

Press Clippings 6/22/2022

Daily Herald

Bartlett High School Class of 2022 --- 6/20/2022

Daily Herald Report



Ava Crawford, center, waves to her family during the Bartlett High School commencement ceremony May 28 at Now Arena in Hoffman Estates. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

Graduates in the Class of 2022: 599

Graduation Ceremony: Saturday, May 28, Now Arena in Hoffman Estates

Valedictorian: Andrew Martin

Salutatorian: Evan Bulatek

Extracurricular achievements:

- Nicole Kamarat played piano in the Pit Orchestra of the 2022 Illinois High School All-State production of "Cabaret"
- ILMEA All-State Honor Chorus: Philip Vu, Dinah Garner, Abby Juson
- The Company of The Secret Garden took 1st in the Upstate Eight Conference Tournament, 1st in the IHSA Sectional Tournament, and 8th in the IHSA State Finals Tournament for

Group Interpretation. The Secret Garden also received the IHSA Sportsmanship Award at the IHSA State Finals Tournament.

- Chess -- best state finals finish
- Speech -- Joyce Yang & Lorelai Thompson

Athletic achievements:

- Cross Country -- Jenna Buchanan and Carter Eid, state qualifiers
- Girls Tennis -- Jessica Popiol, all-state
- Football -- playoff qualifiers
- Competitive Cheerleading -- state qualifying team
- Competitive Dance -- state qualifying team
- Boys Basketball -- Conrad Luczynski -- All-state
- Boys Swimming -- Anthony Martin, state qualifier
- Girls Wrestling -- Emma Engles and Angelina Carpintero, state qualifiers
- Girls Soccer -- Upstate Eight Champions
- Girls Track -- Jenna Buchanan, state qualifier
- Boys Volleyball -- Upstate Eight Champions

Theater productions:

- "The Taming of the Shrew" by William Shakespeare

- "The Yellow Boat" by David Saar
- "The Secret Garden" by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- "Legally Blonde," music and lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin, Book by Heather Hach.
- "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield
- "Anything Goes," music and lyrics by Cole Porter

Principal's reflections on the Class of 2022: I've never seen a group that has been more supportive of each other. You share a common experience. An experience of something completely different. Everyone is a success story. Every single one of you is a survival story.

No one knows what you went through to get to this point except you. We are beyond proud and can't wait to see what comes next for the class of 2022.

-- Principal Mike Demovsky

Daily Herald

Elgin High School Class of 2022 --- 6/20/2022

Daily Herald Report



Students cross the stage during the Elgin High School commencement ceremony May 28, at the NOW Arena in Hoffman Estates. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

Graduates in Class of 2022: 659

Graduation ceremony: Saturday, May 28, at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates

Valedictorian: Maia Lesniak

Salutatorian: Jenny Nguyen

Extracurricular achievements:

- eSports Team qualified for state
- Chess Team qualified for state

- Aadi and Mahi Patel competing at the DECA National Competition

Athletic achievements:

- Yahya Arastu State Qualifier in Cross Country
- Adam Lambatz State Qualifier in Wrestling
- Lourdes Hernandez State Qualifier in Wrestling

Theater productions:

- "Defying Gravity" by Jane Anderson
- "Addams Family the Musical"
- Student Directed One-Acts

What was new in 2021-22: This class were freshmen the last time there was a boat trip -- they didn't remember; First year with a full Prom (they planned prom as Juniors for the Senior class but were not allowed to go as it was limited to seniors only) / Senior Boat Trip / Homecoming

What challenges did the Class of 2022 face as they returned to in-person school full time, and how did they overcome them:

Time management, incorporating back into the building, in person and socially not just social media socialization.

Daily Herald

Larkin High School Class of 2022 --- 6/20/2022

Daily Herald Report



Emily Kodie, left and Nadia Galvin pose for a picture before the Larkin High School commencement ceremony May 28 at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*

Graduates in Class of 2022: 480

Graduation ceremony: Saturday, May 28, Now Arena

Valedictorian: Ella Nail

Salutatorian: Lilah Hanson

Graduation Speaker: Malaya Anthony

Class Officers: President -- Leyla Velazquez; Vice President -- Tyjaya Lindsey; Secretary -- Jamylin Deleon; Treasurer -- Joshua Givens-James.

