

Press Clippings - 9/11/2024

- Chicago Tribune/Courier News - U-46 approves \$857 million budget; property taxes up 4.38%

By: Mike Danahey

Date: September 10, 2024



The Cook County Health Department notified Elgin-area School District U-46 that a student who attends the Independence Center for Early Learning in Bartlett has a confirmed case of the coronavirus, Superintendent Tony Sanders said.

The Elgin-based U-46 Board of Education Monday night approved a \$857 million budget for its 2025 fiscal year that includes the district taking in a projected \$820.1 million in revenue and a planned deficit of almost \$37 million.

This deficit is attributed to one-time capital expenditures associated with the district's various Unite U-46 Initiative projects. Total revenue represents an 8.71% increase over the previous year's unaudited actual revenues, according to an executive summary.

"Local property taxes, which make up approximately 46% of total revenue, are expected to increase by 4.38%, bringing in \$374,923,744," the summary says.

As of Tuesday morning, the district had yet to respond to a request for information from The Courier-News as to how much more a typical homeowner will pay in property taxes due to this budget.

"This (budget) allows the administration to complete and continue working through construction projects, purchase and implement new curriculum, provide robust professional learning for all our staff and provide safe, accessible updated schools, provide transportation for over half of our students, continue to provide free meals for all our students and provide new first class technology," Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Frank Williams, told the

board during a hearing on the budget Monday night, prior to the vote.

Deputy Superintendent of Operations Ann Williams told the board that this year's budget includes paying for a substantial portion of the \$58 million conversion of Hawk Hollow Elementary in Bartlett into a new middle school. That work is being fully funded from district reserves.

The budget also reflects expenditures related to a new \$135 million middle school being built on Rohrssen Road in Elgin, \$65 million in renovations/additions being done at Kimball Middle in Elgin and \$35 million in renovations/additions at Kenyon Woods Middle in South Elgin, with those projects being funded through reserves and other sources, Ann Williams said. The Kimball project will also use some referendum bonds voters approved in 2023.

Also being paid for by bonds will be a \$65 million new elementary school on Elgin's northeast side, \$30 million in renovations/additions to Glenbrook Elementary in Streamwood, \$25 million in renovations/additions at Century Oaks Elementary in Elgin and \$10 million converting Illinois Park in Elgin from an early learning center to an elementary school.

The initial phases of the elementary school projects, including pre-design and design work, will impact the new budget, Ann Williams said.

As such, according to the executive summary, "capital outlay is projected to increase by 270%, totaling \$133,959,103," driven by these projects.

The executive summary says that local revenue sources are projected to decrease by 12.61%, mostly because of reductions in the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax the district will be receiving and anticipated declines in interest income.

The budget anticipates that the district's second-largest revenue source, the state's Evidence-Based Funding, will rise by 9.36% to more than \$301 million. Other revenues from the state are expected to decrease by 2.77%, to more around \$34.4 million, largely due to reduced reimbursements for transportation and other restricted grants, according to the summary.

Federal revenues are projected at about \$71.4 million, which includes more than \$34.5 million from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant, which is set to expire on Sept 30.

Salaries and benefits remain the district's largest expense. According to the summary, this amounts to roughly 59% of the district's total expenditures or almost \$504.4 million.

No public comments were made during Monday's hearing. Ann Williams said there will be a presentation of the budget book at the next board of education meeting, Monday, Sept. 23.

- ABC 7 -

Bartlett schools put in 'secure learning' after being notified of threat by National Suicide Hotline

By: ABC7 Chicago Digital Team

Date: September 10, 2024



Officials said students at Bartlett High School, Eastview Middle School and some elementary schools were put in secure learning after a phone threat.

To watch the full story, please click [here](#).

BARTLETT, Ill. (WLS) -- Bartlett village officials said students at several schools were placed in secure learning until dismissal after a phone threat.

Village officials said at about 1:20 p.m. police were notified by the National Suicide Hotline about an alleged phone threat to Bartlett High School. The high school, Eastview Middle School and elementary schools that dismiss at 2:30 p.m. within the village were placed in a "secure building" for the rest of the day's instruction.

Police are investigating the threat and there were police and security at schools for dismissal. Officials said dismissal may take longer because of the security precautions.

All elementary schools had been dismissed safely by just before 3 p.m., and the high school's dismissal began as normal at 2: 55 p.m.

After after school activities at Bartlett High School were canceled for Tuesday.

