

# Press Clippings - 5/30/2024

## - Daily Herald -

### Teacher acquitted of attacking preschool student

By: Susan Sarkauskas

Date: May 29, 2024

An Elgin Area **School District U-46** teacher has been acquitted of charges that he attacked a student.

Kane County Judge Julia Yetter found Patrick Keating not guilty Tuesday of aggravated battery in a public place and battery with physical contact.

Keating, 41, was a teacher at Illinois Park Center for Early Learning in Elgin.

The charges alleged he pushed a preschool student into snow on Jan. 26, 2023. The student was not hurt, police said.

Elgin preschool teacher accused of pushing student into the snow

Keating chose to have his trial before a judge, not a jury. Yetter issued a directed verdict after the prosecution rested its case.

Keating was licensed as a teacher in Illinois in 2006. He was placed on leave when the allegations were reported to the district.

## - The Examiner -

### Boundary change to keep Wayne students together

By: Seth Hancock

Date: May 28, 2024

All students from **Wayne Elementary School** will remain together in middle school despite an earlier boundary proposal from School District U-46 that would have split them up.

The Board of Education voted 6-0, board member Veronica Noland was absent, on a

boundary proposal for the future Hawk Hollow Middle School in Bartlett at its meeting on Monday, May 20.

When presented on May 6, the proposal was to have Wayne students east of the Canadian National Railway tracks attend Hawk Hollow.

But after some pushback, all Wayne students will now attend Hawk Hollow.

There were 12 public comments made at the May 20 meetings, including parents and students, who thanked the district for listening to their concerns.

Hawk Hollow is currently being converted from an elementary school to a middle school with plans to open back up in the fall of 2025.

The rest of the original boundary proposal remains the same with all students from Prairieview, Spring Trail and Sycamore elementary schools attending Hawk Hollow and students from Liberty Elementary School south of Stearns Road also attending.

“The small area of Liberty that will be assigned to the new middle school is the Charter Oaks subdivision just west of [Route 59] and north of the railroad tracks,” the proposal states. “We anticipate that this area will also be assigned to a different elementary school as part of our boundary work next year.”

Distance, consistent feeder patterns, proximity, keeping siblings together and stability were among the boundary criteria, according to the proposal.

“Our recommendation is to establish a contiguous attendance area for the new middle school in Bartlett to serve approximately 750 students when we reach full occupancy,” the proposal states. “However, our plan is to open the school with only 7th grade students in the Fall of 2025 as this would be the year before we were ready to roll 6th grade students up to middle school across the district. We didn’t feel it would be appropriate to ask 8th graders to have two consecutive transition years, so would allow them to stay at their current schools to finish middle school. This would allow us to open the building versus having it sit idle for an entire year after construction is complete.”

**- The Examiner -**  
**New officers elected by U-46 board of education**  
**By: Seth Hancock**  
**Date: May 28, 2024**

There was a change in officers for the **School District U-46** Board of Education who elected a new president, vice president and secretary pro-tem all by 7-0 votes at its Monday, May 6 meeting.

The board annually holds an election of officers. Melissa Owens, first elected to the board in 2017, was elected as president replacing Sue Kerr, who was elected in 2015 and has been the president since 2019.

Kerr will remain on the board with her term expiring in 2027.

“I just want to recognize and thank Miss Kerr,” Owens said. “You have been board president since 2019, and if my math is mathing correctly, that is five years as board president. You have led us through some pretty significant items within the last five years.”

Owens added: “I’m glad you are not going anywhere because I have a very big seat to fill here, and you’ve been my mentor since I have stepped onto this board. And I am sure that I’m going to be consulting you on occasion as I go through this process of learning this role.”

Kete Thommes was elected vice president replacing Owens who was in that role, and Chandra Schwartz will be secretary pro-tem replacing Thommes.

The board also recognized outgoing student advisor to the board Yumna Hashmi, and the oath of office was administered to new student advisor Mahitha Ratakonda.

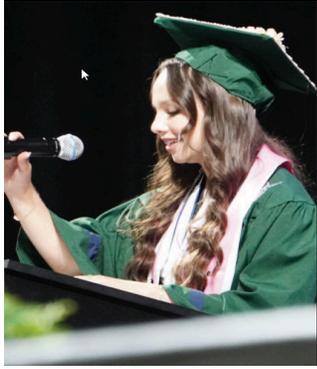
“I want to thank the board for being so open and inviting,” Hashmi said. “I had a great time, and it was a great experience.”

Ratakonda, an Elgin High School junior, was selected by the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council and confirmed by the board at its April 15 meeting. Dylan Szatko, a Bartlett High School junior, was selected as the alternate student advisor.

## **- The Examiner - Bartlett High School Class of 2024 takes center stage**

**By: Seth Hancock**

**Date: May 28, 2024**



Class President address Bartlett High School Class of 2024 President Kimberly Diaz delivers “Our Time” to fellow students during the graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 25.

The **Bartlett High School** Class of 2024 graduated nearly 600 students on Saturday, May 25, at 8 a.m. at the NOW Center Arena in Hoffman Estates. Kimberly Diaz was class president; Ruth Azusena Espinosa, class vice president; Jennifer Penna Cuazitl, class secretary; Muzna Ali, class treasurer; and Saskia Jean, class historian. Diaz delivered a presentation entitled “Our Time” and student speaker Brooke Kalish delivered the class statement. The class motto was “Livin’ La Vida Loca.”



Students in the Class of 2024 look at the seated audience



The Class of 2024 celebrates their last day of high school by tossing their caps into the air.



The video billboard shows U-46 Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson congratulating the class of 2024.



Bartlett High School Associate Principal Aaron Wichman delivering his introduction and remarks.



Students applauding speakers.



Class of 2024 students look to their parents in the audience

## **- Daily Herald - High school scores for May 29 Date: May 29, 2024**



Conant's Josh Barnett slides into second base as Libertyville's Trevor Wallace stretches for the throw in the Class 4A Stevenson baseball sectional semifinal game on Wednesday, May 19, 2024.

Baseball

IHSA Sectional semifinals

Class 4A

At Lane

Glenbrook North 7, Elk Grove 2

At Hampshire

McHenry 5, Hampshire 4

Huntley 6, Barrington 3

At Stevenson

Stevenson 6, Prospect 2

Conant 16, Libertyville 4

At Plainfield North

Downers Grove North 3, Neuqua Valley 1

Waubonsie Valley 3, Plainfield North 0

At St. Charles North

St. Charles North 3, **South Elgin** 2  
York 9, Lake Park 1  
Class 3A  
At Grayslake Central  
Crystal Lake Central 5, Cary-Grove 1  
Deerfield 6, Crystal Lake South 3  
At Sycamore  
Sycamore 4, Wheaton Academy 2  
Burlington Central 5, Benet Academy 0

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