

Press Clippings - 9/13/2023

- Daily Herald -

Elgin U-46 joins lawsuit targeting social media companies for harming youth

By: Alicia Fabbre

9/12/ 2023



Elgin Area School District U-46 has agreed to join more than 300 school districts in a lawsuit against media giants like Meta, YouTube, Snapchat and TikTok. (Rick West | Staff Photographer, 2018)

Elgin Area **School District U-46** is joining a national lawsuit charging social media companies have harmed students.

More than 300 school districts across 11 states have joined the mass lawsuit against social media giants like Meta, YouTube, Snapchat and TikTok. The lawsuit has been filed in U.S. District Court in California.

"We believe that joining this lawsuit will serve the students and school community at large," said Erika Washington, assistant counsel for U-46.

School board members unanimously approved a resolution to join the lawsuit and to work with Frantz Law Group, a Chicago firm involved in the case. Joining the lawsuit costs the district nothing, she said, adding that the attorneys handling the case only receive any fees if there is a monetary award.

According to the resolution approved Monday, school officials argue that social media

has increased the risk for anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies among students. The resolution also notes the district has expended staff time to deal with disciplinary matters, counseling and medical services to address concerns arising from social media.

Even if the district does not receive any funds from a settlement, Washington said she hopes the lawsuit spurs change in social media companies.

"Research shows that social media has caused various social emotional issues for youth," Washington said.

School officials noted that social media often serves as a platform for students to bully others or post threats of violence against schools.

Washington said she is hopeful the lawsuit would spur changes regarding "engagement with youth so it's not harmful or exacerbates social and emotional issues for youth of all ages."

The lawsuit is similar to an action brought by school districts against Juul. In the lawsuit, school districts argued the makers of e-cigarettes targeted young customers and caused them harm.

Earlier this year, Juul agreed to pay more than \$400 million to settle thousands of lawsuits. Illinois was awarded more than \$67 million, with about \$1.2 million going to U-46 over four years.

- The Courier News -

Elgin News Digest: U-46 joins lawsuit against social media companies; autumn vendor mart being held at East Dundee Depot; ECC hosting public 'Women in Politics' event Sept. 19

By: Mike Danahey

Sep 12, 2023



The District U-46 School Board has voted to join a national lawsuit against social media companies, charging that access to and use of social media among students has led to more anxiety, depression, thoughts of self-harm and suicidal ideation. (metamorworks / iStock via Getty Images)

U-46 joins lawsuit against social media companies

The **District U-46** School Board voted unanimously this week to join a lawsuit filed on behalf of school districts across the United States against social media companies, including Meta Platforms, Facebook Holdings, Snap Inc., TikTok and Alphabet (Google).

Widespread access to and use of social media among students has led to significant risks in anxiety, depression, thoughts of self-harm and suicidal ideation among students, according to the resolution authorizing the litigation.

The impact of the changed behavior has resulted in the district having to incur costs related staff time, disciplinary proceedings, emotional and social counseling, and medical services, the resolution said.

More than 335 public school districts across more than 11 states have joined the suit.

Frantz Law Group of California is leading the effort. Chicago-based law firm of Franczek will act as local co-counsel for the district, with 25% of any monetary settlement or recovery obtained for U-46 going to the firm in lieu of the district paying legal fees.

To read the full article click [here](#).

- Daily Herald -

Daily Herald opinion: Motorists must do their part to counter a 'societal issue' of deadly crashes

By: Daily Herald Editorial Board

9/12/ 2023



Two South Elgin High School students were killed on Aug. 31 when the car they were in collided with a dump truck on Route 25 in Bartlett. (Paul Valade | Staff Photographer)

After five crashes in two weeks on Kane County roadways left seven people dead, the top public safety official in the county refused to stay quiet about it.

Kane County Sheriff Ron Hain concluded a news release about a deadly Sept. 3 collision by saying the county has had an "atypical" number of fatal crashes. The veteran law enforcement professional also acknowledged that most of them would have still happened "even if we had deputies on every corner of the county."

