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U-46 board approves expanding dual-credit partnership with ECC

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

The Elgin Area School District U-46 school board Monday night approved expanding the district's partnership with Elgin Community College allowing more high school students to earn college credit.

The partnership will cost U-46 roughly \$3 million over the 2019-2024 fiscal years.

U-46 students have participated in a dual-credit program at ECC for the past two years, earning 1,229 college credits with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.22 in 2017-18, and 626 credits and a cumulative GPA of 3.42 so far this school year.

Students from all five district high schools and its Dream Academy alternative program can take either dual-credit classes at their high schools or enroll in an Early College program at ECC. Previously, the only dual-credit option U-46 offered involved students taking full-time courses at ECC.

For the Early College program, students can start taking college-level courses their junior year at ECC, simultaneously earning credit toward high school graduation and an associate degree, U-46 lead counselor Christopher Boden said.

U-46 would cover the \$132 per credit hour tuition cost for students taking classes at ECC.

"Secondly, we will offer dual-credit classes within each of our comprehensive high schools, which will be taught by U-46 staff," said Boden, adding this shift is part of the district's plan to transition its high schools to a college and career academy model.

Each high school could offer up to 10 dual-credit classes beginning in the 2020-21 school year. Students would pay \$50 per course.

Students must meet ECC's entrance requirements to enroll in either dual-credit program -- an unweighted grade-point average of 3.0 or higher, and accomplishment of readiness benchmarks for reading, writing and math in the SAT or ACT college entrance exams. Students enrolled in both programs will be allowed to participate in Illinois High School Association-sanctioned activities.

A majority of students participating in dual-credit courses over the past two years have been white (39 percent), Latino (32 percent) and Asian (25 percent).

Officials anticipate the expanded dual-credit programs will appeal to a larger segment of U-46's student population due to the inclusion of IHSA-sanctioned activities and ECC's new college entrance requirements.

"We expect a much stronger interest and a much larger number of students potentially eligible for the program, which hopefully should allow us to be a little more selective and get a little bit closer to those district demographics," Boden said.

This fall, officials plan to enroll 50 high school seniors in the Early College program. Enrollment will increase to 100 juniors and seniors in 2020. By 2021-22, the first group of students will receive their high school diplomas and associate degrees.

District officials will begin recruiting and training teachers this spring/summer to teach dual-credit courses at the high schools. Students must apply in the fall for classes in the winter or spring.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---04/16/2019

Streamwood falls on last-second goal

By: Stan Goff



Streamwood's Josett Perez, left and Lake Park's Olivia Wroblewski battle during varsity girls soccer at Lake Park High School's West Campus on Monday. *Patrick Kunzer | Staff Photographer*

The finish was so wild that no one was really sure if the winning goal counted or who actually got credited with the score.

But when everything was settled, Lake Park had a thrilling 2-1 victory over visiting Streamwood after the referees determined that the winning goal did indeed cross the goal line just before the final horn buzzed.

The Sabres had led 1-0 after getting the better of play in the first half and then looked as if they'd at least escape with a 1-1 tie in large part due to the strong play of goalie Candy Nava, who recorded seven saves including a sparkling stop of a penalty kick off the foot of AnnMarie Ahrens in the second half.

But with the final seconds winding off the clock, Lancers sophomore midfielder Patty Lachowicz chased a deep ball down to the right of the Sabre goal, kept the play alive, and sent a cross into traffic in front of Nava, with seconds left to play.

The ball pinballed around a Sabre defender and a pair of Lancers -- Cyndi Martinez and Emma Thorne. While no one seemed to know for sure who touched the ball last, Thorne was credited with the game-winner after the ball just did make its way into the net as time expired.

"It's amazing. I'm just so glad," said Lachowicz, who had just re-entered the game due to an injury with a little over a minute left to play. "I didn't even really pay attention to the clock. With AnnMarie just coming off injured, it really meant that I had to do something. Luckily I could get there in time and I'm just glad I was able to get the ball there. I saw Emma sort of kick it in and Cyndi was there ... I don't even know who got it."

Martinez, who had tied the game with a goal 25 minutes into the second half, may not have been credited with the game-winner, but she sure had fun being part of the play that lifted the squad to 3-9-1 on the spring.

"Oh my god, we just kept playing until time ran down," said Martinez, who if nothing else may have cleared a path for Thorne to get a foot on the ball on the winning shot. "That last goal was kind of funny, but in a good way. I think Emma was probably the last one to touch it. We just kept playing."

For Streamwood (3-8), it was a tough ending to a game that had started so well. The Sabres struck first early in the game on a 25-yard free kick by Dianna Herrera and had five shots on goal to just two for the Lancers in the first half. With Nava strong goal, they appeared set to at least come away with a tie, before the crazy last-second score.

"In the first half we played really well but in the second half we let down a little bit," Streamwood coach Kristin Duffy said. "At the end, we were unlucky. But you've got to play until the buzzer."