

## Press Clippings for February 1, 2023

### – Chicago Sun Times – Elgin-area educator Tony Sanders to become Illinois superintendent of education

Jan. 31, 2023

By Alicia Fabbre - Daily Herald

**Tony Sanders** has led Elgin Area School **District U-46**, the state's second-largest district, since 2014. He will take over as head of the state board of education in late-February.



Elgin Area **School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders** will be leading the state as its top education official starting in February.

**Elgin Area School District U-46 Supt. Tony Sanders** on Tuesday was named the next state superintendent of education.

**Sanders** will assume his new duties in late February.

"The **U-46 school board** is sad to see **Superintendent Sanders** leave, but knows the children of the state of Illinois will benefit from his leadership at the Illinois State Board of Education," **U-46 school board President Sue Kerr** said in a statement. "We wish him the best in this next chapter of his life."

**Sanders** was appointed to lead the state's second-largest school district in 2014.

**Kerr** noted **Sanders'** numerous accomplishments, including expansion of the district's dual-language program, launching a full-day kindergarten program, starting a dual-credit

program with Elgin Community College, undergoing a facilities study to identify building needs and growing the career pathways programs for high school students.

“**Dr. Tony Sanders** has distinguished himself as a visionary leader and passionate advocate for students and educators,” said Steven Isoye, ISBE board chairman. “As the superintendent of one of Illinois’ largest school districts, he intimately understands the strengths, the policy history and the challenges of our public schools.

For more on this story, go to [dailyherald.com](https://www.dailyherald.com)

## – Elgin Courier-News –

### Elgin leaders say Tony Sanders leaves U-46 ‘in much better shape than when he started

Jan. 31, 2023

By Mike Danahey - Elgin Courier-News,

This story also ran in Flipboard



**U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders** bumps elbows with kindergartener **Aleyna (cq) Contreras** at **Oakhill Elementary School**, on Thursday, May 6, 2021, in Streamwood. (Stacey Wescott/Chicago Tribune) (Stacey Wescott / Chicago Tribune)

Elgin area officials and community members praised the selection of **U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders** as Illinois’ new State Superintendent of Education.

“The **U-46 School Board** is sad to see **Superintendent Sanders** leave but knows that the children of the state of Illinois will benefit from his leadership at the Illinois State Board of Education,” **U-46 Board of Education Board President Sue Kerr** said in a prepared statement after the Tuesday announcement.

The **U-46 Board of Education** will discuss the next steps at its closed session on Monday, according to a news release. The Board will take action at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Feb. 13. **Sanders** posted on the **U-46** website that he will remain with **U-46** for the next few weeks as the Board considers its next steps relative to the leadership of the school district.

**Sanders** has been working for **U-46** since 2007, first serving as chief communications officer, then as chief of staff before being appointed chief executive officer of the district in 2014. State law was changed in 2017 to allow him to lead the district without superintendent certification. His title was changed to superintendent in 2020 after he completed certification.

Bill Wright, who chairs the governing board of the Alignment for Collaborative Education and whose children attended **U-46** schools, also had praise for **Sanders**.

“**Tony** made a significant impact in his 15 years at **U-46**, leaving the school district in much better shape than when he started. I wish him nothing but success in his new endeavor with the state,” Wright said.

**Kerr** said the district’s accomplishments under **Sanders** include the expansion of the dual language program; the launch of full-day kindergarten; the creation of a dual credit program with Elgin Community College; undergoing a facilities study identifying infrastructure needs; and the continued growth of career pathways programs for high school students.

“Work continues on **U-46 Rising**, which is an initiative to improve student achievement through rigor and academic teaming, and the transition to a true middle school model that moves 6th grade from the elementary level to middle school,” **Kerr** said in her statement.

**Kerr** noted that during Sanders’ time as superintendent the district eliminated its structural deficit, built up cash reserves and abated millions of dollars to taxpayers.

**Sanders** is a member of the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Chamber CEO & President Carol Gieske said **Sanders** fostered a collaborative environment that recognizes the importance of engaging local businesses with education.

“We appreciate **Tony’s** leadership in workforce development and aligning the district with the needs of our local business community. He recognizes the importance of career readiness and creating learning opportunities so students can enter the pipeline ready for careers,” Gieske said.

Elgin Mayor Dave Kaptain said, “**Tony** did a great job for the district and for the community. He was able to work not only with the mayors of the towns in the district, but worked well addressing the concerns across the various demographics in the community.”

“He worked well with our village staff. Good luck to him,” said South Elgin Village President Steve Ward.

