

**School District U-46**  
Elgin, Illinois

September 14, 2020

**The video of the September 14, 2020 meeting can be found here:**  
[September 14, 2020, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board members answered roll call: John Devereux, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Eva Porter, Donna Smith, and Sue Kerr.

Ms. Kerr stated that Governor Pritzker issued Covid-19 Executive Order 48 which extends modifications to the Open Meetings Act through September 19, 2020 and permits public bodies to meet remotely through electronic means. Based on the current health concerns, Ms. Kerr determined that it was neither practical nor prudent to hold an in-person meeting of the Board of Education on September 14, 2020. Therefore, the Board meeting scheduled for September 14, 2020 was held remotely using a Zoom Webinar in compliance with the procedures set forth in Public Act 101-640 and Covid-19 Executive Order 48.

President Kerr requested a motion to move into closed session to discuss individual student disciplinary matters; pending, probable or imminent litigation; the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public, or legal counsel for the public body; collective negotiating matters between the School Board and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees; review of closed session minutes; and individual student matters. The motion was made at 6:02 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Mrs. Porter. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Thommes joined the meeting for the beginning of closed session.

A motion was made at 6:50 p.m. by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Present in-person for the business session was Superintendent Tony Sanders. The other Board members listed above and Chief Legal Officer Miguel Rodriguez were present for the meeting virtually via Zoom. The following administrators were also present virtually via Zoom: Steve Burger, Dr. Josh Carpenter, Ann Chan, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Dr. Jeff King, Dr. Teresa Lance, Lela Majstorovic, Dr. Ushma Shah, Sheila Downs, Mary Fergus, John Heiderscheidt, Brian Lindholm, and Bruce Phelps. Also present for the meeting via Zoom were student Board member Olivia Howell, other administrators, and members of the public.

Ms. Kerr led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held for two U-46 students who recently passed away, Lakasia Gregory, a student at Dream Academy, and Enrique Ramirez, a student at Bartlett High School.

1. PUBLIC HEARING - 2020/2021 School District U-46 Budget (Board Policy 4.004 Budget Adoption Procedures)

A. Opening of Public Hearing

The Hearing was opened by a simple declaration by the Board President. The FY 2021 School District U-46 Budget was presented at the August 17, 2020 Board meeting. The budget has been on display since August 18, 2020.

B. Comments from the Public

There were no public comments.

C. Close of Public Hearing

The Hearing was closed by a simple declaration by the Board of Education President.

2. Strategic Plan Report - Mr. Sanders (Board Policy 2.020 - School Board Powers and Duties)

A. Back to School Update

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, Dr. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. King, Deputy Superintendent of Operations/Chief School Business Official, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, provided the Board of Education with an update on the start of the 2020-2021 school year.

Dr. Johnson stated that she wanted to continue to thank team members and U-46 households as the district moves forward with distance learning instruction.

Distance Learning Fall 2020 has included:

- Distance learning for all students through the first quarter (October 22) and/or when we are in red zone;
- 2.5 hours of synchronous instruction and 2.5 asynchronous during first quarter;
- Students will have the option to remain in full-time Distance Learning or be a part of the hybrid model starting as early as Oct. 26.

Performance Metrics

- Student performance on assignments, tests and during class will contribute to his/her grades each semester;
- Students will continue to take assessments during the 2020-21 school year;
- Balanced metrics with strong focus on social-emotional health and well-being.

Mr. Sanders discussed the technology and internet supports currently in place for distance learning.

Technology and Internet Support

- Provided Internet through partnership with Comcast to several hundred families;

- Ongoing review of how to support families quickly;
- Over 800 families participated in parent webinars on technology;
- Additional sessions planned, including some for shift to hybrid instruction for prioritized student groups.

#### Communications

- Launched COVID-19 website March 17, 2020: <https://www.u-46.org/covid>;
- Main site for updates, safety, curriculum, technology, and other information and resources related to our COVID-19 response.

#### Back to School Safely

Currently, there are three levels of community COVID-19 transmission risk based on a variety of factors including weekly county case rates, weekly county overall case numbers, youth case numbers, and weekly test positivity rates. DuPage, Kane, and Cook counties are all currently ranked in the “Moderate/Orange” level as of September 3, 2020.

Blue (Minimal) – Encourage in-person learning with at least six feet of physical distancing between students and staff (and consider opt-in remote option for families).

