

Press Clippings - 9/04/2024

- The Examiner -

U-46 Board of Education approves varied expense

By: Seth Hancock

Date: September 04, 2024

The Board of Education in School District U-46 approved of \$14.5 million in expenditure items at its meeting on Monday, Aug. 5.

The vote was 5-0, board members Samreen Khan and Melissa Owens were absent. The largest items were education fund items, including \$5.5 million with Vivacity Technologies for purchase of Chromebooks and \$1.8 million with CDW-G for Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI).

The district will purchase 14,500 Chromebooks. Vivacity Technologies was the second lowest bidder among 11 bids.

“A four-year Chromebook replacement schedule was implemented during the 2023-2024 school year,” the proposal states. “There is also a need to replace all of the Dell Chromebooks that were purchased between 2017 and 2019, as they can no longer be used for various district and state assessments.

The proposal adds: “The lowest bid was eliminated due to not meeting technical specifications. As such, the second lowest base bid submitted by Vivacity is recommended. Vivacity’s base bid of \$379.00 per unit, is an 11.5 [percent] increase over the prior year’s Chromebook price from Vivacity, due to the higher resolution screens and the 10-year end-of-life operating system guarantee for all new Chromebooks.”

As for the CDW-G proposal, it stated the “VDI solution is necessary to support coursework that requires advanced Windows applications.”

Other education fund items include two with the College Board for Advanced Placement exams (\$650,818) and PSAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test exams (\$99,048), \$468,512 with various vendors for interactive and commercial displays as well as mobile carts, \$457,157 with PowerSchool for data warehouse maintenance and support, \$285,874 with various vendors for food service equipment, \$186,800 with Mindsight for a firewall contract, \$164,103 with Texthelp Inc. for software integration, \$106,934 for Scholastic News purchase,

\$67,500 for post-secondary planning from OneGoal and \$61,146 with Riverside Insights for cognitive abilities tests.

Operations and maintenance fund items included \$1.1 million with Lakeshore Recycling Systems for waste management and recycling services and \$42,498 with Mark Industries for entryway replacement at Canton Middle School.

A contract renewal costing \$153,750 (education and Title III funds) with Data Recognition Corporation is for the LAS Links Spanish test.

Tort fund items include contract renewals with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust for liability insurance (\$518,048) and Illinois Public Risk Fund for workers' compensation insurance (\$317,778).

Grant fund items include \$1.4 million with 11 vendors for speech therapy services, \$570,000 with four vendors for psychological services, \$302,468 with Easterseals for coaching support and \$238,195 with Northwestern Illinois Association for hearing and vision supervision services.

Also approved by a 5-0 vote was \$10.1 million in itemized bills.

- The Examiner -

Expense proposals slated for upcoming U-46 vote

By: Seth Hancock

Date: September 04, 2024

The Board of Education in School District U-46 is set to vote on \$296,422 in expenditure items at its upcoming Monday, Sept. 9 meeting. The items were presented on Aug. 19.

Included is a \$246,460 proposal, to be paid for by education funds, for foundational literacy resources.

“This proposal is for the adoption of supplementary foundational literacy resources to support preschool, kindergarten, first grade, and second grade with phonemic awareness and phonics instruction in order to build a strong foundation for reading,” the proposal states.

The proposal adds: “We will use Heggerty English and Spanish for preschool, UFLI for kindergarten through second grade, and the Sound-Spelling Transfer Kit for dual language classrooms. There are also manipulatives that include letter magnets and trays as well as whiteboards to enhance student learning.”

Costing \$49,962, to be paid by the nation's taxpayers through Title I funds, a proposal from

Catalyst for Educational Change (CEC) was presented.

CEC would provide “leadership coaching, team coaching, and professional learning sessions” at Abbott Middle School,” the proposal states.

