

Press Clippings 4/13/2022

The Examiner of Bartlett

'Equity' update provided to Dist. U-46 board --- 4/13/2022

By Seth Hancock – Note: This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and in The Examiner of Streamwood

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** was given an update on the “work” on so-called “equity” at its meeting on Monday, March 21.

The district opposes “equality,” which it has defined as “giving all students the same support,” and is in favor of “equity,” which it’s defined as “supporting each student according to their need.”

The presentation was light on data except for stating over 200 staff members, 150 parents and 120 students took part in interviews and there were over 22,000 respondents to a survey for an “equity audits.”

The audit was done “to assure that there’s equitable treatment of all students and equal access to all services and educational programs,” according to Lisa Jackson, director of diversity, equity and inclusion.

The presenters stated the district has completed a look at root causes and is now identifying major strategies and actions.

The district has been segregating people through “affinity groups” for staff and students, created in 2020 by Teresa Lance, assistant superintendent of equity and innovation.

The groups “are intended to provide spaces for people to work together within their own identity group,” Lance wrote at the time. The “raceaffinity groups provide a safe space to connect and support one another while also processing their lived experiences” for minorities when in “white-dominant working environments.”

The groups are segregated with U-46 groups included for blacks, Hispanics, Asians, indigenous, LGBTQ and what are called “white allyship.”

Similarly, the district is segregating students and staff based on who they want to hear from.

Olivia Hollingsworth, a teacher, said they are “centering marginalized voices” to create an “opportunity to shape the district for equitable means for groups and areas of marginalization.”

The voices the district wants to hear from include “African American, Latino/a/x, Indigenous, LGBTQIA+, Students with special needs, Low Income,” the presentation stated.

The district said that “work” done so far includes writing an African American studies course, implicit bias workshops, an “equity” symposium with a second planned, optional professional learning, revised webpage, recruitment efforts at historically black colleges and universities, a social media campaign and “thought exchange” for those who hold the district’s preferred thoughts.

More presentations to the board are planned this month as the district hopes to finish “Equity Plan 2.0” by May.

The Examiner of Bartlett

Myriad of U-46 expenses approved via board votes ---

4/13/2022

By Seth Hancock – Note: This story also ran in The Examiner of South Elgin and in The Examiner of Streamwood

The **Board of Education in School District U-46** unanimously approved \$23.6 million in expenditure proposals over three March board meetings.

The board voted 7-0 on expenditures items at its March 7 meeting, most from the operations and maintenance fund.

Those included \$979,777 for a paving project at Elgin’s Kimball Middle School, \$912,400 for gym floor refinishing and bleacher replacement at Streamwood High School, \$819,770 for parking lot resurfacing at Elgin’s Otter Creek Elementary School, \$628,777 for parking lot reconstruction at the plant operations building, \$577,000 for a partial roof replacement at Elgin’s Larkin High School, a \$65,000 contract with former U-46 administrator Sheila Downs for plant operations consulting and \$54,770 for playground asphalt replacement at Bartlett’s Centennial Elementary School.

From the nation’s taxpayers through federal funds the district will spend \$1 million for elementary school supply kits, \$217,005 to get teachers’ bilingual certification from Roosevelt University, \$88,314 for a Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) lathe purchase, \$50,918 for safety mirrors and \$32,319 for Boardmaker software licenses.

The district will spend \$2.3 million, from the education fund, for a fiber build to convert the public internet network to private. U-46 “will be reimbursed by E-rate at 80 [percent] for a 5-year total of \$1,873,440.00 with the total cost to the school district of \$468,360.00,” the proposal states.

The board voted 5-0 on items at its March 14 meeting, John Devereux and Veronica Noland absent.

The items were primarily from the education fund including \$91,800 for renewal of Tableau software used to “produce various reports and visualizations,” the proposal states. Also was \$59,772 for an office and classroom move during fire alarm and asbestos removal at Streamwood’s Tefft Middle School, \$57,717 to renew Advancement Via Individual Determination and \$39,361 for frontline absence and substitution management software.

From federal funds is \$3.9 million for 2022 summer programming, through various park districts and other organization like the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin, and \$377,599 for a purchase of kindergarten furniture.

For elementary furniture fixtures and equipment, the district will spend \$4.2 million split between education funds (\$2.2 million) and federal funds (\$1.9 million).

The board voted 4-0 for items on March 21 with Devereux, Noland and Kate Thommes absent.

Included was \$3.1 million from federal funds to replace 8,500 Chromebooks.

Operations and maintenance items: Tefft project (asbestos abatement, ceiling tile, piping insulation, lighting replacement) at \$2.8 million, tennis court reconstruction and replacement at Larkin (\$547,777) and Elgin High School (\$517,777) and elevator inspections (\$35,660).

Education fund items: Scorer tables at Bartlett, Elgin and Streamwood high schools costing \$45,300 and a contract renewal for multimedia communications consultancy costing \$40,000.

The board also unanimously approved of \$14.5 million in itemized bills over the month.

The Examiner of Streamwood

Sabres softball beaten by Larkin, remain winless ---

4/13/2022

By Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood** softball team couldn’t overcome **Larkin’s** big bats as the Sabres dropped a 12-2 game in their Upstate Eight Conference opener, a five-inning, 10-run rule game, on Thursday, April 7 at Larkin.

Larkin, ahead just 2-1, rallied for eight runs in the third inning to put the game out of reach. The host tallied five of its 13 hits in the frame including two home runs, and all of its scoring came with two outs.

“During the third inning, it came down to little errors costing us runs with the big bats Larkin has,” said Streamwood coach Colleen Hill. “We have been working on communication on the field during the defense to cut down on loose balls and making plays to help out our freshman pitcher (Sophie Saflarski).”

Hill added: “Our young team has learned other teams will come out scoring in every game so the defense needs to be ready to make plays. We are improving on our mental toughness during those long innings and little steps to bounce back the next inning.”

Despite the loss, Streamwood came out the way it wanted to putting pressure on Larkin and taking an early lead.

Senior Nicole Barcenas reached was hit by a pitch in the top of the first inning and stole second base. Freshman Kailey Pawlikowski (2-for-3) then hit a one-out double for a 1-0 lead.

The Sabres went on to strand runners at the corners in the first inning. They put runners on in four innings and stranded runners in scoring position three times.

“I am very proud of my girls’ performance,” Hill said. “Our bats were moving early on in the game putting a run-up in the first inning was crucial to set the tone for a crosstown rival.”

Senior Angela Gomez was 2-for-2 and junior Ashley Harrison 2-for-3 with an RBI. Streamwood was coming off a 14-0 nonconference loss to Addison Trail on Tuesday, April 5 at Addison Trail.

The Sabres are now 0-4 overall.