Orange (Moderate) – Encourage in-person learning models that maintain at least six feet of physical distancing. Some-to-no mixing of groups of students and teachers throughout/across school days (currently this means 50 or fewer in a “pod”). Have some students participate in virtual and some participate in-person.

Red (substantial) – Encourage 100 percent remote learning.

There have been 217 cases throughout the district since the beginning of the pandemic.

Dr. Johnson discussed prioritized groups for in-person instruction.

#### Prioritized Student Groups for In-Person Instruction

-Self-Contained Special Education Classes and Transition (PreK - Transition)

- Transition Programming (Center House, SEHS, SWEP)
- EN (Educational Needs)
- ILP and MLP (Instructional Learning Program and Modified Learning Program)
- DHH (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)

-PreK

-Kindergarten - 2nd grade

#### The Instructional Day under a Hybrid Model

-We continue to plan for limited in-person instruction when safe - but emphasis remains on ensuring safety.

-Minimum Thresholds for Hybrid Instruction

- Two days/week of in-person instruction
- Three - six hours/day of in-person instruction when in attendance
- Asynchronous learning when not at a site for in-person instruction

- Target class size 12 - 15 students
- Some content areas and resources could still be accessed online.

#### Asynchronous Learning in Hybrid Model

- Students can expect to have assignments for each of their content area classes.
- Elementary students will also have specials assignments.
- All assignments are to fall within one or more of the following categories:
  - Pre-learning: assignments that expose students to new content or material in an effort to provide them with a background before class discussion;
  - Practice/Reinforcement: homework where students practice a new skill;
  - Extension: a continuation of a project or assignment from class;
  - Enrichment: assigned to allow students to delve deeper into a topic. This is typically a higher level skill that challenges students to synthesize multiple concepts and even content areas. e.g., problem-based learning;
  - Evaluation: students may be asked to complete an assessment that measures their mastery of a topic or concept.

Families will need to confirm their intent to return via survey in late September.

Ms. Downs gave an update on Plant Operation's FY20 summer projects: 112 projects were completed at over 50 sites; energy rebates were received in excess of \$105,000; and additional revenue was generated by a renegotiated demand response program.

#### B. Magnet Academies Presentation

Mrs. Majstorovic, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools Instruction and Equity, Dr. Lance, Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Innovation, and Mr. Duty, Assistant Principal of Innovation at Larkin High School, provided the Board of Education an update on the Magnet Academies

##### Phase 1: 2018-2019

- U-46 announced the transition from Pocket Academies to Magnet Academies adopting the Magnet Schools of America framework.
- PLC consisting of principals, assistant principals, teacher leader, IS team and district administration came together to develop a diversity statement/goals and review the admission criteria for magnet programs in U-46 and in other districts.

##### Phase 2: 2019-2020

- The Magnet Academy fee was removed from student fees for school year 2020-2021 and beyond.
- Magnet academy admission criteria was revised to eliminate the following barriers for admission: • Academic testing • Inconsistent selection criteria • Subjective interviews • Formal training requirements • Culturally biased rubrics.

### Phase 3: 2020-2021

-Full implementation of redesigned U-46 Magnet Academies admission criteria/selection process which includes: • District wide, transparent admission criteria and selection process • Enrollment Management System - School Mint.

### Updated U-46 Magnet Application and Selection Process

- Starting October 1, 2020: 8th grade student submits an application online.
- Student submits additional evidence of program participation.
- Lottery system runs.
- Students confirm their intent to enroll into their academy by December 4, 2020.

### Academy Timeline

**2020 - 2021 Dates:** **September 15:** Magnet Academy Process/Open House Information in Weekly Message email Connect-Ed (weekly); **September 15 - September 18:** Push out Magnet Academy Videos through middle school meet up on September 17; **September 21 (week):** Academy Open Houses; **October 1:** Academy Application Opens – Connect Ed - voice and email; **November 2:** Application due reminder – Connect Ed - voice and email; **November 6:** Academy Application closes; **November 20:** Acceptance/regret letters are emailed out (through SchoolMint); **November 30:** Email reminders regarding acceptances due; **December 4:** Acceptance due; **December 14 - 18 January 4 – 8:** Course selection for 8th grade students.

