

Press Clippings - June 28, 2023

– Daily Herald –

U-46 awards three-year contract to new superintendent

June 28, 2023

By Alicia Fabbre



Suzanne Johnson

Elgin Area School District U-46 school board members approved a three-year deal with the district's new superintendent.

The contract, approved Monday and effective July 1, awards Suzanne Johnson a salary of \$282,500 for the 2023-24 school year. She will receive a 3% pay increase for the 2024-25 school year. The third year salary increase will be based on a rating from the school board.

Johnson was named superintendent in May after serving as interim superintendent since late February. She replaces Tony Saunders, who was named the state superintendent of education in January.

Johnson also will be eligible for additional annual salary increases based on performance goals, according to the contract. The school board listed five performance goals in Johnson's contract, including early childhood education, educational pathways, building improvements and work with the U-46 Rising program.

The fifth goal involves the creation of a strategic plan to help guide the district for the next five years.

Johnson is a Streamwood resident and graduate of **Elgin High School** who has spent her 26-year career in the district. She served as **deputy superintendent of instruction** before being named **interim superintendent**.

U-46 is the second-largest school district in Illinois, educating about 40,000 students from prekindergarten through high school. It serves all or parts of Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood, Wayne, Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg and West Chicago.

– Examiner of Bartlett –

Annual pact ratified for school resource officers

June 28, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement with **School District U46** at its meeting on Tuesday, June 6.

The agreement is an annual resolution to provide school resource officers (SRO) to district secondary schools in the village, which include **Eastview Middle School and Bartlett High School**.

“Both the Municipality and the District are interested in promoting the safety and security of the staff, students and school premises in the District,” the resolution states.

The resolution adds: “The Municipality and the District have previously entered into Intergovernmental Agreements regarding the same subject matter as this Agreement, and the parties hereto intend that all such previous Intergovernmental Agreements regarding the subject matter hereof are hereby terminated, and that this Agreement shall supersede and supplant any and all such prior Intergovernmental Agreements between the parties hereto regarding the subject matter hereof.”

This resolution will provide the SROs for the 2023-2024 school year and there are no changes to the agreement, according to a memo from Police Chief Geoffrey Pretkelis.

“There are no new changes in the proposed agreement with **School District U-46**,” Pretkelis wrote. He added: “Former Village Attorney Bryan Mraz reviewed the agreement and did not have any concerns.”

If approved, the services under this agreement shall commence on August 14, 2023 and continue in full force and effect until June 5, 2024.”

U-46 will reimburse the village for the salaries of the SROs as well as any overtime payments. The resolution states: “The District desires to have, on a contract basis, School Resource Officers (‘SROs) detailed to the District’s Schools. The Municipality is willing to provide such SROs in exchange for the payment outlined in this Agreement.”

The salaries will be \$77,704 each for two SROs for a total cost of \$155,408. The overtime rate is \$56.04 per hour.

– Examiner of Bartlett – Firm selected to represent Dist. U-46 in tax appeal cases

(This article also ran in the Examiner of South Elgin/Examiner of Streamwood)

June 28, 2023

By Seth Hancock

School District U-46 will intervene into appeals made by property owners who challenge their property evaluation with the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB).

By a 7-0 vote, the Board of Education approved a resolution in May for outside attorneys from Franczek P.C. to intervene on the district’s behalf.

“A taxing district has the right to intervene in proceedings before the PTAB in order to protect the taxing district’s revenue interest in the assessed value of a parcel or parcels,” the resolution states. “The time period during which a taxing district may intervene is only 30 days after the taxing district’s receipt, from the local county Board of Review, of notice of the filing of an appeal by an owner or manager of a parcel or parcels of real property.”

The resolution adds: “The Board has determined that it is necessary, desirable, advantageous, and in the public interest to defend the Board’s real property tax base by intervening in PTAB appeals filed on parcels within the boundaries of the Board.”

Other area taxing bodies, like School District 93, only intervene when a commercial/business property owner seeks to reduce their property evaluation, but U-46 will also target individual residents who seek lower evaluations.

Ann Williams, deputy superintendent of operations, said “it does include residential and commercial.” “A reduction granted by the PTAB in the assessed value of a parcel or parcels located within the boundaries of School District U-46 will lead to the issuance of a real estate tax refund from the current collections of the Board of Education of School District U-46.... The number of such appeals has been increasing in terms of both the

absolute number of appeals filed and the total dollar amount of assessed valuation reductions sought,” the resolution states.

The district provided no information on previous interventions and the results but said it could when asked by the board.

– Examiner of Bartlett – U-46 Board approves policies, pacts, travel costs

(This article also ran in the Examiner of South Elgin/Examiner of Streamwood)

June 28, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District 93 approved of updates to 11 policies, board agreements and travel expenses. The votes were 7-0, made in May, which included the policy changes that were largely updated on account of a new state law, Faith’s Law.

Those include policy 2:110 (qualifications, term and duties of board officers), 4:60 (purchases and contracts), 5:30 (hiring process and criteria), 5:150 (personnel records) and 5:90 (abused and neglected child reporting).

Policies 5:125 (personal technology and social media, usage and conduct) and 6:230 (library media programs) have minor language changes while policies 4:40 (incurring debt), 5:285 (drug and alcohol testing for school bus and commercial vehicle drivers), 6:210 (instructional materials) and 8:70 (accommodating individuals with disabilities) were reviewed for monitoring purposes with no proposed changes.

Board agreements were approved with some changes, but the changes were not presented to the public.

The agreements posted on the district website are from 2021 which state they are a “guide for Board members in adhering to the Board’s Code of Conduct and each Board member’s Oath of Office.”

The travel expenses approved total a not-to-exceed amount of \$6,480 for all seven board members as well as **Suzanne Johnson, interim superintendent, and Trisha Olson, chief legal officer**, to travel to Chicago in November for the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) annual conference.

“The Triple I Joint Annual Conference will be held in Chicago November 17- 19, 2023,” wrote **Evelyn Bevins, assistant to the superintendent**, in a memo.

“The cost to attend the conference is [\$520 per person. Lodging requires a \$200 (non-refundable) per room deposit at the time of booking. The costs of lodging are up to \$205] (without tax) per room per night. Registration will open Monday, June 5, 2023.”

The IASB is a lobbyist organization for government run schools.