

Highlights from the September 13, 2021, U-46 Board of Education meeting

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

The Board began the meeting with a public hearing on the [2021/2022 School District U-46 Budget](#). The Budget has been on display since August 24, 2021. There were no public comments on the budget. The budget will be voted on at the September 27, 2021 meeting.

Five people participated in public comment. Three expressed concerns about class size, social distancing, U-46 Rising, and the problem of Special Education teachers having to quarantine. Two addressed issues related to mask-wearing.

The Board continued discussion of transitioning its policies from a local platform into the IASB policy platform. Chief Legal Officer Tricia Olsen outlined the process and answered board member questions. The Board agreed to proceed with the conversion.

Elgin Teachers Association President addressed the Board pursuant to Section 2.52 of the Elgin agreement. She addressed concerns relating to the start of school, including teachers not feeling that they were welcomed back; a myopic focus on new initiatives; confusing communications; students not knowing how to “do school”; the lack of conversation about trauma-informed care and MTSS; the loss of interventions that teachers had previously used; the need to define rigor; problems with social distancing; the need to look at data differently; and failed initiatives of the past. She said that teachers were already beginning to feel burned out.

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

- Personnel report of 9/13/21 and Board meeting minutes of 8/23/21
- Bills in the amount of \$12,832,100.
- The purchase of 200 picnic tables to allow students to eat outside
- Various bids, contracts, and proposals that were presented at the August 9 meeting.

The renewal of school resource officer (SRO) contracts was tabled until Sept. 27 to ensure that officers are in compliance with Executive Order 2021-22.

During Other Business and Work Session the Board reviewed the resolution to adopt the 2021/2022 Budget as well as a contract for Co:Writer, software designed for students with special needs.

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, September 27, at 7 p.m., at 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin.