

Press Clippings 07/23/20

---The Courier-News--- 07/23/2020

School District U-46 to spend \$589,000 on masks, thermometers, hand-washing stations

By: Rafael Guerrero



Amid concerns of the spread of COVID-19, sixth-grader Salih Tas wears a mask as he has his temperature checked by a teacher during a STEM summer camp July 14 in Wylie, Texas. (AP Photo/LM Otero) (LM Otero/AP)

School District U-46 will purchase nearly \$264,000 in face masks and thermometers and more than \$325,000 in portable hand-washing stations as it prepares for the upcoming school year.

The school board unanimously approved the purchases at Monday's school board meeting. While the Elgin-area district intends to start the school year with most of its students and staff learning and working from home, U-46 joined countless others in purchasing masks, thermometers, and other items to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection inside its schools and facilities.

Board members approved bids from CFJ Manufacturing, GNOMedica LLC, and Maybe Mars LLC to supply U-46 schools with masks for special needs students, digital thermometers, student and staff masks, respectively. According to school board documents, the special needs mask will allow educators to see the mouths of their students and vice versa.

According to the proposal, 44,000 thermometers will be purchased for students and staff to take home. District officials have previously said it will adopt a policy for students and staff to check themselves for fever prior to leaving home on any days they may attend school in person.

According to the school board documents, the \$263,920 purchase will include the thermometers, 800,000 children's masks, 800,000 children/adult masks, and 5,000 special needs masks.

There were 103 different businesses that bid on the personal protective gear purchase, according to the board documents.

"It's great when we have a lot of bidders that come in for a lot of projects, but this is the most I've ever seen on one specific bid," said board member Melissa Owens.

"Every vendor had to submit a sample with their bid," said Bruce Phelps, U-46's Senior Business Official of Business Services. "We've taken those masks, and we've reviewed them to make sure they are the quality we are looking for."

School board members, meanwhile, approved the combined \$325,351 bids from Central Restaurant Products and School Nurse Supply Inc. to supply U-46 facilities with 288 hand-washing stations that can be operated using either a mechanical foot pump or electrical pump.

According to the proposal, the district's Plant Operations department conducted a review of all buildings to determine what classrooms already contained operational sinks and which ones did not.

The \$589,271 purchases will be paid from U-46's educational fund account, according to the proposal.

---Daily Herald--- 07/23/2020

Renovation of Elgin's Memorial Field nearing completion

By: Jerry Fitzpatrick



The renovation of Memorial Field at Elgin High School is nearing completion, including the installation of new turf. *Photo Courtesy Case Aerial Imaging*

The \$4.6 million Memorial Field makeover is nearing completion.

The renovation project on the grounds of Elgin High School that began in late March recently marked a milestone with the installation of the new turf field.

Still, there is more work to be done by Chicago-based commercial construction contractor F.H. Paschen, S.N. Nielsen.

"We're roughly three weeks away," Elgin Athletic Director Paul Pennington said Tuesday. "We have some other things that still need to be put in like the press box and the visitors' bleachers. I saw them bringing those materials in this morning.

"The track is probably one of the biggest things left to do. They'll be doing that over the next couple of weeks. As they go along they'll be putting up the external fencing and taking down the old."

A new polyurethane track will be installed at a cost of \$87,000. It replaces a nearly 30-year-old surface.

Pennington said light posts were erected along the road on the facility's east side Tuesday. The main field lights are expected to go up this week.

The field lights -- identical to the directional lights Elgin Area School District U-46 installed at South Elgin High School last summer -- are designed to provide improved lighting for events while reducing light pollution in the neighborhood. The lighting budget was \$284,000.

Practices for football and boys soccer are scheduled to begin Monday, Aug. 10 unless the IHSA issues a delay. Memorial Field would likely be available by the end of that week or early the following week, Pennington said.

"We'll see how these next couple of weeks pan out," he said. "But we're not getting any indication (of a delay) because everything is on time, or being delivered or it's already on site. We've been lucky with the weather. It hasn't held them up too much. They've been able to work around whatever camps that were running."

The renovation also includes security cameras, a concrete walkway, a three-ring shot put area and a new discus area located by the tennis courts.

The new turf field is lined for football, soccer and lacrosse.

"It's going to be one of the state-of-the-art facilities in Illinois not just for football, soccer and lacrosse but also track," Pennington said. "It's going to be pretty exciting for our students."

Larkin is scheduled to play the first two football games on the new surface when the Royals host Glenbard East in the season opener on Aug. 28 and Fenton on Sept. 4.

The Elgin football team is slated to make its debut on the new Memorial Field turf on Sept. 11 against Bartlett.

---WBEZ--- 07/22/2020

In-Person, Virtual Or Hybrid: How Should Schools Reopen In The Fall?

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---Univision--- 07/22/2020

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