

Press Clippings - August 3, 2023

- Elgin Courier News-

Elgin News Digest: Food bank holding pop-up mobile market Saturday at ECC; two Elgin townhomes badly damaged in early morning fire; Rock the Fox being held this weekend in Carpentersville

By: Mike Danahey
August 02, 2023

School District U-46 holding job fair this Saturday in Elgin

School District U-46 will hold a job fair from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 5, at the U-46 Welcome Center, 1019 E. Chicago St., Elgin.

Same-day interviews will be available for part- and full-time vacancies, including teaching, groundskeeping, bus driving and other positions, a U-46 social media release said.

To learn more about job openings in U-46, see u-46.org/careers.

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

- The Examiner -

IGA ratified with U-46 for Hawk Hollow conversion

By: Seth Hancock
August 2, 2023

The Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with School District U-46 regarding the conversion of Hawk Hollow from an elementary school to a middle school at its meeting Tuesday, July 18.

Hawk Hollow is off of Jacaranda Drive and surrounds single-family homes. The conversion, with U-46 plans to open the middle school by the 2025-2026 school year, is expected to increase enrollment from a current 292 students to up to 750, and the project includes a two-story addition and two parking lots with plans for two entrances/exits compared to one currently. There were 13 public comments made that evening, most of which opposed

the plan due to safety concerns from increased traffic.

Trustees have also expressed similar concerns, but they felt the IGA addresses those concerns with a cost sharing agreement with **U-46** in place for any improvement projects needed.

“The school district will collaborate with the Village on the traffic study over the next two years and has agreed to a cost sharing agreement for intersection improvements deemed necessary by the traffic study,” wrote Kristy Stone, planning and development services director, in a memo.

The IGA states: “The School District agrees to collaborate with the Village in revising its Construction Plan to include that the School District will participate in a Traffic Study (‘Study’) for the time prior to the opening of the Middle School on the Subject Property, approximately two years. The School District and Village agree that the Study will include an analysis of peak times of use at the following intersections: Struckman Drive/Gerber Road and East Schick Road; Gerber Road and West Army Trail Road.”

If improvements are needed based on the traffic studies, **U-46** “will contribute costs to an intersection improvement project proportional to the School District’s overall use as documented in the Traffic Study or any Additional Study,” the IGA adds.

The district also “agrees to collaborate with the Village in conducting the Additional Study for a period of time of two years following the opening of the Middle School on the Subject Property,” the IGA states.

Village officials stated the IGA is in effect for 10 years and there are provisions for additional traffic studies with the cost-sharing remaining in effect throughout.

- The Examiner -

School traffic issues foster ordinance amendments

By: Seth Hancock

August 2, 2023

At its meeting on Tuesday, July 18, the Village Board of Trustees unanimously approved two ordinance amendments relating to changes at **Prairieview Elementary School**.

Included were no parking zones as well as prohibitions on left turns on certain streets near Prairieview, which is located along Mayflower Lane.

A memo from Tyler Isham, assistant director of public works, stated both changes were due “to resident and safety concerns with the increase in students enrolled at **Prairieview Elementary School**.”

Enrollment has been trending down at **Prairieview** with drops every year since 2019, according to the Illinois State Board of Education’s annual report card. It’s dropped from

342 students in 2019 to 315 in 2022.

During school hours, no parking zones will be at the south side of Mayflower Lane from Mohawk Court to the school's entrance, the north and south sides of Mayflower Lane from Marlboro Court to Newcastle Lane and the west side of Beaumont Circle from 200 feet south of the school's entrance to the Beaumont Circle/Mayflower Lane intersection.

"The Police and Public Works Departments have reviewed the locations referenced ... for a potential no parking zone location. This would be to allow for safer movement of emergency vehicles and school traffic Other safety enhancements include eliminating the parking lanes and creating a designated left-turn lane for entrance into the school," Isham wrote.

The other ordinance amendment creates a no left turn on school days from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at northbound Beaumont Circle onto westbound Mayflower Lane.

