

Press Clippings - July 5, 2023

– Examiner of Bartlett –

Superintendent contract approved by U-46 board

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

July 5, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved, via a 7-0 vote, of a three-year superintendent contract (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026) with **Suzanne Johnson** at its meeting on Monday, June 26.

Johnson was selected as the interim superintendent after Tony Sanders left the district in February, and the board announced in May that **Johnson** had been selected as superintendent pending contract negotiations.

“Thank you for your trust and support,” **Johnson** said. “I look forward to certainly continuing to work with all of you and to working for, first and foremost, our students in **U-46**, and our colleagues, our families and our community.”

Johnson’s starting salary will be \$282,500 with a guaranteed 3 percent increase in the second year. Increases in the third year will be tied to a summative rating. The salary is a 4.9 percent increase from Sanders’ \$269,243 starting salary in a contract approved last summer.

Additional benefits for **Johnson** are listed in the contract including Teacher Retirement System contributions, technology support, 25 vacation days on top of holidays, sick leave and disability, health insurance, deferred compensation, life insurance and additional benefits.

On performance goals, a district press release stated: “Five performance goals are included in the contract, tied directly to the District’s goals in areas including early childhood education, educational pathways, building and facilities improvements, and work around **U-46 Rising**.”

The fifth goal is the creation of a new strategic plan to guide U-46's work for the next five years." Sue Kerr, the board's president, called those "draft goals" because "of the compressed time frame we've been working under," and "refined and/or additional goals" will be approved by Oct. 31 of this year.

Johnson has been with the district for 26 years, previously as the deputy superintendent of instruction.

– Examiner of Bartlett –

District U-46 expenses list unanimously approved

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

July 5, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved of \$261,054 in expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, June 5.

Included was \$129,500 with Corwin, coming from the education fund and reimbursed through federal grants, to hire Doug Fisher as a curriculum consultant. It is for a revision to the middle school curriculum as the district prepares to transition to sixth grade moving to that level from elementary.

The proposal states that "we determined that an expert consultant to guide the work would support the curriculum writing teams to ensure alignment with our U-46 Rising work which would include rigorous tasks, common formative and summative assessments, learning targets, language targets, and success criteria.

The expert consultant would also help achieve our goal of developing thriving adolescents as defined by the MS Transition Committee as well as meet the needs of all our students by integrating social and emotional learning."

Costing \$72,000 (education fund), the board approved a community engagement and communications consultant through Creative Entourage to "assist with ongoing community engagement to bring the community's vision to life" related to facility updates, the proposal states.

The board approved renewing membership with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) costing \$33,240 (education fund). The IASB is a taxpayer funded lobbyist group for government-run schools.

With Estate Enterprises, \$26,314 (operations and maintenance fund) was approved for districtwide herbicide application.

The district “has nearly 400 acres of grass on its properties,” the proposal states. The board also approved the 2024- 2025 school calendar as well as membership with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), which governs high school athletics. There is no fee to the IHSA membership.

Also approved by a 7-0 vote was \$8.1 million in itemized bills.

– Riverside-Brookfield Landmark – RBHS sports teams moving to Upstate 8 Conference

Bulldogs will begin competing in the league in 2024-25

July 3, 2023

by Bob Skolnik

Riverside-Brookfield High School has found a new conference for its athletic teams, but they will have to wait a year to start competing in it.

Starting with the 2024-25 school year, RBHS will compete in an expanded Upstate 8 Conference. For 2023, the RBHS football team will play for one season in the Southland Conference before moving to the Upstate 8 the following season.

Most other sports teams at RBHS will compete this year in the remnant of a shrunken Metro Suburban Conference with longtime conference mates Ridgewood, Elmwood Park and Westmont.

RBHS has long been searching for a new conference, but especially since it was announced that all the private schools in the Metro Suburban Conference would be

leaving the conference to join either the Chicago Catholic League or the new Chicagoland Christian Conference.

In the 2024-25 school year RBHS, Ridgewood and Elmwood Park will all join the Upstate 8 conference as will former conference member West Aurora, giving the league 14 schools, up from the current 10.

The Upstate 8 will probably split into two divisions in 2024-25, at least for football, but the makeup of those divisions has yet to be determined.

The Upstate 8 currently is made up of **Elgin High School, Larkin, South Elgin, Bartlett, Streamwood**, East Aurora, Glenbard South, Glenbard East, West Chicago and Fenton.

“We’ve been searching for a permanent home for a while,” said RBHS boys basketball coach Mike Reingruber. “It’s a great move for all sports, and we’re looking forward to the competition and we’re creating new rivalries.”

The Upstate 8 Conference was founded in 1963 and has traditionally been known as a powerhouse basketball conference led by East Aurora, West Aurora and Elgin.

“Those are all historic gyms in the Chicago area that we’re definitely looking forward to competing in,” Reingruber said.

The original eight member schools of the Upstate 8 were **Elgin, Larkin**, East Aurora, West Aurora, DeKalb, Glenbard East High School, Wheaton High School and Naperville High School.