David Sam, President of Elgin Community College, called Sanders a strong supporter of community college and understands the community college system.

“His track record of innovation, equity and academic achievement will serve him well in this new role. I applaud this decision. **Dr. Sanders** is a great choice,” Sam said.

Elgin City Manager Rick Kozal said **Sanders’** being named the next State Superintendent of Education is bittersweet news.

“**Tony’s** positive impact extends beyond **School District U-46** and he will be sorely missed here in Elgin,” Kozal said.

Kozal said he had the good fortune to personally work with **Sanders** over the past decade and witness the benefit the greater Elgin community derived from **Sanders’** leadership.

“But I cannot be more pleased in learning that **Dr. Sanders** will now be serving a statewide audience,” Kozal said.

The Illinois State Board of Education made the announcement about **Sanders** Tuesday. **Sanders**, 53, will succeed Carmen Ayala, who announced in November that she would retire effective Jan. 31. **Sanders** will take over the post in late February while Deputy Education Officer Krish Mohip will serve as interim superintendent during the transition.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker recommended **Sanders** for the job.

“**Dr. Tony Sanders** is an extraordinary choice for State Superintendent of Education,” Pritzker said in a statement. “**Dr. Sanders’** breadth of experience as superintendent of **School District U-46** and his entire background have prepared him to take on this role. His focus on innovation, social emotional development, and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick.”

**Sanders** received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois Springfield, a master’s degree in business administration from the New York Institute of Technology, a Chief School Business Official endorsement from Northern Illinois University and his doctorate in education from Aurora University.

## **– Crain’s Chicago Business –**

### **Elgin schools chief named new state schools superintendent**

**Jan. 31, 2023**

**By Greg Heinz**

Illinois has a new state schools superintendent, and he's a familiar face to many in the education world.



The Illinois State Board of Education today named **Tony Sanders** its new superintendent. In a statement, the board said it conducted a nationwide search to succeed the retiring Carmen Ayala, but it didn't have to look far since **Sanders** now is superintendent of Elgin Area **School District U-46**, the state's largest district after Chicago. **Sanders'** pick won immediate applause from organized labor, a sign that union chiefs view him as an ally in their efforts to get more state funding and resist having any more put toward charter and other outside schools.

"As an Illinois superintendent with a strong education background, **Dr. Sanders** thoroughly understands the challenges facing our students, teachers and staff," the Illinois Federation of Teachers said in a statement. "His steady leadership during the pandemic ensured that Elgin students and school staff were safe and healthy."

Similar praise came from Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who at a minimum almost certainly had the appointment run by him before it became official. He said **Sanders'** "focus on innovation, social emotional development and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick. I can think of no better person to lead the Illinois State Board of Education."

In its statement, the board said **Sanders** added full-day kindergarten for all students, expanded the district's dual-language program and created a new alternative high school for students who had problems in conventional schools. He also developed a program to help teachers financially to obtain advanced degrees and is a strong supporter of the state's evidence-based

funding system that has sent more money to districts with high poverty and a low property tax base.

Before becoming **U-46 superintendent**, **Sanders** served as the district's chief of staff for 11 years following a stretch as the district's chief communications officer.

He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois Springfield, a master's degree in business administration from the New York Institute of Technology, a Chief School Business Official endorsement from Northern Illinois University and his doctorate in education from Aurora University.

**Sanders** will take office in late February.

*Capitol News Illinois contributed.*

## **— Yahoo News —**

### **Tony Sanders of District U-46 named new state superintendent of education**

**Jan. 31, 2023**

**By Zareen Syed, Sarah Macaraeg - Chicago Tribune**

The Illinois State Board of Education announced Tuesday that Tony Sanders, superintendent of **Elgin School District U-46**, was named the new state superintendent of education.

Carmen Ayala — the first woman and person of color to hold the position — announced in November that she would be retiring as the state's top education official in February.

Before joining **U-46** in 2007 as the district's chief communications officer, **Sanders** served in a similar role for St. Louis Public Schools and worked in communication and government relations for Illinois agencies, including ISBE, according to the agency's announcement.

**Sanders** then held a chief of staff role in **U-46** before being appointed to lead the district in 2014. He follows in the footsteps of his father, Ted Sanders, former U.S. deputy secretary of education and superintendent of education in Illinois, Nevada and Ohio.

**"Dr. Tony Sanders** is an extraordinary choice for state superintendent of education," Gov. J.B. Pritzker said in a news release. **"Dr. Sanders'** breadth of experience as superintendent of



**School District U-46** and his entire background have prepared him to take on this role. His focus on innovation, social emotional development and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick.”

