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Thursday, June 16, 2022

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CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

District closes in on finalizing plan

'Plan on a Page' leaves lengthy to-do list

> **By Lauren Henning** Ihenning@hngnews.com

After beginning the strategic planning process in February, the Cambridge School Board

reviewed a draft of the district's "Plan on a Page" during a June 13 meeting, that would prioritize supporting students academically and emotionally.

The emerging draft includes three core values: cultivating every learner academically, socially and emotionally; communicating clearly; and having dedicated staff. These values created the district's focus areas of teaching and learning, family and community engagement, staff excellence, and operational effectiveness.

Cambridge Superintendent Marggie Banker, before presenting the draft to the board, said the plan is meant to guide future operations and build on steps already taken.

"Our purpose and the rationale for why we embarked on a strategic planning process is that we are looking to acknowledge, build on and to maintain that positive momentum that has already been ongoing for quite some time in Cambridge schools," Marggie Banker said.

Each focus area includes a goal, with the most specific being the teaching and learning of Cambridge students. For Pre-K through eighth grade students, CSD aims to increase the number of students meeting or exceeding academic growth targets in reading and math by 2%. The goal for high school students has yet to be determined.

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CAMBRIDGE

Living in a war zone

A former Cambridge High School exchange student from Ukraine shares his experience with the ongoing war in Ukraine, fundraises with local support

By Madeline Westberg mwestberg@hngnews.com

A former Cambridge High School exchange student from Ukraine has partnered with a fellow CHS alum to raise more than \$10,000 for medical supplies and ambulances in Ukraine during the ongoing Russian invasion.

Kyrylo Beskorovayny, "Ky," was one of four exchange students to live in Cambridge in 2011 for a year-long residency, as part of the Future Leaders Exchange Program.

Now, Ky is living in a war zone, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022.

After the start of the invasion, Ky began fundraising for medical supplies to support his hometown of Chernihiv, in the northern part of Ukraine. In addition to working with a group of alumni from his exchange program who studied in the U.S., Ky teamed up with former CHS classmate Augie McGinnity-Wake of Cambridge.

The group has fundraised for two ambulances, night vision scopes and countless medical supplies, totaling more than \$10,000.

The former exchange student has shared memories of his time in Wisconsin, and his experience with the early days of the invasion, with the Cambridge News/Deerfield



Kyrylo Beskorovayny

Kyrylo Beskorovayny, a Ukrainian man who spent an exchange year in Cambridge, was the first exchange student to participate in a Cambridge High School musical. Pictured above are members of the cast of the 2010-11 CHS musical.

Independent.

For more information on Ky's fundraising successes, see next week's edition of the Cambridge News/ Deerfield Independent.

A year in Cambridge During his year studying abroad in Cambridge, Ky joined the Cambridge High School choir, went to school events, made friends with other students and even gave a graduation speech that left audiences laughing for a full minute.

"I was 15 back then, and I've never been away from home

for so long, and I met a lot of

very cool people."

"I grew very much during that year. (It) taught me responsibility and how to manage different situations, when you're sad, when you're happy, when you don't have friends at first," and living in a new

country," he continued.

He was the first exchange student to ever take part in the Cambridge High School musical.

And he tried baseball for the first time, a sport he hadn't played in Ukraine.

"I wasn't good but it was a lot of fun," Ky said.

"I couldn't take ceramics in Ukraine for instance in a curriculum, but I could in the United States. I had my locker...I had a dog, which I also didn't have before," Ky said. "I have great memories about teachers" like Larry Wilson, Joy Burchard and others.

During his year in Cambridge, Ky grew close with CHS alum Augie McGinnity-Wake. The pair kept in touch after Ky moved back to Ukraine, visiting each other in Cambridge, Washington D.C. and Kyiv.

After leaving Cambridge, Ky founded a Ukrainian popular science media company, Kunsht, accessible at kunsht.com.ua/. It began as a print magazine and migrated online in 2019.

When Russian forces invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, Ky was living in Kyiv.

"We woke up on the 24th of February because we heard bombs," Ky said. "We heard some news that the war might break, but we didn't believe until the end that it (would). Just in case, we had our emergency backpacks ready."

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DEERFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Help wanted: District seeking more community input

By Lauren Henning

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After hiring consultants to help guide planning for a possible referendum, the Deerfield Community School District is looking to expand the community

committee tasked with that planning.

The district recently hired Bray architectural firm for community outreach and Vogel Bros. **Building Company for** construction management services to work with the

district' Citizens Advisory

Committee (CAC) on planning for a possible renovation to one of the Deerfield schools, potentially funded through referendum.

Formed in 2020, the CAC is a group of community members, parents and staff exploring the

district's future financial and facility needs.

The district is looking for several community members to join this task force, Deerfield Superintendent Michelle Jensen said.

"We are continuing to seek residents without children in the district so that

we can have their voice and feedback in our process," Jensen said in an email. "The goal for the initial CAC meetings is to gather feedback and ideas to build the community survey which will be sent to all district residents in the fall."

The CAC will work with

Bray to shape community surveys, which will be used to determine the community's priorities for a possible referendum to update, or possibly completely reconstruct, the aging Deerfield Middle-High School.

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Ky

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Ky and his wife left the capital city for Lviv, a city in the western part of Ukraine, where fighting has slowed down.

"It's very hard to leave your home, when we were leaving our home, we didn't know if we will ever come back," Ky said. "My wife for instance, she was v organized, she was packing our things... but then she broke down when she had to take our photographs from the walls. Thats our whole life, all our memories, all our peaceful life that we've enjoyed, that we've loved. We had to flea, we had to leave all of that."

Despite the fighting being thinner on the western side of the country, Ky said he still experiences the stress of living through

"Where I stay right now also, air sirens, alerts, it can be at 3 a.m., when you have go to (the) basement, or bomb shelter. Or if you don't have that, go to the corridor where there's at least two walls, in case the bomb flies into your house," he said.

With the reports of atrocities happening in close proximity to Kyiv, "even closer than Cambridge to Madison," Ky and his wife decided to leave.

'I remember how we left Kyiv, there was such a tremor in that morning, sounds of explosion and it is scary. It's scary and you get those panic attacks, you have to calm yourself down because you need to make some decisions, to flea, to pack," Ky said.

"It's very hard to plan anything. We had all those plans for our work, leisure, holidays. The most you can plan is a couple of days, and still this plan cannot fulfill if a rocket destroys your house," Ky continued.

Despite the uncertainty, Ky is working to help end the conflict, and support others living in Ukraine.

"I can't leave the country, men from 18 to 60, men can't leave the country. Even if I could, I wouldn't. I really love Ukraine," he said.

He's currently using the popular science media publication he founded to



Kyrylo Beskorovayny, a Ukrainian man who spent an exchange year in Cambridge, has partnered with CHS alum Augie McGinnity-Wake to fundraise for medical supplies in Ukraine.



Kyrylo Beskorovayny

Pictured above is Kyrylo Beskorovayny, a Ukrainian man who spent an exchange year in Cambridge, having fun during his exchange year in Wisconsin.

Now the site is devoted to articles detailing how to filter and access water, how to sleep on the battlefield and psychological health information.

"We try to be as helpful as we can," he said.

He's also continuing to fundraise alongside McGinnity-Wake and exchange program alumni.

"I want to thank them already, with what we've done with Augie," Ky said, saying the purchase of two ambulances happened in part "due to my old Cambridge friends."

McGinnity calls himself the "middle man now for stateside stuff," connecting people in Wisconshare survival information. sin and Washington D.C.

with Ky to facilitate donations. McGinnity called Ky a "wonderful man," and was happy to help.

"What I've personally found satisfying is it feels good to know how quickly and directly the money is being used," McGinnity-Wake said.

People from Cambridge "were very supportive, writing kind words, not only sending money, but also saying good things that they are thinking about me, about my family,

How to donate

Ky is continuing to fundraise for medical supplies, ambulances and necessary items in Ukraine.

To donate, people can send money over PayPal to Ky at kirilbeskorovayny@gmail. com, or on Venmo to McGinnity-Wake at @ augie-mcginnity-wake.

