

Press Clippings 03/28/2019

---Daily Herald---03/28/2019

Bullying in focus

Candidates for U-46 board share concerns at forum

By: Madhu Krishnamurthy

Is **Elgin Area School District U-46** doing enough to address bullying in schools adequately? Some school board candidates don't think so.

All the candidates discussed their concerns about the issue at a recent candidate forum.

One-term incumbent Jeanette Ward, a product manager for an international chemical company, believes the district needs to get tougher on discipline, stop differentiating based on race and students' backgrounds and hire teachers who are "stern, but fair."

"You can't have discipline based on social engineering," Ward, 45, of West Chicago, said. "U-46 has a policy to reduce the disproportionate representation of certain groups in expulsions and other discipline measures. When you have that in your policy, then discipline tends to be based on what cultural background you came from instead of the deed that was done. We need to have traditional discipline restored. Children thrive when they understand exactly where the boundaries are."

Ward added there is no substitute for parental involvement.

Ina Silva-Sobolewski, 56, of Hanover Park, a Portuguese translator/interpreter, said among the many forms of bullying is the state requiring all students, including those with limited English proficiency, to take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness in English. Standardized tests are a mandate of federal law.

"It's psychologically damaging, humiliating and frustrating to the students who can't speak English," she said. "Fifty-four percent of students in U-46 are Hispanic and they do see this as bullying. The test forces children to take an exam in a language they don't fully understand."

U-46's eight underperforming schools also have high Hispanic populations, she added.

Not all candidates see the situation so bleakly.

Kathleen Thommes, 44, an educator from Elgin, said the district's new bullying hotline has helped students and families report complaints anonymously.

"It triggers automatic investigations and conversations," she said. "Overall, I think we do need to do a few more things to try to address some of the root problems, which can be varied and differ from school to school, even student to student, community to community."

She added, the district's trauma-informed care approach to teaching in dealing with students' affected by adverse childhood experiences is helping address problems early on.

"We need to step back and (see) why are children making these choices," said Thommes, adding, teachers also need extra support. "It's a lot of work to teach some of these students."

Eva Porter, 64, a retired teacher, said education and properly trained teachers, guidance counselors and staff are key to addressing the problem.

"You have to have parental involvement because a lot of things happen outside of school, (such as) cyberbullying," said Porter, of Hanover Park.

She added the district has programs for parents to attend.

"It's not going to solve the problem, but we can certainly try to reduce the percentages of problems that occur," she said.

Daniel Hancock, 68, a retired electrical engineer from Hanover Park, said he has heard of a few cases of bullying reported at local schools, but nothing was done to stop them.

"We probably have to focus on finding ways to make sure that follow-through is done and making sure that bullying stops," he said.

Susan Kerr, 62, of Bartlett, also a one-term incumbent and a retired computer programmer/analyst, said bullying is a problem in school districts nationwide.

"We have a rather detailed student code of conduct and a board policy on bullying," she said. "I'm not sure whether the issue is our policies are not good enough or they are not being implemented in the correct way. We need to figure out why we continue to have a bullying problem."

The nature of bullying also has changed significantly with cellphones and social media, Kerr added.

"I'd like to limit cellphones in schools, but that's not going to solve the problem because things happen after school, as well," she said. "We also need to work with parents and community, and local law enforcement."

Incumbent John Devereux, 52, an actuary appointed to the board last June, said the district's bullying hotline is "a good mechanism for reporting and monitoring" that needs to be publicized more.

"(Bullying) can be addressed through well-trained staff, equipping them with tools to spot and intervene, properly staffing buildings with assistant principals, counselors, SROs (school resource officers), MTSS (Multitiered System of Supports) professionals," said Devereux, of Bartlett. "It's important to have adults in the right places to monitor and to engage with students on a personal level, to address the incidents when they happen, and then, on an ongoing basis."

