncomfortable.”

The Examiner inquired with the district about the grade levels taking the survey, the process of informing parents and their right to opt-out, if the district is required by the state to administer it, if the survey is online or paper and what protections are in place to safeguard students’ privacy.

After following up with the district, a spokesperson said they would “look into these and get back.” However, The Examiner has yet to receive a response.

The Examiner of Bartlett

U-46 creates, seeks to fill social justice teacher post ---

6/1/2022

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 created a new role with a politically charged title, the social justice advocate teacher leader.

The job was posted in May with the start date listed as Aug. 11. It is listed as a district wide teacher.

The U-46 Equity Matters Twitter page posted recently: “Are you interested in social justice work? Then, please consider applying for our newly created Social Justice Advocate position.”

The duties include planning and supporting “intersectional LGBTQIA+ programs and events,” and the position will be a part of curriculum review.

The goals of the position, according to the job posting, is “works tirelessly to ensure there is full and equal participation of all diverse student groups in the most rigorous coursework, that there is fair and equitable distribution of resources, and all diverse student groups have a sense of belonging.”

Considering ongoing trends, the creation of such a position could possibly raise questions about U-46’s priorities.

Tests scores, in the Illinois State Board of Education’s report card, continue to get worse each year across the board in the district while taxing and spending continues to increase despite enrollment declines.

This year’s budget jumped \$61.3 million or 10.2 percent, \$599.5 million to \$660.8 million, while enrollment declines for the seventh straight year. Spending, under the budget, has jumped 53.7 percent and enrollment has declined 11.4 percent since 2012.

The Examiner, multiple times, has asked for the position’s expected salary range, the position’s classification (i.e. administrator) and for the district’s justification for creating the position.

After following up with the district, a spokesperson said they would “look into these and get back.” Since well over a week has passed and The Examiner has not yet received a response.

The Examiner of Bartlett

Regional losses end year for Hawks, Storm baseball --- 6/1/2022

By Seth Hancock

The **South Elgin** baseball team's season was ended in an upset as the No. 3 Storm fell 8-7 against No. 14 Addison Trail in the South Elgin Regional semifinals on Thursday, May 26.

The game was called early, after six innings, because of weather.

The Storm took a 3-0 lead in the first inning, but Addison Trail took advantage of defensive miscues to score six unearned runs in the third off of senior starter Matt Kolbus who tossed four innings allowing eight hits, walking three and striking out five.

All eight runs allowed by the Storm's pitching staff, including reliever Tyler Glowacki, were unearned off of three errors.

Seniors Alex Tinio (2-for-3, double, RBI), Jackson Bessette (home run, two RBI), Ben Karpowicz (two RBI), Josh Genz (double) and Owen Cutinello (RBI) led the offense.

Despite the loss, South Elgin finished the year with a strong 25-4 record and captured the Upstate Eight Conference title.

"We have a good group of guys with a lot seniors who have played together for a while," Karpowicz said after the Storm captured the conference crown.

South Elgin also loses seniors Max Petry, Matthew Jachim, Louis Cribaro, Jacob Stewart, Drew Piaskowy, Mark Rundio, Gaetano Tusa, Jesus Munoz Aparicio and Ryan Wegrzyn.

Bartlett also saw its season end in the semifinals as the No. 9 Hawks fell 5-1 to No. 8 Glenbard West, the regional host, on Thursday, May 26.

The Hawks finish the season 15-16 overall. They lose several seniors who were a part of the program's first UEC championship team last year including Alex Ippolito, Kyle Swalley, Cole Sprester, Colin Van Dyke, Frank Loiacono, Zachary Mitchell, Patrick Nelson and Joshua Schuberth

The Examiner of South Elgin

Storm upset in regional, after winning UEC crown ---

6/1/2022

By Seth Hancock

The **South Elgin** baseball team 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 took both games to capture the title including a 9-3 victory in the opener on Thursday, May 19 at Glenbard East where 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.

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 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 South Elgin season then ended in an upset as the No. 3 Storm fell 8-7 to No. 14 Addison Trail in the South Elgin Regional semifinals on Thursday, May 26. The game was called early, after six innings, because of weather.

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All eight runs allowed by the Storm’s pitching staff, including reliever Glowacki, were unearned.

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Despite the loss, South Elgin finished the year with a strong 25-4 record and captured the Upstate Eight Conference title.

South Elgin also loses seniors Max Petry, Matthew Jachim, Louis Cribaro, Jacob Stewart, Drew Piaskowy, Mark Rundio, Gaetano Tusa, Jesus Munoz Aparicio and Ryan Wegrzyn.

The Examiner of Streamwood

Sabres baseball defeated in regional title contest ---

6/1/2022

By Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood** baseball team couldn't overcome an early deficit as the No. 4 Sabres fell 8-3 to No. 1 McHenry in the Dundee-Crown Regional title game on Saturday, May 28.

McHenry jumped to a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning off of senior starter Eric Arroyo.

The Sabres did rally in the top of the fourth inning with a three-run frame, highlighted by sophomore Antonio Alanis' two-run base hit, but McHenry added two more in the bottom of the inning for an 7-3 lead. Alanis finished 3-for-3 with a double to lead the Sabres offense.

Streamwood advanced to the title game with a 5-0 win against No. 5 Dundee-Crown on Friday, May 27.

Despite being out-hit 7-4, the Sabres were able to scrape across a run in the first inning, three more in the third and one in the fourth. Juniors Isaiah Ortiz (two RBI) and Nick Weaver (RBI) both doubled and senior Richard Santiago had an RBI single to lead the effort.

Sophomore Miguel Rodriguez tossed six scoreless innings allowing seven hits, walking three and hitting two batters in the win. Freshman Alex Harrison tossed a perfect seventh inning.

Streamwood finished the season 20- 13 overall and also loses seniors Jaden Arroyo, Colin Blanchard, Foster Jase Carlos, Jacob Gama, Kevin Lunz, Fabian Rodriguez, Michael Segovia and Anthony Zarcone.

"I always tell our guys winning is hard," said Streamwood coach Dan Jennings. "So, we appreciate all of the success we have had. Our seniors are leaving a great mark on our program with all of the work they have put in and the success they are having because of it."