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Phone/Fax:
(217) 283-9348
Email:

publish@justthefacts.net

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Hoopeston Area High School fails to meet state standards

Hoopeston Area eleventh graders failed to meet state standards in reading and math, according to the latest school report card.

Report cards, containing test scores and other information on each school, were discussed at Thursday night's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting.

Students tested at Honeywell, John Greer and Hoopeston Area Middle School kept pace with the standards but high school students fell below the bar of 55 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards.

In reading, only 40 percent of students met or exceeded standards, while in reading, 36 percent were at or above the goal.

In Illinois, the percentage of students who must meet proficiency levels rises 7.5 percent annually. Last year, 47.5 percent of students had to meet or exceed the standards, while next year, 62.5 percent will have to be at or above learning standards.

High school Principal Larry Maynard said the school is taking a four-pronged approach to improving its reading and math test scores.

First, the curriculum is being reevaluated to assure that materials used correspond with what students need to know to pass standardized tests.

Also, officials are considering having next year's juniors take the Prairie State Achievement Test off-site, allowing students to take the exams in a quiet atmosphere. Students would be fed breakfast and lunch and would test "in a comfortable setting," Maynard said. The steps would also "let them know this is important."

Other components of change include implementing the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) program at the school, use Illinois High School Association resources to get more students involved in activities and the Novel program to improve the school's graduation rate. Maynard is looking into an online pro-

gram that would allow students to make up needed credits in summer school. Currently, two or three subjects are covered in the summer school offered locally. By using the online program, students could choose from among 25 to 30 different courses.

Last year, the district did not make annual yearly progress in its graduation rate but did this year, with 73.9 percent. However, graduation remains "a watchful item," Maynard said.

The approach is expected to begin in the spring. "We're not going to wait another year," Maynard said.

Scores for other district schools were:

- Maple-no standardized testing done
- Honeywell-74.9 percent reading; 90.6 percent math
- John Greer-75.6 percent reading; 84.6 percent math
- Middle School-71.5 percent reading, 77.9 percent math

In unrelated business, the board heard from John Greer Principal Dan Walder about activities at the school, including basic results from the PBIS program.

Walder showed a video of the school that was shown to students at the beginning of the year. The video included information about PBIS and stressed the need for students to be responsible, respectful and safe.

Early results show the program is working. Last year at this time, Walder said he had dealt with 50 disciplinary actions. As of Friday morning, the number this year was eight. "It's amazing what the planning and preparation of a quality program can do," Walder told the board.

PBIS is offered in all schools except Maple and the high school, both of which will be added in the spring.

In unrelated business, the board:

Heard from business director Don Dean that the district will request a 9.2 percent increase over last year's

See HA on other side

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Police News



Three people were arrested in connection with a home invasion reported at 12:29 a.m. Friday in the 700 block of East Thompson.

Arrested were Anthon B. Borden, 36, of 1901 Deerwood, Danville; Marico A. Miller, 23, of 5968 W. Huron, Chicago; and Kareem J. Marshall, 27, 902 Shasta, Danville.

The men were arrested on preliminary charges of home invasion, mob action, aggravated battery and unlawful use

of restraint after they allegedly entered a home and beat up a 50-year-old man.

The unidentified man was taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital by Hoopeston Ambulance.

The arrested men were taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.

Mary Beth Justice, 33, of 21 Parkview Court was arrested at 2:10 p.m. Friday in the 800 block of North Market. She was charged with disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 20-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged she has received several phone calls from Justice during the past few months, at all hours of the day and night.

Justice was released on a notice to appear.

Denelle M. Rhodes, 30, of 625 E. Penn, was arrested after an incident at 9:44 p.m. Friday at Deano's on Main, 306 E. Main.

Officers alleged they saw Rhodes strike a 32-year-old Hoopeston man in the bar parking lot and that while taking her into custody, a parked car was scratched.

Rhodes was charged with domestic battery and criminal damage to auto and was taken to the Public Safety

Building, Danville.

Daryl B. Brown, 18, of 715 E. Elm, was arrested at 10:15 a.m. Friday at Hoopeston Area High School, 615 E. Orange. A K-9 search was conducted of the school's parking lot and lockers. Police allege cannabis was found in Brown's car.

Brown was released on a notice to appear.

A 55-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 5:41 p.m. Saturday that someone took a bike and other items from



Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, corn, applesauce.

TUESDAY: Cheese pizza, rolls, salad, pears.

WEDNESDAY: Spaghetti/meatballs, salad, peaches.

THURSDAY: Country fried steak sticks, mashed potatoes, pineapple, bread & butter.

FRIDAY: No school.

Hoopeston Area Middle/High School

MONDAY: Chicken patty/bun, potato wedges, applesauce; Choice: cheeseburger.

TUESDAY: Sausage pizza, salad, pears; Choice: Chicken ham & cheese/bun.

his garage in the 800 block of East Young.

Tracy K. Brandiff, 32, of 608 Doise Lane, Champaign, was arrested after an incident at 4:15 a.m. Sunday in the 200 block of North Fourth St. She was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 29-year-old woman who alleged Brandiff struck her in the face, breaking her glasses.

Brandiff was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.

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Hoopeston Area continued from other side

tax levy. Last year, taxes extended for the year were \$2,776,665. The increase will be to \$3,030,250.

Dean said the district asks for more than it thinks it will get. If the district asked for a three percent increase in the levy and property values went up five percent, Hoopeston Area would lose the additional two percent.

While asking for an increased levy, Dean said the actual tax rate should be about 4.55-4.58. Last year's rate was 4.57.

Heard from Lynn Wolgamot and Kristi Hudson of Keep Vermilion County Beautiful about reinstating a district-wide recycling program. Wolgamot said grants - as much as \$10,000 - are available for such recycling programs.

Heard the details of a proposed two-year agreement with Rossville-Alvin for a junior high baseball program. The current agreement has expired, said Superintendent Hank Hornbeck. Under terms of the new agreement, Hoopeston Area would agree to pay half the associated

costs of the program. Under the old agreement, Hoopes-ton paid transportation costs to Rossville for practice and the salary of an assistant coach, while Rossville paid for transportation to games, the coach's salary and incidental expenses. Hornbeck said the change will increase Hoopeston's share of the costs from about \$500 to \$1,300 or \$1,400.

Learned the district does not qualify for the per-capita library grant because it has one librarian for five schools. Under new guidelines, the district would need one librarian for three schools. The cost of hiring an additional librarian would outweigh the \$1,300 grant.

Weather



Chance of showers today and tonight. High 68, low 45. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 59, low 41.

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

WEDNESDAY: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, corn, hot roll, peaches; Choice: hot dog/bun.

THURSDAY: Corn dog, baked beans, pineapple; Choice: pepperoni pizza.

FRIDAY: No school.

CRIS/SAMS meals

MONDAY: Cube steak, mashed potatoes, spinach, mandarin orange, wheat bread.

TUESDAY: Pork steak, peas, shredded lettuce/dressing, banana, white bread.

WEDNESDAY: Pepper beef patty, loaded potato, carrots, mixed fruit, white bread.

THURSDAY: Meat loaf/tomato sauce, rutabaga, lima beans, grape juice, wheat bread.

FRIDAY: Ham & beans, cole slaw, apple juice, corn bread.

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