**Sanders** accomplished a number of things during his tenure at the second-largest school district in Illinois, including the expansion of the dual language program, the launch of full-day kindergarten and the creation of a dual credit program with Elgin Community College, according to a news release from **District U-46**.

In a statement, ISBE board chair Steven Isoye noted **Sanders**’ deep understanding of issues rooted in the public school system.

“At **U-46**, he has championed equity, expanded opportunities for students, and brought innovative new programs to the district,” Isoye said. “We are confident he will build on our record-high graduation rates and college and career readiness to continue leading Illinois’ schools in a positive direction.”

At **U-46**, **Sanders** pushed for career pathways programs for high school students.

“The **U-46 School Board** is sad to see **Superintendent Sanders** leave, but knows that the children of the state of Illinois will benefit from his leadership at the Illinois State Board of Education,” said **U-46 Board of Education Board President Sue Kerr** in a statement.

**Sanders** supported the effort to reform Illinois’ school funding and helped pass the Every Student Succeeds Act. Illinois Federation of Teachers union President Dan Montgomery praised **Sanders**’ advocacy work. “We ... hope in his new role, he helps to move our state closer to achieving equitable funding and eliminating disparities in districts statewide,” Montgomery said in a statement.

**Sanders** will step into the role in late February. He could not be reached for comment.

# – State of Illinois/Illinois.gov –

## ISBE names Dr. Tony Sanders new State Superintendent of Education

This story also ran in Fox Illinois

Press Release - Tuesday, January 31, 2023

### *Krish Mohip will serve as Interim Superintendent of Education*

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) today named **School District U-46 Superintendent Dr. Tony Sanders** the new state superintendent of education after a nationwide search. He will assume his duties in late February. ISBE Deputy Education Officer Krish Mohip will serve as interim state superintendent of education during the transition. Dr. Carmen I. Ayala's term as state superintendent of education concludes Jan. 31. She announced her retirement after 40 years of service and leadership in Illinois public schools.

"**Dr. Tony Sanders** is an extraordinary choice for State Superintendent of Education," said Governor JB Pritzker. "**Dr. Sanders**' breadth of experience as superintendent of **School District U-46** and his entire background have prepared him to take on this role. His focus on innovation, social emotional development, and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick. I can think of no better person to lead the Illinois State Board of Education as we continue to invest in, support, and elevate our students and educators."

"**Dr. Tony Sanders** has distinguished himself as a visionary leader and passionate advocate for students and educators," said ISBE Board Chair Dr. Steven Isoye. "As the superintendent of one of Illinois' largest school districts, he intimately understands the strengths, the policy history, and the challenges of our public schools. At **U-46**, he has championed equity, expanded opportunities for students, and brought innovative new programs to the district. The Board looks forward to his leadership; we are confident he will build on our record-high graduation rates and college and career readiness to continue leading Illinois' schools in a positive direction."

"We are also very grateful to have Krish Mohip serve as interim state superintendent. Krish has a wealth of education leadership experience and will provide important guidance and oversight for the agency during this transition."

**Dr. Sanders** expanded the district's offerings during his tenure in **U-46**, which is headquartered in Elgin and is the second-largest school district in Illinois. He added full-day



kindergarten for all students and implemented a developmentally appropriate play-based instructional program. Dr. Sanders grew the district's dual language program and created a new alternative high school, the DREAM Academy, to reduce expulsions and better serve students in need of trauma-informed care. He also invested in a grow-your-own educator initiative to provide educational support professionals the ability to return to school to earn their teaching credentials. The initiative has supported more than 60 U-46 employees in receiving full tuition reimbursement as they work toward their teacher licensure. Dr. Sanders improved the district's financial standing, while overseeing a \$660 million operating budget.

Dr. Sanders also has advocated at the state and federal levels as a member and past chair of the Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium. He supported the effort to reform Illinois' school funding formula and enact Evidence-Based Funding and to pass the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Prior to becoming the U-46 superintendent in 2014, Dr. Sanders served as the district's chief of communications and accountability and then chief of staff. He also previously served as the chief communications officer for St. Louis Public Schools and in communications and governmental relations roles within Illinois government, including at ISBE. Dr. Sanders received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois Springfield, his Master of Business Administration from New York Institute of Technology, his Chief School Business Official Endorsement from Northern Illinois University, an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Judson University, and his Doctor of Education from Aurora University.