Extracurricular achievements:

- Lit Fest -- Poetry, Aly Grommes and Jennifer Villagran, honorable mention; Dramatic Scene, Kate Warkel, 1st Place, Aly Grommes, honorable mention; Short Story, Karina Zamudio and Kayla Scham, honorable mention; Descriptive Sketch, Kayla Scham, honorable

mention; Personal Essay, Fernando Perez, honorable mention; Slam Poetry, Keith Stuckey, 1st Place.

- Music -- Senior violinist Ariana Mattos-Cruz made the ILMEA All-State Orchestra for the second year in a row; Senior trumpet player Jackson Baker qualified for All-State Band; Senior violinist Ariana Mattos Cruz qualified for the All-State Orchestra.
- Speech Team -- State Qualifiers; Seniors Arianna Munoz and Mikayla Ortiz place 14th in the State in Dramatic Duet Acting; Senior Maddie Hopp placed 11th in the State in Informative Speaking
- Art -- Andrea Rojas received an honorable mention in Digital Illustration in Upstate 8 2022; Judith Diaz received honorable mention in Painting in Upstate 8 2022, honorable mention in Drawing in the 2021-22 Chicagoland 4x5 art show. and first place in painting in the 2022 Visions Art Show; Kayla Griffin received 3rd place in drawing in the 2022 Upstate 8 art show; Anabella Duarte received an Honorable mention in Drawing in the 20222 Chicagoland 4x5 art show.
- Boys & Girls Club -- Laron Matthews was chosen to perform at the National Boys & Girls club Convention in Chicago in May. He also sang the national anthem at the ballroom at the Hyatt Regency.

Athletic achievements:

- Girls Wrestling -- First year of IHSA Girls Wrestling State Tournament, Giselle Ayala made history; finished 4th and earned all-state in her weight class.
- Boys Basketball -- Best Single-season record in school history (31-4); Undefeated Conference Champions (18-0); Hinkle Holiday Tournament Champions (defeated Barrington in Championship); IHSA Regional Champs; IHSA Sectional Champs; IHSA Elite 8; Four

unanimous All-Conference players; Damari Wheeler-Thomas, Upstate 8 Conference Player of the Year.

- Football -- Won back the Thunder Bucket and The Town Jug; Beat Bartlett for first time in 15 years; Best record and qualified for state playoffs for first time in 15 years; Six All Conference players; Dontrelle Maxie was All-Area and selected to play in The Shrine Game.

Theater productions:

- The LHS Fine Arts Department produced "Almost, Maine" by John Cariani last fall and "Heathers: The Musical" this spring. Both productions included students from all four academies at Larkin High School, particularly the Drama Academy. "Almost Maine" was a delightful romantic comedy that followed several couples falling in and out of love on a magical chilly night in Maine. "Heathers The Musical" told the story of a brainy, beautiful misfit who gets mixed up with the most popular clique in school: The Heathers.
- Larkin VPAA dancers participated in the 21st annual Bring a Book to Life production entitled "A New Day!" Seniors Sarah Leardi, Farrell Kuhn, Selena Velasquez, Emily Kodie, Joanna Hernandez, Arly Vilchiz and Argie Gonzalez all had leading roles for the production. These seniors have created their own production to be performed on May 20 at Larkin HS Auditorium.
- Larkin dancers received a grant for their production from the U-46 Educational Foundation this year. Much gratitude to Dawn Curran for all her support. Our dance studio received much needed new equipment from the district this year. We have new dance barres, shelving for organizing our room and costume closets, also fitness equipment that we use for conditioning in our technique classes. We are able to share this equipment with PE as well.

Senior Class gift: 10 High-top Tables

What was new in 2021-22:

- Little Royals Preschool welcomed their first students in their remodeled classroom and lab this year. 22 preschool students were taught by over 80 high school students in our Childhood Education Classes.
- Coached by teacher Frank Rose and captained by senior Tony Vyleta, Larkin High School started the first improv team ever in School District U-46. The team of 12 students attended a workshop by professional Elgin-based team Green Room improv to learn the basics, spent a few weeks honing their skills, and then went on to play several sold out shows throughout the school year. The team focuses on short form game-based improv and even performed for the community at a fundraiser event for performing arts com.

