

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

August 23, 2021

**The video of the August 23, 2021 meeting can be found here:**  
[August 23, 2021, BOE Meeting](#)

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:04 p.m. at the Educational Services Center, 355 E. Chicago Ave, Elgin, Illinois. The following Board Members answered roll call: John Devereux, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, Eva Porter, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr.

Ms. Olson noted that Covid-19 Executive Order 84, which extends modifications to the Open Meetings Act and permits public bodies to meet remotely through electronic means, is still in effect. Board member Melissa Owens participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.

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; 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. Board member Melissa Owens participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom.

The motion was made at 6:05 p.m. by Ms. Martin, second by Ms. Thommes. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes 0. The motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

A motion was made at 7:05 p.m. by Ms. Noland, second by Mr. Devereux, to move to open session. Upon roll call, yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Present for the business session were Superintendent Tony Sanders, Board members John Devereux, Dawn Martin, Veronica Noland, Eva Porter, Kate Thommes, and Sue Kerr, Chief Legal Officer Trisha Olson, and student Board member Jessica Pearce. Board member Melissa Owens participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom. The following administrators were also present at the District's central office: Dr. Josh Carpenter, Ericka Brown, Ann Chan, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Dr. Teresa Lance, Lela Majstorovic, Brian Lindholm, and Bruce Phelps. Present for the meeting via Zoom were other administrators and members of the public.

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

A moment of silence was held for U-46 student Byron Montgomery.

1. Accent of Achievement - Mr. Sanders

A. U-46 Financial Operations Department Certificate of Excellence and Meritorious Budget Award

As part of the Board of Education's Accent on Achievement, the Board of Education honored School District U-46's Financial Operations Department for having been awarded a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of School Business Officials International for FY2020 and a Meritorious Budget Award for FY2021.

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

A. Back to School Update

Mr. Sanders, Superintendent, Ms. Chan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Dr. Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction provided the Board of Education with an update on the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Sanders stated the first day of school was a great start to the year, and he started his day riding bus routes with students and also stopped at Streamwood High School for lunch with students. Mr. Sanders stated academic teaming has already begun, and teachers and principals have engaged in professional development throughout the summer. Mr. Sanders stated the district does continue to have COVID cases, as there has been substantial spread within the surrounding communities, which is why everyone must continue to follow the layered mitigation strategies.

Ms. Chan provided a staffing update. 88.9 positions were unfilled as of August 9, 2021. Ms. Chan noted these numbers have decreased to 57.8 unfilled positions.

Dr. Johnson stated she was able to visit numerous sites on the first day of school, and enjoyed seeing students and colleagues back in-person. Dr. Johnson noted that teachers used the first few days of school to focus particularly on students' confidence, excitement, and social emotional learning. Dr. Johnson extended her thanks to all operational and instructional staff for making the first week of school a success.

Ms. Martin asked if the positions the district has been struggling to fill are in special education. Ms. Chan stated special education positions are typically harder positions to fill, and this issue is not unique to U-46.

Mr. Devereux asked how the processes to avoid quarantine are going. Mr. Sanders stated Health Services is stretched, as this is the time of year they are busiest collecting immunization forms and other health documentation. Mr. Devereux asked when SHIELD testing would be available. Mr. Sanders stated testing would be available after Labor Day, and the district is currently collecting opt-in forms.

Ms. Pearce asked if there were any new updates regarding band. Ms. Majstorovic stated the guidance regarding band and fine arts was just updated and administration is currently reviewing it. Ms. Pearce asked if bell covers are still required under the new guidance, if the district could look into ordering more of the brand that works well with all instruments, as there are not currently enough for all band members. Mr. Sanders confirmed more bell covers could be ordered.

Mr. Sanders stated he recognizes some schools are having difficulty finding appropriate spacing for lunch, and picnic tables have been ordered to alleviate some space concerns while the weather permits.

Ms. Owens asked what supports are being put in place to manage students who are in quarantine. Dr. Johnson stated that teachers are making resources available via Canvas, and concurrent instruction is also an option, although not required. Dr. Johnson also noted there will be a system for students and households to access tutorials, and the system will be officially launched after Labor Day.