All District U-46 schools and administrative buildings will be back open Wednesday. There will be an extra police presence in place in addition to school resource officers.

The Bartlett Police Department and the FBI are investigating incident.

- NBC5 -

Several schools in Bartlett placed under 'secure building' status after threat

Date: September 10, 2024



According to police, a call was made to the National Suicide Hotline threatening Bartlett High School

Several schools in suburban Bartlett were placed in a "secure building" status and many after-school activities canceled after authorities said they received a threat Tuesday.

According to police, a call was made to the National Suicide Hotline threatening Bartlett High School.

"As an abundance of caution, School District U-46 and Bartlett Police Department placed Eastview Middle School, Bartlett High School, and 2:30 dismissal elementary schools within the Village of Bartlett in a 'Secure Building,'" the district and police said in a joint statement.

Secure building status means a school is locked and secure, but normal routines occur inside.

Police said the incident was under investigation, and "as a precaution" extra patrols were put in place during afternoon dismissal at the schools.

"The dismissal might take a little longer than normal, and we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding," the statement read.

According to authorities, all elementary schools were safely dismissed as of 2:56 p.m.

All Bartlett High School after school activities were canceled, however.

The school's athletic director reported all after school activities and competitions, "both home and away" were impacted. Practices were also canceled.

Further details on the threat weren't immediately released.

- The Examiner -

Expense proposals given approval in District U-46

By: Seth Hancock

Date: September 11, 2024

The Board of Education in School District U-46 voted 6-0, board member Samreen Khan was absent, to approve \$1.5 million in expenditure proposals at its Aug. 19 meeting.

The largest item was \$894,396 (paid with tort funds) for a contract renewal with Chubb for property insurance.

“As strategic risk management and protection against any damage to district property, it is recommended the district continue its excess property insurance policy,” the proposal states.

The proposal added: “Property insurance is necessary to protect the district from losses that decrease the value of district property, such as fire, flood, and equipment breakdown. This coverage is critical, given the many building structures, totaling over 5.5 million square feet, that must be maintained in safe, operational condition so that the district can educate students.”

Costing \$421,600 (Title I funds), the board approved of a partnership with the Kane County Regional Office of Education.

“U-46 has 21 schools that are either in Targeted or Comprehensive status,” the proposal states. “Nine schools have elected to use a portion of their school improvement grant funds for an Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) approved partnership with Kane County Regional Office of Education (ROE). The Kane County ROE has offered each school a custom scope of work aligned to their school improvement needs.”

Also approved was \$140,000 (education fund) to rent rooms at Elgin Community College for professional learning space for staff, \$45,600 (education fund) for a contract renewal with the Illinois Principals Association for coaching and mentoring services, \$38,914 (Title I funds) for the CharacterStrong social and emotional learning resource and \$3,000 (education fund) with Hodder Publishing Group for textbooks for Elgin High School’s magnet academy course in International Baccalaureate Environment Systems and Societies.

The board also voted 6-0 to approve \$24.8 million in itemized bills as well.

- The Examiner -

Dist. U-46 Board approves next transportation pact

By: Seth Hancock

Date: September 11, 2024

The Board of Education in School District U-46 voted 6-0, board member Samreen Khan was absent, to approve of a three-year agreement with the District U-46 Transportation Union (DUTU) at its Aug. 19 meeting.

The agreement will run from 2025 to 2028 and will take effect after the current agreement expires at the end of this school year. The agreement was approved by DUTU with 176 of 194 members voting in favor on Aug. 13.

“The administration began bargaining in January of 2024 with the union representatives, and we bargained for roughly 80 hours over a six-month period reaching a tentative agreement on July 18th for a new three-year contract which will begin on July 1st, 2025,” said Ann Williams, deputy superintendent of operations.

Williams added: “The proposed agreement offers a competitive compensation package for current staff as well as incentives to enhance recruitment efforts amidst the ongoing bus driver shortage.”

The total cost increase for this agreement is \$5 million, Williams said.

The starting hourly pay has a set increase from 2025/2026 to 2026/2027 with 2027/2028 starting pay tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Starting hourly rates: drivers (\$23.75 for 2025/2026; \$25.21 for 2026/2027), route assistants (\$17.75; \$21.10), dispatcher/trainer/inspection compliance clerk/fleet assistant (\$24.25; \$26.71), mechanic/body mechanic (\$28.75; \$31.24), route/trip advisor (\$25.25; \$27.71), escort/custodian (\$21.75; \$23.21) and lead mechanic (\$29.75; \$32.24). Bus washer/fleet inspector starting rate is a flat \$20 an hour throughout all three years.

