

Press Clippings - 1/29/2025

- Daily Herald -

Elgin U-46 to extend elementary school day next year

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

Date: January 29, 2025



Sixth-grade science students at Sycamore Trails Elementary School in Bartlett. Starting next school year, all U-46 elementary school days will be extended by 20 minutes.

Elgin Area School District U-46 elementary school students will get more classroom time in the 2025-26 school year.

Starting with the first day of school Aug. 11, elementary school days will be extended by 20 minutes, district officials said.

Among the reasons for the change is U-46 has the shortest elementary school day among schools in the state — currently at six hours.

“Extending the elementary school day by 20 minutes will allow us to offer increased high-quality instruction and improve student learning — providing an additional 100 minutes of instruction per week and approximately 60 hours per school year,” Lela Majstorovic, U-46 deputy superintendent of instruction, wrote in a letter to families.

The change will result in the following shifts:

- Elementary schools that now start at 8 a.m. and dismiss at 2 p.m. will instead start at 7:50 a.m. and dismiss at 2:10 p.m.
- Elementary schools that now start at 8:30 a.m. and dismiss at 2:30 p.m. will instead start at 8:20 a.m. and dismiss at 2:40 p.m.

The school day extension also will require changes to bus schedules. Morning pickup times will be earlier and afternoon drop-off times will be later. Exact schedules for each student eligible for transportation services will be available in Infinite Campus in August before the first day of school.

Students who walk to school or rely on their own transportation or a carpool will need to make adjustments as well.

“We know that any change in our school day or school calendar impacts our families and the greater community, which is why we’re sharing this news more than six months before the new schedules go into effect,” Majstorovic wrote.

Schools will share more details directly with families over the coming months. For more information, visit the district’s Frequently Asked Questions page or offer feedback and ask questions via Let’s Talk.

- The examiner -

December expense items approved in District U-46

By: Seth Hancock

Date: January 29, 2025

The Board of Education in School District U-46 unanimously approved, via a 7-0 vote, of \$4.7 million in expenditure items at its meeting on Dec. 16, 2024.

The largest item was \$4.4 million, to be paid with operations and maintenance and health life safety funds, with Trane Commercial HVAC for an HVAC replacement project at Sycamore Trails Elementary School. The proposal stated the current system exceeds the 20-year life expectancy.

“The system was installed in 1991 and has proven to be unreliable, resulted in intermittent issues, frequent service calls, and has poor energy efficiency,” the proposal stated. “The recommended replacement system is an energy efficient Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning system (HVAC) that utilizes Fan Powered Boxes (FPB) within the system. This system uses a fan to control the amount of air flowing to a specific area, adjusting the temperature by regulating airflow rather than generating heat or cool air itself. This allows us to effectively maintain a consistent air temperature from the ceiling to the floor within the classrooms. This system was recently installed at Prairieview Elementary School.”

Work is expected to start in May and be completed by July. A contract renewal with Roosevelt University costing \$222,750 (education fund) for up to 15 teachers to obtain a master’s degree in the Dual Language Teacher Leadership Program was approved.

Costing \$38,602 (education fund), a proposal with the American Institute for Research for a comprehensive needs assessment at Creekside Elementary School, which was identified as in need of comprehensive support, was approved.

Two contract renewals, both education fund items, were approved including with Continental Press Inc. costing \$7,394 for its Newcomers Ready, Set, Go! Continental resource for English learners and with CoSpaces Edu costing \$4,556 for its coding and virtual reality educational platform.

Also approved by a 7-0 vote was \$63 million in itemized bills.

- The examiner -

District U-46 Board approves lists of expenses, bills

By: Seth Hancock

Date: January 29, 2025

The Board of Education in School District U-46 voted 6-0, board member Veronica Noland was absent, to approve \$4.7 million in expenditure proposals at its meeting on Monday, Jan. 13.

The largest item was \$3.4 million (education, operations and maintenance and transportation funds) with Veritiv Operating Corporation for copy paper procurement for five years.

It is based off “an estimated annual consumption of 12,568 cases” of various sizes and colors of paper, the proposal stated.

