

Press Clippings - 8/16/2023

- Daily Herald -

New year, new superintendent: Elgin U-46 welcomes back students

By: Alicia Fabbre

8/15/ 2023



Principal Noelle Dupuis leaps in the air as she teaches students how to pronounce her last name during the first day of classes at Spring Trail Elementary School in Carol Stream. (*Brian Hill | Staff Photographer*)

Students in the state's second-largest school system kicked off a new school year Tuesday.

Elgin Area School District U-46 welcomed the return of more than 35,000 kindergarten through 12th-grade students across the district and a new district superintendent helped kick off the year.

"We are excited to welcome our students back to our buildings and our classrooms," said Suzanne Johnson, the district's first new superintendent in nearly a decade. "Our goal is to make sure each and every day is a great day to learn in school district U-46."

Johnson visited six buildings Tuesday with school board President Sue Kerr, welcoming back students.

Among their stops was Huff Elementary School in Elgin, which this year welcomes students who previously attended Garfield Elementary School in Elgin. Garfield closed at the end of last school year.

The duo also visited Spring Trail Elementary School in Carol Stream, which received students who previously attended Hawk Hollow Elementary School in Bartlett. Construction is expected to start this winter to transform Hawk Hollow into a middle school.

The first day of school for U-46's preschool students is Tuesday, Aug. 22.

Also Tuesday, students at Maine Township High School District 207 returned to the district's three high schools in Des Plaines and Park Ridge.

- The Examiner -

Contracts await approval of District U-46 board

By: Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** is set to vote on two contracts totaling \$852,480 at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Aug. 21.

The contracts were presented on Aug. 7.

Included is a \$742,728 contract renewal with Gorbold Behavioral Consulting that will be paid for by the nation's taxpayers, if approved, through federal grants. Gorbold will provide consulting for specialized student services.

"With 15 of our ILP (individualized learning program) classrooms starting the year with larger numbers than usual and the addition of [two kindergarten] classrooms, the increased level of student needs, and the hiring of 7 new ILP teachers, there is a need to expand the level of coaching, consultation, professional development (in addition to that provided by U-46), crisis prevention training, and classroombased supports," the proposal states.

The proposal adds that autism has "rapidly become the fastest growing neurodevelopmental disability" in the last two decades growing from 1-in-150 to 1-in-44 children being autistic.

"It is anticipated that the need will be greatest at the onset of the year and that over time these supports should fade out as capacity is built and staff are hired and trained," the proposal states. "Specialized Student Services programs will utilize the services of a BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst) Consultant and BT in order to address the areas of need outlined above."

Additionally, the district is seeking \$109,752 for a contract with NoRedInk, paid for by the education fund if approved.

The contract is for English Language Arts (ELA) digital resources, and it would replace StudySync which was phased out at the end of the 2021-2022 school year based on low usage. Last year, teachers did not have an ELA-specific digital resource.

The proposal states that NoRedInk was "recommended by the ELA teachers and administration from multiple secondary sites.... Teachers do not have district primary or supplemental resources to support student instruction and practice of writing and grammar," the proposal states.

- The Examiner -

District U-46 announces senior staff appointments

By: Seth Hancock

School District U-46 has announced five new principals, two new cabinet members and a new executive director as the 2023-2024 school year began on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

Some of the new administrators are new to the district and others have been promoted, a district press release stated.

“The start of a new school year is a time when we welcome new professionals to key roles in the District and congratulate U-46 employees who are taking on new responsibilities,” said Superintendent Suzanne Johnson for the release. “They all join staff who are eager to work on behalf of our more than 35,000 students and their families.

” Included are three new elementary positions with Jeron Shelton as principal at Elgin’s McKinley Elementary School and both Ryan Corcoran and Anissa Upshaw-Lanotte as co-principals at Washington and Highland elementary schools respectively, both in Elgin.

Shelton has been with the district for 16 years with the last two years as a resident administrator at Clinton Elementary School, Corcoran has been with U-46 since 2017 including the last two years as a resident administrator at Horizon and Huff elementary schools and Upshaw-Lanotte has been with U-46 for four years as the assistant principal at Ridge Circle Elementary School.

As the middle school level, Richard Lebron is the new principal at Streamwood’s Tefft. Lebron has been with U46 for 17 years, and he was the assistant principal at Tefft last year.

Paige Moran is the new principal at Streamwood High School. Moran was the assistant principal of STEM at Streamwood last year.

The two new cabinet positions are Lela Majstorovic as deputy superintendent of instruction and Frank Williams as assistant superintendent of finance. Majstorovic has been in U46 since 2018 and was assistant superintendent of schools the last two years, and Williams is new to the district after being the chief financial officer at Mascoutah Community Unit School District 19 since 2015.

Mary Sturgill is new to U-46 as the executive director of the South Elgin Network. She was previously a principal since 2016 in Northbrook School District 28.