

Press Clippings 6/8/2022

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

U-46 hopes to up its Black teacher count by promising jobs to Tennessee State students who work as residents here ---

6/7/2022

By Mike Danahey



About 6% of School District U-46 students are Black but only about 2% of teachers are of the same demographic, a gap the district hopes to decrease with a partnership it's establishing with Tennessee State University, a historically Black school in Nashville. (Stacey Wescott / Chicago Tribune)

School District U-46 plans to partner with Tennessee State University in Nashville to bring more diversity to its teaching staff.

A proposed contract with the historically Black university calls for up to 10 teacher candidates to spend their senior year working in U-46 schools and then teaching in district schools for another two years, the school board was told at its Monday night meeting.

District data shows that only about 2% of U-46 teachers are Black, a number that has remained constant for a decade, whereas 6% of U-46 students are Black — about 2,160 of the district's 36,000 enrollment.

The 2021 State of Illinois Report Card website said 34 of U-46's 2,267 teachers were of Black ethnicity.

"We need to do something (about this)," **board member Eva Porter** said.

Teresa Lance, U-46 assistant superintendent for equity and innovation, said under the proposed deal with Tennessee State, which the board is expected to approve June 20, up to 10 seniors majoring in education would come to Elgin for the 2023-24 academic year.

“If we can get them to do their residency with us, we’re a step ahead of the game,” Lance said. “There is no other district in the state of Illinois doing this so we really are trying to get ahead.”

The students would complete their residencies, graduate and then spend two years working as teachers at U-46 schools, she said. Through the program, they would be licensed as teachers in both Illinois and Tennessee.

“We’re hoping they’d spread the good word about us so we could attract more (teachers of color),” Lance said.

Tennessee State was the first historically Black university that was all-in with launching the program, she said. Now district administrators are in talks with 20 other historically Black schools to do the same thing, she said.

Lisa Jackson, U-46 director of diversity, equity and inclusion, said the effort might also draw potential educators from other backgrounds as more than 24% of students at historically Black colleges and universities come from demographics other than Black, she said.

The students who come to Elgin would be staying at housing provided through Judson University, but would not be Judson students, U-46 Superintendent **Tony Sanders** said.

The contract with Tennessee State calls for the district to pay about \$75,000 to cover a monthly stipend of \$750 for up to 10 teacher candidates.

Once that’s in place, the district will move ahead with finalizing a contract with Judson for the housing, officials said.

In addition to the students living near each other to help prevent a sense of isolation in a new town, they’re planning to have more than one student placed at the same school, Lance said.

“That’s key. That’s smart,” Porter said.

The current starting salary for U-46 teachers is \$50,000 to \$70,000, based on education and experience. Those salaries include a full benefits package and a two-year mentor support program.

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

U-46 plans to install interior security cameras at seven middle schools this summer and fall --- 6/7/2022

By Mike Danahey



Logo of School District U-46. (www.u-46.org)

School District U-46 has tentatively agreed to spend \$226,642 on interior security cameras for seven middle schools.

The purchase from Addison-based Johnson Controls calls for the installation of interior cameras at Abbott, Ellis, Kimball and Larsen middle schools in Elgin, Canton and Tefft middle schools in Streamwood and Eastview Middle School in Bartlett, bringing those facilities up to the district's safety and security standards.

Cameras are already in place at the district's five high schools, two alternative high schools and Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin.

A U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services grant will fund the new equipment and its installation.

U-46 Security Operations Manager Kevin McKenzie, speaking at Monday's School Board meeting, said all district facilities have cameras monitoring their front doors and visitors cannot enter buildings without approval.

The district's School Safety and Culture Department began working with the Plant Operations Department in 2012 to install electronic access control and an integrated closed-circuit TV surveillance system at all U-46 facilities, according to information provided to the board.

"Cameras are monitored throughout the school day and during special events," McKenzie said.

If the School Safety and Culture Department receives a report from a school about a particular incident, the school does initial investigations and the department can provide copies of relevant video, he said.

“If there is a true emergency, we have an intergovernmental agreement that the board approved so that our police departments can tap into our system to monitor and view it live,” U-46 Superintendent **Tony Sanders** said.

The board is expected to approve the contract for the camera equipment, programming, installation and testing at its June 20 meeting.

Work would start this summer and should be complete by the fall, officials said.

Chicago Tribune/The Courier-News

Fundraising event to benefit former Elgin family whose daughter was killed in Texas school shooting --- 6/7/2022

By Gloria Casas



Vincent Salazar, a former Elgin resident, holds a framed photograph of his daughter, Layla, one of the 19 children and two teachers gunned down May 24 at their school in Uvalde, Texas. He said each morning as he drove her to school he would play "Sweet Child O' Mine" by Guns N' Roses and they'd sing along. (Dario Lopez-Mills/AP)

Esteban Peralez didn't know what to say to his friend, Vinnie Salazar, when he learned Salazar's daughter, 11-year-old Layla, was one of the 19 children killed May 24 in the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

“What words do I have?” Peralez said.

If speech failed him, he knew action could convey his sympathy for his grieving friend and his friend's wife, both of whom he knew from their time as students at **Larkin High School** in Elgin, he said. Layla was born in Elgin before the family moved to Texas in 2011.

"I just felt God was talking to me and that I had to do something," he said.

Peralez's response was to organize a fundraising benefit for the Salazar family, which will be held from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m. Friday, June 10, at Mi Vallarta Seafood Restaurant, 1101 N. La Fox St., South Elgin.



In this image provided by Vincent Salazar, he poses with his daughter, Layla, who was one of the 19 children who died May 24 when a shooter entered their Uvalde, Texas, school. (AP)

The cost is \$20, with all proceeds going to the Salazar family. Capacity is 500 and tickets will be sold at the door.

