

Press Clippings for 9/07/2022

---The Examiner---

Sep. 07, 2022

Various expense items set for District U-46 vote

By: Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** is set to vote on \$1.7 million in expenditure items at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Sept. 12.

The items were presented on Aug. 22. The largest item is a contract renewal with four municipalities to provide school resource officers at secondary schools. The cost, to come from the education fund if approved, is \$1.1 million which is an 8.3 percent increase from last year's contract of \$1 million.

"The School Resource Officers (SROs) will act with the recommended TRIAD roles of: 1) Law Enforcement, 2) Teacher, 3) Informal Counselor/Mentor, but do not enforce school rules, policy, or discipline," the proposal states.

Included are seven officers from Elgin (\$545,662 total/\$77,952 salary/\$71 hourly overtime rate), three from Streamwood (\$225,894/\$75,298 salary/\$73.81 overtime) and two each from Bartlett (\$143,864/\$71,842 salary/\$73.39 overtime) and South Elgin (\$182,464/\$91,232 salary/\$68.51 overtime).

Costing \$218,645 from the operations and maintenance fund, the district wants to purchase a Morbark Tub Grinder from Alexander Equipment to replace one that's reached the end of its life cycle.

"In 2002, the district made the capital investment in a Morbark Tub Grinder," the proposal states. "This piece of equipment has been used to convert yard and wood waste into mulch for use in landscaping and playgrounds. The ability for the Grounds Department to create mulch in-house reduces costs to the district, reduces waste from landscaping projects within the district, and allows for playground mulch depth to be easily addressed when needed."

An item that was expected to be voted on earlier in August but was pulled has returned, that being \$195,000 (education fund) for a threeyear contract with Hudl for livestreaming and online storage of athletic games and practices for all five district high schools. Historically, the

district said athletic programs used private donations to purchase the service, but now taxpayer funding will be sought.

The proposal was revised to better define the uses for Hudl. Costing \$181,725, through federal grant funds, the district is seeking a contract renewal with Gorbald Behavioral Consulting for consultation related to autism

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Latest Dist. U-46 budget sustains statistical trend

By: Seth Hancock

The trend of major spending hikes coupled with enrollment declines is expected to continue in Fiscal Year 2023 for **School District U-46** with the proposed \$5.9 million deficit budget.

The budget was presented to the **Board of Education** at its Monday, Aug. 22 meeting. It shows revenue increasing from \$662.3 million to \$690.5 million, a \$28.2 million increase or 4.3 percent, and spending rising from \$660.8 million to \$696.4 million, a \$35.6 million increase or 5.4 percent.

A public hearing is planned for the upcoming meeting on Monday, Sept. 12 with a vote expected on Sept. 26.

Meanwhile, the district projects enrollment to drop by 847 students, 36,049 to 35,202 (2.3 percent), with 63 percent of capacity in use. The district projects enrollment to decline to 33,676 by 2024-2025.

This will be the eighth straight year of spending increases and enrollment declines. Under this budget, spending will have increased 62 percent and enrollment will have declined 13.5 percent since 2012 when expenditures were at \$430 million and enrollment at 40,687.

Staffing is projected to remain flat with 4,538 full-time equivalent staff, but salaries and benefits are projected to rise 4.4 percent from \$445.7 million to \$465.5 million, a \$19.8 million increase. That's a 28.6 percent increase from FY2018 when salaries and benefits totaled \$362 million.

Per usual, the district plans to seek the largest property tax increase allowed by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) with an \$8.1 million increase, \$324.6 million to \$332.7 million.

The property tax levy is tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the federal government's measure of price inflation. The CPI was 1.4 percent in 2020 and 7 percent in 2021, but PTELL limits increases to 5 percent.

Dale Burnidge, director of financial operations, said "the district's tax levy will be limited to that 5 percent increase for levy year 2022," and "this is the first time the levy's been capped since PTELL was passed in 1991."

The district projects an increase in state funding of \$20.9 million to \$233.2 million and a decline of \$8.9 million in federal funds to \$74.4 million

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Tefft teacher charged with multiple sex-related offenses

Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser has announced that Magdiel Perez, 25, of the 1-99 block of Lockman Circle, Elgin, has been charged with the offenses of criminal sexual assault (Class 1 felony), aggravated criminal sexual abuse (Class 1 felony), aggravated criminal sexual abuse (Class 2 felony) and child luring (Class 4 felony).

