

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

January 22, 2024

The video of the January 22, 2024 meeting can be found here:
[January 22, 2024, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:02 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: Dawn Martin, Melissa Owens, Samreen Khan, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr. Veronica Noland was absent. Dawn Martin left the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

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; the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the School Board; the setting of a price for the sale or lease of real property owned by the School Board; an internal audit, control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews; 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 5:03 p.m. by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Owens. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

A motion was made at 7:01 p.m. by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Martin, to reconvene into open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

Present for the business session were Board members Dawn Martin, Melissa Owens, Samreen Khan, Chanda Schwartz, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson, and Chief Legal Officer Trisha Olson. The following were also present at the District's central office: Celia Banks, Mitchell Briesmeister, Daniella Beci, Amy Ingente, Tracey Jakaitis, Mary Juvingo, Dr. Teresa Lance, Brian Lindholm, Carl Metzke, Griselda Pirtle, Matt Raimondi, Doreen Roberts, Danise Smith, Brian Tennison, Pat Waldau, Dr. Ann Williams, Dr. Frank Williams and Jim Wolf. John George, Partner with RSM, and Sarah Darnall, Assurance Senior Manager for RSM, were also present.

President Kerr led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Strategic Plan Report - Dr. Johnson (Board Policy 2:20 - Powers and Duties of the Board of Education; Indemnification)

A. Facility Planning Update

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, presented the update on Facility Planning. Mr. Lindholm restated the following from the previous meeting:

- Lowrie, McKinley, and Washington Elementary School, will be retired in June 2027.
- Century Oaks, Hanover Countryside, and Glenbrook will be retired at a future date, to be determined.
- A new elementary school will be built in northeast Elgin.
- A new elementary school will be built for the Streamwood/Hanover Park area.
- Conduct feasibility study to convert Illinois Park to an elementary school.
- Parkwood Elementary School will be monitored for possible consolidation at a later date.
- Additions and renovations will be considered for Harriet Gifford and Highland Elementary School.

Mr. Lindholm also shared various boundary scenarios. Dr. Ann Williams, stated that there will be a \$62,000,000.00 bond sale on February 7, 2024. During this sale, local businesses and institutions will have the opportunity to purchase bonds in increments of \$1,000.00. She also stated, that a virtual information bond sale event will be held January 30, 2024. She further stated attendance boundary planning criteria/parameters and transitioning to new schools, will be topics discussed at the following Unite U-46 sessions:

- February 8th, 7:00 p.m. at Elgin High School
- March 7th, 7:00 p.m. at Elgin High School
- April/May, to be determined

President Kerr asked about the sequence of the boundary discussions. Mr. Lindholm, believes middle school boundaries will be discussed first, as timelines have been established. Ms. Thommes reiterated that no boundary decisions have been made at this time. Ms. Thommes and Mr. Lindholm stated that there will be at least an entire school year notice before boundary changes would go into effect.

B. Educational Pathways Update

Mr. Briesmeister, Director of Educational Pathways, and Ms. Roberts, Coordinator of Educational Pathways, presented an update on Educational Pathways. Mr. Briesmeister noted the District Goal of updating and enhancing the wide range of College and Technical Education pathways, and Magnet School Programs. He also discussed the facility plan for Bartlett High School and Streamwood High School, as it relates to this District Goal. Updates for Streamwood High School include:

- Eliminating the commercial kitchen to increase the footprint of introductory Culinary Arts Labs.
- Capstone Hospitality Students will attend Larkin Culinary Arts/Hospitality Program.
- Increase the size of the engineering room to maximize instructional capacity and academic teaming.
- Update and expand the Automotive Technology Program.

Updates for Bartlett High School include:

- Renovate Science Engineering and High Technology Academy (STEM).
- Renovate Automotive Technology/Green Transportation.
- Technology upgrades for Business and Computer Science.
- Light renovation for Culinary Arts (introduction through advanced).
- Potential updates to lab equipment for Early Childhood Education.
- Exploring renovation option for both Healthcare Science and CNA and Science Labs.
- Capstone Culinary Arts/Restaurant Management, students will access this program at an alternative hub.

Ms. Roberts discussed program information where she stated that the CTE concentrators increased from 2022 to 2023, by 800 hundred students. She also discussed the factors that contributed to the growth in CTE programs. Mr. Briesmeister discussed the Magnet Academy admission data and shared the following next steps:

- Improve site specific engagement in outreach/communication to students and families.
- Analyze, update, and improve CTE-based curriculum.
- Determine efficient distribution of programs at schools to ensure reasonable class sizes.

Ms. Martin asked for clarification of CTE concentrators and the increase. Ms. Roberts stated that they are getting better at tracking the students who are enrolled in CTE and a post-secondary type program. Mr. Briesmeister further stated that the classification of concentrators is a student that took at least two CTE courses in the same program of study. He further stated that a large factor in the increase was having the CNA program qualify for dual credit. Additionally, he said they audited the SIP codes. Dr. Johnson noted that it may be helpful to mention that the increase is largely due to the increase in data collection. Ms. Thommes, asked about the difference in data noted as N/A and not collected. Mr. Briesmeister confirmed that notes, N/A and not collected, are the same. She also asked when the lottery process started. Mr. Briesmeister stated that it began in 2021-2022. President Kerr inquired if the waitlisted students stay in the program for four years. Mr. Briesmeister said this is something that they will be working on with Assessment and Accountability.

