Dear Colleagues:

The Board of Education will be very busy this upcoming Monday.

There is a Finance Committee meeting scheduled for 4:30 p.m. where the Board committee will review and discuss our tentative budget for Fiscal Year 2022, which also gives a glimpse into how we hope to invest federal funds related to COVID-19 (like the American Recovery Act) over the next few years. The Finance Committee will also review a proposal related to refinancing some of our bonds. Bonds are issued by school districts much like a family takes out a mortgage on a house. When we built new schools in the 1990s and early 2000s, voters authorized us to sell bonds which are then paid directly from property taxes (listed as “debt service” on your tax bill). If we can lower the interest rates on our outstanding bonds, it serves to lower property tax bills.

During the Board’s regular meeting beginning at 7 p.m. we will be presenting to the Board our tentative plans for the return of students for the 2021-22 school year. I know this will be a topic of interest for all staff and families as we consider what school will look like in August and beyond. Once we have finalized our update to the Board, we will communicate final plans to our communities.

As we also plan for next year, I have previously shared our updated organizational chart for 2021-22, which lowers the ratio of principal supervisors to principals. On May 5, I announced our team of new executive directors and their biographies and today I’m so excited to share with you which schools they
will serve. As you know, they will report to our Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Lela Majstorovic. The below graphic outlines the schools that Executive Directors Mr. Brian Tennison, Dr. Annette Acevedo, Dr. Kyle Bunker, Ms. Yvette Gonzalez-Collins, Ms. Sarah Rabe, Dr. Michelle Thompson, and Ms. Teresa Winters will serve.

You have heard me repeat that if our school system and our schools look the same after we have all experienced a global pandemic, then we have failed. This organizational change, coupled with a lot of work that we will be doing systematically and collaboratively in these coming years, is the signal of a new day for all of us. I am confident in our abilities to be a model district for our post-COVID response to learning.

It continues to be my honor to serve alongside you,

Tony
Survey

Staff, students in 5th grade through 12th grade, and parents across the District are being asked to take a brief, mobile-friendly survey between May 13 and May 27. The Effective Practices Survey aims to dive a little deeper into how effectively we intervene and support students, set high expectations, and not over identify any students for discipline or other interventions such as specialized student services.

This particular survey asks students questions about our schools’ culture, whether students feel welcome and respected, whether discipline is applied fairly, and whether our school teams encourage all students to reach their full potential. Parents will be asked similar questions and if they feel informed about their students performance, and understand teachers’ explanations and expectations.

We will then use this information to guide our school improvement planning work this summer for the 2021-22 school year, along with results from the 5Essentials and the Equity Survey that was administered to students earlier this spring. Our school teams will look at the data from all three surveys as well as other information to develop comprehensive school improvement plans to ensure we are preparing all students for college and careers. School staff members will receive a link to this survey via an email from their principal.

Teacher Mentor Program

The Teacher Mentor Program honored the Year 2 Mentees with a virtual celebration earlier this month. Here is the yearbook that contains the memories and photos of our beginning new teachers who started their career at U-46 in 2019. It has been an honor to be part of your journey.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or if you know someone who would make a great mentor, check out this flyer with more information. Please register for the New Mentor Training course on Canvas as soon as possible if you are interested in mentoring for next school year. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to email us at TeacherMentorProgram@u-46.org.
Teacher Appraisal Plan Professional Practice

Peer Assistance Review
The U-46 Peer Assistance and Review Program (PAR) is available to any ETA member not formally matched with a mentor through the U-46 Teacher Mentor Program (TMP). Once a teacher has elected to participate in PAR, they are matched with a Peer Consultant Teacher (PCT). This yearlong process involves frequent, ongoing, classroom-based support that focuses on the Danielson Framework for Teaching. Visit the PAR website page for more information. Email paradm@u-46.org to schedule an informational meeting with a PAR team member.

Assessment & Accountability

Assessment Updates
Please refer to the checklists for guidance on testing. These are in-person assessments. Students must bring their charged laptops to school.