It is alleged that between May 1, and Aug. 30, Perez had sexual contact with the victim, who was younger than 18 years old. Perez on at least one occasion drove the victim to his home in Elgin, where the sexual contact occurred.

Perez at the time was employed by **School District U-46** and held a position of trust and authority. He met the victim while the victim was a student at **Tefft Middle School** in Streamwood. On Friday, Sept. 2, Perez appeared in Kane County bond court where Judge Julia Yetter set his bail at \$200,000, with 10 percent to apply for bond. If he posts bond he is to have no contact with the victim, no unsupervised contact with anyone younger than 18 years old, he is prohibited from being on the property at **Tefft Middle School** and he must surrender any guns, Firearm Owners Identification, concealed carry permit and his passport.

Perez's next court appearance is set for 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, Courtroom 319 at the Kane County Judicial Center. The case remains under investigation. Anyone with information about Perez should call Kane County Child Advocacy Center Investigator Dave Smith at 845-3780. The charges against Perez are not proof of guilt. Perez is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the state's burden to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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Sabres soccer capture final tournament contest

By: Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood soccer team** finished the Barrington Tournament with a win after a rough week of games.

The **Sabres**, now 2-2-2 overall, capped the week with a 2-0 victory over Conant on Saturday, Sept. 3. Andy Mendoza and Ricardo Aguilar found the net with assists from AJ Sabanovic and Michael Garcia, and goalkeeper Jason Ramirez had three saves. **Sabres** coach Matt Polovin said there was a “whirlwind of emotions” during their three pool games, which Streamwood hosted at Millennium Field.

“We played Glenbrook North and Lake Zurich first two games and ended with a 2-1 loss to Glenbrook North on literally two long throw-ins and them having no shots on goal,” Polovin said. “We had so many great opportunities to score and just didn’t finish like the guys absolutely know how to.”

Polovin added: “Then we played Lake Zurich and it was a very physical game with many cards on both teams which resulted in a 2-2 tie and many injuries for my group. But again, we had so many opportunities to win and win by many but putting the ball into the back of the net has been a problem the last few games.”

Sabanovic netted the **Sabres**’ goal in the Glenbrook North loss on Monday, Aug. 29. Jairo Sanchez and Gonzalo Taboada had goals and Ramirez three saves in the Lake Zurich tie on Tuesday, Aug. 30.

With the banged-up squad, **Streamwood** dropped its final pool game 6-0 against Conant on Thursday, Sept. 1. “We were horrified to see the way we played without many starters due to injury and sickness,” Polovin said. “Even Jason Cohen, (Conant’s) coach said that was definitely not the **Streamwood** team I’m used to seeing on the field. Once we get back to 100 percent, full strength we will be fine, but meanwhile guys need to step up for the players who are currently out.”

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Storm football beat Rams to go 2-0 in young season

By: Seth Hancock

The **South Elgin** football team made the big plays offensively and defensively to defeat Glenbard East 22-6 in Upstate Eight Conference play on Friday, Sept. 2 in South Elgin.

The **Storm** never trailed after taking an 8-0 lead on the first possession after junior quarterback Jake Sullivan threw a 40-yard touchdown pass to senior Mason Montgomery.

That score remained until the final minute of the third quarter when Montgomery caught a 47-yard touchdown pass from Sullivan, and the Storm led 22-0 after senior Jordan Green ran 39 yards to the end zone in the final five minutes of the game.

Although Glenbard East broke up the shutout late in the game, the Storm defense was strong led by senior Michael Tringali who had three sacks.

“We got punched in the mouth a little bit, so we knew we had to step it up,” Montgomery said. “That’s what we did. Their defense is tough, probably the toughest I’ve played in high school. They have a physical front line.”

South Elgin is now 2-0 overall and in the UEC as they look to three-peat as UEC champions after a 10-1 season last year. South Elgin returns a pair of all-conference players including senior offensive lineman Nathan Dinse and Montgomery.

“Our team wants to win our conference and make a run in the playoffs,” said **South Elgin** coach Dragan Teonic. “They have set high goals for themselves, and our senior leadership has been the best I have ever been around. I’m really pleased with their focus and maturity.”