Krish Mohip has served as ISBE's deputy education officer for operational education since 2019. He has overseen the state's spending of \$7.8 billion in federal pandemic relief aid and other multimillion-dollar grants. He chaired the Whole Child and Make SAFE Task Forces, providing the General Assembly with critical recommendations for providing students holistic supports and preventing child abuse. He supported the two Illinois school districts currently under the direction of Financial Oversight Panels, strengthened relationships with Illinois' Regional Offices of Education, and supported the implementation of ISBE's system of support for schools in the greatest need.

Prior to joining ISBE, Mohip served as the chief executive officer of Youngstown City Schools in Youngstown, Ohio, and was a school principal, deputy chief of schools, and chief of schools for Chicago Public Schools. Mohip received his bachelor's degree from Mount Saint Clare College, his Master of Education from Loyola University Chicago, and his MBA from Louisiana State University Shreveport. He is currently a doctoral candidate at National Louis University.

**– Kane County Connects –**



**Dr. Sanders to Leave U-46**

## **U-46 Leader Named New State Superintendent of Education**

**Jan. 31, 2023**

**By Kane County Connects Staff**

After more than eight years as the Superintendent of School District U-46, Dr. Tony Sanders has been named to serve as the next State Superintendent of Education, effective late February. Dr. Sanders joined U-46 in 2007, serving as the District's chief of communications officer and then chief of staff before being appointed to lead the District in 2014.

A message from U-46 Board of Education Board President Sue Kerr:

"The U-46 School Board is sad to see Superintendent Sanders leave, but knows that the children of the state of Illinois will benefit from his leadership at the Illinois State Board of Education.

Dr. Sanders' accomplishments in U-46 are numerous, including the expansion of the Dual Language program; the launch of full-day kindergarten; the creation of a dual credit program with Elgin Community College; undergoing a facilities study identifying infrastructure needs; and the continued growth of career pathways programs for high school students. Work continues on U-46 Rising, which is an initiative to improve student achievement through rigor and academic teaming, and the transition to a true middle school model that moves 6th grade from the elementary level to middle school.

He accomplished this while eliminating the district's structural deficit, building up cash reserves, and abating millions of dollars to taxpayers.

We will deeply miss **Dr. Sanders**. He has been active in numerous community organizations, has been a constant presence in school buildings and districtwide events, and has never hesitated to reach out to state legislators and the media to advocate on **U-46's** behalf. We wish him all the best in this next chapter of his life."

As the District wishes him all the best in his new endeavors, the **U-46 Board of Education** will discuss the next steps at its closed Board session on Monday, Feb. 6, 2023. The Board will take action at their next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, Feb. 13.

**School District U-46** serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 35,000 preschoolers through 12th graders attend the 57 District schools and programs.

*Source/**U-46** Media Release*

## **– WGLT.org 89.1/WSIU Public Broadcasting –**

**This story also ran in The Southwest Regional Publishing, NBC 6 KPVI, Capital News Illinois, The Pantagraph, and SW Iowa News**

### **Tony Sanders to become state superintendent of education**

### **Elgin Area School District chief to replace outgoing Supt. Carmen Ayala**

**Jan. 31, 2023**

**By Peter Hancock - Capitol News Illinois**



**Tony Sanders, Elgin Area District U-46 Superintendent**, will become the state superintendent of schools beginning in February.

The Illinois State Board of Education announced Tuesday that Elgin-based **School District U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders** will become the next state superintendent of education.

**Sanders**, 53, will succeed Carmen Ayala, who announced in November that she would retire effective Jan. 31. ISBE said **Sanders** will take over the post in late February while Deputy Education Officer Krish Mohip will serve as interim superintendent during the transition.

**Sanders** has been superintendent of the Elgin-area district since 2014. It is the second-largest district in Illinois, serving more than 35,000 students across five high schools and nearly 50 elementary and middle schools, according to the most recent state [report card](#). Of those students, 46 percent are classified as low-income, and 39 percent are English language learners.

Gov. JB Pritzker recommended **Sanders** for the job.

“**Dr. Tony Sanders** is an extraordinary choice for State Superintendent of Education,” Pritzker said in a statement. “**Dr. Sanders’** breadth of experience as superintendent of **School District U-46** and his entire background have prepared him to take on this role. His focus on innovation, social emotional development, and academic excellence make him an extraordinary pick.”

According to ISBE, Sanders expanded the Elgin district’s offerings during his time as superintendent, adding full-day kindergarten for all students, expanding the district’s dual

language program and establishing an alternative high school, the **DREAM Academy**, to reduce expulsions and serve students in need of trauma-informed care.

Before becoming **U-46 superintendent**, **Sanders** served as the district's chief of staff for 11 years following a stretch as the district's chief communications officer.