2. Comments from the Audience – Ms. Kerr

A. Public Comments

Sharmika Cusic, parent of a student who joined via Zoom, raised concern about which teachers are informed about IEP information. She also stated that her child was transferred to another school without her permission and that she has reached out to the District for information and has not received a response.

3. Other Business – Board Member and Superintendent Update, If Necessary

A. Additional Information

Dr. Johnson thanked the many teams involved in providing a safe environment for students and staff during the severe weather conditions.

President Kerr also thanked the staff for all their efforts during the severe weather.

B. FOIA Request – 3

Dr. Johnson stated that there were three Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, which would be available on BoardDocs and the District's website.

4. Consent Agenda – Dr. Johnson

- A. Personnel Report and Workers’ Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting:
 - November 20, 2023
 - December 4, 2023
 - December 11, 2023
 - December 18, 2023
- C. Termination of Octavia Heard - Driver's Assistant
- D. Termination of Araceli Lara - Bus Driver
- E. Termination of Zahria Richardson - Bus Driver
- F. Termination of Jessica Rico - Social Worker
- G. Bid - Health Services - Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Purchase
- H. Bid - Health Services - Electronic Health Record
- I. Proposal - Plant Operations - Prairieview Elementary School HVAC - Project #1354
- J. Intergovernmental Agreement - Video Integration Agreement with the City of Elgin
- K. Approval of Settlement Agreement and General Release in the Matter of Alvarado v. School District U-46

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Owens to approve Consent Agenda items A-K, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

5. Discussion/Action – Dr. Johnson

A. Itemized Bills – January 22, 2024

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, was available respond to questions from the Board of Education regarding the attached bills. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the List of Bills in the amount of \$21,310,393.40.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the Itemized Bills in the amount of \$21,310,393.40. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

B. Contract - Equity and Innovation - Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Dr. Lance, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Innovation presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract with Group Travel Planners in the amount of \$113,455.00, and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Ms. Martin stated that she was excited to see that this opportunity is scheduled to take place during the school year. She also asked if the Board could be updated whether the 90 students attend. Dr. Lance said that there is a waitlist, so if one school does not fill their allotted slots, then they will fill accordingly based on the waitlist. President Kerr asked what colleges the students will be visiting. Dr. Lance said Benedict College in South Carolina, Fisk University in Tennessee, Savannah, Morehouse, and Spelman in Georgia, and A & M and Tuskegee in Alabama, are confirmed currently. She also said that she is waiting to hear if Clark Atlanta and Morris Brown, both in Georgia, would be available as well.

Motion by Ms. Owens, second by Ms. Schwartz, to approve the Historically Black Colleges and Universities contract. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

C. Contract - School Accountability – American Institutes for Research

Mr. Tennison, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Mr. Raimondi, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract with the American Institutes for Research in the amount of \$270,214.00 and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Title 1003(a) Grant. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

President Kerr asked if there are any concerns in using both American Institutes for Research and U-46 Rising. Mr. Tennison stated both can be used together and that the American Institutes for Research would provide an additional data point.

Motion by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the American Institutes for Research contract. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Martin, Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 6-0.

6. Other Business – Dr. Johnson

A. December Financial Report

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, reviewed the Financial Report and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

B. Investment Report for the Second Quarter

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented the Investment Report for the second quarter and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

7. Other Business - Financial Audit and Related Reports - Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 (Board Policy 4:80 - Accounting and Audits)

A. School District U-46

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Mr. George, Partner with RSM, and Ms. Darnall, Assurance Senior Manager for RSM, an independent certified public accounting firm, reviewed the School District U-46 FY2023 Annual Financial Report and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. The audit report is posted on the District's website at www.u-46.org.

President Kerr asked if pension numbers are impacted when teachers move from tier 1 to tier 2. Mr. George stated over time, yes. President Kerr also asked if there will be any new GASB rules next year. Dr. Frank Williams said that they do not anticipate any changes for the 2024 school year 2024, but they do anticipate changes for the 2025 school year.

Ms. Martin excused herself at 8:12 p.m. and returned at 8:16 p.m. Ms. Thommes excused herself at 8:14 p.m. and returned at 8:16 p.m. Dr. Johnson excused herself at 8:17 p.m. and returned at 8:19 p.m.

Ms. Martin left the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

8. Work Session – Dr. Johnson

A. Aquatics Physical Education Curriculum Proposal

Ms. Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Jakaitis, Student Wellness Curriculum Coordinator, Mr. Metzke, Elgin High School Physical Education Teacher, and Ms. Juvingo, Student Wellness Teacher Leader, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the Aquatics Physical Education Curriculum Proposal.

Ms. Thommes asked if the students will wear their own swimsuits. Ms. Jakaitis stated that students will be allowed to wear their own swimsuits. Ms. Thommes also asked if this program would be available for children with IEP's and/or different levels of abilities. Ms. Jakaitis said there have been a few discussions regarding that option and that further discussion and planning will be needed. President Kerr asked if the pools will need updates. Ms. Jakaitis said that she is not aware of any updates needed to the pools.

