

## Press Clippings 5/29/2018

---Chicago Tribune--- 5/29/18

### **Letter: Fixing Illinois' school funding formula was a good start. But schools need more.**

LETTERS: VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

BY TONY SANDERS

Illinois passed historic legislation last year that fixed our broken school funding system, making it more equitable than ever to better serve the students who most need support. We are grateful to our legislators for their vote on behalf of students in School District U-46 and across Illinois.

Since Illinois' adoption of a new funding model, dollars have been flowing to schools equitably, and we have started to discuss how to begin reinvesting in our students and classrooms. For example, beginning next school year, our 6,000 middle school students across eight schools will have access to guidance counselors for the first time in a decade. Also, we have purchased Chromebooks so that each of our 12,000 high school students next year will have a device to take home.

While we've made progress, this large suburban district serving more than 39,000 students is still only funded at 55 percent of what it takes to provide a quality education, yet the residential tax burden exceeds the state average. We need the state to provide an additional \$400 million in the K-12 public education budget this year in order to stay on track and to provide the possibility of property tax relief. We urge our legislators to make investing in education the new normal in Springfield.

— Tony Sander, chief executive officer, School District U-46

---Courier News--- 5/27/18

### **More than 100 U46 employees to retire**

Teachers, bus drivers, and paraprofessionals among those leaving

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO



Laura Mota Newmeyer is retiring from School District U46 after 35 years of teaching. She spent this past school year teaching second-graders at Timber Trails Elementary School in Hoffman Estates. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News)

Friday marked the final day of classes for Timber Trails Elementary School in Hoffman Estates and Elgin-area School District U46.

In Laura Mota Newmeyer's case, it also marked her final day as a classroom teacher. After 35 years, she is set to retire from the classroom setting.



Laura Mota Newmeyer is one of more than 100 employees retiring from Elgin-area School District U46. Born in Chicago but raised primarily in Hanover Park, Newmeyer graduated from Conant High School in Hoffman Estates. (Rafael Guerrero/Courier-News )

Her final class of nearly two-dozen second-graders answered with a resounding “yes” when asked Monday whether they would miss her.

“Don’t go there. You know what will happen next,” Newmeyer joked, trying to hide some tears.

“Am I crying because it’s my last year teaching (children)? No, I cry with every group every year,” she said. “Will I miss my kids? Totally. I get teared up thinking of them.”

Newmeyer is one of more than 100 employees retiring from U46 at the end of the school year. The retirees include teachers, paraprofessionals and bus drivers, among others.

They include Nancy Stade, a first-grade teacher at Creekside Elementary School who taught in the district for 34 years. Cyndee Fralick spent 27 years in U46, most recently as a special education teacher in the Central School’s Secondary Work Experience Program. Helen Taylor worked for more than 30 years as a school bus driver for U46 before deciding to retire this year.

Barbara Toth, meanwhile, worked at various schools with bilingual students. In the past two school years, Toth taught kindergarten for English language learners at Highland Elementary School.

Toth started with U46 in 1985 as a bilingual science teacher at Elgin High School. She said she began teaching kindergarten three years later to be near her daughter, who was in kindergarten at the time. Toth taught only kindergarten from then on.

“I will miss the love and the innocence of these lovely people,” Toth said. “One thing, they are very smart and learn very quickly. It is amazing to see their growth of learning day by day.”

For Newmeyer, it is a culmination of a teaching career that began when she was the first in her family to go to college. Born in Chicago but raised primarily in Hanover Park, Newmeyer comes from a Mexican family that — like many others in U46 — speaks English and Spanish.

When Newmeyer graduated from Conant High School in Hoffman Estates as a teen, she said there were maybe seven Hispanic students at the school — “and three of us were related,” she said. Fast-forward to 2018, schools like Conant and those in U46 are more diverse. U46, for instance, is now a majority-minority enrollment school district.

“I see a need for a teacher who is culturally aware, sensitive and can appreciate the diversity in the classroom,” she said. “We need to work on building relationships and understanding what our students are bringing to the classroom.”

It is her seventh year working at Timber Trails, she said. In her time with the district, she has also worked as a bilingual special education teacher, a first-grade teacher, a district bilingual diagnostician and a peer consultant teacher. She also participated in the district’s teacher mentoring program, of which she is particularly proud.

“Part of the job that the public doesn’t understand is that besides teaching in the classroom, part of what I did was to mentor, to pass on knowledge (to other teachers),” she said.

The work does not stop, Newmeyer said. “The public may not see this. There’s grading to be done, continuous planning — even in the summer,” she said.

---Courier News--- 5/26/18

## **U46 may offer lifeguard certification in PE class**

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

High school students in School District U46 may soon be able to get lifeguard certification while taking physical education under a proposed new course.

U46 officials and teachers outlined plans for a lifeguard elective beginning in 2019-20 that could be taken as early as a student’s sophomore year. Under a proposal presented to U46 board members Monday, some PE teachers would be trained and earn lifeguard training certification next spring in order to begin teaching in fall 2019.

The proposed class is one of a few changes U46 PE educators discussed as part of an upgrade to its course offerings.

“PE needs to provide relevant options for students,” said Megan Sischo, a PE teacher at Elgin High School.

While some of the PE teachers in U46 high schools are already certified lifeguards, most of them are not certified lifeguard instructors, U46 PE/health/wellness coordinator Tracey Jakaitis told school board members Monday. Six to eight teachers would undergo six days of training next spring to earn the certification. Jakaitis said six to eight certified instructors would be enough to cover all five high schools.

The team in charge of drafting the course worked on the proposal for the past year, Sischo added. The team’s goal was to make an elective that provided job opportunities and honed leadership, collaboration and career exploration skills.

A lifeguard class would likely fit into any potential career pathways approach that U46 adopts in the future, said Trisha Shrode, the district’s curriculum and instruction

director. She envisioned a lifeguard elective could fit into a health care-related pathway or academy.

Initiating and running a lifeguard elective in the high schools would cost just more than \$19,000 in training and equipment, according to documents presented to the U46 school board. The costs associated with the class are part of a larger expense of more than \$85,000 to upgrade some of the PE course offerings in leadership. According to the proposal, the expense would go toward textbooks, professional development, equipment and technology.

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## **District U46 board finds O'Neal Ellis' replacement**

John Devereux's appointment not yet official

BY RAFAEL GUERRERO

**School District U46** board members have chosen Bartlett resident John Devereux to complete Traci O'Neal Ellis' board term.

Devereux is chief actuary for Chicago-based Ryan Specialty Group. He has lived in the district for 25 years, according to the application he submitted to the board. He and his wife, Niki, have two children who attended U46 schools, the younger of whom was scheduled to graduate Saturday from Bartlett High School.

Devereux was a member of the Bartlett High School Band Parents Organization and has coached teams for the Bartlett Park District, his resume said.

"I certainly understand that balance is required when considering the needs and interests of a diverse set of constituents," Devereux wrote in his cover letter to the board. "In my personal life, in my activities associated with the BHS Band Parents Organization and in my corporate work, I've found that pragmatic solutions can be achieved through hard work, exhaustive communication, a sense of alignment and a strong spirit of collaboration."

O'Neal Ellis stepped down from her position in April after seven years. Her term is scheduled to expire in spring 2019.

Seventeen people applied to replace O'Neal Ellis, with 10 being interviewed by school board members.

The appointment is expected to be made official at the school board's June 4 meeting.

---Daily Herald--- 5/27/18

## Images: School District U-46 High School graduation

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL  
BY MARK BLACK



More Images of Bartlett High School

<http://www.dailyherald.com/news/20180526/images-bartlett-high-school-graduation>

LARKIN HIGH SCHOOL  
BY MARK BLACK



More Images of Larkin High School

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STREAMWOOD ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL  
BY JOHN STARK



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SOUTH ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL  
BY JOHN STARK



More Images of South Elgin High School,  
<http://www.dailyherald.com/news/20180526/images-south-elgin-high-school-graduation>

ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL  
BY JOHN STARK



More Images of Elgin High School,  
<http://www.dailyherald.com/news/20180526/images-elgin-high-school-graduation>

---Daily Herald--- 5/26/18

## **Elginites want to shoot hoops at park**

Drugs, gangs could follow basketball court, opponents say

BY ELENA FERRARIN

A group of residents in Elgin wants the city to put a basketball court at St. Francis Park, which is being renovated, but some say they fear it might bring drugs and gangs.

Jose Arizmendi led the effort to gather 132 signatures in support of a basketball court. "I feel like everybody likes playing basketball around here, so I put a petition up," he said.

