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Hoopeston Area board gets report on new behavior program

A program that rewards positive behavior is already getting results at Hoopeston Area Middle School and will spread to Honeywell and John Greer grade schools.

Ann Penicook, middle school dean of students, presented the Hoopeston Area board with information on Positive Behavior Intervention and Support at Thursday night's board meeting.

With PBIS, educators create a series of expectations for students. At the middle school, focus is on students being responsible, respectful and considerate. Expectations are coupled with settings, such as halls, classrooms and the cafeteria, to create a matrix.

Once that is created, behaviors are taught similar to academics, with modeling and practice of expected behaviors. Those behaviors are reinforced using "Cool Tools" such as role playing and acting out scenarios, Penicook said.

Students who are "caught" with good behavior are rewarded with respect tickets, which can be used to receive a piece of gum, or saved up for larger items. Five respect tickets equal a gold star ticket, which may also be saved to spend at the school's Respect Store, which is open once a month. There is also a monthly drawing for large items, such as a CD player, and for teachers, a drawing for gift certificates.

Each day, students are told the daily expectation and may be quizzed during the day on what the expectation is. Those who know it are rewarded with a respect ticket, Penicook said.

Currently, more than 600 schools use the PBIS system, which has been at the middle school for five months. Results can take three to five years, although, Penicook said, data shows some return on the program already. Horseplay is down at the middle school, as is the number of skipped teacher detentions.

Interim Superintendent Don Dean said the program is

a positive step for students. "A lot of times, you can't measure what it's preventing," he said. "It can pay off in a lot of ways."

In other business, the board heard from John Greer principal Dan Walder that this year's Summer Migrant Program will now cover part of Iroquois County, specifically the Watseka area.

Redistricting for the program took that area out of the Kankakee service area. The change could add about 30 children to the local program and "breathe new life into (it)," Walder said.

See HOOPESTON AREA on other side

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Hoopeston Area continued from other side

- In other action, the board:
- Approved purchasing a 71-passenger bus and 14 passenger activity bus for \$79,709 from Ponder Equipment of Litchfield.
 - Heard from Dean that a woman interested in de-annexing 160 acres from Hoopeston Area to Paxton-Buckley Loda is trying to find an equal amount of property that can come in the district.
 - Heard from high school principal Hank Hornbeck that a planned two-year agreement for a cooperative soccer pro-

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should have called
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to get rid of this stuff!

- gram with Bismarck-Henning will be the same except for a \$300 increase - from \$2,500 to \$2,800 - in salaries for an assistant coach.
- Hornbeck also told the board that the home portion of the district's student information management system is expected to go online Friday.
- With the system, parents may view their students' class rank, missing homework assignments and other information.
- Also heard from Hornbeck that students are gearing up for ISAT tests in March and that results of last year's tests were just received Thursday.
 - Heard a request from parent Connie Huffman about the possibility of offering a fourth year of Spanish that is not an independent study course.
 - Accepted resignations of Kathryn Butterworth, third grade teacher, who is retiring; Angela Holland, high school English; Jessica Marble, high school science; Becky Prina, middle/high school art; and Jamie Miller, eighth grade girls basketball coach.

— **Briefly** —

Farmer Appreciation Breakfast
The North East Vermilion FFA chapter will host a Farmer Appreciation Breakfast at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21 at Rossville-Alvin High School. Reservations may be made by calling (217) 748-6600 or emailing nevffa@hotmail.com.




Got the drift?
A snow drift dwarfs headstones and the doorway at Hoopeston Memorials, 1010½ E. Thompson, last Thursday after the snowstorm. The shop was closed until snow could be removed.

- All resignations are effective at the end of the school year.
- Approved hiring Wayne Bandy as the head high school softball coach.
- Approved rehiring building principals including Lori Eells, Linda Sheppard, Walder and Hornbeck.

Tiny Tots
“Dr. Seuss” is the theme of this week’s Tiny Tots at the Hoopeston Public Library. Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Youth baseball signups
Signup for Hoopeston Area Youth Baseball has been set for 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays, Feb. 24 and Mar. 3 and 1-3 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 25 and Mar. 4. All will be at Hoopeston City Hall. Youngsters may also sign up during the WHPO Business Expo on March 10-11.

Weather 

Today, wintry mix of snow and freezing rain likely before noon then rain. High 37. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 27. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 41, low 27.

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

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