"I have spoken frequently on the increased lack of responsibility of drivers for the safety of one another, especially since the pandemic," Hain said. "We continue our traffic enforcement campaigns across all 550 square miles of this county, but this is also a societal issue at this point."

We applaud Hain for trying to use the bully pulpit to warn motorists that they need to drive responsibly. It's a message people need to hear, especially after a string of tragic crashes.

The first happened on Aug. 21 when a 60-year-old Maple Park man died while riding his motorcycle near Kaneland High School in Maple Park. A car driven by a 16-year-old girl hit the motorcyclist around 3:10 p.m. as she was making a left turn out of a parking lot at the school.

On Aug. 29, a St. Charles man suffered life-threatening injuries during a head-on crash on Route 47 at Kenmar Drive in Elburn.

Two days later, a car collided with a dump truck on Route 25 in Bartlett, killing two **South Elgin High School** students and injuring two others.

Then on Sept. 2, a head-on collision between a motorcycle and a car killed three people in Big Rock. Sheriff's police said the crash occurred at about 9:28 p.m. at U.S. Route 30 and Davis Road.

The next day, a two-vehicle collision in Hampshire Township left another person dead.

In that Sept. 3 crash, a 2015 Nissan Pathfinder struck a 2008 Chevrolet sedan at Route 72 and Walker Road. The Chevrolet sedan rolled several times before coming to rest on a property on the northeast side of the intersection, authorities said. A 50-year-old Elgin resident who was a passenger in the Chevrolet sedan died. The sedan driver was airlifted to a hospital in Rockford in critical condition.

On Friday, Hain told the Daily Herald that he is speaking out because it is his responsibility to raise awareness and state facts.

He said he has seven to 10 deputies making 15 to 20 traffic stops across the county during each shift. The department also does enforcement campaigns in crash-prone areas.

But traffic enforcement alone is not enough to prevent deadly crashes from happening.

As motorists, we need to wear seat belts and slow down. We must pay attention and look out for others on the road, including pedestrians and bicyclists. And we have to drive free of distractions and impairment.

Simply put, it is up to each of us to do our part behind the wheel to keep the roads safe.

- The Examiner -

Two staff recognized for awards by District U-46

By: Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** recognized two staff members at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 21.

Bartlett High School English teacher Michael Miserendino was recognized for receiving the Award of Honor from the Illinois Theatre Association (ITA).

“The award is given to an individual for their significant contribution in promoting quality theatre through the State of Illinois,” Superintendent Suzanne Johnson said.

“Mr. Miserendino has directed a number of plays and musicals at Bartlett High School and for the U-46 Summer Theatre program.”

Miserendino later received the award at the ITA convention on Aug. 26 at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in Downers Grove.

The ITA's mission, according to its website, is "to advocate for the important values that theatre at all levels in the state of Illinois bring to individuals as we work to expand hearts and minds through work both on the stage and off."

Mary Mangione, principal at U-46's Dream Academy in Elgin, was also recognized for being named the Administrator of the Year by the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD).

"The award is given to an administrator who has championed the cause of health, physical education, and/or dance," Johnson said.

Mangione will receive the award at an awards reception on Nov. 30 at the IAHPERD convention at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

The IAHPERD website states consideration for the award are administrators who are "an outstanding advocate" for programs, who's "given you extraordinary support," has "championed the cause of health, physical education, and/or dance," is a "passionate school administrator" who "has educated himself/herself of the value of quality programs" and "has given distinguished, varied, and individual service to the profession through district and/or state contributions."

- The Examiner -

Dist. U-46 Board approves contracts, 2023 graduates

By: Seth Hancock

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved, with 7-0 votes, of two contracts totaling \$852,480 as well as approval of the 2023 high school graduates at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 21.

The approval of the graduates is an annual process to certify the graduation. It included graduates in May as well as seniors who graduated after summer school.

As for the contracts, the largest was a \$742,728 contract renewal with Gorbold Behavioral Consulting that will be paid for 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.”