Daily Herald

South Elgin High School Class of 2022 --- 6/20/2022

Daily Herald Report



Members of the senior class sing the national anthem during the South Elgin High School graduation ceremony May 28 at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates. *Jeff Knox | Staff Photographer*

Graduates in Class of 2022: 735

Graduation ceremony: Saturday, May 28, Now Arena, Hoffman Estates

Valedictorian: Rachel McClow

Salutatorian: Gino Santini

Graduation Speaker: Rachel McClow

Class Officers: Yuri You, president; Kristen Petratos, vice president; Brianna Yu, secretary; Chloe Beucler, treasurer; Tiffany Vitug and Sara Khan, historians.

Extracurricular achievements:

- Chess team qualified for state for first time in school history.

Theater productions:

- "Shrek The Musical"
- "Clue"
- "Something Rotten"

Athletic achievements:

- Naomi Ruff, four-time Cross Country State Qualifier
- Dylan Lainez, Boys Cross Country State Qualifier
- Boys Bowling team state qualifier
- Competitive Dance 9th place state finish
- Competitive Cheer 3rd place state finish

- Dom Schuleter, 8th place finish in boys swim 100 Freestyle
- Girls Basketball Sectional Finalist
- Upstate 8 conference championships: Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Girls Cross Country, Girls Volleyball, Football, Competitive Dance, Competitive Cheer, Girls Bowling, Girls Basketball.

What challenges did the Class of 2022 face as they returned to in-person school full time, and how did they overcome them: As we returned to in-person learning this year we understood there was going to be a period of adjustment, both academically and social-emotionally. However, I don't believe we anticipated the level of social emotional need that manifested from the previous year and a half. Many of our students struggled to self-regulate and de-escalate during the first semester. As the year progressed, I was so proud to see our students and teachers adapt to this "new normal" and ultimately excel in the classroom and through their various extra and co-curricular activities.

Principal's reflections on the Class of 2022: The Class of 2022 will always hold a special place in my heart. During their four years of high school, they really only had one "normal" year, with that being their Freshman year. Every year since has been uprooted by the pandemic. Taking that into consideration, it is truly remarkable to witness their perseverance, grit, and determination to recapture the essence and experience that only high school can offer. There is no doubt in my mind that this class will succeed in the future and we, as a society, will be in good hands with this generation leading the way.

-- Principal Kurt Johansen

Daily Herald

Streamwood High School Class of 2022 --- 6/20/2022

Daily Herald Report



Streamwood High School Class President Jeslyn White delivers the commencement address during the school's graduation ceremony at the Now Arena in Hoffman Estates. *Jeff Knox | Staff Photographer*

Graduates in Class of 2022: 465

Graduation ceremony: Saturday, May 28, Now Arena

Valedictorian: Vanessa Pitsenbarger

Salutatorians: HeeRan Yang and Kaitlyn Esteban

Graduation Speaker: Jeslyn White, senior class president

Senior Class Officers: Jeslyn White, president; Ian Hernandez, vice president

Sabre Honor Medal (awarded by student then staff vote to an outstanding student):

Nicole Barcenas and Cristian Calderon

Extracurricular achievements:

- John Lockard placed 1st in Descriptive Sketch at Lit Fest
- HOSA State Leadership conference winners are Diata Rodriquez for Dental Science, Kiley Rottman for Sports Medicine and Jeidy Salazar for Academic Testing in Leadership

- Upstate 8 Art Show -- Estefanni Munoz, Honorable Mention in Drawing; Yamilli Ruiz, Honorable Mention in Mixed Media/Printmaking; Noelle Love -- Honorable Mention in Sculpture
- U-46 VISION Show -- Noelle Love, First Place in 3D Art; Katheline Jaime, Second Place in 3D Art; Iyana Blake, First Place in Photography; Alex Salazar, Second Place in Mixed Media; Yamilli Ruiz. Second Place in Drawing.
- Chicagoland 4x5 -- Iyana Blake, Honorable Mention in Photography
- Technology and Manufacturing Association Precision Manufacturing Competition -- Trevor Costantino, first place in the Angle Plate project, second Place in the MTAC test pin project; Logan Montes, third place in Precision Vise Project.
- Melanie Feliciano and Diana Torres both were recognized as All-Sectional for our Group Interp (A Series of Unfortunate Events). They were also the leads of our musical (Disenchanted!) that was selected to perform at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival this past year.

