

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Citizens' Advisory Council Holds 'Welcome Back' Meeting**

*Important U-46 partner to meet Sept. 13 at  
Elgin High School*

**ELGIN** - Parents and residents who want to learn more about School District U-46, influence Districtwide policies, and inform and engage other parents and community members are invited to join School District U-46 Citizens' Advisory Council, also known as "CAC."

The CAC's first meeting of the new school year is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. at Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin. It is open to the public and intended as an orientation for both new members and as an opportunity to learn more about the CAC for those who may be interested in becoming members.

The council, which has been in existence over half a century, is made up of volunteer parents and residents interested in local education who represent 53 U-46 schools across 11 communities. CAC members help facilitate communication between District administration, the Board of Education, and individual schools. The CAC also provides meaningful feedback to U-46 on Districtwide issues and programs.

"Our Citizens' Advisory Council is unique because it serves to provide feedback to the Board of Education on a variety of important issues, from finance to family engagement. The members give us a better understanding

of the hopes and priorities of U-46 families, while they gain a better understanding of how the District operates,” said U-46 CEO Tony Sanders. “Together we are all working to ensure all students have access to outstanding educational opportunities.”

The CAC and its committees will be focusing this year on providing more opportunities for parent and community feedback on the District’s educational pathways initiatives, said CAC Chairwoman Lisa Hopp. The CAC will also hosts its traditional forum for candidates running for election to the Board of Education, she said.

Hopp said in her seven years of involvement with CAC, she served on a committee that examined boundary changes, learned the process through which textbooks are chosen, and been stunned by the work involved in transporting thousands of students to dozens of schools and programs each day. She also noted that CAC planted the seed that became Explore, the District’s annual career and curriculum expo taking place on Sept. 12 at the Sears Centre.

“There are some pretty big impactful decisions or recommendations that come out of this organization,” she said. “There are a lot of great advisory councils in U-46, but we are the only one with bylaws set up in such a way that we have representation from every single school.”

The CAC oversees three standing committees: Curriculum, Family and Community Engagement (FACE), and Specialized Student Services. Curriculum committee members help U-46 staff determine and implement new educational programs.

The CAC's FACE committee seeks to strengthen family and community involvement within the District. That committee started a popular outreach event to local real estate agents to educate them on services the District offers, so the real estate agents can better inform prospective home buyers.

Specialized Student Services provides support and information geared mainly for parents of the District's special education students. The committee regularly brings in highly qualified experts who share information on the challenges families face, said the committee's co-chair, Rebecca Miller.

"Their presentations are very informative but the question and answer period after is often the audience's favorite. It's an opportunity to ask a question about your child, hear an expert's answer and be assured you are not alone," she said. "The special ed parent's community in U-46 is very supportive of each other, and we are glad to be a part of that."

The committee will again this year present a series of programs aimed primarily at educating and supporting the special needs community within U-46, though the general public is invited. The programs for the 2018-19 school year are as follows:

- SSI, SSDI, HFS, DHS, PUNS -- Understanding the Alphabet Soup.
  - Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Gail Borden Public Library, Meadows Community Rooms A-B.
- Building Self-Esteem, Self-Awareness, and Self-Advocacy.
  - Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. Poplar Creek Public Library, Meeting Room 1.
- Help Your Special Needs Child Develop Strong Relationships.
  - Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. Gail Borden Public Library, Meadows Community Rooms A-B.

Each District U-46 school can have up to five registered representatives on the CAC. If you would like to volunteer as a CAC representative, please contact the principal at one of the schools in your attendance zone. You may also apply for "At-Large-Membership" by calling the District's School & Community Relations Department at (847) 888-5000 ext. 5003.

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*School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, South Elgin, Hanover Park, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 39,000 pre-K through twelfth graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the [U-46 website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).*