

Press Clippings - 7/31/2024

- Chicago Tribune/Courier News - Elgin News Digest: ECC Project Backpack school supply giveaway being held Saturday;

By: Mike Danahey

Date: July 30, 2024



The 15th annual Project Backpack, a school supply giveaway event, will be held Saturday on the campus of Elgin Community College.

ECC Project Backpack school supply giveaway set for Saturday

Project Backpack, a community-based school supply giveaway event, will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, in the Building J Spartan Events Center and outside Building C on the campus of Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive.

Now in its 15th year, Project Backpack distributes backpacks filled with school supplies on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of one backpack per student, according to a news release.

Students who provide proof of residence for fall 2024 enrollment in school districts U-46, 300, 301, 303 and 20 or at ECC are eligible.

For more information, go to project-backpack.org or call 847-214-7370.

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

- The Examiner -

U-46 Board of Education votes on state legislation

By: Seth Hancock

Date: July 31, 2024

Members of the School District U-46 Board of Education voted down, with a 0-7 vote, a resolution affirming support for House Bill 4186 in the Illinois General Assembly, at its Monday, June 24 meeting.

HB4186 was filed on Oct. 23, 2023 and there's been no action on it since January of this year.

The bill is aimed towards making it easier for student schedules to seek career and technical courses by dropping the requirement for two years of foreign language coursework for one year instead for graduation requirements.

The resolution stated of the bill that it “allows a pupil to take one year of a foreign language course (rather than 2 years), if, upon completing one year of foreign language coursework, the pupil, the pupil's parent or guardian, and the school counselor meet to discuss the pupil’s postsecondary education or career goals.

“Although voted down, the action was primarily for cleaning up language in case the legislation sees amendments that the board didn’t support. The board, which generally agreed with the intent of HB4186, plans to have further discussions to potentially clean up the language of the resolution.

Board member Dawn Martin, however, did express some opposition to the legislation itself stating she’d like to see more “generic” legislation that affirms “local control.”

The board did unanimously approve, via a 7-0 vote, of a resolution supporting state legislation that would affirm that attainment of the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy would satisfy world language requirements for graduation.

Similar to the HB4186 resolution, the board did have some concerns with the language which they cleared up that evening. It was amended to change the word “generally” to “may” to clarify that attainment of the seal of biliteracy does not automatically equate to college credits at every state college or university.

The resolution, as amended, states: “The Seal of Biliteracy was established in Illinois to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or

more languages in addition to English.... The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy is designated on a student's transcript and diploma.... The Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy may translate into foreign language course credit at public colleges and universities."

- The Examiner - Lack of quorum in U-46 defers review of proposals

By: Seth Hancock

Date: July 31, 2024

The Board of Education in School District U-46 had to cancel its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, July 22 due to a lack of quorum.

A special board meeting was held on Monday, July 29 where the July 22 agenda was applied.

Superintendent Suzanne Johnson made the announcement on the district's YouTube page on July 22. "We did have a board meeting scheduled to occur this evening," Johnson said. "However, due to a lack of quorum for board members, we are unable to proceed with our regularly scheduled board meeting for this evening."

The board requires four of its seven members to constitute a quorum, according to Board Policy 2:220 (board of education meeting procedure" which states a "majority of the full membership of the Board constitutes a quorum."

The July 29 agenda included proposals for \$14.5 million in expenditure items that are slated for approval at the Aug. 5 regularly scheduled meeting.

Included are four bids including \$5.5 million (education fund) for Chromebook replacement, \$1.1 million (operations and maintenance fund) for waste management and recycling services, \$468,512 (education) for computer interactive displays and mobile carts and \$285,874 for food service equipment.

Proposals included \$1.8 million (education) for virtual desktop infrastructure, \$650,818 (education) for Advanced Placement exams and \$42,498 (operations and maintenance) for entryway replacement at Canton Middle School.

Contract renewals included \$518,048 and \$317,778 (both tort fund) for liability and workers' compensation insurance respectively, \$302,468 (grant funds) for special education teachers' coaching support, \$238,195 (grants) for deaf and hard of hearing

and vision supervision services, \$186,800 (education) for firewall, \$164,103 (education) for software integration of Snap & Read and Co:Writer, \$153,750 (Title III and education funds) for dual language assessments, \$106,934 (education) for Scholastic News purchase, \$99,048 (education) for PSAT exams, \$67,500 (education) for post-secondary planning support and \$61,146 for Cognitive Abilities tests.

Additional contracts include \$1.4 million (grants) for speech therapy services, \$570,000 (grants) for psychological services) and \$457,157 (education) for data warehouse maintenance and support.