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Hoopeston Area board adds fees, makes cuts to boost revenue

Hoopeston Area students will pay more to attend school next year.

At Thursday's meeting, the school board unanimously approved setting the Early Childhood book rental fee at \$25 and \$50 for students in grades kindergarten through 12.

Additionally, the district will now charge a \$20 activity fee with a maximum of \$40 per student and \$80 per family. The fee will be charged on extracurricular activities.

A \$50 driver's ed fee will also be assessed to students beginning next year, for behind-the-wheel instruction.

Hoopeston Area has had the lowest book fees and has been one of the few districts in the area to not charge activity and driver's ed fees, said Superintendent Mark Conolly.

The measures are expected to add \$25,000 to the budget, with the driver's ed fee alone expected to net \$5,000, said board president Larry Lobb.

Students whose families cannot afford the fees may request waivers, Lobb added.

In another move to cut costs, the board approved eliminating the summer school program, expected to save \$17,000-\$18,000 and the Certified Nursing Assistant program, offered by the highs school and Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, will now be offered jointly by the hospital and Danville Area Community College.

The board also approved cutting 13 non-certified staff positions. Those who are being dismissed at the end of this year are: Kristi Barr, Jimmy Chism, Janet Elliott, Ginger Gonzalez, Brenda Herman, Becky Jones, Pamela Patterson, Patty Root, Angie Schieler, LeAnne Stebbins, Beth Thrasher, Kim Warner and Rex Wilson.

Several non-tenured teachers were hired for next year, including first-year teachers Katherine and Will Clayton (speech), Josh Haley (John Greer) and Josh McCarty (high school); second-year teachers Daphne High, Joe Legg and Amanda Payne (high school), Emily Jones (Honeywell) and Richard Stipp (middle school); third-year teachers Patricia Martin (Maple), Brian Schroeder (middle school) and Sara Troxel (Honeywell); and fourth-year instructors Todd Burch and Deborah Ledford (high school), Ann Penicook (middle school) and Jana Raver (Maple)

In other staff changes, JoAnne Barracks was transferred from second grade to Title 1 and Raver was changed from first grade to second grade.

In unrelated action, the board unanimously approved a motion supporting a feasibility study on reorganization among Hoopeston Area, Rossville-Alvin and Bismarck-Henning districts.

In making the motion, board member Steve Unger said the proposal, which calls for a northern high school campus at Hoopeston, a southern campus at Bismarck-Henning and a vocational center at Rossville-Alvin, "offers long-term stability" and "continued opportunities for students. The biggest winners in this are the students."

Board member John Smiley said one important question answered at a meeting about the study was whether high school students could attend either campus. The affirmative answer will create more choices for students, he said.

Lobb said the results of the study will provide a long-term solution but wondered about the short term and the difficulty of getting the three boards behind the plan. "It's a little confusing out there right now," he said.

Board member Jeff Stipp said he favors the plan and praised the consultants who presented an unbi-

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Police News



Matthew S. Ray, 21, of 33983 N 1700 East Rd., was arrested at 2:45 p.m. Thursday at city hall. Ray, anted on a Hoopeston warrant for failure to appear, was released on \$65.

Jason A. Cox, 19, of 36213 N. 1170 East Rd., Rossville, was arrested at 7:42 p.m. Thursday after a traffic stop at Thompson and Third St. He was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and was released on a notice to appear.

Humberto Mendez Sanchez, 25, of 218 W. Chestnut "A", was arrested at 8:15 a.m. Friday after a traffic stop in the 100 block of North Market. He was charged with no valid driver's license and was released on \$200 cash bond.

Gary D. Deck, 59, of 525 S. Fifth Ave., was ticketed for failing to reduce speed to avoid an accident at 4:32 p.m. Friday.

Police said Deck, in a 1997 Dodge truck, was south of Fifth Ave. on West Washington and hit a 2003 Pontiac driven by Alice Jackson of Hoopeston.

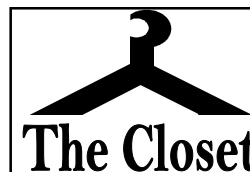
Genaro D. Zamarripa, 33, of 805 E. Chestnut, was arrested at 6:20 p.m. at his home. Zamarripa, wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear for jury trial and a Benton County, Ind., warrant for failure to appear for probation violation, was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Weather



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