He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois Springfield, a master's degree in business administration from the New York Institute of Technology, a Chief School Business Official endorsement from Northern Illinois University and his doctorate in education from Aurora University.

"**Dr. Tony Sanders** has distinguished himself as a visionary leader and passionate advocate for students and educators," ISBE Board Chair Steven Isoye said in a news release. "As the superintendent of one of Illinois' largest school districts, he intimately understands the strengths, the policy history, and the challenges of our public schools."

Isoye praised **Sanders** for championing equity, expanding opportunities for students and launching innovative programs at the **U-46** district.

"The Board looks forward to his leadership; we are confident he will build on our record-high graduation rates and college and career readiness to continue leading Illinois' schools in a positive direction," he said.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide, as well as hundreds of radio and TV stations. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

## **– State Journal-Register –**

### **UIS graduate Tony Sanders is state board of education's new superintendent**

**Jan. 31, 2023**  
**Steven Spearie**



**Tony Sanders**, who heads the state's second largest school district, was named the Illinois State Board of Education superintendent at Tuesday's meeting in Springfield.

ISBE conducted a nationwide search to name a successor to Carmen I. Ayala, who announced in late November her plans to retire.

Ayala was the first woman of color to serve as superintendent, after being appointed in 2019.

**Sanders**, 53, will assume duties in late February. ISBE deputy education officer Krish Mohip will serve as interim state superintendent of education during the transition.

A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, **Sanders** did his undergraduate work at Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois Springfield, graduating with a degree in communication in 1991.

**Sanders** has served as superintendent of the Elgin school district, which has 35,000 students and a \$660 million operating budget, since 2014.



**Sanders** grew the district's dual language program and created a new alternative high school, the Dream Academy, to reduce expulsions and better serve students in need of trauma-informed care. **Sanders** launched the district's full-day kindergarten program and started a dual credit program with Elgin Community College.

Prior to becoming Elgin's superintendent, **Sanders** served as the district's chief of communications and accountability and then chief of staff. He also previously served as the chief communications officer for St. Louis Public Schools and in communications and governmental relations roles within Illinois government, including at ISBE.

**Sanders** has a doctor of education from Aurora University and a master of business administration from New York Institute of Technology.

## **– Examiner of Bartlett – U-46 Board to vote upon IGA, varied bills, expenses**

**Feb. 1, 2023**

**By Seth Hancock**

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** approved a \$52,600 expenditure item, an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) and a resolution at its Monday, Jan. 9 meeting.

The votes were 6-0, **board member Veronica Noland** was absent.

The expenditure is with Able Pest Control, and it will be paid for from the operations and maintenance fund. The proposal states it's "to establish a primary agreement" in order to "schedule pest control services as part of the district's comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program."

"The IPM program is a process of achieving long-term, environmentally sound pest suppression and prevention using a wide variety of technological and management practices that align with Board Policy," the proposal adds. "Additionally, providing pest control services will comply with State regulatory guidelines."

The IGA is between four school districts including **U-46** and community unit school districts 300 (Carpentersville), 301 (Burlington) and 303 (St. Charles) for the Northern Kane County Regional Vocational System.

The districts can “offer shared career and technical education (CTE) programs,” the IGA states, and “the members of these districts would receive a wider variety of programs and more efficient services.”

According to the IGA: “The purpose of the System shall be to allow for programmatic alignment and continuity of career and technical offerings among secondary and postsecondary institutions; cooperation in shared use of facilities, equipment and personnel (where possible and desirable), cooperative efforts in continuous planning, evaluation, and improvement of programs.”

The IGA lists D301 as the administrative district.

The approved resolution allows for “vehicles to be removed from service and sold to a company ‘as is’ or to a junking company,” the proposal states.

Included are 13 plant operations vehicles dating from between 1996 and 2006.

Also approved by a 6-0 vote was \$18.9 million in itemized bills.

## **– Examiner of Bartlett, Streamwood, South Elgin – Large list of U-46 projects in works for this summer Feb. 1, 2023 By Seth Hancock**

**School District U-46** is estimating \$80.1 million in capital projects for this coming summer.

Detail was presented by **Patricia Waldau, director of plant operations**, at the Monday, Jan. 9 Board of Education meeting.

That total is a 233.8 percent increase from the \$24 million spent in 2022, as recently reported.

The increase is largely due to a \$50 million renovation and addition project at **Bartlett’s Hawk Hollow**, which will be converted from an elementary to a middle school.

“We’ll be breaking ground on that project turning that elementary school into a middle school,” **Waldau** said.