Also approved was a \$109,752 contract with NoRedInk, paid for by the education fund.

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 board also voted 7-0 to approve \$12.7 million in itemized bills.

- Daily Herald -

Football / Top 20

9/12/ 2023

Football

Team Week 3 result/Week 4 opponent

1. York 3-0 Beat DGS 47-7; Oak Park-River Forest
2. Hersey 3-0 Beat Glenbrook North 42-0; Vernon Hills
3. Batavia 2-1 Beat Lake Park 47-21; at St. Charles N.
4. Lake Zurich 3-0 Beat Stevenson 21-16; at Zion-Benton
5. Downers Grove North 3-0 Beat Glenbard W. 31-7; Proviso West
6. Barrington 3-0 Beat Glenbrook South 27-19; New Trier
7. Wheaton North 2-1 Beat St. Charles North 35-23; at SCE
8. Maine South 2-1 Beat Palatine 28-21; at Fremd
9. St. Charles North 2-1 Lost to Wheaton North 35-23; Batavia
10. Naperville North 2-1 Beat Bolingbrook 51-49; Neuqua Valley

11. Palatine 1-2 Lost to Maine South 28-21; Evanston
12. IC Catholic Prep 3-0 Beat Benet 34-9; hosts Nazareth
13. **South Elgin** 3-0 Beat Fenton 79-7; at **Larkin**
14. Huntley 3-0 Beat Jacobs 40-21; at Prairie Ridge
15. Geneva 3-0 Beat WW South 28-6; Lake Park
16. Naperville Central 2-1 Lost to Lockport 31-24; at Waubonsie V.
17. Prospect 2-1 Beat New Trier 24-20; Glenbrook S.
18. Glenbard West 1-2 Lost to Downers North 31-7; Lyons
19. St. Francis 2-1 Beat St. Laurence 42-28; at Fenwick
20. Cary-Grove 3-0 Beat McHenry 42-13; at Jacobs

Others to watch: Mundelein 3-0, Antioch 3-0, Carmel 3-0, Glenbard South 3-0, Warren 1-2, Stevenson 2-1, Libertyville 2-1, Waubonsie Valley 2-1, Maine West 3-0, Benet 2-1

- The Beacon News -

Paul Johnson's Aurora-Elgin area boys soccer rankings and player of the week

By: Paul Johnson

Sep 12, 2023



Elgin's Edgar Perez (22) settles the ball against St. Charles North during a game in the Streamwood Fall Classic at Elgin on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023. (H. Rick Bamman/The Beacon-News)

Elgin and red-hot West Aurora lead way at top of rankings, with Oswego entering the mix. St. Charles North's Walter Delapaz is the player of the week.

Top 10

With records through Monday and previous rankings in parentheses.

1. **Elgin** 6-2 (1)

Eduardo Nava scores two goals in 3-1 win over St. Charles North to end rare losing

streak.

2. St. Charles North 6-3 (2)

Walter Delapaz nets ninth goal Monday, but North Stars have dropped two of last three.

3. St. Charles East 6-2 (3)

R4. West Aurora 9-0 (4)

Blackhawks pick up pair of impressive nonconference wins over Geneva, Waubonsie Valley.

5. **Streamwood** 7-2 (7)

AJ Sabanovic is up to 12 goals on the season. Sabres are 7-1 in last eight games.

6. Marmion 4-1-2 (5)

Cadets suffer first loss of season with 3-1 setback against Naperville North.

7. Dundee-Crown 7-2 (6)

Miguel Rondon and Jonathan Troncoso each score in 2-1 win over St. Charles East.

8. Oswego East 4-2-2 (8)

Wolves come up short Monday in 1-0 loss to East Aurora.

9. **Larkin** 6-2 (10)

Royals enjoy rare week off, but get back Wednesday in conference against Glenbard South.

10. Oswego 6-3-1 (NR)

Michael Moreno scores to give Panthers third straight win with 1-0 victory over Batavia.

Player of the Week

Senior forward Walter Delapaz continued his strong start to the season with three goals as St. Charles North went 2-2.