

Press Clippings 3/22/2018

---Courier News--- 3/22/18

U46 board considering purchase of 74 school buses to replace aging vehicles

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



District U46 may purchase 74 new and used school buses to replace some of its aging fleet, a few of which date back to 2006 and have accrued more than 185,000 miles. (School District U46)

School District U46 wants to purchase 74 school buses for the 2018-19 school year, the first such purchase in two years.

District Transportation Director Jeff Prowell presented a proposal at Monday's school board meeting to purchase 37 large school buses, 32 small buses, and five wheelchair-accessible buses at a cost of about \$6.5 million. The vehicles would replace 74 U46 fleet buses that are at least 10 years old and have logged thousands of miles, Prowell said.

The large and wheelchair-accessible buses would be pre-owned, which would be less than two years old and would have 25,000 miles or fewer miles, he said. The buses being considered are under lease by the Round Lake and Geneva school districts.

Prowell said the district would save close to \$800,000 in purchasing lightly-used vehicles over new ones. Meanwhile, the district is targeting 2019 models for its small bus purchase, 10 of which would have wheelchair lifts, according to the proposal.

According to district records, some of the school buses being replaced were purchased in 2006 and two had logged more than 180,000 miles as of December.

U46 has not purchased school buses since the 2015-16 school year. Last spring, district administration advised the board to not approve the purchase of 38 vehicles — despite a transportation department request — because the district had put a freeze on non-essential spending in light of the state's budget impasse. Since then, the General Assembly has passed a new budget.

---Courier News--- 3/22/18

U46 officials: Despite apparent success, no expansion of college credit program

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



School District U46 officials have decided not to expand a program that allows students to earn college credit at Elgin Community College during their senior year of high school. (Rafael Guerrero/The Courier-News)

A program that allows local high school seniors to earn credits at [Elgin Community College](#) has been successful in its first year, **School District U46** officials said. Still, they're reluctant to expand the program until more time has passed and they're able to collect more data.

For now, the number of students participating in the dual credit program will remain capped at 45, school officials said this week.

This school year, 44 U46 seniors enrolled in Accelerate College, the first year of a partnership between the Elgin-area school district and community college. Currently, only incoming seniors can apply for the program, though the agreement allows for an expansion that would allow 45 incoming juniors to participate.

But Terri Lozier, the district's assistant superintendent of secondary schools and equity, said any expansion would have to wait.

"Before we suggest or even move forward with the junior/senior program at ECC, we want to make sure that we have the senior program under control," she said.

So far, the results have been promising, officials said.

At Monday's U46 school board meeting, Lozier and Chris Boden, U46 lead counselor, gave an update on the first group of Accelerate College students, noting the group had a combined GPA of 3.42 in the first semester. They earned a combined 633 college credits.

"ECC was — needless to say — quite pleased with how well our students did first semester," Boden said.

Each of the five U46 high schools sent between 7 and 11 students to ECC.

Boden said the students and their families saved a combined \$79,125 in college tuition and fees during the first semester.

There will be few changes in next school year's program, officials said, though, tuition will increase next school year from \$125 to \$129 per credit hour.

Under Accelerate College, U46 pays for tuition and course fees, while students and their families pay for books and U46 instructional fees. The district covers about \$3,300 per semester for a student taking 12 credit hours, and over \$4,300 for a student taking 16 credit hours, according to district records.

SPORTS SECTION

---Daily Herald--- 3/22/18

BOYS VOLLEYBALL: Schaumburg sinks Bartlett in 3 sets

BY JOHN LEMON

Coming off a disappointing second set loss at Bartlett Wednesday night, Schaumburg needed a boost.

Junior Ryan Regier was happy to supply it.

Regier delivered 5 of his match-high 10 kills in the deciding third set. Besides the stats, Regier brought the emotion for the Saxons, firing up his teammates in a 25-14, 20-25, 25-21 victory.

"Playing with energy helps us rebound," Regier said. "We make mistakes but as long we keep our energy we can come back and win."

Schaumburg (2-0) won its second straight to start the season following Tuesday's victory over Prospect.

"Ryan did stand out from an emotional standpoint and he brought energy to us," Saxons coach Eric Melton said.

It looked early like it would be a quick win for Schaumburg, who never trailed in the first set. But after a clean opening set, the Saxons struggled in the second with 9 hitting errors.

Bartlett (0-1) took advantage as Carter Burzlaff served the first three points including an ace. The lead swelled to 7-1, 11-2 and 14-3 on one of Matt Tomasek's three kills.

The Saxons battled back and forced Hawks coach Bob Schwantz into two timeouts when they closed within 16-10 and then 21-18.

Schaumburg again hurt itself with back-to-back hitting errors, and Pat Biedrzycki ended the set with a blast.

"It's all about how we respond," Melton said. "We won the first game and I think we are still learning as a team how to respond the right way and stay focused. That's (the first set) more indicative of how we play than the second game. Thinking about the right things and staying in system and the second game we got away from it early."

After two lopsided sets with no lead changes, the teams fought back and forth in the third. Tied 8 times, the final one at 15-15, Schaumburg finally pulled away starting with a booming kill from Regier.

Nathan Thomas followed with a kill for a 17-15 lead, and a violation on the Hawks followed by Regier tooling a shot made it 19-15.

Bartlett got within 19-17 on Jonathan Ruge's ace, and when Toiyon Walton blocked a ball Bartlett trailed just 22-21.

But Schaumburg responded with the final 3 points, first when the Hawks hit into the net, then Regier's kill, and finally a blistering serve by Dan Kaszuba on match point for an ace.

"After the second set we all talked about moving forward," Regier said. "We had a fresh start. This year we are all returning starters. We have a lot of veterans."

Melton certainly is glad to have that experience, which includes senior Matt Hoppesch with 5 kills in the middle.

"Matt was active in the middle and that made a difference for us," Melton said. "We've got a tough competitive conference and we expect to compete every time. I'm looking forward to seeing how they grow."

Jacob Bush and returning all-Upstate Eight selection Walton led the Hawks with 6 kills each.

"That was first time we've taken a set from Schaumburg," Bartlett coach Bob Schwantz said. "They showed a lot of heart. I thought our middles hit really well. We go through our middles a lot. In the past we've always been outside heavy. This year if we can establish middles and right side Garrett Jurina it will open things up. We had some bumps and we will smooth them out."

Schwantz is looking forward to the Hoffman Estates tournament this weekend.

"We're still a relatively young team," Schwantz said. "We're a work in progress. We're putting it together."