Peralez thought the benefit would be something small at which friends would gather to show their support and do something good, he said, but it's gotten much bigger than that.

"We've been getting phone calls nonstop," he said.

Peralez grew up with Layla's parents, Vinnie Salazar and Melinda Alejandro, and the three kept in touch after high school. The little girl has lots of relatives, including her maternal grandparents, who still live in Elgin.

Many in Elgin's Latino community have strong ties to Texas, said Paralez, whose own family is from Texas. The outpouring of support shows the community's humanity and desire to help a former Elgin resident, he said.

Perez has experience doing benefits and promotions, having worked with the owner of Mi Vallarta on fundraisers for hurricanes in Puerto Rico and Houston. The restaurant is donating its space and eight DJs are volunteering their time, he said.

A cross for 11-year-old Layla Salazar, who was born in Elgin, stands at a memorial site for the victims killed May 24 shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. (Dario Lopez-Mills/AP)

Layla Salazar is described in her obituary as a smart and rambunctious child who was always cheerful and respectful of her elders. She loved to swim, run track, sing, dance and make TikTok videos, the obituary said.

Her funeral will be held June 16 in Uvalde.

The Examiner of Bartlett

Formal approval given to U-46 school year calendar ---

6/8/2022

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

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** unanimously approved, the final 2021-2022 school calendar at its meeting on Monday, May 16.

The calendar had one change, according to agenda data, based on the change in date for the primary elections.

The agenda item stated: “Annually, the Board of Education is required to adopt a final School Calendar and submit it to the Kane County Regional Office of Education.... March 15, 2022 was changed to a student attendance day due to the primary election date moving to June 28, 2022.”

In 2021, Senate Bill 825 was approved which required schools to make themselves available as polling places and changed the primary election date. Illinois also encourages schools that are polling places to not hold classes on election day.

As far as the U-46 calendar, the first day of classes was Monday, Aug. 16 (Aug. 23 for preschool) with teachers reporting on Thursday, Aug. 12, and the final day of classes was Friday, May 27. High school graduation was Saturday, May 28.

“We have so much to celebrate with our graduating seniors,” Superintendent **Tony Sanders** said in a district press release. “Nearly 500 students are graduating from our Dual Language program, who have the linguistic skills to be successful in college, career, and life. Other students took advantage of an opportunity to earn a year’s worth or more of college credits, or enrolled in the various educational pathways we offer that can lead to promising careers right out of high school. Wherever they go next, I’m proud of the Class of 2022 and know that they are going to make a difference in their communities and the world.”

There were 184 teacher attendance days and 176 instructional days on the calendar.

The Examiner of Bartlett

District U-46 Board passes myriad of expense items --- 6/8/2022

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

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** unanimously approved, via 7-0 votes, of a curriculum proposal as well as \$3.8 million in expenditure items at its May 2 meeting.

The curriculum item was approval of the yearlong integrated math course for the Streamwood High School LEAD academy. The total cost, including instructional materials from Discovery Math, is estimated at \$3,799.

“The content within this course will give students an understanding of the foundations of Algebra and Geometry, focused around the context of a business theme,” the proposal states. “The topics studied in this course include relationships between quantities; linear and exponential relationships; key features of graphs; reasoning with equations; descriptive statistics; transformations; congruence; and connecting algebra and geometry. Students will experience these topics through a fully contextualized and collaborative learning environment, applying their learning in school-based enterprises, community service projects, and applied business activities.”

Most of the expenditures were operations and maintenance fund items.

Those included \$1 million for a renovation project at the Educational Service Center, \$842,118 for ceiling and lighting replacement at Bartlett Elementary School and Elgin’s Ronald D. O’Neal Elementary School, \$602,288 for a bathroom renovation at Elgin’s Kimble Middle and Channing Elementary schools, \$494,006 to purchase custodial products (plastics, paper, consumables), \$104,495 for fascia replacement at Elgin’s Hillcrest Elementary School and \$27,720 for gym floor refinishing at Bartlett’s Eastview Middle School. Also there were asbestos abatements at Streamwood High School (\$99,000), Elgin’s Huff Elementary School library (\$34,220) and Elgin’s Ellis Middle School library (\$28,750).

From the transportation fund was \$474,488 to purchase four 47-passenger school buses which are replacements for “special needs buses that will meet the mileage criteria for replacement,” the proposal states.

From the education fund was \$54,615 to replace radio repeaters and \$44,250 with Central Unit School District 301 to allow 30 students access to its veterinary science program.

Also unanimously approved was \$6.8 million in itemized bills.

The Examiner of Bartlett

VFW Auxiliary announces patriotic art contest winners --- 6/8/2022

By Seth Hancock

The Bartlett VFW Post 11018 Auxiliary is, again pleased report of art students taking the time to express themselves in a nationwide contest and to announce its local winners. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest is available to students in grades nine through 12, including home schoolers, to enter. This contest helps instill patriotism in students.

Acrylic, watercolor, colored pencils and chalk color sticks were the mediums eight **Bartlett High School** art students chose. The encouragement and guidance by their art teacher Jenifer Maggio is very much appreciated.

First place was awarded to high school senior Allison Pillers. This was the third year Pillers has entered the contest and her placement has improved every year. Pillers used colored pencil to portray a relationship with a retired military war dog.

High school junior Alicia Gomez, sophomore Millie Grzywinski and junior Emily Jacobo tied for second place. Junior Nora Palweikiewicz placed third, senior Balene Kroeger received an "Honorable Mention."

The next step in the contest is for first-place entries from all participating states be judged on a national basis.

The main mission of VFW Auxiliaries is to help veterans. For more information about the contest or how to help veterans is available by emailing: bartlettvfwaux@gmail.com.