

Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter



February 15, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

This week, I traveled to San Diego for a meeting of the Large Countywide and Suburban District Consortium, which took place in conjunction with the National Conference on Education sponsored by AASA (the School Superintendent Association). I am proud to say that U-46 is one of the select members to participate in this invitation-only group alongside other large districts that serve a diverse student body.

Being a member of this organization has allowed us to learn more about what is working in other districts. We have had the opportunity to connect with Boulder Valley School District and Bellevue School District concerning our shared efforts to reinvision our facilities in response to a diminishing enrollment. *(Goal 4: U46 will establish and operate inclusive, efficient, safe and equitable learning environments).*

These school districts also demonstrate what is possible and can provide vital suggestions and considerations for curriculum, resources, implementation and assessment practices. For example, Palm Beach County School District has seen significant growth in math, while Greenville County Schools have seen impressive growth in literacy and numeracy. This opportunity for professional learning establishes connections to help us consider how we can better utilize our resources to achieve greater student growth. *(Goal 1: School District U-46 will maximize resources available to accelerate student growth in alignment with the U-46 instructional clarity framework).*

Finally, partnering with other large district leaders provides me the opportunity to continue learning and be a better leader for U-46.

It's a great day to learn in U-46!

Kudos

Send Kudos directly by clicking [HERE](#) or using Let's Talk. Remember, only Kudos with the sender's name will appear in the Weekly; no anonymous messages. Kudos are due by 5 p.m. each Tuesday.

Kudos to Paul Horne, Technology Specialist, Information Services, from Noelle Dulabaum-Bohrer, School Social Worker, Washington Elementary

I want to give a shout-out to our amazing technology support specialist. Paul works between three schools, which keeps him very busy! However, he works very hard to be helpful in a timely fashion. He always arrives to help with a smile on his face and a listening ear. He is prompt, flexible, helpful, caring, and understanding. Without our devices, it is really hard to do our jobs but it is so reassuring to have Paul as a support. Thank you, Paul! We appreciate YOU!

Kudos to Claire Ditchman, Arturo Garay, Alexander Pagan, and Juli Novak in the Information Services team, from the Human Resources Department

We want to thank this group for all of their assistance getting HR's computers and phones all set up and running. The transition worked out great thanks to your help!

Kudos to Tim Sheahan, Bill Nelson and Ed Moe, Custodians in the Educational Services Center, from the Human Resources Department

During our transition, Tim, Bill, and Ed provided assistance in moving the heavy stuff, finding garbage cans and generally just helping us get things put in place. Thank you, all.

Kudos to Inez Cardona, 3rd Grade Dual Language Teacher, Washington Elementary School, from Emily and Rudy Fausto, U-46 parents

It is like a breath of fresh air to know that someone is out there taking care of our children the way that our son's 3rd grade teacher, Mrs. Cardona, does. Her classroom is full of energy-filled with 8 and 9 year olds. But even through this cloud of children, she is able to take time to observe and assist each and every one of them. She is caring and thoughtful, as well as invested in their education and comprehension skills. She is definitely a mom to our children while they are in her classroom and that is a trait that should be commended and awarded. We write these kudos to shine a light on her wonderful and dedicated performance to our children, community, and our families. We are proud to say that she is our child's teacher and mentor. Thank you, Mrs. Cardona. You are one of our community's heroes!

Kudos to Marisa Herrell, Community Intervention Specialist, Kane County ROE, from Kelli Walsh, Apex Risk Coordinator, Dream Academy

Marisa has been the best! I cannot thank her enough for her help and support with my kids. Your direction and knowledge is invaluable. You always make time for my kids no matter how busy your day is, and that is really important to them and me too. So glad you are a part of their support system!

Kudos to Debbie Dillion, Principal's Secretary, and Karen Lawson, Assistant Principal's Secretary, at South Elgin High School, from Kim Shead, Special Education Teacher at South Elgin High School

Thank you, ladies, for all you do to make our building run smoothly on a daily basis! You are the backbone of our building. You are always able to take on whatever is handed your way, and you do so with such grace. We can not thank you enough for all you do to support the teachers, staff, and students at South Elgin High School. Kudos to you for being the amazing rock stars that you are. We appreciate you more than words can say.

Kudos to David Buss, Custodian, Huff Elementary School, from Sandy Hancock, Registered Nurse, Huff Elementary

I just wanted to thank David for all he does for us. He is always helpful and quick at doing whatever he can to help the nurse and other staff. I appreciate him and his positive attitude he brings to our school!

Kudos to Michelle Petschow, Registrar Secretary, Streamwood High School, from Joshua Travis, Dean of Students at Streamwood High School

Ms. Petschow has been really great working with our low attendance students and helping my office with reaching out and meetings. Thank you, Michelle, for working so well with our students.



School District U-46

