

Press Clippings 10/17/2017

---Courier News--- 10/17/17

Bartlett High gets \$1.6 million for stadium seats, lights, press box

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Supporters of the Bartlett High School athletic complex project stand up during the School District U46 board meeting Monday. (Rafael Guerrero / The Courier-News)

Bartlett High School's plans for an athletic complex moved forward Monday with approval from School District U46 for a \$1.6 million measure that will get the stadium bleacher seats, lights and a press box.

The unanimous vote was a years-long culmination in getting Bartlett High School — celebrating its 20th anniversary this fall — a sports facility to call its own. Since the school's opening, Bartlett has held most outdoor football and track and field competitions at Streamwood High School, several miles north along Route 59. Last fall, the school district purchased and installed a scoreboard and sound system; Bartlett held its first homecoming game at its own field last fall.

Board members approved a \$1.6 million bid from Aurora-based L.J. Morse Construction Co., to complete the first phase of the high school activity complex. About \$925,000 will be funded from private donations the Bartlett High School boosters collected, \$371,000 will come from state-issued Qualified Zone Academy bonds, and about \$282,000 will come from the district's operations and maintenance fund.

"It won't be done in my time, which is unfortunate," said student representative and Bartlett student Casey Pearce, who graduates in the spring, "but my sister will go here soon. I think it will be really exciting to see what the final product will look like. I'm really excited about it, I love football games."

The academy bonds, however, must be repaid by the high school booster club over time, said George Kantzavelos, the booster club's activity complex director and former booster president.

The bid is for new and expanded seating at the stadium, stadium lights and a press box. Construction would begin this fall, with a goal to finish next summer and have the stadium ready for fall 2018 games, matches, competitions and activities. Additional phases of construction — such as concession stands, visitors bleachers, the entrance to the stadium, among others — are not included in this measure.

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Third annual expo connects U-46 academic courses with careers

SUBMITTED BY ELGIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46



About 1,000 students and family members attended Explore 2017: A U-46 Community, Curriculum, and Career Expo. The third annual expo on Oct. 14 featured demonstrations in health care, engineering, automotive technology and more.

An all-female competitive engine teardown team, health care demonstrations and culinary displays -- and tastings -- were among the many top draws at Explore 2017: A U-46 Community, Curriculum, and Career Expo at Elgin Community College. About 1,000 students and family members attended the third annual expo Saturday.

"The rain did not stop students and families from coming together to learn about all the opportunities and career pathways available within our district," said Terri Lozier, U-46's Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction and Equity. "We are beyond grateful for the many professionals who donated their time and shared their skills and passion to help U-46 students and strengthen the 11 communities served by our district."

Students who attended the expo wound their way through themed career clusters such as manufacturing; architecture and construction; health sciences; hospitality and tourism; information technology; government and public administration and more.

In each area, students could stop and learn more about a specific career, what courses or programs at U-46 might lead them in that direction and often engage in a fun, hands-on activity, such as piping frosting onto a cake, listening to a model baby's "heartbeat" or playing with blocks in the engineering section.

The engine teardown team, comprised of students in the automotive technology program at South Elgin High School, showed off their skills in the area devoted to transportation, distribution and logistics.

"You got this!" one of the girls said to her teammates as they took apart and reassembled a small-block engine in 24 minutes, 31 seconds. The students will compete at the national Hot Rodders of Tomorrow competition in Las Vegas at the end of October with a goal to finish among the top 10 in the country.

U.S. Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-8th district), Elgin Mayor Dave Kaptain, Hanover Park Village President Rodney Craig, Elgin Community College President David Sam, and Advocate Sherman Hospital President Linda Deering were among the political and business leaders who attended the expo. The leaders gathered with Rep. Krishnamoorthi at the close of the expo to discuss local and federal efforts to improve and expand college and career readiness.

"This type of event is a game changer for middle and high school students," said Rep. Krishnamoorthi. "It's too late to start this work in high school; I believe we need to introduce the opportunities and decisions ahead to families and students at an earlier age to pave the way for future success. It's also critical for the economic success of our communities. I believe there's great potential to expand this type of partnership with ACE to help further develop the workforce of tomorrow."

