

Press Clippings 7/27/2018

---Courier News--- 7/27/18

South Elgin HS athletic director hired by Metea Valley; D204 administrators moved to new jobs

BY SUZANNE BAKER

New athletic director for Metea Valley High School in Aurora is the latest hire by Indian Prairie School District 204 as the district prepares for the 2018-19 school year.

Jason Ward will replace Dan DeBruycker, who moved up to become Metea's assistant principal when Kim Maloney was appointed principal of District 204's STEPS program.

For the last six years, Ward has worked as the athletic director at South Elgin High School, which is part of the **U46 School District**, based in Elgin.

Prior to that, he served as assistant principal at Cowherd Middle School in Aurora, dean of students at East Aurora High School, and a special education teacher at West Aurora High School.

Ward holds a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of St. Francis in Joliet and a bachelor's degree in special education from Benedictine University in Lisle.

Maloney and DeBruycker have been at Metea since 2015.

Before moving to Indian Prairie, DeBruycker served as athletic director at Oswego East High School from 2013-15 and assistant athletic director from 2010-13 at Crystal Lake South High School.

Maloney returned to Indian Prairie after gaining administrator experience while working at as a dean at Plainfield North High School and athletic director at Hinsdale South High School.

She also served as an assistant principal for five years at Gregory Middle School in Naperville.

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U-46 Oks raise for secretarial employees

BY MADHU KRISHNAMURTHY

The **Elgin Area School District U-46** school board this week approved an agreement on a five-year contract for secretarial employees.

It guarantees raises ranging from 3 percent to 3.25 percent and increases the employee health insurance contribution from 10 percent to 15 percent over the contract term, said Jeff King, U-46 chief operations officer.

The agreement covers 293 full- and part-time employees -- primarily secretaries and clerical workers, as well as a few information services employees.

"Pay increases will be tied to evaluations," King said. "The contract eliminates comp time, sunsets the retirement clause, moves to combine part-time secretarial staff with clerical at the elementary and middle school levels, and changes the compensation for extra duty."

The vote was 5-2 to approve the deal. School board members Jeanette Ward and Phil Costello cast the dissenting votes.

"In the private sector, guaranteed year-on-year raises not tied to merit are rare," Ward said. "In the future, I would like to see tiers based on performance so that not all employees receive the same raise, if they are merely proficient."

Ward said she disagrees with a contract provision that allows for employees hired before Jan. 1, 2019, retirement at age 55 and provides a bonus during the last four months of their employment, enough to increase retirement earnings in the final 12 months of employment by 6 percent.

"So as to be just below the amount that would incur penalties," she said. "I don't think pension spiking should be permitted at all."

Employees also would receive health insurance coverage after retirement at 50 percent of the single rate for 60 months or until the employee reaches the age of Medicare eligibility, Ward said.

"Such sweetheart deals are not on par with the private sector and agreements like this perpetuate the fiscal problems in Illinois," she added. "The top rate of pay for level A, B and C employees is \$2 to \$9 per hour higher than the average for surrounding districts."

Costello said he wants more attention paid to the process of giving raises.

"At the end of the day, there is just a little bit too much looseness in the way we approached this," he said. "Some people aren't even given evaluations. And if they are not given evaluations, they are assumed to be proficient. They need to be held accountable."

---Daily Herald--- 7/27/18

U-46 to join United Way's 'Day of Caring'

SUBMITTED BY ELGIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46

Two elementary schools in Elgin Area School District U-46 will get some "TLC" on Friday, July 27, from volunteers participating in the United Way of Elgin's Day of Caring.

The 20th Day of Caring will also feature beautification projects at nine Elgin-area health and human services agencies.

The event will kick off with a rally at 9 a.m. at Larkin High School in Elgin, with coffee and doughnuts and brief remarks from United Way of Elgin board members.

Volunteers will then go to their assigned project locations.

At Highland Elementary School in Elgin, volunteers from Chase Bank will focus on outdoor gardening work, including the planting of new trees and creation of a new bed featuring plants native to northern Illinois.

"Highland has a beautiful school campus with many mature trees," said Principal Steve Johnson. "We are excited for the United Way volunteers to assist in adding additional plants and trees so that current and future students can enjoy a pleasant place to learn."

Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School in Elgin has requested help with its blacktop area where students play at recess. Volunteers from the YWCA Teen Reach program will paint game activities on the blacktop, including hopscotch, a number jungle, shoots and ladders, a maze and more.

"At O'Neal, we believe that when children have access to outside activities, they can develop socially and emotionally, as well as physically," said Principal Marcie Marzullo. "The outside games that the volunteers will paint on our blacktop will allow the students at O'Neal and within the community to engage in collaborative, cardiovascular, and curricular fun."

Individuals or teams of people who would like to volunteer for the event can sign up via the United Way of Elgin at www.uwelgin.org/2018DayofCaring.