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Schools question teacher shuffle, changing student counts

ROSSVILLE—How teachers will be divided between school districts and whether students will be allowed to change their minds about which school they will attend are prime concerns of officials of receiving schools should Rossville-Alvin deactivate its high school.

The boards of Rossville-Alvin, Hoopeston Area and Bismarck-Henning met informally Thursday to discuss questions concerning the Rossville board's proposal to deactivate its high school. The board hopes to get a referendum on the November election and, if it passes, pay tuition for its students to attend at the other two schools. Rossville-Alvin officials eventually hope to have a co-operative high school with campuses in Hoopeston and Bismarck with its own high school used as a vocational center with distance learning classed and possibly technology classes.

Superintendents of Bismarck-Henning and Hoopeston Area questioned whether students will be allowed to change their minds about which schools they attend and how that will affect each district's staffing should students change their minds.

Rossville-Alvin's high school teachers will be divided between the other districts at the same percentage as student attendance.

According to some literature, there are options that the districts must agree on regarding student attendance. Changing one a year, every two years or not at all are options, said Dennis Price, Rossville-Alvin board president.

Another question that must be researched is whether students who do opt for a different school will have to sit out one year of IHSA eligibility. IHSA rules state a student who does not change his physical address must have one year of ineligibility, said R-A Superintendent Carl Sartwell.

Another question arose about how soon students

would have to decide where they will attend. The vote would not happen until November and districts must notify by March teachers who will be cut. "I think it's a tight schedule this first year," said HA Superintendent Mark Conolly.

Conolly asked how Rossville-Alvin will handle bumping of its teachers. For example, he asked, will a high school teacher who has higher seniority and is certified as a high school and grade school educator be allowed to bump a grade school teacher with less seniority? "How the bumping is orchestrated is key to making this go smoothly," he said.

Another question is how R-A will handle three teachers who currently teach both high school and junior high school classes.

Roger Satterwhite, a Rossville board member, asked if either Bismarck-Henning or Hoopeston is interested in using the Rossville building.

Randy Hurd, Bismarck-Henning superintendent, said using the building "is a real possibility" for some classes. He suggested starting as an educational center, not a vocational one. All the districts might be able to share the costs of programs that none can offer independently. "We're trying to see the silver lining in this cloud," he said.

Conolly said he, Hurd and Sartwell are "strongly arguing" for a north Vermilion County VOTEC campus at Rossville. "It's on the table," he said.

The boards also discussed holding open houses at Hoopeston Area and Bismarck-Henning to allow parents to see each campus prior to a November vote. "We've spent a lot of time on this and know what each district has to offer but the only way for people to know is to go see for themselves," Price said.

The boards will meet again after questions are researched and answers available. A date was not set.

Vegetable Plants

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Police News



A **key ring** with one key was found Friday in the 300 block of East Main. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Brent D. Burge, 24, of 838 E. Maple, was arrested at 12:29 a.m. Friday at Main and Bank. He was charged with unlawful possession of title document (registration sticker) and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Frank E. Burke, 48, of 601 S. Chicago, Apt. 1, was

arrested at 4:21 p.m. Friday at Weber Drugs, 221 E. Main. He was charged with forgery after he allegedly tried to forge a prescription. He was taken to the Public

Safety Building in Danville.

Scott J. Ford, 43, of 830 E. Seminary, was arrested at 5:50 p.m. Friday at home. He was charged with unlaw-

ful acts constituting disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 14-year-old Hoopeston boy. Ford was released on \$100 cash bond.



Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area Grade Schools

MONDAY: Chicken sticks, fries, applesauce, cookie.

TUESDAY: Pepperoni pizza, salad, pears.

WEDNESDAY: Country fried steak sticks, mashed potatoes, gravy, hot roll, peaches.

THURSDAY: Hot dog/bun, fries, animal crackers, pineapple.

FRIDAY: PBJ, tator tots, pudding cup, fruit cocktail.

Hoopeston Area Middle/High School

MONDAY: Chicken strips,* potato wedges, cheese sauce, applesauce.

TUESDAY: Double stuffed pepperoni pizza,* salad, pears.

WEDNESDAY: Pork BBQ/bun or fish/bun, corn, peaches.

THURSDAY: Chicken quesadilla or corn dog, salad, pineapple.

FRIDAY: Toasted cheese or PBJ, fries, fruit cocktail.

*PBJ is second choice.

Rossville-Alvin Schools

MONDAY: Tator tot casserole, green beans, pears, bread, butter.

TUESDAY: Pizza Hut, salad, fruit salad, chocolate chip cookie.

WEDNESDAY: Chicken sandwich, baked potato, apple-sauce.

THURSDAY: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, corn, pineapple, bread, butter.

FRIDAY: Chicken nuggets, tator tots, peaches, graham crackers.

All meals include milk.

CRIS/SAMS Meals

MONDAY: Double cheeseburger/bun, pineapple juice, green beans, banana.

TUESDAY: Chicken parmesan, peas & carrots, cream corn, white bread, orange.

WEDNESDAY: Salami & cheese/white bread, corn chips, pineapple chunks, chocolate chip cookie, salad dressing

THURSDAY: Turkey Manhattan, whipped potatoes,

Obituaries

ANDERSON - Nellie Mae Anderson, 95, of Rossville, died at 7:40 p.m. Wednesday (April 21, 2004) at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Danville. Burial will be in GAR Cemetery, Homer; Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home, and one hour prior to services on Tuesday. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Community Nursing Home or the Rossville United Methodist Church.

PIERCE - Raymond E. Pierce, 68, of Hoopeston, died at 2:45 a.m. Friday, April 23, 2004, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Sunday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial was in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was noon-2 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the Chestnut Street Church of Christ, 709 E. Chestnut

St., Hoopeston, IL 60942.

STOCK -Melvin W. Stock, 82, of Cissna Park, died at 5:38 p.m. Monday, April 19, 2004 at Heartland Health Care Center, Paxton. Funeral services ere at 10 a.m. Thursday at Apostolic Christian Church, Cissna Park. Burial was in Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park. Visitation was Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park. Memorials are suggested to the church or Heartland Health Care Center.

Weather



Breezy today. High 61. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 33. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 57, low 45.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

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