Among the crowd gathered around the engine teardown was U-46 parent Phil Novello and his children Gaetano, 11, and Gules, 8, who are students at Oakhill Elementary in Streamwood.

Novello said he brought his children to Explore 2017 to help them start considering what kind of careers they might want to pursue. His son likes cars but also loves animals and thinks about becoming a veterinarian. But since Gaetano uses up all of his dad's scrap lumber building bridges and birdhouses, Novello wants him to consider engineering, too.

Gules is younger and still at the stage where she is drawn to most everything, but loves her Dual Language experience at Oakhill and can fluently converse in Spanish.

Novello said he benefitted from attending Explore 2017 as well, leaving with a better understanding of all the programs and courses available to students in U-46. Novello is a member of the district's Citizens' Advisory Council, and his wife, Kristine, is president of the PTO at Oakhill. Even with their level of involvement, it's hard to keep up with all that the district has to offer, he said.

"You can be anything you want to be coming out of U-46," he said.

This is the third annual expo, an event that began as a way of showcasing curricula or course options and has grown to showcase careers through collaboration with the

Alignment Collaborative for Education, known as ACE. More than 50 businesses and organizations showcased approximately 65 careers at the expo.

The City of Elgin, Elgin Community College, Elgin State Bank, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Gilmore Marketing Concepts, Inc., Grand Victoria Casino, Hagg Press, KCT Credit Union and Sam's Club were among the event sponsors, donating funds and services to support the expo.

ACE Executive Director Nancy Coleman said she was pleased with the level of community involvement at Explore 2017 and how every industry cluster was represented.

Growing up in Alabama, she said, it was enough for her to go to college. Mentors who helped guide her career came later. But in a rapidly changing and competitive work environment, it's important for today's students to have mentors in middle school and high school who can "help them make good choices," she said.

"I want the students here to see all the possibilities. No one needs to make a decision right now," Coleman said. "They might change their minds five times by the time they are graduating from college or heading to work, but the main goal is for students to see all the possibilities and opportunities available to them."

While some U-46 students attended Explore 2017 as part of a field trip with a teacher chaperone, many were with one or both parents. Lozier said she hoped those parents left the expo "seeing that U-46 offers their students multiple opportunities in different career areas, and I hope that the parents will allow their students to try out some of those."

ACE worked in partnership with the district to offer the expo, organizing several dozen student and community volunteers who welcomed and supported families through the event. Attendees were asked to complete an exit survey that organizers will use to help plan Explore 2018. Already the district is planning to offer next year's expo on a weekday to generate even more participation among students and businesses.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 10/17/17

Boys Soccer: Elgin High cleared of illegal player allegations

BY JOHN RADTKE

Elgin High School and its boys soccer program has been cleared of last week's allegations the Maroons were using an illegal player.

Dr. Terri Lozier, assistant superintendent for secondary schools in Elgin Area School District U-46, said Thursday she had been informed by IHSA assistant executive secretary Beth Sauser that based on evidence provided to Lozier that was then sent to the IHSA, there is no further investigation and that Elgin will be allowed to play in the upcoming IHSA state playoffs.

"Beth told me the IHSA looked at the reports sent to them and that the IHSA doesn't have a problem with it if I don't," said Lozier, who launched the investigation last week after at least two opposing coaches claimed that Maroons junior Omar Lopez had been playing for the Elgin Pumas club team during the high school season, which would have been a violation of IHSA bylaws.

The investigation centered around an online game report for a Sept. 23 Pumas game that showed Lopez as having scored 3 goals. During the course of the investigation, the Pumas explained that sometimes other players wear different jersey numbers and that was the case on Sept. 23. The Pumas further explained that game officials responsible for entering the information in the game report only go by number, thus the reason Lopez was credited with scoring.

Lopez is on the Pumas roster, as are several high school players, because they play for the team before and after the high school season.

Documents sent to the IHSA by Elgin High athletic director Paul Pennington, as well as the Pumas, Lopez and another player, were reviewed by the IHSA and deemed acceptable, Lozier said.

"The IHSA is in charge of athletics for the state and if they don't see a concern, I don't have a concern," Lozier said.

Elgin is scheduled to open postseason play Tuesday at the Class 3A Hampshire regional.