

Press Clippings - 4/24/2024

- Chicago Tribune/ The Courier News - Public hearing for former Bartlett HS principal moved to April 29 as his attorney seeks settlement deal

By: Mike Danhey

Date: April 23, 2024



A public hearing for Michael Demovsky, the Bartlett High School principal demoted to teacher by the District U-46 School Board, is scheduled for Monday at the U-46 Educational Services Center in Elgin.

A public hearing on Michael Demovsky's reclassification from principal of **Bartlett High School** to teacher in the wake of a grade changing investigation will be held Monday, April 29, a District U-46 spokeswoman said.

"The meeting is a public hearing, which gives the subject the opportunity to provide public comment to the (school) board on the subject of the reclassification," Karla Jiménez said.

Steven Glink, Demovsky's attorney, said he has been working on his client's behalf to resolve the issue via a settlement agreement. If a deal can't be reached by Monday, the hearing will take place, he said.

"If the hearing happens, the board will get the opportunity to listen to what voters have to say," he said.

Demovsky's March removal from the position he held for 16 years stems from charges that he wrongly changes grades assigned by students' teachers, Glink has said. Demovsky has countered through his attorney that he was following the district's credit recovery procedures, which allows a student improve their grade if they do additional work to earn it.

Any principal or assistant principal who has been reclassified has the right to ask for a

public hearing before the board under state statute, Jiménez said. Initially, the hearing had been scheduled for this past Monday as part of the regular school board meeting.

No time has been set for the hearing but it will take place in the the boardroom at the U-46 Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago St. in Elgin, Jiménez said. The hearing also will be available to be viewed on the U-46 YouTube channel.

The situation was made public when Demovsky was placed on leave in March pending an investigation into “administrative practices.” He was officially discharged from his job and reclassified as a teacher at the April 8 school board meeting.

Board members have declined to discuss the situation, citing personnel rules designed to keep employee information confidential.

At the April 8 meeting, board member Dawn Martin, a Bartlett resident, responded to pushback from residents and students wanting to know more about the situation and voicing support for Demovsky.

“It’s not about hiding things from our community or not being transparent,” she said.

Demovsky’s base salary for the current school year is \$154,690, according to information on the U-46 website. If he returns to teaching, his salary will be reduced and commensurate with what the position pays.

Melanie Meidel, a retired U-46 high school principal and assistant superintendent, is serving as interim principal for the remainder of the school year.

Prior to being named principal at Bartlett, Demovsky was principal of Kenyon Woods Middle School in South Elgin, assistant principal at Streamwood High School and a teacher at Bartlett High School. In 2017, he was a top 10 finalist for the Golden Apple Foundation’s Stanley C. Golder Achievement Leadership Award.

- The Examiner -

U-46 to obtain property for Elgin middle school

By: Seth Hancock

Date: April 24, 2024

Despite some concerns and pushback from the public, School District U-46 is moving forward with plans on a new middle school in Elgin.

The Board of Education unanimously approved, with a 7-0 vote, of the purchase of 12.3 acres of land at 2604 Rohrssen Road at its meeting on Monday, March 18.

This is the planned site for the new middle school. There was no board discussion.

The sale price is \$600,000 and is being bought from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

In July 2023, the board approved letters of intent to purchase the property. The district provided no specifics at that time on how it planned to use the property, nor did the board ask for any.

Two public comments were made against the plan at the meeting, including Paul Halverson who said this shows the board will say one thing and do another. These were among several public comments made at meetings this year from residents who supported the district's bond referendum in 2023 but feel the district has broken its promises.

"This appears to be more evidence of the Board of Education saying one thing and then doing something else just as the Board of Education did with the April 2023 referendum," Halverson said.

Halverson added: "Your legacy will be one of significant impact to the broken trust that public officials have with the public... How does the community trust what you say and what you will do? This is no small event. Building middle schools and spending over \$200 million more than planned was purposefully, and by design, not shared with the public prior to the referendum vote. There is no plausible explanation that within two months of the referendum passage that action was taken by the district for a letter of intent to purchase property for a new middle school."

In the April 4, 2023 election, voters approved of a referendum for \$179.6 million in new debt for building new schools and projects on existing schools.

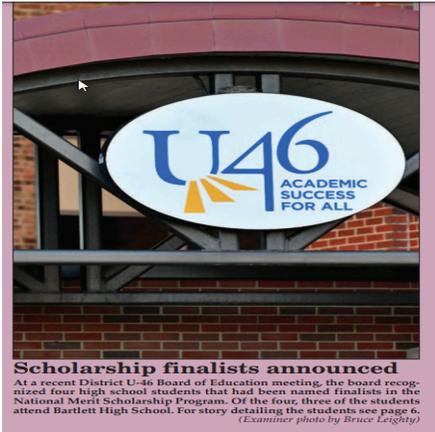
That was based on plans from a committee, which included residents, that was approved by the board in December 2022. That committee, and later the board, recommended a plan that focused on elementary schools, including construction of new ones with no new middle schools recommended, with a total cost of \$310 to \$380 million.