Schools also should encourage students to be "upstanders" rather than "bystanders," by equipping them with tools to spot and report bullying, and "to be allies" to victims, he added.

Tina Rio, 52, of Bartlett, who works for the airline industry and aligns herself with Ward, Hancock and Silva-Sobolewski, did not participate in the forum. Attempts to reach her were unsuccessful.

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Over 8,000 students to attend ESO Ainsworth Concerts for Youth April 2-5

Submitted By: Elgin Symphony Orchestra

On April 2-5, more than 8,000 area students will attend Elgin Symphony Orchestra's Ainsworth Concerts for Youth at the Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin.

It will include every fourth-grade student in Elgin Area School District U-46, thanks to the generous support of the City of Elgin, the Snodgrass Family Fund, Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, EFS Foundation and the Ainsworth Family.

This year's program is "ESO World Tour," highlighting music from around the globe.

Resident Conductor Stephen Squires is the Captain who "pilots" a program featuring 17-year-old violinist Claire Arias-Kim. Diane Handler returns as the ESO World Tour host.

Claire Arias-Kim, 17, studies violin with Almita Vamos and is a Merit Scholarship Fellow at the Music Institute of Chicago's Academy, a training center for advanced pre-college musicians. Claire began her violin studies with Betty Haag at age 3.

At 6 years of age, she had the opportunity of performing on tour with the Magical Strings of Youth in Prague and had solo performances on the California tour. Claire was the winner of the Jacobs School of Music Summer String Academy Concerto Competition as well as winner of the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra Young Artist Concerto Competition.

Other achievements include first place in the Sejong Music Competition and Granquist Music Competition as well as prizes in the Music Festival in Honor of Confucius Competition and DePaul Concerto Festival.

Last year, Claire performed Lalo's Symphony Espagnole with the Lakeview Orchestra after winning first place in their concerto competition.

For two consecutive summers, Claire was one of 12 violinists selected to be part of the Brian Lewis Young Artists Program, a fully funded program made possible through the generosity of the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation for 10 to 12 highly gifted violinists. There she had the opportunity to perform the Mendelssohn and Saint Saens violin concertos with the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra. She was selected as a 2018 semifinalist for the 21st annual Sphinx Competition.

Claire has had violin master classes with Ilya Kaler, Vadim Gluzman, Kristof Barati, Yair Kless, Gerardo Ribeiro, Peter Herresthal, Rachel Barton-Pine and Olga Kaler as well as piano master classes with Dr. Brian Lee and Angela Yoffee.

During the summer of 2017, she was a participant of the Bowdoin International Music Festival and this summer she attended the Aspen Music Festival under a merit scholarship studying with Robert Lipsett.

The ESO youth concerts are named in honor of longtime sponsor Sterling "Stu" Ainsworth of St. Charles, who died last May.

For more information about a class field trip to the Hemmens Cultural Center in Elgin to hear the ESO, contact Wendy Evans, director of community engagement, at w.evans@elginsymphony.org or (847) 888-0404, ext. 238.

The ESO Ainsworth Concerts for Youth, led by Resident Conductor Stephen Squires, are designed to introduce children in grades 2-8 to the fundamentals of music. Teachers are given educational materials in advance to help enhance learning.

The ESO partners with **U-46 schools** to provide complimentary tickets to the concerts, offering access to many who otherwise would not have a classical music concert experience.

The 2019 concerts includes works by Leonard Bernstein, Li Huanzhi, Percy Grainger, Henryk Wieniawski and Alex Shapiro. Also featured is the Suite from the movie "Frozen," arranged by Krogstad.

The concerts are named in honor of longtime sponsor, ESO board member and 2017 Illinois Council of Orchestras' Volunteer of the Year Sterling Ainsworth.