Pay raises for current staff are set rates in 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 with 2027/2028 tied to CPI. Pay raises: drivers (\$4.50 in 2025/2026; \$1.46 in 2026/2027), route assistants (\$4.15; \$3.35), dispatcher/trainer/inspection compliance clerk/fleet assistant (\$4.42; \$2.46), mechanic/body mechanic (\$2.77; \$2.49), route/trip advisor (\$4.75; \$3.46), escort/custodian (\$4.63; \$1.46) and lead mechanic (\$3; \$2.49). Bus washer/fleet inspectors receive a \$1.76 hourly raise in 2025/2026 and no increases in the next two years.

The contract also includes longevity hourly pay raises of \$0.25 per hour four every five years of service capped at \$1.25 after 25 years of service. Bus drivers providing services utilizing wheelchair accessible buses receive an additional \$0.50 per hour.

The contract also increases term life insurance for DUTU members from \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Also throughout the contract, it removes gender specific language such as replacing “he/she” with “they” and “maternity leave” with “parental leave.”

- Daily Herald -

High school scores for Sept. 10

Date: September 11, 2024



Barrington's Whitney Mall hits straight down against Hersey's Vicky Vasilopoulos in a girls volleyball match in Barrington on Tuesday, Sep. 10, 2024

Tuesday results

Boys soccer

Buffalo Grove 2, Barrington 1
Crystal Lake South 2, Dundee Crown 0
Glenbard South 1, Glenbard East 1
Grayslake Central 2, Warren 1
Kaneland 1, Burlington Central 1
Libertyville 1, Lane Tech 1
Maine South 5, Niles West 0
Mt. Carmel 4, Aurora Central Catholic, 0
Mundelein 5, Round Lake 1
Naperville Central 4, Neuqua Valley 0
Naperville North 6, DeKalb 0
Palatine 0, Hersey 0
South Elgin 2, East Aurora 2
St. Charles East 0, Glenbard North 0
Westminster Christian 6, Mooseheart 0
Westmont 3, Ida Crown Jewish Academy, 1
Wheaton Academy 9, Marian Central Catholic 0

Wheaton North o, St. Charles East o
Wheaton Warrenville South, 2, Geneva 1

Girls flag football

Maine South 28, Prospect 14
Rosary 19, Regina Dominican 6
Round Lake 26, North Chicago 14
Willowbrook 46, Streamwood o
Wednesday, Sep 11

Boys golf

Aurora Central Catholic, Aurora Christian, Marmion Academy, Metea Valley, Waubonsie Valley, West Aurora at Aurora City Tournament (Phillips GC), 12 p.m.
Batavia, Lake Park at Glenbard North (Glendale Lakes), 3:30 p.m.
Carmel at St. Patrick (Ridgemoor CC), 4 p.m.
Crystal Lake South at Cary-Grove (Foxford Hills), 4:30 p.m.
Elk Grove, Schaumburg at Buffalo Grove Triangular (Buffalo Grove GC), 3:30 p.m.
Glenbard East at Riverside-Brookfield (Meadowlark), 4 p.m.
Grayslake Central at Grant (Valley Ridge GC), 4:30 p.m.
Grayslake North at Antioch (Spring Valley CC), 4 p.m.
Larkin at Marengo (Marengo Ridge GC), 4 p.m.
Leyden at Fenton (White Pines), 4 p.m.
Loyola at Prospect (Mt. Prospect GC), 3:30 p.m.
Maine East at Vernon Hills (White Deer Run GC), 4 p.m.
Naperville North at Oak Park-River Forest, 4 p.m.
Neuqua Valley at Lockport Big Run Challenge (Big Run GC), 4:15 p.m.
New Trier at Maine South (Wilmette Golf Club), 4 p.m.
Rochelle at Kaneland (Mill Creek), 4 p.m.
St. Charles East at St. Viator (Highland Woods GC), 4 p.m.
St. Charles North at Wheaton North (Arrowhead), 4 p.m.
Timothy Christian at Wheaton Academy (Klein Creek), 3:30 p.m.
Wauconda at Woodstock North, 4 p.m.
Wheeling at Rolling Meadows (Arlington Lakes GC), 3 p.m.
York at Hinsdale Central (Hinsdale GC), 4 p.m.