- **ACCESS 2021 Planning Checklist** - through May 28.
- **IAR 2021 Planning Checklist** - through May 28.
- **ISA 2021 (Illinois Science Assessment) Planning Checklist**
  - Grade 5: May 17 through May 21
  - Grade 8: Begins after May 1. Please contact matthewramondi@u-46.org to share your testing date so that tickets can be produced for you.

Here is the Spring 2021 District Assessment Guide for Pre-kindergarten through 6th grade

Equity & Innovation
**Equity Matters Symposium**

Save the Date for U-46’s Equity Matters symposium from June 7th through June 10th. In addition to numerous breakout sessions, the virtual event will welcome many phenomenal keynote speakers such as:

- **Dr. Gloria Ladson Billings**, the author of critically acclaimed book *The Dreamkeepers: Success Teachers of African American Children*, former Kellner Family Distinguished Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and who led numerous efforts to reduce the academic achievement gap of minority students.

- **Debbie LeeKeenan**, an early childhood consultant, lecturer, and author. Ms. LeeKeenan is a co-producer of the film, Reflecting on Anti-bias Education in Action: The Early Years.

- **Richard Milner IV**, a researcher, scholar, and leader of urban education and teacher education and currently a Cornelius Vanderbilt Distinguished Professor and Chair of Education and Professor of Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University.

- **Dr. Gholdy Muhammad**, an Associate Professor of Language and Literacy at Georgia State University and author of the best-selling book, *Cultivating Genius: An Equity Model for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy*.

- **Cat Shieh**, the Anti-Hate Training Coordinator at Asian Americans Advancing Justice in Chicago whose anti-bias and anti-racism curricula have been piloted in the Los Angeles Unified School District as well as multiple charter schools across California.

- **Dr. Dena Simmons**, founder of LiberatED, an antiracist approach to social and emotional learning and healing. Dr. Simmons is the author of *White Rules for Black People*.

- **Dr. William A. Smith**, an award-winning professor and department chair of Education, Culture & Society at the University of Utah.

The U-46 Equity Matters symposium will cover the topics of equity pedagogy, relationships, and social justice. Registration information will soon be released for this first-time District event.
Staff Recognition
The window for nominating employees for the Illinois State Board of Education’s Those Who Excel program is open but closing soon on May 21. Read more here about how to recognize your colleagues at the state level.

Summer Connection

Job Openings
Our partners in our U-46 Summer Connection programming have a variety of summer job openings and opportunities.

Boys & Girls Club of Elgin is now hiring for summer to support our U-46 students in enrichment and extended summer school programs. There are opportunities for varied shifts, schedules and locations to accommodate your availability. If interested, please apply directly with the Boys & Girls Club by visiting https://www.bgcelgin.org/careers and clicking “Career Opportunities” to access the Indeed platform. Be certain to include your experience at U-46 on your application! Any questions about summer employment opportunities can be directed to Aisha Sheppard, Human Resources Director, at asheppard@bgcelgin.org.

Right at School has employment opportunities this summer with the Right At School Camps in U-46. Part-time and full-time hours are available at eight sites, as listed on this website page. Send your resume to jena.frey@rightatschool.com for immediate consideration for an interview. Applicants can also please call Right at School (not U-46), for more information at 855-AT-SCHOOL (855-287-2466).
Website Awards
As we approach the end of the 2020-21 school year, we want to honor all our hardworking webmasters, their creativity, and their consistent updates. To celebrate, the most noteworthy school websites are receiving a certificate of appreciation in the following categories:

- Easiest to navigate: Channing Elementary School, Larsen Middle School, South Elgin High School
- Most personalized: Abbott Middle School, DREAM Academy, Larkin High School
- Best updates: Clinton Elementary School, Hawk Hollow Elementary School, Ontarioville Elementary School,
- Creativity using an app: Bartlett Elementary School, Laurel Hill Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School
- Most improved: Prairievlew Elementary School, Wayne Elementary School, Eastview Middle School

If you’d like to see examples of the fine work the school webmasters have made to their pages, read the latest Website Wednesday Newsletter here under the S&CR Intranet section. Also in the S&CR Intranet section, you will find more than a dozen short tutorial videos, as well as other helpful resources to keep your school or department website presence looking its best!