Ms. Owens asked if the guidance to quarantine an entire classroom or close a school would come from the health department. Mr. Sanders stated guidance would come from the health department and the regional office of education, similar to a flu outbreak. Ms. Kerr asked if the health department has provided any parameters for closing facilities. Mr. Sanders stated parameters have not been provided, and the definition of an outbreak continues to change.

Mrs. Porter asked if there were concerns with the timeline of launching an online instruction system after Labor Day, and asked what resources are currently in place for students. Dr. Johnson stated all students will receive their work, and the timeline does not suggest teachers are not currently providing these online resources or concurrent instruction at this time. Dr. Johnson noted having a defined system in place will allow administrators the ability to support sites district-wide.

Ms. Martin stated that she has heard from families regarding crowded lunch spaces, and asked if administration has considered allowing open campuses for high school, especially during the winter months. Mr. Sanders stated administration is currently working on a solution to this issue.

**B. FY 2022 Tentative Budget**

Mr. Burnidge, Director of Financial Operations, presented the FY 2022 Tentative Budget and was available to respond to questions from the Board of Education.

The budget aligns with the Strategic Plan under the fourth category: Excellence, Efficiency & Accountability.

For the past five years, the budget document has met the requirements of the Association of School Business Officials Meritorious Budget Award (MBA). The MBA recognizes excellence in school budget presentation and helps promote the following: – Skills in developing and analyzing an effective budget; – Communication between departments to develop long-term and short-term strategies; – Clear budget guidelines; and, – Confidence building in our community with a reader friendly budget.

Local Revenue Outlook • Property tax revenue can grow at the rate of inflation (CPI) plus revenue from new construction. For FY 2022, property tax revenue is projected to increase by \$5.4 million. • The 2021 tax year levy amount will be determined in December. The total tax abatement will be \$9.6 million, same as FY 2021.

State Revenue Outlook • Evidence Based Funding (EBF), estimating a \$15 million increase, for a total of \$212.3 million. • This is the fifth year of the EBF formula, and we have received increased funding in four of the five years. We are now at 61% of adequacy. • Categorical funding – the district anticipates four quarterly payments for a total of \$30.4 million.

Federal Revenue Outlook • Federal revenue is projected to be \$83.4 million, an increase of \$39 million. • ESSER funding of \$31.2 million. • Food and Nutrition reimbursements, an increase by \$8 million.

FY 2022 Expenditure Outlook • Salary expenditures – Increases for contractual agreements. Increase over prior year for additional summer and after school programs. • Employee benefits – Includes a 5% increase for health insurance.

FY 2022 Expenditure Outlook • \$42.8 million for bond principal and interest. • \$37.0 million for building capital projects. • \$31.2 million from the ESSER funds, for classroom technology, summer programs, after school programs, and our partnership with Learning Sciences International including the creation and support for five schools of Rigor and Equity.

Next Steps • Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Budget on September 13, 2021. • Receive estimated final fund balances for FY 2021. • Final adoption of the Budget on September 27, 2021.

Ms. Owens thanked Mr. Burnidge and the finance department for providing an accessible executive summary.

### 3. Public Comments

Michael Reid, a U-46 parent, stated there are flaws in the district's COVID-19 quarantine protocols, as his son was considered a close contact to someone who tested positive and there

was nothing that could be done to have his son medically cleared to return to school. Mr. Reid stated the district's contract tracing system is flawed and ineffective.

William Fulton stated that he wanted to draw attention to the national legislation Green New Deal for Public Schools Act, as this bill seeks to win \$1.4 trillion dollars in funding for public schools to retrofit buildings and ensure a healthy school environment. Mr. Fulton stated schools considered the 1/3 most vulnerable would benefit most from this legislation, and there are 17 schools in the district that fall in this category. Mr. Fulton stated this campaign's purpose is to pressure members of congress that overlap with the school district to vote in favor of this legislation.

Brock Friedman stated Illinois just passed SB 818 that will bring explicit sexual content to the youngest of children in the district, which is a violation of child pornography laws. Mr. Friedman stated that anyone who contributes to the presentation of this material will face consequences. Mr. Friedman stated the Board needs to inform parents that they have the legal ability to opt out of these classes.

