

Press Clippings 09/15/2021

---The Examiner of Bartlett---09/15/2021

Village schools locked down due to possibly armed juvenile The Examiner of Bartlett report

On Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, at approximately 8 a.m., according to the Bartlett Police Department, it was alerted by the West Chicago Police Department of a potentially armed juvenile runaway that attended a school in Bartlett.

The Bartlett Police Department immediately notified **School District U-46** and Parkland Preparatory Academy. Out of an abundance of caution, several Bartlett area schools were placed in a secure-building status during the school day. Bartlett police conducted extra patrols at Bartlett High School and Parkland Preparatory Academy, as well as providing extra police presence during dismissal at all of the schools that were placed in the secure-building status.

At approximately 3 p.m., the West Chicago Police Department notified the Bartlett Police Department that the juvenile runaway was located in West Chicago. The West Chicago Police Department is continuing to investigate the matter.

---The Examiner of Bartlett---09/15/2021

Village approves release of funds to District U-46 By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved a release of funds totaling \$294,562 to **School District U46** at its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

U-46 requested the funds, called “school donations,” on Aug. 16 which come from developer deposit funds.

“Under the Bartlett Donation Ordinance, the Village collects money from developers for the impacts of their developments on the Village and other taxing bodies, including School

District U-46, which is held in the Village's Developer Deposit Fund," wrote Bryan Mraz, village attorney. "The balance in that fund as of July 21, 2021 is \$294,561.59."

The funds are collected "at the time a building permit is applied for" and goes to "school, park district, library and Village purposes," Mraz wrote. He added, in the case of U-46, these funds represent a reimbursement "for certain school improvements.

The village ordinance requires the funds to be used for construction or improvements to schools within Bartlett which led to previous conflicts when U-46 requested funds before there was a school in Bartlett.

"Years ago, before the Bartlett High School, and the Liberty and Hawk Hollow [elementary schools] were built in Bartlett, there was much debate and conflict between the Village and U-46 about the purposes that U-46 was requesting and spending donation monies collected by the Village of Bartlett and paid or not paid by it to U46," Mraz wrote. "However, once the aforementioned elementary schools were built in Bartlett, that quelled the debate, as the construction of those two elementary schools alone were clearly Qualified Expenditures as defined in the Bartlett Donation Ordinance, and the cost to construct them far exceeded the amount of donations that have been collected and held by the Village."

---The Examiner of Bartlett---09/15/2021

U-46 ratifies union pact with 6.1 percent pay hike

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

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, via a 7-0 vote, of a one-year extension, including a lofty 6.1 percent raise, to the District U-46 Educational Assistants (DUEA) contract at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 23.

The DUEA union includes paraprofessionals, piano accompanists and sign language interpreters.

Trisha Olson, chief legal officer, said the tentative agreement was reached on Aug. 4, and the union approved the agreement on Aug. 13. She said the agreement is "with respect to wages," and they are working with the union on a new, longer-term agreement.

This extension will cost the taxpayers an added amount over \$281,000.

“The wage breakdown that was agreed to and negotiated in a tentative agreement is a 6.14 increase overall for Fiscal Year 22,” Olson said. “The new money in this tentative agreement is roughly \$843,705.52 over Fiscal Year 21. However, if the terms of the previous collective bargaining agreement had simply been continued for Fiscal Year 22, the cost would have been approximately \$562,601 in new money.”

The district has not publicly posted the one-year extension, but the 2017 to 2021 agreement which is being extended is. Compared to the 6.1 percent pay increase, there were no raises in FY2018, 2 percent increases in FY2019 and FY2020 and any raises in FY2021 were tied to performance with the contract stating an employee needed to be rated as “proficient or above” to receive a raise.

The starting hourly rates under that contract were between \$14.45 to \$15.86 for most employees, \$20.94 to \$23.03 for sign language interpreters.

Sue Kerr, the board president, asked if this put the district in compliance with Illinois’ new minimum wage laws which Olson said: “It gets us beyond that concern for the members that are starting in the earliest lanes, being above minimum wage.”

However, no pay raise was necessary to comply with the new minimum wage law which is currently \$11 an hour and will increase to \$12 in 2022. It increases to \$13 in 2023, \$14 in 2024 and \$15 in 2025.

---The Examiner of Bartlett---09/15/2021

Village board approves pair of requests from BHS

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees, at its meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 7, unanimously approved of a pair of requests related to **Bartlett High School’s homecoming**.

Included was a request for a parade permit from Bartlett’s student council which is planning a homecoming parade for Sunday, Sept. 19.

“The parade will follow an abbreviated version of the traditional Fourth of July parade route; beginning at Oak Glen Drive, traveling south on South Bartlett Road, and ending at Stearns Road and Sycamore Lane in the Apple Orchard West lot. Step off for the parade is at 1:00 p.m. and will last less than one hour,” wrote Joseph Dienberg, management analyst, in a memo.

In a letter from Kristen Gac, a Bartlett teacher, the request also included “barricades and police officers to assist with traffic control” as well as a permit for amplifications for the Hawk Fest Carnival to be held Monday, Sept. 20 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Also approved that evening was a request to hold a fireworks display on Monday, Sept. 20. Dienberg wrote that the fireworks display will be held at the high school “with racks set up away from the northeast corner of the football field.”

“The appropriate certificate of insurance has been submitted by School District U-46 and is pending approval by the village attorney,” Dienberg wrote. “Also, a copy of the pyrotechnic operator’s license, the Federal Explosives License/Permit, as well as a map outlining where the fireworks will be shot off have been submitted. BHS has also received permission from the Bartlett Fire Department.”