Waldau added that “a number of our projects are continuations or phased projects from the previous year,” and “we have a number of projects that just need to be done to make sure that we maintain the infrastructure of our district.”

There are several projects at **Streamwood High School** including phase two of a pathways renovation (\$6 million), a boiler/pumps/electrical switchgear/generator replacement (\$5.1 million) and a project to bring internet access to Millennium Field's press box (\$100,000).

Four schools have planned roof replacement projects at \$11.4 million total, and five will have fire alarm replacements at \$1.7 million total.

The **Educational Services Center** in Elgin has renovations and cooling tower replacement planned at \$3.9 million total, **Elgin's Larkin High School** has fences and parking lot replacements at \$955,000 total, bathroom renovations will have a total cost of \$722,000 at Elgin's **Channing elementary and Kimball middle schools**, Elgin's **Illinois Park Early Learning Center** regrading project will cost \$255,000, Elgin's **Abbott Middle School** will have a cooler/freezer replacement at \$100,000 and a **Elgin High School** gas main relocation will cost \$16,080.

Most of the funds will come from operations and maintenance with \$5 million from the fire prevention, life and safety fund.



### **Despite the snow, summer work being planned**

As is customary, School District U-46 has numerous capital projects planned for the upcoming summer. Several of those projects are targeted for Streamwood High School including phase two of a pathways renovation, a boiler/pumps/electrical switchgear/generator replacement and providing internet access for the press box at Millennium Field.

*(Examiner photo by Bruce Leighty)*

## **– Examiner of Bartlett –**

### **Bartlett man at pinnacle of ‘best job in the world’**

**Feb. 1, 2023**

**By Seth Hancock**

Spring Training in Major League Baseball (MLB) is right around the corner, and it will mark the first year for Bartlett native Nick Mahrley, a 2000 Bartlett High School graduate, as a full-time umpire in the big leagues.

Mahrley, 40, has been a professional umpire for nearly 15 years and was one of 10 Minor League umps to be promoted this year, according to an MLB statement.

Now a Scottsdale, Arizona resident with his wife Jodi, Mahrley will be near home during Spring Training, with a Chicago Cubs Cactus League game his first as a full-time MLB umpire, before the constant travel and hotels during the season.

However, Mahrley's first MLB game was in 2017 when he made the call-up list to fill in when needed. In a hotel room in August in Des Moines, Iowa as a Triple-A umpire, he got the late night phone call that he would be catching a 6 a.m. flight to ump a Colorado Rockies game. He has umped 382 MLB games as a call-up.

"It was surreal," Mahrley said about walking out the tunnel for his first big league game. "I stepped out on the field, and the first thing I felt was everything out there was just larger than life."

This career path all started in Bartlett Little League. After playing throughout his childhood, Mahrley saw a flyer in high school advertising for umpires. Mahrley admitted he decided to ump primarily as "a good way to make money and be around the game," but he enjoyed the experience.

It wouldn't be for a few more years, however, that it became a potential career path. After high school, Mahrley joined the U.S. Air Force.

After his military service, Mahrley was unsure of what he wanted to do when he and his parents, Bartlett residents Janet and Ken Parcell, went to Spring Training. That's when Mahrley researched and went to the Harry Wendlestedt Umpire School in Florida.

Of the hundreds of graduates of the school, Mahrley was one of only a handful to get a spot starting in the Rookie League in the late 2000s. From there, just like players, the umpires have to work their way up the minors.

Mahrley said it's "different planets" umping in the little league compared to professional, but he said the Bartlett Little League was always supportive and "ignited my passion for this career path."

"It created an atmosphere for me to fall in love with umpiring and see it as something that I wanted to do," Mahrley said. "If I had not done that, I would have never become a big league umpire."

Mahrley added: "It is the best job in the world. My office every day is a big league ball park, and it's pretty cool."

# **– Chicago Tribune –**

## **Basketball scores for Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County**

**Jan. 30, 2023**

**By From Staff Reports - Aurora Beacon-News**

### **MONDAY'S RESULTS HIGH SCHOOLS GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Batavia 45, Wheaton North 42

Batavia (15-11, 7-4 DuKane): Kylee Gehrt, Natalie Warner 12 points.

Burlington Central 37, Prairie Ridge 34

Burlington Central (15-9, 8-5 Fox Valley): Samantha Origel 13 points. Page Erickson 12 points, 7 rebounds.

Crystal Lake South 40, Jacobs 18

Earlville 46, Indian Creek 20

Hinckley-Big Rock 43, Hiawatha 19

Hinckley-Big Rock (18-9, 5-2 Little Ten): Anna Herrmann 11 points.

