

Press Clippings 7/14/2022

Kane County Connects

Local Farms, Farmers Markets and Non-Profits Awarded Mini Grants --- 7/13/2022

By Kane County Connects Staff

Kane County is partnering with the Illinois Farmers Market Association (ILFMA) to match funds from the Chicago Regional Food System Fund to support greater equity and inclusion for all groups who have been, and still are, marginalized. Mini-grants provide resources to farmers, farmers markets, community organizations, and not for profits that serve Kane County's communities of color including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC). Celebrating its 10th Anniversary, ILFMA (<https://www.ilfma.org/>) promotes local food production and consumption by offering Illinois farmers markets resources to grow healthier and economically vibrant communities.



ILFMA granted 12 awardees \$1500, and on July 12, 2022 Kane County awarded a matching grant of \$1500 for a total of \$3000 for each recipient. Kane County's matching grants come from the Kane County Economic Development Fund which leverages the Growing for Kane Ordinance and farms, food systems, farmers markets and organizations serving the County's minority communities with accessing locally grown food.

Mini-grants will fund a variety of initiatives and projects including an educational series about nutrition and food preparation, a garden program at **School District U-46**, an on-farm vegetable processing station, farmers market outreach, on farm equipment, enhanced community gardens and a pilot neighborhood farmers market on the east side of Aurora. The following farms, farmers markets, community non-profits, and urban growers received grants:

- Garlic Breath Farm – Elburn
- Mighty Greens Farm- Elburn
- Pasek Farms- Elgin
- Rustic Road Farm- Elburn
- Charity Blooms – Aurora
- Downtown Elgin Farmers Market- Elgin
- Fox Valley Food for Health- Geneva/Fox Valley
- Glory Gardens- Batavia
- Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry- Aurora
- **School District U-46- Greater Elgin Area**
- The GardenWorks Project- Batavia
- The Just Food Initiative- Batavia

The Examiner of Bartlett

U-46 budget timeline set for board ratification --- 7/13/2022

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** will be voting on its first resolution related to the Fiscal Year 2023 budget.

A resolution to display and set a public hearing date will be voted on at its meeting on Monday, July 18. The resolution was presented on June 20.

The FY 2022 budget continued the trend, for the seventh straight year, of increased spending and enrollment declines. That budget's projections expect that trend to continue for the foreseeable future with no efforts to control spending expected.

As for the upcoming resolution vote related to FY 2023, it sets Aug. 22 for presentation of a tentative budget which will be put on public display on Aug. 23. The resolution sets a public hearing for Sept. 12, and the board is expected to adopt the budget Sept. 26.

“Notice must be given in a publication of general circulation at least 30 days prior to the public hearing on a school district's budget,” **Superintendent Tony Sanders** said. “The resolution sets the date of the Public Hearing on the District's budget as September 12, 2022. The notice will be published August 9, 2022. Administration will recommend adoption of this

resolution at the July 18, 2022 Board meeting. This timeline fulfills all Illinois School Code requirements.”

The FY 2022 budget increased spending by \$61.3 million (up 10.2 percent to \$660.8 million total) and revenue by \$59.9 million (up 9.9 percent to \$662.3 million total).

Spending under the FY 2022 budget is 53.7 percent higher than 2012 while enrollment declined by 11.4 percent during that period. Last November, the district reported a drop of 533 students to a total enrollment of 36,090 in 2021-2022.

The Examiner of Bartlett

Manual, curriculum items subject to U-46 Board vote ---

7/13/2022

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** is set to vote on a new board policy manual and a high school special education curriculum item at its upcoming meeting on Monday, July 18 after being presented on June 20.

The board’s policy manual will align with the Illinois Association of School Board’s model policies and will be updated by the lobbyist group. **Sue Kerr**, the board’s president, said the manual is 395 pages, but no copy was posted to the board’s document page.

“I guess the plan is we’d like to adopt this because we have updates coming,” Kerr said. “You all (board members) saw the legislative updates I sent out a few weeks ago, and all of that’s going to hit policy. So, we need policy in place so when IASB makes changes, it will have some place to go.”

The curriculum item is for post-secondary plan strategies, for juniors, and post-secondary preparation, for seniors, courses.

The total cost of the proposal is \$3,905 including one-year teacher licenses for the Purpose Prep resource (\$2,205) and professional development (\$1,700).

The proposal stated there were inconsistencies found in 2019 leading to a committee for social emotional learning standards. Curriculum for the Study Skills course for freshmen and sophomores was approved last year.

“Currently, special education high school students who are enrolled in cross-categorical or co-taught courses take the Study Skills course to receive case management support, which includes the provision of special education accommodations and modifications, transition planning, assignment completion support and in grades 9 and 10, instruction on executive functions,” the proposal states. “What is known as the Study Skills course in grades 11 and 12

does not have a developed standard-based curriculum and the resources and case management process vary at the high school and classroom levels.”

The proposal added: “The committee continued their work to complete the curriculum for grades 11 and 12 and course names were adjusted to bring focus to post-secondary strategies and planning. Grade 11 curriculum targets post-secondary plan strategies while grade 12 curriculum focuses on postsecondary preparation with skill building of collaborative teamwork and interactive project-based learning.”