State News

The May 11 Weekly Message from State Superintendent Carmen I. Ayala, Ph.D., is available online in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format here. All editions of the Weekly Message are archived on the Illinois State Board of Education's website here.

Photo of the Week
A ceremony was held Wednesday night at Elgin High School’s Memorial Field to celebrate the **2021 Superintendent’s Scholarship recipients**. The program is coordinated through the U-46 Educational Foundation. Watch the Foundation’s **Facebook page** for profiles and pics of each of our scholars!

**Kudos**

Send Kudos directly by clicking **HERE** or using Let’s Talk. They are **due by 5 p.m. each Tuesday**.

**Kudos to All the Staff at Lords Park Elementary School, from Flor Delfin, MTSS Lead, Curriculum & Instruction at Lords Park Elementary School**

I have worked at Lords Park Elementary for the last two years. These years were great because we have such an amazing group of teachers! Your hard work, kindness, dedication, and willingness to work as a team despite a challenging pandemic year, made a difference not only in my life, but also in the lives of all our students. You touched my heart, and I will be forever grateful for you. The office staff; Alvaro, the head custodian; Alejandra, the super librarian; Vanessa, the school nurse; and the lunch supervisors have all made lasting impacts on the entire team as well. Thank you for smiling every day! With a grateful heart ... Flor.
Kudos to Scott Nebel, English Teacher at South Elgin High School, from Sheryll Brasure, Districtwide Substitute
I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to Scott Nebel. I am currently filling a long-term freshman English class, and he has been instrumental in helping with anything needed for this position, from lesson plans, Canvas, and Zoom. Without Scott, I could not be doing this position efficiently. Thank you, Scott!

Kudos to Linda Machut and Barb Karsbaek, Teachers at Liberty Elementary School, from Stephanie Sylvester, Principal at Liberty Elementary School
Thank you to Linda Machut and Barb Karsbaek for your 15 years of dedicated service to U-46. We will miss you next school year, but hope you enjoy your much deserved retirement! Thank you for inspiring all the students you work with each and every day. Happy Retirement from the Liberty Staff!

Kudos to the Production Staff of Bartlett High School’s Spring Musical Cabaret: Dave Goldman, Heather Goldman, Alexa Mount, Eric Hollaway, Kelly Larson, Aimee Riddle, Andrea Kohl, and Andrea Crone, from Mike Miserendino, Theatre Director at Bartlett High School
Thank you for all of your hard work, creativity, passion, and dedication to keeping the performing arts alive and well at BHS amidst a global pandemic. Your collaboration, ingenuity, and students-first attitude have allowed us to safely produce a Musical Cabaret that involved more than 90 students between the cast, crew, and orchestra pits. Together, we provided students with a truly memorable experience while improving their musical theatre skills and exposing them to different genres and styles of musical composers. I could not be more proud of all of your efforts and positivity throughout the process. Thank you for everything that you have done and continue to do for the BHS Theatre program. Bravo!

Kudos to The Central SWEP Department and Their Students, from Gloria Helin, Teacher Mentor Specialist at Teacher Effectiveness Initiative
For keeping ESC well fed with yummy drinks and snacks. The blueberry yogurt parfait is by far my favorite! You have worked so hard, and I wanted to let you know how much you're appreciated. Let's hope the SWEP cart stays for good!

Kudos to All the Paraeducators at Bartlett High School, from Adrea Kohl,
Parent at Bartlett High School
I want to thank all the paras who had my son Tommy Kohl in their class and even those that didn't. Being a paraeducator is tough when you are constantly multitasking and "on the go." Thank you for always having a smile when your students walk into your room and in Tom's case, the patience to talk to him about music! Many students would not have made it through high school without paraeducators like you.

Kudos to our Amazing In-High School Dual Credit Teachers: Bill Coughlin, Juan Figueroa, Kerry Hanrahan, Rosa Morales Todd Scarlett, and Elizabeth Whittaker, from Michele Chapman & Alexa Charsha, Post Secondary Success Department
Thank you for being the trail blazers and teaching the Dual Credit courses at our high schools. We appreciate your hard work, dedication, and willingness to try something new. Our students have gained early college credentials because of you!

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