Resident Carmen Guzman is among those who signed. "I would like the youth to entertain themselves playing so they won't be thinking of getting into bad stuff," she said.

Resident Jennifer Quinton disagreed, saying the northeast side park caters to younger children. "I worry the basketball court will attract teenagers and young adults that might intimidate the younger kids or even the guardians that are there with them," she told the city council Wednesday. "That might expose the younger children to questionable language, aggression and -- worst case scenario -- drugs, gangs and criminal activity."

Elgin has 10 neighborhood parks with basketball rims, and basketball courts at Lords, Wing and Prairie parks. Parks and Recreation Director Randy Reopelle said no complaints about basketball have been lodged to him or the city's 311 center.

Reopelle said the work in progress at St. Francis Park includes renovating the two tennis courts -- one of them will have a pickleball court overlay -- plus a new playground, shelter and soccer court. The \$573,570 project is funded by federal community block grant money.

The city held a meeting asking residents input about the plan in April 2017 at **McKinley Elementary School**. About 25 people attended and no one mentioned basketball, although a few said they would play tennis more often if the courts were in better condition, Reopelle said.

Arizmendi and the others said they weren't notified of the meeting. Reopelle said the city mailed postcards and McKinley students got flyers in their backpacks. "We had a fairly decent amount of community outreach, although obviously we didn't reach everyone," he said.

The residents have proposed adding a basketball court on current green space or by replacing a tennis court. Another option is to add basketball rims on the perimeter of one of the tennis courts, Reopelle said.

The city will make a decision after City Manager Rick Kozal confers with the city council, possibly early next week.

"My opinion is, if they want to put a basketball hoop or two up ... if there is a problem, we'll take it down," Mayor David Kaptain said. "Just like if there is a problem with the seniors playing pickleball, it will go away ... I would hope (residents) would know how to conduct themselves."

## **SPORTS SECTION**

---Daily Herald--- 5/26/18

### **Boys Lacrosse: South Elgin tops Barrington for title**

BY DAVE HESS

Whatever South Elgin boys lacrosse coach Dylan Butler said to his team at halftime sure did work.

The motivated Storm responded by outscoring Barrington 9-0 during the second 24 minutes of the game and thumped the Broncos 14-3 in the Huntley sectional final Friday night.

The undefeated Storm (13-0) will play the winner of the Batavia sectional match between Naperville North and Wheaton Warrenville South in Tuesday's Hoffman Estates supersectional at 7:30 p.m. A win by South Elgin and the Storm will advance to the first IHSA state tournament next weekend at Hinsdale Central High School.

"We told the kids at halftime to simply have fun and play loose," said Butler. "We were playing a little tight in the first half even though we had a 2-goal lead. We practice and play better when we are having fun. We kept it simple and really locked in it in and throttled it up in the second half. We did a better job with our isolation offense and spread out Barrington's defense. In the tournament, it is survive and advance."

Nursing a slim 5-3 lead at intermission, the Storm seized control of the game by scoring 3 goals during a 2-minute span early in the third period.

Jaron Wells scored 2 of his 6 goals and Joey Cipriani tallied a goal as the Storm led 8-3 with 7:32 left in the third period.

"Coach told us to pick it up in the second half at both the offensive and defensive ends and have some fun and play loose," said Wells. "He told me to keep shooting. It is a great feeling to win the sectional."

Wells, who also had 2 assists, scored his third goal of the third period to give the Storm a 9-3 advantage after 36 minutes.

"Jaron is a scorer and we want him to be aggressive and shoot the ball on net," said Butler. "He was in midseason form tonight."

Cipriani added 3 goals and 2 assists while Jake Sietmann, Heyden Feil, Cade Newton, Griffin Carey and Travis Tranchitella each tallied a goal for the winners. Alex Noworol, Kyle Pollert, Sietmann and Cade Newton each picked up assists for South Elgin, which out shot Barrington 35-22

Storm goalkeeper Ryan Gartner excelled in the net with 19 saves.

The Broncos, who led 2-1 after one quarter, got goals from Ethan Beyrer, Kevin Keck and Mark Danelz. Kris Casey assisted on Keck's goals.

Barrington goalie Aidan Sadler registered 19 saves while Will Moston collected 2 saves.

"South Elgin did a great job and played very well," said Barrington coach Jason Kaiser.  
"I am proud of the kids. They played very hard."