Athletic achievements:

- Mike Estrada, football, All Conference, All State Honorable Mention; two-way player, playing both offense and defense and special teams.

Theater productions:

- "Disenchanted" (Fall)
- "Puffs" (Winter)
- "Our Town" (Spring)
- "A Series of Unfortunate Events" (Group Interp)

Senior Class gift: Bike Racks

What was new in 2021-22: Upgrades to our Auditorium

What challenges did the Class of 2022 face as they returned to in-person school full time, and how did they overcome them:

Trying to learn to be a student in-person once again and work collaboratively with peers; teachers spent time creating a sense of community and working on activities to build and engage their collaboration skills.

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

New 5-year contract for U-46 superintendent gives Sanders a 4% salary hike effective July 1 --- 6/21/2022

By Mike Danahey



School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders will see his salary increase from \$258,866 to \$269,243 on July 1 as part of a new contract approved Monday by the U-46 School Board. (School District U- / HANDOUT)

The **District U-46 School Board** unanimously approved a new five-year contract for **Superintendent Tony Sanders** Monday that includes a 4% base salary bump to \$269,243 effective July 1.

Future salary increases will be performance-based, tied to average increases provided to U-46 teachers and limited to a maximum of 5% and a minimum 2% based on the rating he receives in annual reviews. An unsatisfactory rating would mean no pay increase.

Sanders' annual package also includes 25 vacation days, 15 sick days and any other benefits received by other U-46 administrators, board President Sue Kerr said.

The contract is posted online at www.u-46.org/Page/9307.

Sanders' contract wasn't set to expire until 2024 but the board opted to renew it early to reflect that Sanders had completed his doctorate at Aurora University, which allowed his promotion from CEO to full-fledged superintendent, Kerr said.

"The district is also looking to have stability," she said.

With a number of significant projects underway, the board wants him to remain at the helm, Kerr said. Among those projects is the transition to a new career-oriented high school system and the development of a new facilities master plan.

The 4% pay raise was set when Sanders underwent his annual review in January, Kerr said. His current salary is \$258,886.

After the meeting, Sanders posted a message on social media to thank the board for the contract extension.

"It continues to be my honor to serve our 37,000 students, 6,000 employees and 11 communities," Sanders said.

U-46 is the largest school district in Illinois outside of Chicago.

The board will pay contributions and interest to establish 22.75 months of service credit for Sanders through the State Employees' Retirement System at a cost not to exceed \$9,241.31.

In addition, effective annually starting July 1, 2023, the board will provide him with a \$10,000 annuity.

Should Sanders resign from his position during the first year of the contract, he would be required to pay \$25,000 in liquidated damages, Kerr said. Should he resign in the second year, the liquidated damages payment would be \$12,500.

As was the case with his previous contracts, Sanders must live within the U-46 boundaries and meet performance goals set for him by the board.

Despite the board's unanimous support, five people spoke against the new contract at Monday's meeting and two others submitted opposition letters.

"The school board members need more time to collect opinions of parents, taxpayers and teachers before considering granting a new contract, and likely pay increases, to this superintendent," Richard Ballschmiede wrote. "Wait at least another school year, and then review performance and consider the contract's renewal."

According to an Illinois School Board Journal report published earlier this year, the average base-plus-salary among 288 district superintendents in 2020 in the nine counties that make up northeast Illinois was \$250,616. That average includes base salary plus any bonus, annuities, retirement package or other benefits.

Sanders was hired by U-46 in 2007 as its chief communication officer. He became chief of staff in 2011, chief executive officer in 2014 and superintendent in 2020.

The Examiner of Bartlett

District U-46 expense items given unanimous approval --- 6/22/2022

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 \$760,693 in expenditure items at its May 16 meeting.

Presented and approved that evening were travel expenses for board members and staff to attend the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) annual conference. The IASB is a taxpayer funded lobbyist organization for government schools, and the conference is where members vote on what the group will lobby for in the coming session.