Huntley 57, Hampshire 39

Plano 55, Gardner-South Wilmington 27

Plano (9-18): Mikayla Walls 19 points. Gabby Videckis 11 points, 10 rebounds.

St. Charles North 70, Plainfield East 64

St. Charles North (21-5): Alyssa Hughes 31 points. Reagan Sipla, Katrina Stack 16 points.

Serena 31, Newark 29

Woodlands 44, Rochelle Zell 22

Zion-Benton 48, **Streamwood** 42

Zion-Benton: Trinity Hoover 16 points. Jaliece Russell 15 points.

**SATURDAY'S RESULTS  
HIGH SCHOOLS  
GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Barrington 66, Vernon Hills 57

Vernon Hills (16-10): Grace Koepke 19 points.

Deerfield 58, Lake Forest 48

Deerfield (21-5): Nikki Kerstein 29 points. Aubrey Galvan 12 points. Lexi Kerstein 10 points.

Evanston 59, Warren 48

Warren (10-14): Nari Powers 18 points. Shay Love 13 points.

Geneva 79, Batavia 53

Batavia (14-11, 6-4 DuKane): Brooke Carlson 15 points. Kylee Gehrt 12 points.

Glenbard South 51, Kaneland 48

Kaneland (11-14): Kailey Plank, Kendra Brown 13 points each. Lexi Schueler 11 points.

Grant 41, Wauconda 29

Grayslake Central 66, Round Lake 50

Grayslake North 52, Antioch 46

Grayslake North (17-9, 8-3 North Suburban): Peyton Gerdes 28 points. Makayla Campbell 16 points.

Highland Park 39, Regina 26

Libertyville 56, Willowbrook 39

Libertyville (21-4): Emily Fisher 17 points, 7 rebounds, 6 steals. Kate Rule 12 points, 7 rebounds, 6 steals.

Metea Valley 60, **Bartlett** 38



New Trier 32, Lake Zurich 31

St. Charles East 50, Schaumburg 48

St. Charles East (9-15): Hannah Masud 13 points; GW basket.

Waubonsie Valley 69, Rockford Auburn 43

Willows 57, IMSA 29

Yorkville 72, Oswego 40

**FRIDAY'S RESULTS  
HIGH SCHOOLS  
BOYS BASKETBALL**

Antioch 60, North Chicago 40

Antioch (12-10, 6-3 Northern Lake County): Teddi Wetu 12 points. Colby Priller 10 points.

Aurora Christian 57, St. Francis 46

Aurora Christian (17-7, 4-3 Metro Suburban Blue): Brayden Hatch 24 points. Cam Morel 16 points.

Bartlett 65, Elgin 35

Bartlett (16-8, 9-4 Upstate Eight): Keegan Kunzer 16 points. Kelton McEwen 14 points.

Benet 62, Nazareth 37

Bishop McNamara 60, Aurora Central Catholic 43

Burlington Central 70, Crystal Lake Central 55

Carmel 23, Notre Dame 19

De La Salle 79, Yorkville Christian 53

Yorkville Christian (6-17): David Douglas Jr. 30 points.

Deerfield 55, Niles North 53

East Aurora 61, Glenbard South 57

Elgin Academy 82, Morgan Park Academy 39

Grayslake Central 56, Grant 33

Grayslake Central (21-3, 8-1 Northern Lake County): Sam Cooper 22 points. Dennis Estepp 14 points.

Grayslake North 68, Wauconda 63

Grayslake North (10-13, 5-4 Northern Lake County): Dominic Jankowski 23 points. Uros Mitrovich 14 points. Jayden Hunt 12 points.

Wauconda (11-9, 4-4): Braeden Carlsen 28 points, 4 steals.

Hampshire 61, Dundee-Crown 57

Harvest Christian 56, Rockford Christian Life 41

Indian Creek 74, Leland 66

Indian Creek (7-16, 2-6 Little Ten): Jeffrey Probst 27 points. Jake Taylor 16 points. Sam Genslinger 15 points.

Jacobs 66, McHenry 58

Kaneland 75, Ottawa 41

Kaneland (21-5, 11-0 Interstate Eight): Gevon Grant 19 points. Troyer Carlson 14 points. Won conference title.

Lake Forest 56, Zion-Benton 37

Lake Forest (14-9, 6-3 North Suburban): Asa Thomas 30 points, 11 rebounds.

Lake Forest Academy 66, North Shore 60

Lake Park 46, Batavia 44

Lakes 82, Round Lake 32

Lakes (15-7, 7-2 Northern Lake County): Brock Marino 16 points. Cooper Lopriore 15 points.