Isham wrote: "The Police and Public Works Departments have reviewed the location referenced ... for no left turns during the times designated. This would be to allow for safer movement of emergency vehicles and pedestrian traffic Other safety enhancements will include the removal of the parking lanes and a dedicated left-turn lane for the school entrance."

- The Examiner -

Various expenses garner unanimous U-46 approval

By: Seth Hancock

August 2, 2023

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** unanimously approved, by a 7-0 vote, of \$2.7 million in expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, July 17

The largest item was \$1 million, from the education fund, for a one-year contract renewal with Special Education Systems Incorporated.

The contract is for an "interim alternative education setting" for "in-district interim placement for students in grades K-8," the proposal states.

A \$132,444 (education) curriculum proposal was approved to add three computer programming courses, Computer Programming I and II as well as Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science A, and Computer Game Design I and II courses for Career and Technical Education (CTE).

"The Information Systems program of study has many opportunities for students to

succeed with a variety of career options,” the proposal states. “We examined the entire program of study to determine how our courses can align to best meet the needs of today’s students while preparing them for post-secondary college and career opportunities. CTE also examined the expansion of business courses to support the discontinuation of Web Design courses.”

Related to CTE were contract renewals for resources from Project Lead the Way (\$34,600) and Goodheart Willcox (\$31,815), both from the education fund. Other education fund items were a proposal with New Meridian (\$66,102) for a professional development system and a proposal from Scholastic (\$63,418) for a district wide Scholastic News subscription.

Several tort fund items were presented including a \$469,221 contract with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust for liability insurance, a \$279,079 contract renewal with Illinois Public Risk Fund for workers’ compensation insurance and a \$100,666 contract renewal with CAN Insurance for property insurance.

Several items to be paid by the nation's taxpayers through federal grants were approved including a one-year contract renewal with Northwestern Illinois Association (\$245,380) for hearing and vision supervision and services, Geneva Hearing Services (\$214,000) for audiology services and with CDW (\$63,400) for continued usage of Zoom.

The board also voted 7-0 to approve \$20.6 million in itemized bills.

- The Examiner -

Dist. U-46 Board to vote upon \$6.5 million expense items

**By: Seth Hancock
August 2, 2023**

The Board of Education in **School District U-46** is set to vote on \$6.5 million in expenditure proposals at its upcoming meeting on Monday, Aug. 7.

The items were presented on July 17. The largest item is a \$3.4million amendment to a service agreement, paid from the education fund if approved, split between Right at School (\$1.9 million) and the Boys and Girls Club of Elgin (\$1.5 million).

It is for before and after school programs for students at 12 elementary schools, and the amendment specifies “that the district will pay the program costs for participating students at schools in **U-46** identified as Schools for Rigor and Equity,” the proposal states.

A bid for 8,500 Chromebooks was presented with a price tag of \$2.9 million (operations and maintenance fund) from Vivacity Technologies.

“Student devices distributed during the COVID-19 pandemic are in need of replacement,” the proposal states. “A four-year replacement schedule will be implemented during the 2023-2024 school year. Each year, students in first, fifth, and ninth grades will receive new Chromebooks.”

A contract with American Association of School Administrators has a cost of \$76,000 (education fund). It is for participation in the National Principal Supervisor’s Academy which “is in-person and convenes for two days, three times per year (6 total days) in Mesa, Arizona. Seven Executive Directors and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools will attend these sessions,” the proposal states.

Costing \$70,000 (education fund), the district seeking contract with Dr. Michelle Thompson of MQDI 4 Kids, LLC “to provide continuity of curriculum and instruction work as the Language and Libraries goes through a leadership transition,” the proposal states.

The district is also seeking \$55,220 (education fund) for a contract with Baragar Systems, which provides software for “enrollment projections and prepare boundary proposals,” the proposal states. “The suite also includes tools to assist with teacher staffing, as well as determine capital and functional space needs across all locations.”