“The Triple I Joint Annual Conference will be held in Chicago November 18-20, 2022,” Evelyn Bevins, assistant superintendent for board matters, wrote in a memo. “The cost to attend the conference is \$499.00 per person. Lodging requires a \$200.00 (nonrefundable) per room deposit at the time of booking. The costs of lodging are up to \$205.00 (without tax) per room per night. Registration will open Monday, June 6, 2022.”

The total cost approved was \$5,750 for board members Sue Kerr, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Eva Porter and Kate Thommes to attend as well as Superintendent Tony Sanders and Trisha Olsen, chief legal officer.

The majority of items approved were from the education fund including \$360,150 with QuaverEd.com for a contract renewal through 2026-2027 for an online elementary music curriculum, \$130,862 for a one-year contract renewal with Tyler Technologies for the human resources software MUNIS and \$41,382 for Japanese and Mandarin Chinese world language expansion of resources with Education Perfect.

Two items will be paid for by the nation’s taxpayers including \$122,500 to Northwestern University Center for Talent Development for a “differentiated enrichment summer experience... designed to meet the academic and social and emotional needs of gifted learners,” the proposal states, as well as \$72,802 with Scholastic, Inc. for the elementary summer school literacy resource LitCamp.

From the operations and maintenance fund was \$27,248 with Grade Restoration and Construction Services to make concrete repairs on the front sidewalk and curbing at Bartlett's Centennial Elementary School.

Also approved unanimously that evening was \$9.6 million in itemized bills and a personnel report and workers' compensation cases that included one new position, a paraeducator.

The Examiner of Bartlett Sanders' new U-46 pact sparks public comments --- 6/22/2022

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

Without any public discussion, the Board of Education in School District U-46 voted unanimously on a new contract for Superintendent Tony Sanders, even though the current contract didn't expire until 2024, at its meeting on Monday, June 20.

The new contract runs from July 1, to June 30, 2027 with Sanders receiving a 4 percent salary increase from \$258,886 to \$269,243. The board did not explain how Sanders "earned" the pay raise under the current contract metrics.

The public was given no information that contract discussions were even underway, nor was the new contract available until it was posted after the meeting. An agenda item just stated the board would vote on the new contract.

"We have been working on this contract for a few months now," said Sue Kerr, board president. "We have done this all in closed session."

Five public commenters addressed the board during public comments all asking the board to table the contract until 2023 and after the local board elections next April. "It's improbable that boards in both private and public sectors of all organizations would engage in contract extensions well outside the usual and customary negotiation windows," said Tracy Smodilla. "This has many concerned that this board has set precedent for future negotiations with personnel or vendors and outside the purview of public scrutiny."

"We elected you. Each one of you got a vote from parents," said Melissa Varner. "We didn't elect Mr. Sanders, so we're counting on you to make the right decisions for us and our kids."

Public commenters noted state report card data showing academic measures continue to decline as does enrollment.

“My impression, from what I’ve seen, is that this board has abdicated much of its responsibilities to Tony Sanders.... Taxpayers and students, they’re kind of like the afterthought and everything just goes to whatever Mr. Sanders decides,” said Linda Sabo.

Although no board discussion, Kerr provided some details. She said the decision for the new contract was because the current contract was a “CEO contract” as Sanders was not superintendent certified at the time of its approval.

However, the current contract did reference both “CEO and Superintendent” in it.

Kerr said Sanders will receive annual 2 to 5 percent pay increases if deemed “proficient or higher” by the board. She said goals are “very clear with outcomes” but provided no information on what those goals are.

To be noted is the current contract was approved in March 2019 with two years still remaining on Sanders’ previous contract. That was a month before a contested board election.

The previous contract was approved in November 2016, again with two years remaining on an earlier contract, heading into a contested 2017 election year. That came in the midst of several board meetings where large numbers of public comments were made opposing Sanders’ unilateral decision to allow access to restrooms/locker rooms based on gender identity rather than biology.

Also of note, the district posted the new contract after the meeting but removed the current contract, which is still in effect until July.

Univision Chicago

Seven schools in School District U-46 will have more security cameras --- 6/20/2022

<For video of news report, click on link below>

<https://www.univision.com/local/chicago-wgbo/siete-escuelas-del-distrito-escolar-u-46-tendran-mas-camaras-de-seguridad-esto-debes-saber-video>