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School

Elections

'97

Three of 11 Hoopeston Area school board candidates profiled

Editor's Note: Eleven people are running for four seats on the Hoopeston Area school board in the Nov. 4 election.

For these interviews, candidates were asked why they chose to run, what issues face the district, and their opinions on consolidation and drug testing.

Budget concerns top the list of issues for Hoopeston Area school board candidate

Patti Roberts.

Roberts, 40, who owns a cleaning service, said increasing the number of students attending the district is a good way to keep the budget in the black.

To accomplish that, Roberts would like to see Hoopeston and Rossville school merge. Despite Rossville's ongoing talks with other districts, "I'm still hopeful, or at least optimistic, that we can get Rossville together with Hoopeston," she said. "Rossville has a lot to offer, probably more than they're aware of."

A tax increase is another revenue-generating option. "I feel residents are behind the school system and it would be OK if we had to raise taxes," she said.

Holding the line on costs is also something Roberts

Vote for

DUANE SHEPPARD

Hoopeston Area School Board Your vote will be appreciated

favors. Regarding drug testing, Roberts said the cost factors must be weighed before a policy is implemented. Also, she said, students are aware of current punishments. "They know what is expected and what happens if they cross the line," she said.

Roberts, who has three children in the system, said she has attended board meetings for the past two years and will continue to do

so. "Whether I get elected or not, I'm still going to be involved," she said.

However, she hopes she'll be involved from the perspective of a board member. "I could really add a lot of plusses to the board," she said. "I love doing the homework part of it. I enjoy talking to other people."

Candidate **Duane Sheppard** has experienced the school system both as a parent and substitute teacher.

Sheppard, 41, has two children in the schools and during the farming off-season, he substitute teaches in the district.

Sheppard he is not going into the election with preconceived ideas. "I'm not going in with any agenda," he

He favors consolidation "when the time comes" and believes Hoopeston Area could approach Rossville-Alvin with something to benefit both districts. However, he said, Hoopeston Area can do little right now. "The ball is in Rossville's court now," he said.

Sheppard favors random drug testing. "I'm all for trying to keep things on the up-and-up," he said. "I'm all for trying to bring discipline back into the school."

Sheppard said he will bring "sound, level-headed decision making" to the board. "I'm not going to come in and bombard them," he said.



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Route 1 South Hoopeston (217) 283-6688 And he has a suggestion for Hoopeston Area residents.

See CANDIDATES on other side

Candidates continued from other side

"I think everybody in town ought to substitute out there," he said. "It would open their eyes."

Making sure all school programs are high-quality is the aim of candidate **John Smiley**, 48.

"There are some good programs and some programs that aren't so good," he said. He would not list which school programs fall in either category. "I don't want to hurt people's feelings," he said, adding parents are aware which programs are not good. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out your kid's not in a good program."

Smiley said three factors determine a good program: whether the person heading it loves kids, knows what he is doing and is excited about doing it. "That, to me, is a huge first step to running a great program."

Regarding consolidation, Smiley favors it only if it is good for the students, providing "quality and quantity programs."

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Consolidation to get money by putting more students in a classroom, "I'm dead-set against that," he said.

Smiley favors drug testing because "it's wrong to take drugs. It's not only wrong, it's illegal."

Strengths he will bring to the board include his work

Police News



Police ask everyone with a 283 telephone prefix to dial 7-1-1 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. today to test the 911 emergency system.

The person answering the call will confirm callers' names, address and phone number displayed in the dispatch center.

Obituaries

BELL - Helen Beals Bell, 80, of Hoopeston, died at 6:15 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 29, 1997 at her home. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Visitation will be one hour before services. Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Beals Cemetery, Trilla, Ill. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: Ham & cheese/bun, tator tots, macaroni salad, graham cracker, pineapple, milk.

TUESDAY: Hamburger/bun, fries, cheese, pickles, slaw, fruit cocktail, milk.

WEDNESDAY: Chicken nuggets, salad, corn, bread, margarine, peaches, milk.

THURSDAY: Beef & noodles, whipped potatoes, green beans, bread, margarine, orange, milk.

FRIDAY: Sausage pizza, salad, applesauce, milk.

Hoopeston Area High/Middle schools

MONDAY: Ham & cheese/bun or fish/bun, tator tots, macaroni salad, cookie, pineapple, milk.

TUESDAY: Hamburger/bun or turkey/bun, fries, cheese, slaw, fruit cocktail, milk.

WEDNESDAY: Chicken nuggets or Z rib/bun, salad, corn, bread, margarine, peaches, milk.

THURSDAY: Beef & noodles or corn dog, whipped potatoes, green beans, roll, margarine, orange, milk.

FRIDAY: Sausage pizza or chicken patty/bun, salad, applesauce, milk.

Rossville-Alvin schools

MONDAY: Pepperoni pizza, salad, fresh fruit salad, brownie, milk.

TUESDAY: BBQ rib/bun, seasoned carrots, peach cobbler, pretzels, milk.

WEDNESDAY: Hamburger/bun, pickles, oven fries, fruit, Rice Krispie treat, milk

THURSDAY: Hay stacks, buttered corn, red hots & applesauce, milk.

FRIDAY: Hamburger gravy, whipped potatoes, chilled fruit, spice cake, milk (Lucky Tray Day, K-5).

Weather



Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers today. High 62. Tonight, showers continue. Low 50. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High 55, low 45. Sunday, chance of showers, cooler. High 38, low 36.

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- ✓ Teacher Advocate Award,
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