“Abbott Middle School’s designation as a comprehensive school mandates the selection of an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approved learning partner,” the proposal states. “The proposed partnership with CEC addresses this need by fostering a collaborative environment where stakeholders are engaged in continuous improvement efforts. This plan introduces structured professional learning to build empowered teams that use data to drive student growth. This partnership aims to enhance instructional practices and improve student outcomes at Abbott Middle School.”

Additionally, the board will vote on its board meeting schedule for the 2025-2026 school year. It includes 23 regular and 10 optional meeting dates as well as a board self-evaluation on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026.

- Chicago Tribune - When Bartlett’s Martyna Sowiak committed to Western Illinois, her mom started screaming. ‘She was so excited.’

By: Paul Johnson

Date: September 3, 2024



Senior middle hitter Martyna Sowiak poses during practice at Bartlett on Friday, Aug. 30, 2024

Four years ago, Bartlett’s Martyna Sowiak couldn’t have predicted this happening.

Sowiak never even played volleyball until she got to high school and didn’t start playing club until the offseason leading up to her sophomore season.

But last week, she committed to play in college at Western Illinois.

“Hard work pays off, that’s all I can say,” Sowiak said. “It was a lot of hard work — a lot of hours pushing yourself. It’s obviously a good outcome.”

The 6-foot-1 senior middle hitter, the oldest daughter of Polish immigrants, will be the first in her family to attend college. It makes the accomplishment all the more exciting for Sowiak.

“Getting a full ride, I’m really excited and happy about that,” Sowiak said. “My parents didn’t have a lot of knowledge about (volleyball) but that made me want to reach my goal even more.”

When Sowiak was going into her sophomore season, Bartlett coach Bob Schwantz knew he had a talented player on his hands. What he didn’t know is if she knew how talented she was.

“I remember her freshman year, even sophomore year, going, ‘Is she going to be a volleyball player? Is she not?’ Schwantz said. “There was that question. Last year something turned on, between sophomore and junior year. She just said, ‘I can do this. I’m good at it.’”

When she started playing club at Pipeline, Sowiak’s eyes started to open.

“A coach there saw my potential,” Sowiak said. “He told me he thought I could play volleyball in college. That just sparked something in me and I was like, ‘I’m going to play volleyball in college.’”

That led to a solid junior season for the Hawks. The three-rotation middle hitter put down 145 kills and 80 blocks as a junior and then followed that up with another impressive club season.

“She played really well last year, was a team leader,” Schwantz said. “Now this year, she’s running practice. She’s coming in with practice plans. She’s running the show. That’s what I like.

“I like giving players ownership of the team.”

Senior setter Sarah Savoia Free, who gets her the ball offensively, noticed Sowiak’s transformation on the court.

“Last year and this year, she got so much better,” Free said. “Her play got amazing. It’s crazy, the way she’s able to get to any ball I set her. I could be off and she’s able to get it and get a kill with it.

“She’s smart with her placement. She knows exactly what to do with it no matter what.”

Since Sowiak was late to the sport to begin with, it stands to reason she also was late to the

recruiting process. She said she didn't really start diving into it until last winter. She started seeing her volleyball friends and commitments while she waited and started to get worried.

Then two weeks ago, she visited Western Illinois and fell in love.

"I don't know how to explain it," Sowiak said. "It just feels right. I just went there and felt so invited. I just felt at home there. I felt like I was wanted as a player and a person."

She didn't leave Macomb with an offer, though. She had to wait a few days for the call.

When the offer came, news spread quickly.

"My mom was eavesdropping by my door when I got the call," Sowiak said. "She was so excited and screaming. My whole family, everyone is so excited about it."

Count Schwantz among those excited for Sowiak.

"The ultimate thing is she's going to keep doing this," Schwantz said. "She's going to keep playing. She's not going to be using her skills in some intramural league. She's playing at the highest level in college, and that's what we want."

"We're just so happy for her."

- Daily Herald -

High school scores for Sept. 3

Date: September 03, 2024



Patrick Kunzer for Shaw LocalDundee-Crown's Kerrigan Svec, left, tries to get past Jacob's Ella Edgerton in varsity flag football on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, at Dundee-Crown High School in Carpentersville.

