

Highlights from the August 9, 2021 U-46 Board of Education meeting

The Board of Education meeting was held at 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin. The meeting began 30 minutes late because of tornado warnings in the area.

During the Strategic Plan Report, the Board received an update on the Return to School Plan for 2021-22. This update was very similar to the one presented on July 19 and included a review of CDC guidelines, vaccination, masking, testing, and quarantine, as well as a celebration of 37,000 students returning to in-person learning. The presentation can be found [here](#).

The Board also received a School Readiness Update. All departments are gearing up for school opening on August 16. While the district is still short on teachers, bus drivers, and other staff, it is optimistic that these positions will be filled. The district welcomed 130 new teachers last week and is in the process of matching them with mentors. Administrators and teacher leaders have been trained in tools to support U-46 Rising, the district's new focus on core instruction through student-led academic teaming to improve student performance. The Food and Nutrition Service Department is excited to offer new meal choices and to greet students in person. Plant Operations completed more than \$40 million in capital projects over the summer.

Forty-five people participated in public comment either in person, through Zoom, or in writing. Twenty-three spoke against mandatory masking and/or Senate Bill 818, 14 supported the district's mask policy, three expressed concern about the governmental agreement between U-46 and the Bartlett Park District, and five addressed other matters.

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

- Personnel report of 8/9/21 and Board meeting minutes of 7/19/21
- Bills in the amount of \$17,167,105.58
- Contracts with College Board for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT) and one free AP exam for each student
- A Resolution Supporting the Return to In-Person Instruction Following Federal, State, and Local Health Guidance. That resolution can be found [here](#)
- Various bids, contracts, and proposals that were presented at the July 19 meeting.

During Other Business and Work Session the Board also considered contracts, bids, and proposals which will be voted on at the next meeting. Highlights included:

- [Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report for School Year 2021](#)
- [A revised Student Code of Conduct](#).

A link to the video of the Board meeting can be found [here on the district's YouTube page](#). A link to the complete Board meeting packet can be found [here](#).

The next Board of Education meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, August 23, at 355 E. Chicago St., Elgin.