That \$310 to \$380 million plan is now \$542 million, according to a Jan. 22, 2024 presentation to the board, with \$110 million for the new middle school and \$85 million for additions at Kimball and Kenyon Woods middle school. The Board of Education in School District 93 unanimously approved contract renewals for 94 staff members and tenure for 17 at its meeting on Thursday, April 11.

- The Examiner -

Four U-46 students named National Merit finalists

By: Seth Hancock
Date: April 24, 2024



Scholarship finalists announced At a recent District U-46 Board of Education meeting, the board recognized four high school students that had been named finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Of the four, three of the students attend Bartlett High School.

The Board of Education in School District U-46 recognized four high school students at its meeting on Monday, April 8.

The students included Raiyan Hasan, Macy Medendorp and Arav Patel of Bartlett High School as well as Samantha Havener of Elgin High School who were named finalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

“Their selection keeps these students in the competition for approximately 7,500 scholarships that will be offered in spring 2024,” said Superintendent Suzanne Johnson. “To qualify, the students took the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. They advanced to the finals based on their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received.”

There’s about \$28 million in scholarships that will be given to the 7,500 winners.

Some of the finalists were in attendance for the board meeting.

Hasan is undecided for college but is looking at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Georgia Institute of Technology, according to a district press release.

“I enjoyed my time at U-46, and one of my favorite parts was the class environment of Bartlett High’s STEM Academy,” Hasan said. “All of my teachers have been very supportive and helpful, and my classmates motivate me to do my best.”

Patel is also undecided on college but plans to study business or engineering.

“My U-46 education was highlighted by teachers who care,” Patel said. “Each year, I’ve had a teacher on my side for more than just the 50 minutes allotted per day. Whether it be through the struggles of the college process or simply being in high school, I always had at least one teacher I could turn to for guidance.”

Havener is also undecided but has been accepted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She plans to study mechanical engineering with a robotics focus.

- Chicago Tribune - Chloe Ricard rockets up charts behind plate for South Elgin. And there’s more. ‘Love giving back to the game.’

**By: Rick Armstrong
Date: April 23, 2024**



South Elgin’s Chloe Ricard (17) watches her double to the fence in right-center against Larkin during the fifth inning of an Upstate Eight Conference game in South Elgin on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Junior catcher Chloe Ricard does more than just handle the pitching staff for **South Elgin**.

But when it comes to her working with junior left-hander Anna Kiel, that’s a pretty good place to start for the Storm. And it led to a day for both of them to remember Monday afternoon.

“Just her presence behind the dish brings a lot to the table,” South Elgin coach Brad Reynard said. “We love Chloe’s all-around game. I’ve even been letting her call some of the pitches, too.

“She’s got a good feeling for a lot of our rotation and has been doing a great job with Anna — really developed that connection.”

Kiel kept it going against Larkin, retiring the first nine batters she faced on strikeouts and pitching her first no-hitter of the season in a 10-0 Upstate Eight Conference victory in five innings.

Already this season, Kiel had thrown a one-hitter and a pair of two-hitters to Ricard for South Elgin (13-7, 8-0). This time, she was on fire as the Storm sealed their hold on first place in conference.

“It may be in the back of your mind, but I didn’t really realize it,” Kiel said of the no-hitter. “It didn’t really matter to me.”

Focusing on the next hitter did as the Loyola recruit finished with 11 strikeouts and came one hit batter away from a perfect game.



South Elgin’s Chloe Ricard (17) follows through on a hit for a double against Larkin during the fifth inning of an Upstate Eight Conference game in South Elgin on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Senior outfielder Brynn Kerber was hit by a pitch on the elbow with two outs in the fourth inning and ended up being the only baserunner for Larkin (8-9, 5-3).

Ricard, meanwhile, provided Kiel all the support she would need with a pair of RBI doubles that went to the fence in the right-center power alley. Freshman second baseman Adreana Hauser added three RBIs with a triple and sacrifice fly.

Kiel (9-5), who lowered her ERA to 2.14, now has 103 strikeouts in 81 2/3 innings.

“Once you get to two strikes, you can mix it up and throw chase pitches,” Kiel said. “If they don’t chase, I just go back to hitting the zone.”

“I was just throwing my regular spins, curveball inside and outside, screwball and a change-up that’s come a long way this season for a chase. Then, a riseball to set up a pitch or two.”

Kiel shared with Ricard the team’s Hard Hat Award, presented after each win by the coaches to the player or players who made an impact.



Larkin’s Brynn Kerber (7) stands on first base after being hit by a pitch against South Elgin during an Upstate Eight Conference game in South Elgin on Monday, April 22, 2024.

“It’s good,” Kiel said of her work with Ricard. “She’s like a wall. She doesn’t let pitches go past.”

“I trust her calling pitches, too. Even if I don’t like something and shake her off, she’ll most likely know what I want to throw. It’s good to be on the same page.”

Ricard said one-on-one training with former Kaneland coach Mike Kuefler since she was 12 has done a lot to improve her performance behind the plate.

“He’s one of my favorite coaches I’ve ever worked with,” she said of the Elburn-based Kuefler. “I’ve seen such improvement both physically and mentally.”

Ricard has even taken it a step further, renting space from Kuefler at his facility and offering lessons herself to young catchers.



South Elgin's Mia Speidel (2) steals second base against Larkin during an Upstate Eight Conference game in South Elgin on Monday, April 22, 2024.

"I love teaching what I feel I do well and love giving back to the game," said Ricard, an only child who got into the sport through a community program and was encouraged by neighbor Maya Brito, a South Elgin graduate who's playing in the outfield for Waubensee Community College.

"Great kid, hard-nosed," Kuefler said of Ricard. "She works the zone really well back there and does a nice job."

Reynard likens that to her effort on offense. She's hitting .312 this spring after batting .317 last season with two homers and 18 RBIs.

"Chloe had a little bit of a slow start — I know she was pressing," Reynard said. "But we know what an effective hitter she is. She can be a doubles machine."

"She hits it hard and has always played like an older player."

- Daily Herald -

High school scores for April 23

Date: April 23, 2024



Benet's Annie Fitzgerald (10) is greeted by her teammate after scoring a late goal against St. Viator
tuesday, April 23, 2024 in Lisle

Softball

Benet 4, Downers Grove North 3
Elk Grove 16, Schaumburg 6 (6 Inn.)
Glenbard South 14, **Elgin** 1 (5 Inn.)
Harvest Christian 28, Alden Hebron 18
Hinsdale Central 13, Addison Trail 8
Huntley 19, Jacobs 1 (4 Inn.)
IC Catholic Prep 6, St. Francis 5
Larkin 10, Glenbard East 4
Maine South 1, Glenbrook South 0
Maine South 1, Glenbrook South 0
Maine West 2, Vernon Hills 1
Montini 10, Mother McAuley 9
Mundelein 21, Waukegan 0
Naperville Central 17, Naperville North 13
Neuqua Valley 6, Metea Valley 5
Niles North 3, Maine East 2
Niles West 8, Leyden 3
Oswego East 8, Aurora Central Catholic 1
Prairie Ridge 6, Hampshire 3
Resurrection 4, Palatine 2
Riverside-Brookfield 11, Hinsdale South 0 (5 Inn.)
South Elgin 15, East Aurora 0 (3 Inn.)
Stevenson 7, Warren 6
Waubonsie Valley 14, DeKalb 2
Wauconda 16, Grayslake Central 8
West Chicago 18, **Streamwood** 0 (4 Inn.)
Wheaton Warrenville South 2, Glenbard West 1
Willowbrook 3, Lyons 0
Wilmington 18, Lisle 3 (4 Inn.)

Girls soccer

Benet 4, St. Viator 2
Burlington Central 6, McHenry 0
Cary-Grove 2, Prairie Ridge 1
Crystal Lake Central 6, Crystal Lake South 0
Downers Grove North 1, Glenbard West 0
Geneva 2, Batavia 0

Glenbard East 8, **Streamwood** 0
Glenbrook South 1, Maine South 0
Grayslake Central 2, Grayslake North 0
Huntley 5, Hampshire 2
Lakes 6, Wauconda 0
Lyons 2, Hinsdale Central 1
Metea Valley 3, Wheaton Warrenville South 1
Providence Catholic 9, Rosary 0
South Elgin 6, East Aurora 1
St. Francis 4, Mother McAuley 1
St. Laurence 1, Aurora Central Catholic 0
Stevenson 4, Mundelein 0
Timothy Christian 5, Bishop McNamara 0
Vernon Hills 3, Niles West 0
Warren 2, Lake Zurich 2
West Chicago 3, **Elgin** 1
Westminster Christian 2, Westlake Christian Academy 1
Westmont 7, Schaumburg Christian 0
Wheaton Academy 9, Chicago Christian 0