Linda Sabo stated the CDC published a report at the end of May which was ignored by the media. Ms. Sabo stated this report noted that distancing and masking did not statistically have any benefits. Ms. Sabo stated she is asking the Board to think critically about masks, as there are lawsuits pending regarding ISBE's authority for removing recognition status for non-compliance with masks. Ms. Sabo also stated that Pritzker did sign SB 818 into law, and the Board should work with parents to allow them a seat at the table to have some say in the resources chosen.

Natalie Brooks stated she was reading a public comment on behalf of Marie Schnaitman. Ms. Schnaitman stated she emailed a letter to Mr. Sanders and the Board of Education on August 4, 2021 and did not receive a response.

Mr. Sanders noted Ms. Schnaitman's email was filtered as SPAM in both email accounts, and Ms. Schnaitman would receive a response.

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

A. Additional Information

Ms. Pearce stated that the return to school has been a positive experience so far, and from what she has seen, masks have not been an issue. Ms. Pearce thanked everyone for their hard work, and stated she is optimistic of how this year is going to go.

Ms. Kerr stated that IASB has a policy guide that the district follows to some extent, but the policies have gotten out of sync with IASB's numbering system. Ms. Kerr stated IASB has the PRESS Plus system, which would automatically send the Board suggested policy updates, and this may be a more efficient way to update and maintain Board policy. Ms. Olson stated PRESS Plus may be an efficiency the Board might want to consider, as it

could help standardize Board policy and provide an additional check and balance system. Mr. Devereux stated it is a significant amount of work to review Board policy, and currently the legal team is one person. Mr. Devereux stated it might make sense to supplement this process, based on the pricing. Ms. Kerr stated she has spoken with other board presidents, and they have moved to PRESS Plus or are in the process of moving to it.

Ms. Martin asked if the Board would be open to scheduling town halls for more informal meetings to give the community the opportunity to speak with the Board. Ms. Martin stated she looked at neighboring communities to see what they were planning for the year, and it looks like they have a few town hall sessions planned. Ms. Martin stated these meetings may help improve community relations.

B. FOIA Responses

Mr. Sanders stated there were ten (10) 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 – Mr. Sanders

- A. Personnel Report and Workers' Compensation Cases
- B. Minutes of Board Meeting – August 9, 2021
- C. Termination of Monserrate Rosado - Grounds Laborer
- D. Termination of Matthew Skidmore - Relief Custodian
- E. Termination of Cortney Toppel - Bus Driver
- F. Contract - Deputy Superintendent of Instruction - Principal Preparation Program
- G. Contract Renewal - Business Services/Financial Operations – Microsoft Dynamics GP2016
- H. Contract Renewal - Educational Pathways – SchoolMint
- I. Bid - Plant Operations - Elgin High School Stair Replacement Project #243
- J. Occupancy Permits - 4

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

6. Discussion/Action – Mr. Sanders

A. Itemized Bills – August 23, 2021

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 \$8,233,894.48.

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Ms. Thommes, to approve the itemized bills in the amount \$8,233,894.48. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms.

Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

B. Student Code of Conduct

Dr. Barraza, Coordinator of Student Discipline, was available for questions regarding the proposed changes to the Student Code of Conduct.

Ms. Martin stated she had submitted a question regarding the removal of language on page 8. Ms. Martin asked if this information is available in any of the district's other documents. Mr. Sanders stated the language is in Board policy. Ms. Martin stated her concern would be making sure this information is located in places where parents are going to look. Ms. Olson stated a possible change could be adding the language "except as permitted per State and Federal law" at the beginning of the sentence on page 8. Ms. Olson noted the sentence would read: "Except as permitted per State and Federal law, District U-46 does not share individual student information with any other person than the student and parent guardian."