Girls golf

Aurora Central Catholic at Providence (Green Garden), 4 p.m.
Batavia, Geneva at St. Charles East (Pottawatomie), 4 p.m.
Benet at Joliet Catholic Academy (Cinder Ridge), 3:45 p.m.
Cary-Grove/Crystal Lake Co-op at Burlington Central (Whisper Creek), 4:15 p.m.
Downers Grove South at Oak Park-River Forest (Indian Boundary), 4 p.m.
Sundee-Crown at Prairie Ridge (Turnberry CC), 4:15 pm

Elk Grove at Barrington (Bonnie Dundee GC), 3:30 p.m.
Glenbard East at Glenbard South (Lombard GC), 4 p.m.
Glenbrook South at Maine South (Indian Boundary), 4 p.m.
Hampshire at Jacobs (Randall Oaks), 4:15 p.m.
Highland Park, Maine West, Niles West at Vernon Hills (Vernon Hills GC), 4 p.m.
Hinsdale Central at Glenbard West (Glendale Lakes), 4 p.m.
Jacobs at Hampshire (Randall Oaks), 4:15 p.m.
Lake Forest at Warren (Bittersweet GC), 4 p.m.
Lake Zurich at Mundelein (Brae Loch GC), 4 p.m.
Marian Central Catholic at Timothy Christian (Sugar Creek), 4 p.m.
McHenry at Huntley (Pinecrest), 4:15 p.m.
Prospect at Hoffman Estates (Hilldale GC), 4 p.m.
Rolling Meadows at Wheeling (Chevy Chase CC), 3:30 p.m.
South Elgin at West Aurora (Phillips Park), 4 p.m.
St. Viator at Nazareth (Sugar Creek GC), 3 p.m.
St. Charles North at Kaneland (Mill Creek), 4 p.m.
Stevenson at Libertyville (ThunderHawk GC), 4 p.m.
U46 Co-op at West Aurora (Phillips Park), 4 p.m.
Waubensie Valley at Neuqua Valley (White Eagle), 3:30 p.m.
York at Addison Trail (Salt Creek), 4 p.m.

Girls flag football

Glenbrook North at Maine South, 6 p.m.
Grayslake Central at Wauconda, 5 p.m.
Hersey at Fremd, 7:14 p.m.
Libertyville at Lake Forest, 5 p.m.
Maine West at Highland Park, 6 p.m.
Niles West at Maine East, 5 p.m.
Round Lake at Larkin, 5:30 p.m.
Schaumburg at Hoffman Estates, 6:30 p.m.
Vernon Hills at Niles North, 7:30 p.m.
Warren at Loyola Academy, 7 p.m.
Waukegan at Stevenson, 4:45 p.m.

Thursday, Sep 12

Girls volleyball

Barrington at Conant, 6 p.m.
Batavia at Naperville North, 5:30 p.m.
Buffalo Grove at Elk Grove, 6 p.m.
Burlington Central at Jacobs, 5:30 p.m.
Cary-Grove at Hampshire, 5:30 p.m.

Crystal Lake South at Huntley, 5:30 p.m
Downers Grove South at Downers Grove North, 5:30 p.m
East Aurora at Metea Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Elgin at Harvard, 6 p.m.
Fenton at Addison Trail, 5:30 p.m.
Fremd at Hoffman Estates, 6 p.m.
Glenbard East at Wheaton North, 6 p.m.
Glenbard South at Montini, 5:30 p.m.
Glenbrook North at Lake Zurich, 6 p.m.
Grayslake Central at Round Lake, 6 p.m.
Hampshire at Niles West, 5:30 p.m.
Hersey at Prospect, 6 p.m.
Hinsdale Central at Lockport, 6 p.m
Lakes at Grayslake North, 6 p.m.
Lisle at Manteno, 6 p.m.
Maine East at Maine South, 6 p.m.
Maine West at Leyden, 5:30 p.m.
North Chicago at Grant, 6 p.m.
Palatine at Schaumburg, 6 p.m.
Prairie Ridge at Sundee-Crown, 5:30 p.m.
Rolling Meadows at Wheeling, 6 p.m.
Rosary at Wheaton Academy, 6:30 p.m.
Schaumburg Christian at Westlake Christian, 6 p.m.
South Elgin at Glenbard North, 5:30 p.m.
St. Edward at Aurora Central Catholic, 6 p.m.
Wauconda at Antioch, 6 p.m.
West Aurora at Geneva, 5:30 p.m.
Westminster Christian at Harvest Christian, 7 p.m.
Wheaton Warrenville South at Streamwood, 5:30 p.m.

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