Boys volleyball

Benet d. Marian Catholic 27-25, 17-25, 25-18
Carmel d. Huntley 25-13, 25-21
Conant d. Schaumburg 25-20, 25-19
Grant d. Grayslake North 25-16, 25-15
Grayslake Central d. Antioch 25-18, 25-18
Hinsdale South d. Leyden 25-13, 25-18
Lake Park d. Glenbard North 25-14, 25-18
Lake Zurich d. Glenbrook North 25-19, 25-20
Marmion Academy d. Waubonsie Valley 25-18, 25-20
Metea Valley d. Neuqua Valley 23-25, 25-17, 25-14
Oak Park-River Forest d. Hinsdale Central 25-20, 25-13
Streamwood d. Glenbard South 25-20, 25-6
Timothy Christian d. Chicago Christian 20-25, 25-18, 25-17
West Chicago d. Fenton 25-11, 25-12
Wheaton Academy d. St. Edward 25-23, 26-24
Wheaton Warrenville South 25-17, Wheaton North 25-13
Willowbrook d. Downers Grove South 25-22, 19-25, 25-19
York d. Downers Grove North 25-19, 25-21

Upcoming

Wednesday, Apr 24

Baseball

Barrington at Fremd, 4:45 p.m.

Bartlett at Elgin, 4:30 p.m.

Burlington Central at Jacobs, 4:30 p.m.

Cary-Grove at Hampshire, 4:30 p.m.

Conant at Hoffman Estates, 4:45 p.m.

Crystal Lake South at Huntley, 4:30 p.m.

Dundee Crown at Prairie Ridge, 4:30 p.m.

Elk Grove at Prospect, 4:45 p.m.

Fenton at West Chicago, 4:30 p.m.

Glenbard East at East Aurora, 4:30 p.m.

Glenbard South at **Streamwood**, 4:30 p.m.

Glenbrook North at St. Viator, 4:45 p.m.

Grant at Wauconda, 4:30 p.m.

Grayslake Central at Round Lake, 4:30 p.m.

Grayslake North at Antioch, 4:45 p.m.

Harvest Christian at Byron, 4:30 p.m.

Hersey at Buffalo Grove, 4:45 p.m.

Larkin at South Elgin, 4:30 p.m.

Lincoln Way West at Downers Grove North, 4:30 p.m.

Oswego East at York, 4:30 p.m.

Palatine at Schaumburg, 4:45 p.m.

Ridgewood at IC Catholic Prep, 4:30 p.m.

Rolling Meadows at Wheeling, 4:45 p.m.

Sycamore at Kaneland, 4:30 p.m.

Boys lacrosse

Antioch at Grayslake North, 7 p.m.

Buffalo Grove at Niles Notre Dame, 6:30 p.m.

Geneva at Hampshire, 6:30 p.m.

Grant at Grayslake Central, 6:30 p.m.

Jacobs at Cary-Grove, 6:30 p.m.

Lake Zurich at Libertyville, 6:30 p.m.

Mundelein at Warren, 6:45 p.m.

Naperville Central at Neuqua Valley, 6:30 p.m.

Naperville North at Metea/Waubonsie Valley, 6:30 p.m.

South Elgin at St. Charles East, 7 p.m.

St. Viator at Glenbard West, 5:30 p.m.

Stevenson at Lake Forest, 6:45 p.m.

Wauconda at Lakes, 4:30 p.m.

Girls lacrosse

Cary-Grove/Crystal Lake Co-op at McHenry, 5 p.m.
Hinsdale Central at New Trier, 7 p.m.
Lake Forest at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
Lane Tech at Montini, 5 p.m.
Libertyville at Lake Zurich, 7 p.m.
Maine South at Glenbrook South, 6:15 p.m.
Metea/Waubonsie Valley Co-op at Naperville North, 6:30 p.m.
Neuqua Valley at Naperville Central, 6:30 p.m.
Prospect at **Streamwood**, 5 p.m.
Sandburg at Wheaton Co-op, 6:30 p.m.
St. Francis at Rosary, 4:30 p.m.
Warren at Mundelein, 6:15 p.m.

Boys volleyball

Barrington at Glenbrook South, 6 p.m.
Bartlett at Wheaton North, 5:30 p.m.
Benet at Metea Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Downers Grove North at Naperville North, 5:30 p.m.
Elmwood Park at Addison Trail, 5:30 p.m.
Hinsdale South at Lyons, 5:30 p.m.
IMSA at Wheaton Academy, 5:30 p.m.
Libertyville at Lake Zurich, 6 p.m.
Maine East at Nil West, 6 p.m.
Maine West at Highland Park, 6 p.m.
Mundelein at Warren, 6 p.m.
Naperville Central at Glenbard East, 5:30 p.m.
Neuqua Valley at Hinsdale Central, 6 p.m.
Niles North at Vernon Hills, 6 p.m.
Notre Dame at Maine South, 6 p.m.
Plainfield Central at Waubonsie Valley, 5:30 p.m.
South Elgin at Schaumburg, 6 p.m.
St. Edward at Chicago Christian, 6 p.m.
St. Viator at Joliet Catholic, 6 p.m.
Streamwood at Rolling Meadows, 6 p.m.
Wheaton Warrenville South at Sandburg, 5:30 p.m.
York at Fremd, 6 p.m.

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