Ky said that he understands the importance of transparency where donations are concerned, and keeps a running record of transactions and updates on his Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ kyrylobeskorovayny/

thats very sweet (and) very much appreciated," He

"We're fighting for our land, we're fighting for our freedom. We didn't invade Russia, we're just living our peaceful lives... We enjoyed so much of our lives," before the conflict,

People can also donate to several bigger foundations as well: https://savelife.

in.ua/en/ https://www.koloua.

com/en https://prytulafoundation.org/en

"No donation is small," Ky said. "For \$15, 20, you can buy one tourniquet, which can stop the bleeding..."You can save lives with that sum of money. We are very, very grateful for everyone that joins...We feel that as a country, the huge support of American people."

and are "outraged that someone just thinks they can tell us how to live, invade, enslave, and shoot our people."

"The freedom is in the DNA of the Ukrainian people. We want to fight back, we want to fight until we win," Ky said.

DANE COUNTY

County assessing storm damage

After severe weather rolled through Dane County on Monday, the Emergency Management Department is working with local government officials to identify the severity of storm damage.

There are power outages across the county with the greatest concentration of outages in the cities of Monona, Madison and Middleton. Utility crews are diligently working to restore power as quickly as possible.

Although several Dane County sirens lost power, they are still operable because they operate on batteries. The power only recharges the batteries. When power is restored to the sirens, they make some minor noises. When the sirens are actually activated, they will sound at full volume for three minutes.

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi is making sure assistance is ready.

"I have been reaching out to Dane County departments and other local leaders to ensure Dane County can support emergency needs created by these storms. We remain ready to support our residents and first responders' needs," Parisi said.

Director of Emergency Management Charles A. Tubbs is assuring residents the warning system is ready.

"Dane County has invested in a warning system that works directly with the National Weather Service to provide immediate and direct emergency notifications to people in harm's way," Tubbs said. "If you received an emergency alert, seek shelter in a sturdy building and then look for more information about the situation."

Dane County will continue to support emergency response efforts.

Plan

Continued from Page A1

For social and emotional learning, CSD is aiming for at least 80%of 4K through twelfth grade students "will indicate they feel connected to at least one adult in their school" by the end of the 2022-23 school year, the plan says.

The "Plan on a Page" also featured measures of success and priority projects for each focus area, leaving the district with a 21 item long to-do list. The list ranges from creating a district-wide task force to "realign student services

and implement an Equitable Multi-Level System of Support" to Banker hosting quarterly parent advisory meetings live on Facebook.

But, Banker pointed out that the district's efforts will not be limited to what can be found on the page.

"This is to say 'here are the five-ish things we're going to do," Banker said. 'This doesn't mean that there aren't some other baby projects or we're not getting ready for something that's coming in the future. But, these are the ones we're probably going to talk about and that we are making space for and prioritizing."

Input

Continued from Page A1

The scope of the project has not yet been determined, but a July 2020 building study determined \$7.7 million of possible building updates may be needed. The study also shared costs of a potential performing arts center, estimated at an additional \$8 million to \$10 million, and a new kitchen at \$746,000.

The district, according to business manager Doreen Treuden, plans to get pre-referendum work done in time for a January resolution and an April

2023 referendum.

The CAC, Jensen said, will meet approximately every three weeks over the next six months, and will likely have a break between October and November.

The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29 at 6 p.m. in the high school Sewing room, 301 Simonson Boulevard. The schedule from there will vary depending on committee member availability.

Those interested in participating in the CAC should contact the district by Friday, June 24 via phone at 764-5431, extension 1148, or email cac@ deerfield.k12.wi.us.





Brief remarks along with the presentation of community contributions at 4:30 p.m. Guided-style tours of the outside facility

About the facility:

In December 2021, Dairyland acquired the RockGen Energy Center (Cambridge, Wis.). The facility is a 503-MW natural gas power plant that can ramp up and down quickly, generating efficient and reliable electricity.

Tour participants are required to wear closed-toed shoes (high heels are not acceptable).