

# Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter

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**Jan. 23, 2025**

Dear Colleagues,

Our Unite U-46 plan is moving forward, and as a school district, we have been gathering input on the preliminary attendance boundary recommendations that were shared with the Board of Education on December 9. With new and updated buildings preparing to open as soon as August 2025, starting with the transformed middle school in Bartlett almost complete, the final step is adjusting attendance boundaries to ensure optimal student placement and support for all learners.

We've been hosting community open house sessions, where community members are encouraged to drop in anytime to learn about the boundary recommendations, ask questions, and share feedback.

Each session focuses on a specific network, highlighting the schools within that group and their preliminary attendance boundary recommendations. However, community members are welcome to attend any session that works best for their schedule, regardless of the network. Spanish interpreters are also available at each session. U-46 team members are also welcome to attend these sessions or review the information available on this [webpage](#). There are two remaining sessions scheduled:

South Elgin Network

Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

South Elgin High School Auditorium Atrium - 760 E. Main St., South Elgin

Streamwood Network

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Streamwood High School Commons - 701 W. Schaumburg Rd., Streamwood

We hope to have a great turnout as we continue our plans to update our learning environments.

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

Dr. Suzanne Johnson

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## Kudos

**Note:** We enjoy seeing the recognition and respect among our U-46 Team through the [Kudos submitted](#) in each issue of the Superintendent's Weekly. In an effort to further recognize our team members, we will be sharing select Kudos on social media each week under the hashtag #U46StaffKudos. When entering Kudos in Let's Talk, please note if you would prefer to not have your kudos shared on social media. We look forward to continuing to receive your kudos and celebrating them in this new way.

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 Brian Warnock, in Information Services, from Michele Chapman in Post Secondary Success**

I just want to take a moment to give a huge shoutout to Brian Warnock for his work and dedication. Brian has gone above and beyond to update the HR Staffing Web App. I appreciate everything he has done to have the program ready for our schools. Thank you for everything you do.

### **Kudos to Jennifer Reyes, at Abbott Middle School, from Jen Ross, at Bartlett High School**

Big thanks to Jennifer Reyes for taking the time to meet over Zoom with a student she worked with last year. Reyes was this student's trusted adult, and he was trying to make a decision about his future. The fact he valued her opinion so much and sought her guidance speaks volumes of the hard work she does. Thank you for being you.

### **Kudos to Heidi Martinez and the Number Up Numeracy Initiative Team, from Patricia Weithofer, all at Tefft Middle School**

Thank you all for putting together a lunch and learning for teachers that will help students with their basic numeracy skills building-wide each day. We are looking forward to watching all students grow in their numeracy skills.

### **Kudos to James Karras, at the U-46 Welcome Center, from Brenda Prado, in Professional Learning Department**

Thank you so much for all of your help and support! Especially while setting up for all of our academic teaming meetings. Jim goes above and beyond in making sure everything is available for us. We couldn't do it without your help! The Professional Learning Department is so grateful to you!

### **Kudos to Beth Gehringer, in Human Resources, from Betsy Kurcz, at Hillcrest Elementary School**

Beth went above and beyond to assist me with information for my daughter, who is currently in the process of student teaching. In the past, she has also provided invaluable support to both my son and me, ensuring we had the information we needed. Beth consistently takes the time to ensure every detail is accurate and thorough. Her kindness, dedication, and willingness to go the extra mile do not go unnoticed. I truly appreciate all of her support!

**Kudos to Mario Pestana and Gloria Verastegui, both in Multilingual and Multicultural Education, Guadalupe Villagran, at Streamwood High School, and all of our DL/ ML/ ESL Teachers, from Lisa Baran Janco, at Streamwood High School**

Thank you to Mario, Gloria, Guadalupe, and all of our DL/ ML/ ESL teachers for the first in a great series of professional learning sessions. All the students at Streamwood High School will benefit from your hard work.

**Kudos to 2nd Grade Team at Timber Trails Elementary School, from Jessica Harrison and the Rest of the Behavior Specialists**

Shout out to the incredible 2nd Grade Team. A huge thank you and job well done to the entire team, including Administration, SEA, Student Support Staff—Liz Reyes, Andrea Kuchler, Supriya Jakular, and Min Lin—and the amazing classroom teachers, Teresa Andrade and Kayle Mescall!

This team has gone above and beyond in their efforts to collaborate and support students' behaviors. Through their dedication, teamwork, and consistent support, they have made a profound and positive impact on the students they serve. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to student success and for creating a positive, supportive atmosphere for growth and learning! Keep up the fantastic work!

**Kudos to Sandra Stoltz, Rosa Ramirez, Melina Villalobos, Maria Morales, Jennifer Peddy, Justine Izewski, Susan LaRusso, Dena Walters, Laurie Summers, Jaime Erazo, Ilcia Novelo, Sydney Stahly, Brenda Escobedo, Susan Kaatz, Jonathan Bacheller, and Colleen Spencer, from Dr. Elizabeth Ma and the Administrative Team at Ontarioville Elementary School**

Last week was a tough week with four to five teachers out sick each day Monday through Thursday. We really appreciate our team that pulled together to help us make it work! Thank you to all those listed above for stepping in when we needed you most! We are proud to be Ontarioville Owls! Hoot Hoot!

**Kudos to Karla Jiménez, from Alec Barlow, Jean Bednar, Tara Burghart, Brenda Gomez, Teagan Pompa, and Cecilia Rodriguez, all in Communications & Community Relations**

Karla - no kudos could contain all that we want to express as you prepare to move onto the next exciting step in your career. Of course we are in awe of your 20 years of service to School District U-46, but we especially want to thank you for your work leading our department the past three years. You are smart, thoughtful, collaborative, dedicated and creative - we have all learned so much from you. (After witnessing your organizational talents, we'll never again doubt the power of a spreadsheet!) As a supervisor, you led using the golden rule. You have calmly seen us through many a crisis, a department name change, a superintendent search, the groundbreaking of a new middle school, work toward attendance boundary shifts, strategic planning, an attendance campaign, and the successful passing of a \$179 million bond proposal. Thank you for everything from your grateful C&CR team!

**Kudos to the Office Staff - Magaly Mendez, Louise Cianciarulo, and Michelle Perez - from Marcella Sheler, all at Huff Elementary School**

I want to recognize Magaly, Louise, and Michelle for going above and beyond in getting our staff and students ready for ACCESS testing this week. Because of your dedication and expertise, we are going to have a smooth week of testing! I am so lucky to have you on my team!



**School District U-46**

