

## Highlights from the September 27, 2021, U-46 Board of Education meeting

The Board of Education meeting was held at 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin.

Prior to the regular Board meeting, the Board Facilities Committee met at 4:30 p.m. and received an update from DLR group on the Educational Facility Master Plan. The plan includes moving to a grade 6-8 middle school structure; adding Pre-K to elementary schools; and closing, rebuilding, or adding on to some elementary schools. The proposals include converting Hawk Hollow to a middle school; closing Illinois Park, Garfield, and Hanover Countryside elementary schools; rebuilding Lowrie, Century Oaks, Glenbrook, and Parkwood elementary schools; and putting additions on Washington and McKinley elementary schools. This is a multi-year project and next steps include finalizing scenarios, developing a timeline, and projecting costs. While the district would need to pass a referendum to approve replacing schools, it expects much of the cost of rebuilding to be paid for out of reserves. We urge the public to watch a [video](#) of the committee meeting and review the [presentation](#).

At the regular meeting, three people participated in public comment. Two expressed concerns about mask-wearing and one criticized LSI/U-46 Rising.

Superintendent Sanders updated the Board on continuing staff shortages and the difficulty finding substitutes.

The Board approved in the Consent Agenda and during Discussion/Action

- Personnel report of 9/27/21 and Board meeting minutes of 9/13/21
- Bills in the amount of \$ 6,798,995.
- School Resource Officer (SRO) [contracts](#) with Elgin, Bartlett, Streamwood, and South Elgin.
- The 2021/2022 School District U-46 [Budget](#). Ms. Owens compared this year's budget to those from over a decade ago when the district was on the state's financial watch list, had a \$45 million deficit, and was falling behind neighboring districts in per pupil spending. For the past few years the district has enjoyed the highest financial rating from the state, has a reserve of over \$350 million, and has abated almost \$40 million since 2015 to reduce property taxes.
- At-home Covid-19 test kits for staff to be used until Shield tests are available.
- Bids, contracts, and proposals that were presented at the September 13 meeting.

During Other Business and Work Session the Board reviewed bids for drinking fountain installations at fourteen elementary schools and VMware Servers replacement.

A link to the video of the Board meeting can be found [here](#). A link to the complete Board meeting packet can be found [here](#).

The next Board of Education meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, at 7 p.m., at 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin.