

Press Clippings 4/22/2022

ABC-7 Eyewitness News

District U-46 launches program to help support staff like bus drivers become teachers, nurses, more --- 4/21/2022

By John Garcia

(Note – to access ABC-7 video, click on Ctrl key and then click on link below).

<https://abc7chicago.com/school-district-u-46-teachers-nurses-teacher-training/11777697/>

BARTLETT, Ill. (WLS) -- **District U-46**, the second-largest school district in Illinois, has launched a new program that reimburses district employees for tuition to become teachers or do work that's greatly needed by the district.

Laura Taets has driven a bus for U-46 for 14 years, and said now that her kids are older she's ready for another challenge. The 43-year-old wants to be a teacher.

"I can do more. More for the community, more for U-46," Taets said.

When she mentioned the idea to the Superintendent Tony Sanders he said he'd look into it. He had been looking for an incentive to attract and retain employees in a competitive market.

This week he introduced the reimbursement program, for employees from bus drivers to secretaries. Teachers in the district have their own incentives for continuing education. In fact, tuition reimbursement helped the superintendent earn his doctorate in March.

"I would not be superintendent of this district if it were not for tuition reimbursement the board set up for me," Sanders said.

But it's a relatively new concept for other education support employees.

Registered nurse Lizz LaRue has her Bachelor's degree, but needs 10 hours of class credit to get her certification as a school nurse. She was one of the first to apply for the reimbursement program.

"This allows us who are not teaching to have opportunities to grow and give back," she said.

LaRue estimated the tuition for the classes she needs will cost about \$8,000. The district

board has allocated \$1.4 million for the first year of the program. Sanders said the district needs employees at a number of positions, and filling them with staff already working in the district benefits everyone.

"This is aimed at bus drivers, para-educators, support personnel who otherwise would not have an opportunity to go back to school," he said.

Employees can apply to the program starting Thursday. If accepted, classes start in the fall.

WBBM News Radio 780 AM

Elgin school district offering tuition reimbursement program for employees who aren't teachers --- 4/20/2022

By Bernie Tafoya

(Note – to access WBBM Newsradio clip with statement by Superintendent Tony Sanders, click the Ctrl key, and then click on link below)

<https://www.audacy.com/wbbm780/news/local/elgin-school-district-offering-tuition-for-employees?s=04&fbclid=IwAR2eRMQFdrvBDWL2oRgVaQQFcQJq5xRdX7jdnYsGylheenW9o797SKaJoeo>

ELGIN, IL (WBBM NEWSRADIO) - The state's second largest school district has just begun offering non-teaching employees a chance to be reimbursed for tuition to become teachers or do other work that's greatly needed by the district.

District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders said he should have come up with a tuition reimbursement plan sooner since he benefited from one in order to get his doctorate and become superintendent.

He said that, just as students were first returning to in-person learning, he was approached about the concept.

"I had a bus driver that stopped me and said, 'You have all these professional development opportunities for all sorts of staff members but, what about me as a bus driver? I would like to go and become a teacher,'" said Sanders.

Superintendent Sanders thought that might be a good way to fill more teaching positions at a time school districts all around the country are struggling to find teachers. So, he instructed his staff to begin working on a program and now it's being offered to employees.

Sanders said the opportunity will also be provided to employees who want to become a skilled tradesperson like plumber, carpenter or glazier.

Employees who take advantage of the program will be asked to remain in those positions in District U-46 for at least five years.

Daily Herald

Baseball: Glenbard East survives Bartlett's late rally ---

4/21/2022

By Craig Brueske, Daily Herald Correspondent



Glenbard East's Jayden Hamilton loses his hat as he applies a tag behind his back on Bartlett runner Cole Spreser during Thursday's game in Bartlett. Spreser was called out on the play. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*

Lesson learned.

Cruising to a 7-1 lead after 6 ½ innings, Glenbard East appeared headed to its sixth Upstate Eight Conference victory in seven games against host **Bartlett** Thursday afternoon.

The Hawks (5-8, 4-4) had other ideas, chasing Rams starting pitcher Caden Krystofiak with a leadoff double from Brendan Campbell, a 1-out single by Robby Stankus, and Tyler Henricks' RBI single in the bottom of the seventh to make it 7-2.

After Pat Nelson's sacrifice fly, an RBI single by Daniel Krulak, and Josh Schuberth's 2-run double, the Hawks trimmed the deficit to 7-6.

However, Rams coach Clayton George summoned reliever Joe Wolsztyniak to the mound, and the right-hander recorded a strikeout to pick up the save in the Rams' 7-6 triumph.

"Joe (Wolsztyniak) came in and shut it down for us," said George, whose team improved to 7-6 overall, 6-1 in Upstate Eight play.

"We brought a guy in (Cody Reilly), and I thought he did OK," said George. "It was a good pressure situation for a couple kids -- to come in and see how they handle it."

Krystofiak, a senior right-hander, dominated the Hawks throughout the first 6 innings, allowing just an unearned run on 2 hits with 2 walks and 13 strikeouts.

"Caden has been throwing the ball very well," said George. "I think he has 40 strikeouts in three conference games now. We can't ask for more out of him."

Krystofiak reached his 105-pitch (IHSA) limit in the seventh, with the Rams ahead 7-2.

"Caden ran out of bullets -- he got to his pitch count," said George. "I wish we could've gotten the last couple guys out when he was pitching to the bottom of their order. You've got to really focus in and get those bottom outs."

The hard-throwing Krystofiak struck out the side in the first two innings and racked up 11 punchouts through the first 5 frames.

"I was throwing my fastball, slider and cutter," said Krystofiak. "I've got to get the changeup to start working but that's about it."

George is happy to have Krystofiak back after a pair of knee surgeries -- the latter of which cost him most of his junior season.

"I had a MPFL (medial patellofemoral ligament) reconstruction and then I had the same thing done last year around this time," said Krystofiak. "The first time it happened stepping on first base, and the second time it happened in the bullpen."

"We missed him tremendously last year," said George. "He rehabbed his butt off to get back here."

Eddie Veracruz led the Rams' 9-hit attack, going 3-for-3 with a triple and RBI, while also making a shoestring catch in right field in the sixth inning.

"He has been a very consistent guy for us," said George. "He's one of our senior leaders, and he's a gamer."

Brett Verbruggen drove in a pair of runs, while Jayden Hamilton went 1-for-3 with an RBI triple and 2 runs scored for the Rams.

Schuberth led the Hawks with a 2-for-4 day at the plate with 3 RBI.

We're down three starters right now -- we've got a lot of guys out sick," said Hawks coach Christopher Baum. "They battled against a real tough pitcher.

"This is the one thing we're trying to instill in the program -- it's not over until the final out. We showed that today. I'm proud of the guys for the fight."