Larkin 59, Fenton 37

Libertyville 65, Waukegan 34

Libertyville (18-4, 8-1 North Suburban): Cole Bonder 22 points. Henry Eads 14 points.

Neuqua Valley 56, Naperville Central 39

Newark 57, IMSA 43

Newark (12-10, 6-2 Little Ten): Zach Carlson 26 points, 10 rebounds.

Oswego 60, Minooka 47

Oswego East 62, West Aurora 53

Oswego East (20-5, 12-0 Southwest Prairie West): Bryce Shoto 18 points. Javion Starwood, Mekhi Lowery 14 points.

West Aurora (15-11, 7-5): Terrence Smith 17 points. Josh Pickett 10 points.

St. Charles East 67, Glenbard North 54

St. Laurence 53, Marmion 49

Serena 57, Hinckley-Big Rock 56

Hinckley-Big Rock (19-6, 7-1 Little Ten): Landon Roop 21 points.

Somonauk 67, Hiawatha 55

Somonauk (8-16, 5-3 Little Ten): Coleton Eade 21 points.

South Elgin 64, Streamwood 26

Stevenson 47, Mundelein 38

Stevenson (17-4, 8-1 North Suburban): Jack Dabbs 18 points, 12 rebounds. Aidan Bardic 14 points, 4 assists.

Mundelein (10-13, 3-6): Derek Bishop 11 points.

Vernon Hills 58, Highland Park 51 (OT)

Vernon Hills (12-12, 4-3 Central Suburban North): Milan Raval 22 points, 9 rebounds. Nolan Lazor 13 points, 6 rebounds.

Waubonsie Valley 64, Metea Valley 41

Warren 55, Lake Zurich 54

Warren (14-11, 5-4 North Suburban): Adam Panek 15 points. Alex Daniels 12 points.

Lake Zurich (12-9, 4-5): Nick Popovic 18 points. Anton Strelnikov 12 points.

Wheaton North 52, St. Charles North 39

Wheaton Warrenville South 56, Geneva 24

Yorkville 53, Plainfield North 47

Yorkville (20-4, 9-3 Southwest Prairie West): Jason Jakstys 18 points. LeBaron Lee 16 points.

*Compiled by Josh Krockey.*

To read the full article, click [here](#).

## – Examiner of Streamwood – Sabres boys hoops drop heartbreaker to Maroons

Feb. 1, 2022

By Seth Hancock

The **Streamwood boys basketball team** suffered a heartbreaker, a 43-42 Upstate Eight Conference loss to Elgin on Tuesday, Jan. 24 at Streamwood.

It was the closest game for the **Sabres**, who are still looking for their first win. **Streamwood** lost 45-42 at **Elgin** earlier this season.

The game was back-and-forth with no more than four points separating the two teams all night until the fourth quarter. **Streamwood** grabbed a 33-29 lead early in the fourth when **Elgin** went on a 13-2 run for a 42-35 lead in the final two minutes.

Dakota White (11 points) hit a three pointer and James Donato (nine points) scored four as **Streamwood** pulled to 43-42, but mistakes did in the **Sabres** who had a chance at a game winner.

For Sabres coach Quentin Ruff, it was also missed opportunities earlier in the fourth quarter when Streamwood had chances to increase its four-point lead.

“There was a point where we were up by four, and I was just harping on we want 10 passes,” Ruff said. “We wanted to move the ball, and we’ve just got to pay attention to detail. On those possessions, we come down and try and score on one pass, two passes.”

Ruff added: “We’ve just got to be smarter. I’ve got to find a way to get all of us on the same page as far as awareness of the clock, awareness of we’re ahead and we don’t need to score quick.”

Saul Zamudio had 10 points, including three treys, and Josh Wilder added seven.

Streamwood went on to drop a 64-26 game against UEC leader South Elgin on Friday, Jan. 27 at Streamwood, and the Sabres opened the week with a 72-40 non conference loss at Hoffman Estates on Monday, Jan. 23.

The previous week, the Sabres had a pair of UEC losses, 87-63 to East Aurora on Tuesday, Jan. 17 in Aurora and 61-45 against Glenbard East on Thursday, Jan. 19 at Streamwood. The Sabres dropped a 58-23 non conference game at Barrington on Saturday, Jan. 21.

Ruff said of his Sabres, now 0-25 overall and 0-13 in the UEC, that they continue to fight no matter the score.

“That is a huge positive,” Ruff said.

“All I want my dudes is to just never quit. Whether we’re down five, we’re down 30 or 40, we’ve just got to keep fighting.”