### 3. Public Comments - Ms. Kerr

Rebecca Rubnik, a U-46 alumni and parent, stated that she has a daughter who is currently attending one of the district's preschools. Ms. Rubnik stated that her daughter has spina bifida, a condition which makes her an at-risk population for COVID-19 complications. Ms. Rubnik stated that she would like to thank U-46 administration and staff for protecting the U-46 community, and would respectfully ask that administration put safety and science at the forefront of future district decisions regarding remote learning.

### 4. Other Business - Board Member and Superintendent Update, If Necessary

#### A. Additional Information

Ms. Thommes stated that she would like to extend her thanks to all of the district's teachers, staff, and administrators. Ms. Thommes noted that she has 3 kids in 3 different schools, and that it is evident that her children have teachers who truly care and are taking on the challenge of distance learning to the best of their abilities.

#### B. FOIA Requests - 3

Superintendent Sanders stated there were three (3) FOIA requests that the District has responded to since the previous Board meeting, and the responses are available on the Board book and would be made available on the District's website.

### 5. Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting – August 17, 2020
- C. Termination of Nimbe Temixqueno - Food Service Technician

- D. Contract Renewal - Assessment – Assessment of Performance towards Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL)
- E. Contract Renewal - Assessment – Free First Advanced Placement (AP) Exam
- F. Contract Renewal - Assessment – College Board - PSAT
- G. Contract Renewal - Curriculum and Instruction – One Hope United
- H. Contract Renewal - Informational Services- Footprints
- I. Occupancy Permits - 14

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Owens, to approve the consent agenda items A-I as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

6. Discussion/Action

A. Itemized Bills – September 14, 2020

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the attached bills. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$18,282,561.25.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mrs. Porter, to approve the Itemized Bills of September 14, 2020 as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

B. Proposal - Curriculum and Instruction – Zoom Video Conference Resource

Mr. Phelps, Senior Business Official of Business Services, and Ms. Banks, Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the proposal from CDW in the amount of \$63,400.00 and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Owens, to approve the Proposal from CDW - Curriculum and Instruction – Zoom Video Conference Resource as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

C. Approval of 2020 High School Graduates - Supplement

The Board of Education certifies the listings of high school graduates on an annual basis.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mrs. Porter, to approve the 2020 High School Graduates - Supplement as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

D. Minutes of Board Committee Meeting

Administration recommends the Board of Education accept the minutes for the August 17, 2020 Board of Education Finance Committee.

Motion by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the August 17, 2020 Minutes of the Board Finance Committee as presented. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

7. Other Business - CAC Update (Board Policy 2.152 - Advisory Committees to the Board

Mr. Sanders stated that the first CAC general meeting was held last Thursday evening. Officers were sworn in, there was an update on school reopening, and attendance was higher via Zoom than at an in-person meeting.

8. Work Session – Resolutions

A. Resolution Adopting School District U-46 Budget, July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, presented the resolution and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Adoption of the budget resolution will be requested at the September 28, 2020 Board of Education Meeting. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the Resolution Adopting the School District U-46 Budget, July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.

9. Work Session - Contracts Over \$25,000.00 (Board Policy 4.060 - Purchasing/Purchasing Authority)

A. Contract Renewal - Annual Support and Licensing for Workforce Timeclocks

Mr. Phelps, Senior Business Official of Business Services, and Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, present the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Workforce Software in the amount of \$94,948.80, and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

B. Contract Renewal - Assessment - Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) - MAP

Mr. Phelps, Senior Business Official of Business Services, Dr. Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Ms. Hill, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) in the amount of \$203,000.00, and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Educational Fund. This cost is included in the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

10. Work Session - Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4.060 - Purchasing/Purchasing Authority)

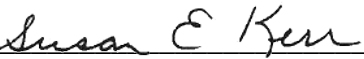
A. Bid - Plant Operations - Pipe Insulation Project at Elgin High School

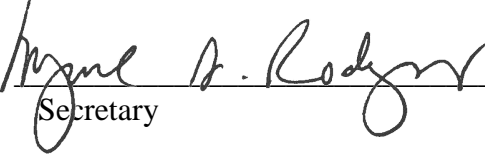
Mr. Phelps, Senior Business Official of Business Services, and Ms. Downs, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal summary and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended award of the low bid meeting specifications to Falls Mechanical Insulation, Inc. in the amount of \$28,800.00, and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Operations and Maintenance Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of September 14, 2020 at 8:40 p.m. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Smith, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 28th day of September, 2020.

  
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President

  
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Secretary