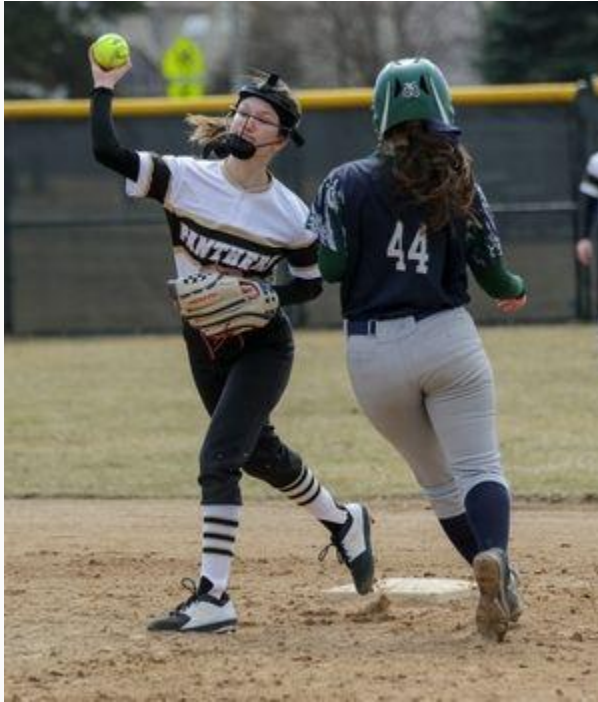
For more information, see ElginSymphony.org.

SPORTS

---Daily Herald---03/28/2019

Softball: Scheitler, Glenbard North powers past Bartlett

By: D.J. Wanberg



Bartlett's Abby Tomillo, right, is out at second as Glenbard North's Lizzie Slobedecki, left, makes a double play during softball in Carol Stream on Wednesday. - Bev Horne | Staff Photographer

Glenbard North senior pitcher Kaitlyn Scheitler helped her own cause for the second softball game in a row.

She sent a 2-2 pitch over the center-field fence to tie the game at 1 in the Panthers' half of the first inning Wednesday at home against Bartlett. Glenbard North scored four more runs to prevail 5-3.

It was her fourth home run of the season as the Panthers moved to 2-0. She had eight all of last season.

"I'm kind of surprised about how well I'm hitting. I don't expect to hit a home run," Scheitler said.

In the pitching circle she went the distance to get the victory, giving up just six hits and striking out four.

Bartlett (0-2) scored the game's first run when Riley Scrivner reached on a throwing error and scored on a wild pitch.

The Hawks took a 2-1 lead in the third. Amanda Frieden singled to right and scored thanks to Charlotte Linnatz's groundout.

The Panthers took the lead for good in the bottom of the third. Skylar Pineda, the team's No. 9 hitter, doubled to center and came home when Isabella Eggert reached second on a throwing error. She scored on a wild pitch.

Scheitler said the team was eager to rally and grab the lead back.

"We got up in the dugout and got real excited. We got the hits and took the lead," she said.

Glenbard North made it 5-2 in the fifth. Eggert reached on an infield hit and Scheitler was intentionally walked for the second time. They both scored on a dropped flyball that put Lucy Rogers on second.

"(Scheitler) doesn't get many pitches, but when she does, she hits them hard," said Panthers coach Josh Sanew. "We have players around her in the lineup that can hit and so they have to pitch to her."

Bartlett got one more run in the sixth. Linnatz led off with a double and scored on Abby Tomillo's single.

Bartlett starting pitcher Lizzy Jacoby turned in a solid outing, pitching five innings, allowing just four hits and striking out 11. Reliever Niki Campo pitched the sixth, setting the Glenbard North lineup down in order.

"Lizzy pitched phenomenally well," said Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith. "The only walks she gave up were the intentional ones. I loved how she commanded the strike zone. When she got wild, she battled back. Her ball was definitely moving."

Glenbard North resumes play Monday at Waubonsie Valley, while Bartlett heads to Tennessee for a weekend tournament.

"For 15 years I have told them all I want is good softball. Today was not good, but it was better," Wolfsmith said.