

Press Clippings - July 12, 2023

– Examiner of Bartlett – Dist. U-46 Board to vote on policy changes, other items

(This article appeared in the Examiner of South Elgin and Streamwood)

July 12, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** is set to vote on a policy change to expand use of credit and procurement cards at its meeting on Monday, July 17.

The proposed change to Policy 4:55 was presented at the June 26 meeting.

Included is a change to increase the limit that a cardholder can purchase on a single purchase without prior approval from \$500 to \$700.

Also there is added language that allows the issuance to the superintendent of a “high-limit District credit or procurement card, the limit of which will be established with the issuing bank, for use during an emergency or in exigent situations.”

Also added: “District credit or procurement cards may be issued to a Department to be used by members of the executive cabinet only for group travel and expenses (e.g. field trips, professional development).”

Ann Williams, deputy superintendent for operations, said the changes are “in order to adjust to inflation.”

The policy change is among several resolutions to be approved including approval of a list of authorized depositories, which handle the district’s investments.

That list will remain the same this year: PMA Securities, the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund, JP Morgan Chase and Co. and Fifth Third Bancorp.

The board will vote on a resolution for the display and public hearing on the district’s 2023-2024 budget. A tentative budget is expected to be presented to the board on Aug. 21, and a public hearing and expected vote on the budget is planned for Sept. 11.

Also, a mutual use agreement with Hanover Park Park District’s Centrecourt Athletic Club will be voted on.

“In April of 2023, Centrecourt Athletic Club reached out to **School District U-46** with the intent to secure use of the **Bartlett High School** tennis courts in exchange for the use of their athletic facilities by **U-46** athletics,” the proposal states.

“The terms were agreed upon for the mutual use of **Bartlett High School’s** tennis courts during the summer of 2023 in exchange for use of Centrecourt Athletic Club’s indoor tennis courts during the 2023-2024 school year.”

– Examiner of Bartlett –

Village Board struggling with Hawk Hollow plan

July 12, 2023

By Seth Hancock

Traffic concerns continue to be raised by the Village Board of Trustees concerning the **School District U-46** proposal to convert **Hawk Hollow** from an elementary to a middle school.

A discussion was had on the proposal at the Tuesday, June 20 committee of the whole meeting. It was previously discussed in May. The proposal would increase enrollment from nearly 292 students to possibly 750.

The proposal includes a two-story addition and two parking lots, and there will be two entrances/exits compared to one currently.

The site of the school is off of Jacaranda Drive which has single-family homes surrounding it.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval earlier in June with the conditions that Schick Road and Gerber Road are closely monitored, fencing changes, screenings added at Winston Lane and **U-46** provides a safety monitor. The district agreed to fencing and landscaping changes as well as a safety monitor.

During public comments, two residents addressed concerns with the proposal including one who has been a bus driver for over a decade and said traffic will be a problem at Gerber and Schick roads.

Trustees continued to have concerns with traffic as well as a loss of connectivity and right-of-ways.

Village President Kevin Wallace said he “can just picture a nightmare” with traffic as there’s currently issues with 292 students, and added that “it’s important that you listen to a guy who’s been driving a bus for 11 years” who said “it’s going to be a problem turning on and off Gerber with buses.”

U-46 Superintendent Suzanne Johnson, who did not attend the May committee meeting, said: “We’ve been going through this process with you, and then tonight it became the point that we can’t continue when we were here three weeks ago and that wasn’t the information that was provided at that time.”

Wallace responded: “Oh no, we clearly stated that there were going to be problems with traffic and this board was going to have problems with traffic. So, that’s not accurate.”

Johnson “clarified” that “there was not a directive” from the May meeting.

“Is there a way to do it where we don’t have to give up our right-of-ways,” Wallace later said. “You were looking for direction, I think that would be the direction we want to go.”

Johnson said the hope is to open the middle school for the 2025-2026 school year and are hoping to have an answer soon.

Trustee Joe LaPorte said the board should be “conscious of their construction schedule,” but it’s important to not “give something up now because they’re in a hurry.”

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Expense proposals slated for vote in District U-46 **(This article appeared in the Examiner of South Elgin and Streamwood)**

July 12, 2023

By Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** is set to vote on \$2.7 million in expenditure proposals at its meeting on Monday, July 17.

The items were presented at the June 26 board meeting.

The largest item is \$1 million for a one-year contract renewal with Special Education Systems Incorporated, to be paid for through the education fund if approved.

The proposal states the contract will provide an “interim alternative education setting.” It adds: “This is a contract renewal and is a one-year contract. Administration recommends approval due to the ongoing need to have a diagnostic, in-district interim placement for students in grades K-8.”

There are several education fund proposals including a new curriculum proposal for the information systems pathway. The cost is \$132,444 with Career and Technical Education (CTE).

The curriculum will include three computer programming courses, Computer Programming I and II as well as Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science A. It also includes Computer Game Design I and II.

There are contract renewals with Project Lead the Way (\$34,600) and Goodheart Willcox (\$31,815), both resources for the CTE program.

Other education fund items are a proposal with New Meridian (\$66,102) to “provide ‘a train-the-trainer’ professional development system,” the proposal states, and a proposal from Scholastic (\$63,418) for a district-wide Scholastic News subscription.

Several tort fund items were presented including a \$469,221 contract with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust for liability insurance.

“Due to an increase in the severity of school liability claims and settlements nationally, it is recommended that the district add excess liability insurance to its risk management plan,” the proposal states.

Two contract renewals from the tort fund are with Illinois Public Risk Fund (\$279,079), for workers’ compensation insurance, and CAN Insurance (\$100,666), for property insurance.

Several items to be paid by the nation’s taxpayers through federal grants will be voted on including a one-year contract renewal with Northwestern Illinois Association (\$245,380) for hearing and vision supervision and services, Geneva Hearing Services (\$214,000) for audiology services and with CDW (\$63,400) for continued usage of Zoom.