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HA school officials to seek public input for strategic plan

A strategic plan for Hoopeston Area schools is missing a piece of the puzzle, according to Danville Area Community College official.

Dave Kietzmann, DACC vice president for instruction, has worked with Hoopeston Area's board, administration and faculty on a strategic plan since 2006.

At Thursday night's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting, Kietzmann told the board that while the district has "done a pretty good job of gathering information from internal stakeholders," it now needs to "go to some external constituents" in the form of parents and community groups to get their take on local schools.

Kietzmann suggested that HA hold an open community night where residents of the district may come and express their views. He suggested board members could also do one-on-one conversations with members of civic groups to which they belong.

Like school officials and staff, the community should weigh in on what things the district does well, and which need improvement. Of those things that could be improved, a priority list should be formed and, from that, ways to accomplish those goals, he said.

Kietzmann offered to help with a community meeting, and board President Mark Wagoner took him up on his offer, telling the board that they need to look at their schedules to come up with a meeting night, preferably before Christmas, and invite district residents to share their views. Wagoner also suggested the district might use its website to get more opinions.

In unrelated business, the board approved the estimated 2008 tax levy of \$3,131,250, an 8.7 percent increase.

District treasurer Don Dean said the levy needs to be high...just in case. "The chance of us getting 8.7 percent is about nonexistent," he said. However, he added, "if you levy four percent and property comes in at six, you lose two percent."

Last year, Dean said, the district levy was 9.1 percent, but Hoopeston Area actually got three percent. The previous year, the levy was 9.8 percent, but HA only got one percent.

With an 8.7 percent levy, the tax rate would only go up eight cents, Dean said. That translates into \$24 on a \$90,000 home.

The board is expected to review the levy at its October 16 meeting and approve it in November.

In other business, Superintendent Hank Hornbeck said the six-day enrollment figure, on which state aid is based, shows a loss of seven students over last year's six-day figure.

On the sixth day of this school year, Hoopeston Area had 1,292 students. Since the 1992-92 year, Hoopeston Area's enrollment has declined by 423 students, with a loss of more than 50 students in school years 1994-95, 1997-98, 1998-99, 2002-03 and 2005-06.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Learned four seats will be open in the April 7 school board election. The first day to circulate petitions for positions is Oct. 26. Betty Richards was appointed as the district election official.

- Heard from Hornbeck, who thanked the City of Hoopeston for its contribution of \$30,000 towards middle school roof repairs. The city gave the school district the money from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds.

- Heard from principals that they and their staff are

See HA on other side

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Police News



A **diabetic testing** kit was found at 9 a.m. Thursday in the CVS parking lot. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

A **37-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 5:51 p.m. Thursday that someone took clothing, guitars and personal items from his house in the 600 block of East Washington.

Holly D. Robinson, 20, of Rossville turned herself

in to police at 3:20 a.m. Friday. She was wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear for arraignment and a Champaign County traffic warrant for driving while license suspended.

Robinson was released on \$1,500 cash bond with new court dates.

A **47-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 6:03 p.m. Friday that a window to his building was broken. The

damage occurred in the 100 block of East Penn.

A **27-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 8:10 pm. Friday that someone threw a brick at the windshield of his vehicle while it was parked in the 400 block of East Main.

A **silver Huffy** Strider bicycle was found at 7 a.m. Saturday. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Robert L. Deaton, 34, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 8:30 p.m. Saturday in the 600 block of East Lincoln. He was charged with battery on a complaint from a 56-year-old Hoopeston man who alleged Deaton struck him.

He was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Kevin W. Jackson, 27, of Rossville was arrested after an incident at 3:33 a.m. Sunday in the 400 block of East Honeywell. He was charged with disorderly conduct after he allegedly rang several door bells trying to get into a building.

Jackson was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

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Obituaries

FIDLER - Mary Rose (Hushaw) Fidler, 85, of Portage, Ind., formerly of Rossville, died Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008. Graveside funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Rossville Cemetery. Visitation will be noon-1:45 p.m. Monday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville.

HABEL - Betty Mae (Rickart) Habel, 83, of Hoopeston, died at 11:40 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Rossville Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Alzheimer's Association,

2027 S. Main St., Suite 3, Bloomington, IL 61704. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, was in charge of arrangements.

LYTLE - Zelbert Ray Lytle Sr., 86, of Wellington, died at 12:27 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital emergency room. Fu-

neral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Morningstar Church, Rossville. Burial will be in Gundy Cemetery, Bismarck, with military honors by Cissna Park American Legion Post. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.



Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: Chicken/bacon/ranch wrap, corn, apple-sauce, cookie

TUESDAY: Cheese pizza, salad, pears, Teddy Grahams

WEDNESDAY: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, peaches, bread, butter

THURSDAY: French toast, scrambled eggs, oranges, apple juice

FRIDAY: Cheeseburger, fries, mixed fruit

Hoopeston Area Middle/High School

MONDAY: Chicken/bacon/ranch wrap or ham & cheese, salad bar, applesauce, cookie

TUESDAY: Double stuffed pizza or pork BBQ, salad, pears, peanut butter & crackers

WEDNESDAY: Chili cheese dog or sub sandwich, chips, peaches, applesauce

THURSDAY: Salisbury steak or Hot Pocket, mashed potatoes, pineapple hot roll

FRIDAY: Chicken salad wrap or fish/bun, salad, mixed fruit

CRIS/SAMS meals

MONDAY: Chicken tetrazzini, peas, peaches, cupcake, wheat bread

TUESDAY: BBQ pork, macaroni & cheese, broccoli, grape juice, peanut butter cookie, bun

WEDNESDAY: Meatballs/rice, green beans, carrots, diced peaches, white bread

THURSDAY: Steak fingers, loaded potato, mixed vegetables, tomato juice, wheat bread

FRIDAY: Teriyaki chicken, rice, peas, fruit cocktail, lemon gelatin, white bread

All meals include milk.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 80. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 55. Tomorrow, sunny. High 81, low 58.

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

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Driver for farm tractor, with experience, during fall harvest in Hoopeston. (317) 694-0602

Hoopeston Area Community Unit School District #11 is seeking applicants for the following positions: High School Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach; Middle School Wrestling Head Coach. Interested individuals please contact Kevin Root, Athletic Director at (217) 283-6660.

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