Teonic said the team is “blessed to have a very good roster this year.” Some of the key returners are seniors Kyle Steinhofer (wide receiver/defensive back) and Eddie Ramirez (offensive and defensive lineman) as well as junior Ari Kravis (running back/linebacker) and Tommy Roath (offensive and defensive lineman).

---Chicago Tribune--

Sep. 07, 2022

It’s Clark time: After setbacks due to penalties, Ralph Clark steps up in the crunch for East Aurora. ‘I know we have heart.’

By: Rick Armstrong
Aurora Beacon News



East Aurora's Ralph Clark (2) sweeps the left side behind a block from Jeremiah Brown (26) against Elgin during an Upstate Eight Conference game on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022. (Jon Cunningham / The Beacon-News)

East Aurora senior [Ralph Clark](#) could have easily hung his head, but he didn't.

He had a 57-yard touchdown Friday night brought back by a holding penalty. It came one play after teammate [Michael Moravek](#) also had a 69-yard TD run nullified by a holding call.

There wasn't time to dwell, however.

"Personally, it was frustrating, but we have to think positive," Clark said. "Besides, if we bring our teammates down, they're going to keep struggling.

"I think I just said, 'Do better next time.'"

Both plays took place during the first drive of the Upstate Eight Conference game for the host Tomcats, who rallied for a thrilling 20-14 victory over **Elgin** in overtime.

Too much of that game remained to look backward.

Clark's reaction also didn't surprise [East Aurora coach Nick Kukuc](#).

"Ralph has always been a great leader in the way he carries himself in practice and on the field," Kukuc said of his third-year varsity starter at running back and strong safety.

“Not very often does he get hyped up, especially on the football field. He’s one of those guys who always seems to be cool, calm and collected.”

Clark will even let the coaches know how his teammates might handle criticism or if yelling won’t work on certain players.



East Aurora’s Ralph Clark (2) tumbles to the ground as he catches a game-winning touchdown pass in overtime against Elgin during an Upstate Eight Conference game on Friday, Sept. 2, 2022. (Jon Cunningham / The Beacon-News)

In the fourth quarter Friday, though, it happened again. Jeremiah Brown had an apparent 40-yard TD run brought back by a holding penalty.

Several plays later, the 5-foot-11, 175-pound Clark picked up a fumbled snap and went 16 yards for another TD, but that one was called back by a personal foul penalty.

“We had some opportunities taken back,” Kukuc said. “When you do some unnecessary holding, obviously you’re going to get those flags. We have to clean some things up with our blocking.

“We’ve stressed that we need to thrive in tough moments. At times we did and at times we didn’t.”

Clark and his teammates, however, wouldn’t be denied.

Senior wide receiver [Nathaniel Mojica](#) tied the game on a 59-yard TD pass that forced overtime. Gustavo Gonzalez then intercepted an **Elgin** pass in overtime and Clark caught a 12-yard TD pass from [Amado Martinez](#).

This time, Clark's score was the game-winner.

"We wanted to hit that specific route there," Kukuc said. "Ralph was playing fantastic and he's one of our key guys in the backfield. We went to Ralph because especially after (Mojica's) big play, we kind of figured they would be thinking we would go back to him."

Clark finished with 43 yards rushing and 20 yards receiving. He added six tackles, three pass breakups and one forced fumble on the defensive side of the ball.

"I know he was a physical force," Kukuc said of Clark. "He could play both safety spots, but he's more of a strong safety because he can come down in the box and play like a linebacker as well."

When that drive in the fourth quarter with two TDs called back ended up stalling, Clark started to get concerned.

"In the back of my mind, I had some doubts," he said. "But I know our players and I know what we can do."



East Aurora running back Ralph Clark finds an opening for a first down in a game at Elgin's Memorial Stadium on Friday, Aug. 27, 2021. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

The Martinez-to-Mojica connection proved it.

"That's one of Amado's favorite receivers to throw to," Clark said. "After he caught it, I knew it was going to be a TD. Nobody is going to catch Nate in the open field. Nate is special."

They overcame a lot, but playing to the end helped get the job done.

“Our first win,” Clark said. “I would say it was a well-deserved win.

“I know we have heart. If we can just limit the mistakes and trust coach, he’ll always deliver.”