Upcoming events
Girls volleyball

Benet at Metea Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Carmel at Antioch, 6 p.m.
Elk Grove at Maine West, 6 p.m.
Fenton at Larkin, 5:30 p.m.
Fremd at Libertyville, 6 p.m.
Geneva at Waubonsie Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Glenbard North at Glenbard East, 5:30 p.m.
Glenbard South at Glenbard West, 5:30 p.m.
Grayslake North at Lake Zurich, 6 p.m.
Hinsdale South at Homewood-Flossmoor, 5:30 p.m.
Leyden at Vernon Hills, 6 p.m.
Lisle at Westmont, 6:30 p.m.
Lyons at Willowbrook, 6:00 p.m.
Mundelein at Palatine, 6 p.m.
St. Francis at Marist, 6 p.m.
St. Viator at Hoffman Estates, 6 p.m.
Stevenson at Niles North, 6 p.m.
Streamwood at Conant, 6 p.m.
Warren at Glenbrook North, 6 p.m.
Wheaton Academy at Batavia, 5:30 p.m.
Wheaton Warrenville South at Naperville North, 5:30 p.m.
Wheeling at Maine East, 5 p.m.

Boys soccer

Buffalo Grove at Lyons, 6 p.m.
Cary-Grove, Vernon Hills at Grant Invitational, 5 p.m.
Chesterton Academy of Holy Family at Westminster Christian, 5:30 p.m.
CICS/Northtown at Westmont, 5 p.m.
Leyden, Maine South, Marmion Academy, Metea Valley, St. Charles East, St. Charles North,
West Chicago at St. Charles Tournament, TBA
Lombard College Prep at IC Catholic Prep, 6:30 p.m.
Metea Valley at Hersey, 5 p.m.
Mundelein at Maine East, 5 p.m.
Oswego East at Waubonsie Valley, 6:30 p.m.
Palatine vs. Crystal Lake South at Wauconda Tournament, 4:30 p.m.
Prospect vs. Glenbard West, 5 p.m.
South Elgin at Glenbard East, 6:30 p.m.
St. Patrick at Stevenson, 6:30 p.m.
Wheaton Academy at University (Chicago), 6 p.m.
Yorkville at Batavia, 5 p.m.

Boys golf

Barrington, Prospect at Schaumburg Triangular (Schaumburg GC), 3:30 p.m.
Bishop McNamara at Aurora Christian (Phillips Park), 4:30 p.m.
Carmel, Libertyville at Vernon Hills Triangular (White Deer Run GC), 4 p.m.
Chicago Christian at Timothy Christian (Oak Brook CC), 4 p.m.

Crystal Lake Central at Dundee-Crown (Bonnie Dundee GC), 4:30 p.m.
Downers Grove South at Leyden (White Pines), 4 p.m.
Fenton at Maine West (Chick Evans GC), 4 p.m.
Geneva, Wheaton North at Batavia Triangular (Orchard Valley), 3:30 p.m.
Glenbrook South at Maine South (Wilmette GC), 4 p.m.
Hoffman Estates, Fremd at Palatine Triangular (Palatine Hills GC), 3:30 p.m.
Jacobs at Cary-Grove (Foxford Hills), 4:30 p.m.
Lakes at Grant (Valley Ridge GC), 4 p.m.
Lyons at Glenbard West (Village Links), 4 p.m.
Maine East at Notre Dame Prep (Willow Hill GC), 3:30 p.m.
Naperville Central at DeKalb (Kishwaukee CC), 3:30 p.m.
Naperville North at Lincoln Way East, 4 p.m.
St. Charles East, St. Charles North at Lake Park (Eaglewood), 4 p.m.
St. Viator at St. Patrick (Ridgemoor CC), 3:30 p.m.
Streamwood at St. Edward (Highlands), 4 p.m.
Warren at Grayslake North (Renwood GC), 4 p.m.
Westmont at Lisle (River Bend), 4:30 p.m.
Wheaton North at Batavia (Orchard Valley), 3:30 p.m.