The board approved \$550,000 (education fund) for food service packaging materials from Pressed Paperboard Technologies, Pathway Film Solutions and Form Plastic. It is an extension to a three-year contract approved in 2021.

With Reel Images Production, a three-year contract costing \$248,875 (education fund) was approved to provide video production services for live streaming of board meetings.

Meetings are expected to move to “a larger space at the U-46 Welcome Center” with anticipation of larger attendance due to boundary change discussions, the proposal stated.

Two proposals with Sutton Ford and Knapheide Truck Equipment Center, both operations and maintenance fund items, were approved.

The first is for the replacement of three 2008 Ford F250 trucks with 2025 Ford F350 trucks costing \$152,052 with Sutton for the vehicles and \$38,095 with Knapheide for fitting, and the other to replace two dump trucks (2006 Ford F350 and 2008 Ford F550) with 2025 Ford F550

dump trucks costing \$116,312 with Sutton and \$105,333 with Knapheide. The proposals both stated the replacement schedule for such trucks is 10 to 12 years.

Two education fund items approved were a \$75,000 contract with Snap! Mobile for an athletics registration digital platform and a \$21,000 contract with Hudspeth Bailey “for job-embedded professional learning and curriculum development support with Hudspeth Bailey at Laurel Hill Elementary School and Sunnydale Elementary School,” the proposal stated.

A three-year contract with T&J Plumbing to act as an on-call plumbing service was approved. Costs are based on usage with hourly rates between \$145 and \$190, depending on time and day.

A resolution to allow the sale of surplus property, which includes 131 handwashing stations with an estimated value of \$6,188, was approved. Also by a 6-0 vote, \$50.2 million in itemized bills were approved.

- Chicago Tribune/ The Courier News - ICE officials ‘remove’ man from Elgin home but no info on grounds available

By: Gloria Casas

Date: January 28, 2025

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials removed a man Tuesday from an Elgin residence.

While the man taken from the home in the 300 block of Silver Street was not the fugitive being sought by the U.S. Marshals Office on an attempted murder charge, the ICE officers who accompanied them took him into custody, according to Belkis Sandoval, public affairs officer for the U.S. Marshals Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force.

She referred questions about the detention to the ICE office, but calls to the agency went unanswered Tuesday afternoon.

The operation being conducted by the marshals office “pertained to an individual wanted on a parole violation warrant,” Sandoval said. ICE officers are part of the marshals office and accompanied them on the detail, she said.

“(The suspect being sought) has an attempted murder, aggravated battery with a firearm and unlawful use of a weapon by a gang member warrant out of Elgin,” Sandoval said. The Elgin home “is his registered, patrolled address,” she said.

ICE released a statement earlier this week about its operations in the Chicago area.

“U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, along with federal partners, including the FBI, ATF, DEA, CBP and the U.S. Marshals Service, began conducting enhanced targeted operations today in Chicago to enforce U.S. immigration law and preserve public safety and national security by keeping potentially dangerous criminal aliens out of our communities,” the release said.

City of Elgin officials confirmed they were aware the marshals office was in town for an operation but that the Elgin Police Department was not and would not be involved.

“The Illinois TRUST Act generally prohibits local law enforcement agencies like the Elgin Police Department from assisting in the enforcement of federal civil immigration law,” City Manager Rick Kozal said in a statement.

The act expressly states that a “law enforcement agency or official may not participate, support or assist in any capacity with an immigration agent’s enforcement operations,” Kozal said.

The village of Carpentersville released a similar statement in the wake of reports that ICE was serving warrants Monday in the Golfview Lane area.

Earlier in the day Tuesday, a rumor that ICE agents were at Creekside Elementary School in Elgin circulated but was later debunked in a letter that Principal Joel Pollack sent to parents.

“Please know that, as of this afternoon, no federal authorities have approached our school property, and we have not been contacted directly by anyone associated with a federal agency,” Pollack said in the letter.

“If federal authorities were to request to enter Creekside’s property, or request information from our school, School District U-46 has established legal processes that will be followed,” he said.

Elgin police officers were at the school Tuesday, he added, but that was a coincidence and not related to any immigration issue. “The purpose of this visit was for a presentation to our 5th and 6th grade scholars, which was scheduled in the fall,” he said.