B. Middle School Physical Education Curriculum Proposal

Ms. Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Ms. Jakaitis, Student Wellness Curriculum Coordinator, Mr. Metzke, Elgin High School Physical Education Teacher, and Ms. Juvingo, Student Wellness Teacher Leader, provided the Board of Education with information relating to the Middle School Physical Education Curriculum Proposal.

9. Work Session – Resolutions

A. Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, reviewed the Resolution and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the Resolution for the Disposal of Surplus Personal Property.

B. Resolution Affirming U-46 Facility Study

Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, reviewed the Resolution and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends the Board of Education approve the Resolution Affirming U-46 Facility Study.

10. Work Session - Bids/Proposals (Board Policy 4:60 - Purchases and Contracts)

A. Bid - Plant Operations - 500 Shales Parkway Fire Alarm Replacement - Project #2071

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends award to the lowest responsible bidder, Austin Electric, in the amount of \$340,790.00 and requests 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 2023-2024 fiscal year.

B. Bid - Plant Operations - Streamwood High School Pathways Phase 2: Automotive, Culinary, and Engineering Renovation, Project #321

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends award to the lowest responsible bidder, Northwest Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$4,217,788.00 and requests 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 2023-2024 fiscal year.

President Kerr mentioned that this is being done over the summer and asked if there are any concerns about this renovation being completed on time or shortage of material. Ms. Waldau stated that they have already purchased and received the long lead-time items and that she doesn't have any concerns as this time.

- C. Bid - Plant Operations - Creekside, Heritage, and Horizon Elementary Schools Fire Alarm Replacements, Projects #701, 878, and 979

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends award to the lowest responsible bidder, iWire Technologies, LLC., in the amount of \$1,032,165.00 and requests 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 2023-2024 fiscal year.

- D. Bid - Plant Operations - Larkin High School Auditorium Flooring, House Lighting, Sound System, and Seating Replacement, Project #273

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends award to the lowest responsible bidder, Omni Commercial Group, in the amount of \$1,438,526.00 and requests 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 2023-2024 fiscal year.

- E. Bid - Plant Operations - Ronald D. O'Neal Elementary School Intercom and Clock Replacement, Project #1405

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends award to the lowest responsible bidder, American Electric Construction, in the amount of \$331,720.00 and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Health Life Safety Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

- F. Bid - Plant Operations - South Elgin High School Water Heater Replacement and Water Softener Installation, Project #280

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends award to the lowest responsible bidder, Hartwig Mechanical, Inc., in the amount of \$229,250.00 and requests 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 2023-2024 fiscal year.

G. Bid - Procurement Department - Uninterruptible Power Supply

Mr. Wolf, Director of Information Services, presented the proposal and responded to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends award to the lowest responsible bidder, Quality Power Solutions, in the amount of \$199,756.00 and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

H. Proposal - Plant Operations - Age and Obsolescence Vehicle Purchase

Ms. Waldau, Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal summary and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the proposal from Sutton Ford in the amount of \$255,045.00, and requests 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 2023-2024 fiscal year.

11. Work Session – Contracts Over \$25,000.00 (Board Policy 4:60 – Purchases and Contracts)

A. Contract Renewal - Teaching and Learning/Multicultural and Multicultural Education Departments – Roosevelt University Dual Language Teacher Leadership Program Cohort VI

Ms. Pirtle, Director of the Multicultural and Multicultural Education Department, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract renewal with Roosevelt University in the amount of \$213,300.00, and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Title III Grant Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years.

B. Contract Renewal - Procurement Services – Bonfire

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, and Ms. Smith, Procurement Coordinator, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract renewal with Bonfire in the amount of \$78,809.35 and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

C. Contract Renewal - Financial Operations – Support and Licensing for Workforce Timeclocks

Dr. Frank Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract renewal with Workforce in the amount of \$179,211.38 and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost is included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

D. Contract - Curriculum and Instruction - BlueStreak Math Title I Resource

Ms. Banks, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Ms. Ingente, Math Coordinator, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract with BlueStreak Education, Inc. in the amount of \$81,497.00 and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Title I Grant Fund. The cost will be included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

E. Contract - Food and Nutrition Services - Intent to Join Northern Illinois Independent Purchasing Cooperative


Dr. Ann Williams, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Ms. Beci, Assistant Director of Food and Nutrition Services, presented the proposal and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommends approval of the contract with Northern Illinois Independent Purchasing Cooperative in the amount of \$1,600.00, annually, and requests authorization for District administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Education Fund. The cost will be included in the budget for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

President Kerr asked how many Districts are part of the Cooperative. Dr. Ann Williams believes there are 75 districts in the greater Chicago land area and 20% of those are large unit districts.

12. Adjournment – Ms. Kerr

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Owens, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of January 22, 2024 at 9:03 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Ms. Owens, Ms. Khan, Ms. Schwartz, Ms. Thommes, and President Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Approved this 4th day of March, 2024.



President



Secretary