Girls golf

Aurora Central Catholic at Plano (Cedarell), 4 p.m.
Barrington, Prospect at Schaumburg Triangular (Schaumburg GC), 3:30 p.m.
Burlington Central at Prairie Ridge (Turnberry), 4:15 p.m.
Cary-Grove/Crystal Lake Co-op at Jacobs (Randall Oaks), 4:15 p.m.
Downers Grove South at Lincoln Way Central invite (Sanctuary), 4 p.m.
Evanston at Maine South (Indian Boundary), 4 p.m.
Glenbard South at South Elgin (The Highlands), 4 p.m.
Glenbard West at Addison Trail (Salt Creek), 4 p.m.
Grayslake North at Antioch (Spring Valley CC), 4 p.m.
Huntley at Hampshire (Randall Oaks), 4:15 p.m.
Joliet Catholic at Carmel (Pine Meadow GC), 4 p.m.
Kaneland at Ottawa (Deer Park), 4 p.m.
Lake Forest Academy at St. Viator (Highland Woods GC), 3:30 p.m.
Lake Forest at Libertyville (ThunderHawk GC), 4 p.m.
Lake Park at St. Charles East (Pottawatomie), 4 p.m.
Maine West at Vernon Hills (Vernon Hills GC), 4 p.m.
Metea Valley at Plainfield North (White Tail Ridge), 3:30 p.m.
Mundelein at Lakes (ThunderHawk GC), 4 p.m.
Riverside-Brookfield at Glenbard East, 4 p.m.
Waubonsie Valley at Naperville Central (Naperbrook), 3:30 p.m.
Waukegan, Zion-Benton at Stevenson (Crane's Landing GC), 4 p.m.
West Aurora at Yorkville (Blackberry Oaks), 5 p.m.
Westmont at Lisle (River Bend), 4:30 p.m.
Wheaton Warrenville South at Nazareth (Sugar Creek), 4:30 p.m.
Willowbrook at Hinsdale South (Village Greens), 4 p.m.
York at Lyons (Flagg Creek), 4 p.m.

Girls flag football

Antioch at South Elgin, 6 p.m.
Buffalo Grove at Fremd, 7:15 p.m.
Maine East at Vernon Hills, 6 p.m.
Niles North at Maine West, 6 p.m.
North Chicago at Grayslake Central, 6 p.m.
Schaumburg at Elk Grove, 6:30 p.m.
Warren at Zion-Benton, 4:45 p.m.
Wauconda at Grayslake North, 6 p.m.

Girls tennis

Bartlett at Glenbard North, 4 p.m.
Downers Grove South at Oak Park-River Forest, 4:30 p.m.
Glenbard West at Naperville North, 4 p.m.
Hinsdale South at St. Francis, 4 p.m.
IC Catholic Prep at Lisle, 4:30 p.m.
Lake Park at Glenbard East, 4:30 p.m.
Lake Zurich at Fremd, 4:30 p.m.
Lakes at Carmel, 4:30 p.m.
Maine East at Streamwood, 4:30 p.m.
Metea Valley at St. Charles East, 4:30 p.m.
Montini at Willowbrook, 4:30 p.m.
Neuqua Valley at Lockport, 4:30 p.m.
Niles West at Leyden, 4:30 p.m.
Rochelle Zell at Maine East, 4:30 p.m.
Rolling Meadows at Maine West, 4:30 p.m.
St. Viator at Hersey, 4:30 p.m.
Warren at Wauconda, 4:15 p.m.
Waubonsie Valley at South Elgin, 4:30 p.m.
Waukegan at Antioch, 4:30 p.m.
Wheaton Academy at Wheaton Warrenville South, 3:45 p.m.
Woodstock at Dundee-Crown, 4:30 pm
Zion-Benton at Grayslake North, 4:30 p.m.

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