---The Examiner of Bartlett---09/15/2021

Student code changes approved by U-46 board

By Seth Hancock; This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and The Examiner of Streamwood

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, of changes to the Student Code of Conduct at its Monday, Aug. 23 meeting.

An amendment was made at the meeting after questioning by board member Dawn Martin. On the “District U-46 Does Not” page of the code, originally proposed was to remove the statement “share individual student information with any other person than the student and parent guardian in accordance with Board Policy and state law.”

That statement will remain with a preface added “accept as permitted by state and federal law.”

In a memo to the board, the district did say it does share student records beyond parents and guardians “when there is an educational or administrative interest, a bona fide emergency, or other exception to law as permitted.”

“My concern is making sure that we have things in places where our parents are going to look,” Martin said. “And the code of conduct would be my first place versus trying to flip through our board policies which is rather lengthy.”

Trisha Olson, chief legal officer, said handling of student records is within administrative documents but said Martin was “absolutely correct” there was nothing in the code of conduct discussing student records.

Other changes include changing the phrase “student discipline” to “culture and climate” throughout while Robin Barraza, coordinator of culture and climate, stated there are updates to pronouns “from gender specific to ‘they’ and ‘their’ throughout.” It removes the “Individuals with Disabilities Act” regarding protecting student rights changing it with “state and federal law.”

Also unanimously approved was the list of 2021 high school graduates.

---The Examiner of Streamwood---09/15/2021

Sabres volleyball seeing improvement, despite loss

By Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood volleyball team** was unable to keep up with **Bartlett** as the Sabres dropped a two-set Upstate Eight Conference contest on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at Bartlett.

The loss was in a 25-13, 25-6 match, but Sabres coach Michele Mueller said she saw some improvements as this represented the third matchup between the two teams in the young season.

Twice, Streamwood faced Bartlett in tournaments including a 25-13, 25-15 loss last month. Just over the weekend at the Hoffman Estates tournament on Sept. 4, the Sabres fell 25-6, 25-10 to Bartlett.

“Our performance improved from this weekend when we saw Bartlett,” Mueller said. “We still have plenty to work on and continue to improve, and it has been nice to see some good

volleyball. Our blocking definitely improved from the first two times we saw them, getting some solid blocks, as well as some great block touches for a defense to pick up.”

A trio of seniors led the Sabres including Bella Archulita (two kills, one block), Emma Sales (one kill, one block) and Marisa Hauserman (one block).

The Sabres, now 3-8 overall and 0-2 in the UEC, have several seniors this season including Alejandro Mondragon, Natalia Maniak, Jordan Rohner, Trista Skelnik and Faith Wende.

“We have struggled on serve-receive, and it continues to be a focus for our team to improve on, as well as scoring points,” Mueller said. “I have shifted some girls to different positions so hoping that we start to find our groove and more success this season. Our team brings an awesome positive mentality to practice each day and are always excited to get out on the court and compete.”

---Daily Herald---09/15/2021

Girls volleyball: Worden powers South Elgin past Glenbard South

By Craig Brueske

South Elgin's Alyssa Worden possesses the ability to do just about anything she wants on the volleyball court.

The 5-foot-10 junior outside hitter proved as much Tuesday night during her team's thorough 25-14, 25-19 Upstate Eight Conference victory over visiting Glenbard South (3-10, 1-2).

After recording 6 kills, an 8-0 service run and a pair of aces in the Game 1 win, Worden returned with 10 more kills and a block kill as the Storm (11-2, 3-0) held off the Raiders in the second game.

She saved the best for last.

Serving on match point, Worden tossed the ball high into the air, jumped and delivered a perfect shot that landed just inside the back line for her third ace of the night and exclamation mark -- much to the delight of her teammates and coaches.

"Everyone was telling me to do it," Worden said of her final serve attempt. "I do work on it at practice but not a lot. I just figured, 'this is fun, you've got to go for it.'"

Worden, who finished with a match-high 17 kills, provided much more for the Storm.

"Obviously, she's a physical presence but also mentally -- she's a big presence for the rest of the team," said Storm coach Joni Plach. "She knows a lot about volleyball. She sees the court really well.

"It's almost like having a mini-coach on the court. She's communicating to the girls. That's a skill you don't see a lot in high school volleyball -- her knowledge of the other side (of the net) and seeing their tendencies."

South Elgin also received significant contributions from senior setter Emma Hunter (19 assists, 1 ace), senior middle blocker Loreal Wilson (5 kills, 1 block, 1 ace), junior outside hitter Maddy Shaner (4 kills), senior libero Maggie McGough (2 aces), sophomore Jazmine Binion (1 kill) and senior Yuri You (1 ace).

"This is an experienced group," said Plach. "Four of them were on the team when we won conference a couple years ago."

That includes Hunter, who finds herself in a different role this time around.

"This is her first year setting ever," said Plach. "She's a very smart volleyball player. I knew when I needed to fill the setting position that I could count on her. She's happy to contribute to the team any way she needs to."

Brittany Miller paced the Raiders with 6 kills, while Paige Stephenson and Gianna Huerta each added 2 kills. Mia Lake and Helen Maurer had 1 ace apiece.

"They were impressive," Raiders coach Chad Grant said of the Storm. "We did respond in the second set and came out a little stronger."

"But we struggled in serve receive, and (Alyssa) Worden is the best player we've seen this year."