Motion by Ms. Noland, second by Mrs. Porter, to approve the Student Code of Conduct, as amended. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

C. Approval of High School Graduates

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

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the listings of high school graduates, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

D. Approval of District U-46 Educational Assistants Union (DUEA) Agreement

Ms. Olson, Chief Legal Officer, presented a proposed one-year Agreement with DUEA. Ms. Olson summarized the agreement as follows: On August 4, 2021, the district reached a tentative agreement with DUEA with respect to wages and a one-year contract extension. The wage breakdown is a 6.14% increase for FY22. Overall, the new money in this tentative agreement is roughly \$843,705.52 over FY21. If the terms of the previous CBA had simply been continued for FY22, the cost would have been \$562,601.43 in new money. In this sense, the tentative agreement represents an increase of \$281,000 approximately in new money for FY22 over the terms of the previous CBA. Ms. Olson stated that DUEA members voted on August 13, 2021 to accept the tentative agreement and the group has agreed to begin convening committees to strategize issues for bargaining a successor agreement.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Ms. Noland, to approve the one-year Contract with DUEA, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

E. Proposal - Plant Operations - U-46 Welcome Center

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Waldau, Assistant Director of Plant Operations, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended naming the new district facility located at 1019 East Chicago Street the U-46 Welcome Center and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents.

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Mrs. Porter, to the proposal to name the district facility at 1019 East Chicago Street the U-46 Welcome Center, as presented. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes, and Ms. Kerr. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

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

A. Additional Information

There were no updates from CAC.

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

A. Contract – Information Services – Footprints

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Macias, Director of Information Services, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewal with BMC Software, Inc. in the amount of \$29,398.99, 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 2021-2022 fiscal year.

B. Contract Renewal - School Safety and Culture – School Resource Officers (SRO)

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, Mr. Lindholm, Chief of Staff, and Mr. Bosh, Coordinator of School Safety, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract renewals with the City of Elgin, the Village of Bartlett, the Village of South Elgin, and the Village of Streamwood in the amount of \$1,014,204.01, 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 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Mr. Bosh provided a summary of the contracts, and stated the district provided two professional development days specifically regarding CPI training for nonviolent crisis intervention and training for special needs awareness in autism and special education.

Mr. Lindholm noted that 2 big changes to the contracts were the addition of U-46 lead professional development sessions, and the review of duties and responsibilities, particularly enhancing student voice which is highlighted more prominently.

Mrs. Porter asked if there were any changes made in regards to cultural sensitivity and equity training for SROs, as there was a noted discrepancy in discipline for African American students. Mr. Sanders stated that SROs are not involved in student discipline, as that falls to deans and principals; SROs are only involved in discipline matters if it rises to the level of criminal activity. Mr. Sanders stated that most of the district's SROs are from the City of Elgin, who is partnering with the Youth Empowerment Program which is intended to reduce the over identification of students in trauma. Ms. Kerr asked Mr. Bosh if other area SROs are planning to participate in something similar. Mr. Bosh stated the program is primarily focused in Elgin.

Ms. Thommes stated she is happy to see training specific to autism.

C. Contract - Specialized Student Services - NIU Contract

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Dr. Satterwhite, Director of Specialized Student Services, presented the proposal and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended approval of the contract with Northern Illinois University (NIU) in the amount of \$72,000.00, and requested authorization for district administration to execute related documents. This expenditure will be charged to the Federal IDEA Grant. The cost is included in the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Mrs. Porter asked how this program is different than the program currently in place. Dr. Satterwhite stated this specific program is an ESL program for special education teachers, specifically for strategies to support special education students with language.

9. Work Session – Change Orders (Board Policy 4.164 - Construction Contracts, Bidding, Awards, and Payments)

A. Change Order - Plant Operations - Business Services HVAC Replacement Project #2060.

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Waldau, Assistant Director of Plant Operations, presented the change order and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the change order from Oak Brook Mechanical Services, Inc. in the amount of minus \$38,559.01.

B. Change Order - Plant Operations - Larkin High School Track Reconstruction Project #261.

Mr. Phelps, Director of Business Services, and Ms. Waldau, Assistant Director of Plant Operations, presented the change order and were available to respond to questions from the Board of Education. Administration recommended the Board of Education approve the change order from Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc. in the amount of minus \$70,687.50.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Thommes, second by Mrs. Porter, to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of August 23, 2021 at 8:43 p.m. Upon roll call yes votes: Mr. Devereux, Ms. Martin, Ms. Noland, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Porter, Ms. Thommes and Ms. Kerr. No votes: 0. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Approved this 13th day of September, 2021

Susan E Kerr  
President

Justin A. Olson  
Secretary