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# HA board approves revised high school restructuring plan

A plan aimed at boosting high school students' standardized test scores was unanimously approved by Hoopeston Area school board Thursday night.

Developing a restructuring plan was necessary because the high school failed to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for five years under the No Child Left Behind Act. The plan, which was unveiled at a special meeting on May 31, was approved with two changes.

The original plan called for a No Pass-No Play policy to be implemented in 2013-14. However, as written, semester infractions would have been implemented before weekly checks. The board approved changing weekly eligibility checks next year but implementing the policy in 2014.

The second item would have moved valedictorian/ salutatorian speeches from graduation to Honors Night, but the board approved leaving the speeches as part of graduation.

Other provisions of the plan include adding a math teacher and revising the fifth English teacher, which will allow students to repeat a failed semester right away; adding journalism, statistics and advanced placement courses; and hiring a family engagement liaison to oversee student attendance, assist with truancy issues, act as

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a college/career readiness resource and act as an advocate for new students families in the high/middle school.

The plan calls for protecting instructional time, to be done by removing activities that unnecessarily disrupt the educational process by doing such things as moving the annual blood rive to an outside agency and have student council meetings before or after school; continuing activities that add to the educational experience, such as the Sweetheart Dinner, Veterans Day assembly, band spring tour, WYSE and D.O.

Senior week and Homecoming activities will also be modified to minimize disruptions to education.

The plan also calls for graduation to be moved from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon.

Costs for the four-year restructuring program are estimated at \$146,650, including \$20,000 per year for the family engagement liaison; \$5,000 in the second through fourth years for advanced placement courses and \$8,000 per year for professional development.

In other business, the board heard from football coach Michl Kearney, who said student athlete use of the weight room is at a three-year low, with an average of 13 students per day, down from an average of 50 students per day the first year and 35 last year.

The weight room is open from 6-8 a.m., and 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and has been opened to Bismarck-Henning athletes, he said.

In related discussion, athletic director Kevin Root said next year's Homecoming game will be held the Saturday after Labor Day. Hoopeston Area, which will only field a junior varsity team next year, will play Clifton Central. Regular Homecoming activities, such as the annual parade, will be held Friday and the Homecoming dance will be Saturday night.

In unrelated business, the board:

See HA on other side

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## -Briefly

### **Community meeting**

Alderwoman Sue Comstock is holding a community meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 28 at city hall. Residents are encouraged to attend and voice their concerns, questions and thoughts about civic issues.

### Just ducky

Ducks for the annual 4th of July Duck Race in Rossville may be registered June 29 from 1-8 p.m. at Casey's.

Ducks may be purchased July 4 at Chrisman Park.

## Save those box tops

All Maple School kids please save your Box Tops for Education for the contest at school. Questions? Email princeja@hoopeston.k12.il.us.

### **Change in walking hours**

Beginning June 1, the Hoopeston Civic Center will be closed to walkers at noon. Beginning October 1, it will be open 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.





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## **Police News**



Jesus C. Diaz, 28, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 7:54 a.m. Thursday in the 400 block of North Fourth Street.

### **Obituaries**

COX - Arlo "Bun Cox, 75, of Hoopeston, died at 3:31 p.m. Wednesday, June 20, 2012, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital emergency room. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Chestnut Street Church of Christ, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Visitation was 5-7 p.m. Sunday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to the church.

## **HA** continued from other side

- Approved the fiscal year 2013 migrant program at a cost of \$22,971, which is paid through a federal pro-
- Approved board members Lawrence Jahn, Lisa Leigh and Stewart Coffman to be paid not more than \$2,000 from the district.
- Approved student handbooks for Maple, Honeywell, John Greer and Hoopeston Area Middle School.
- Approved new employees for the 2012-13 year, including: April Handy, high school student council coadvisor; Jenny Mauer, kindergarten teacher; Patrick Brooks, high school chemistry/physics; Kathleen Clemens, high school English/JV volleyball coach; Glenn Brewer, high school math; Kristen Baldwin, high school English/TV production/yearbook co-sponsor; Nathaniel Albaugh, high school head wrestling coach; Karen Ervin-Smith, John Greer personal aide; and Michael McDermaid, John Greer PE.
- Approved resignations of band teacher Wendy Ronna; Claudia Paredes, John Greer personal aide; David Page, John Greer PE/assistant football coach, sixth grade boys basketball coach and assistant high school baseball coach; Jennifer Rea, fifth grade teacher; and Larry and

## Weather



Sunny today. High 79. Tonight, clear. Low 54. Tomorrow, sunny. High 82, low 58.

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

Wanted on a warrant, he was released on bond with a new court date.

**Dawn Deaton**, 34, of Milford, was arrested at 10:27 p.m. Thursday after police were called to the 800 block of east Seminary for unauthorized use of a vehicle.

Deaton was charged under city ordinance with possession of cannabis and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was released on notices to appear in Hoopeston City

Tonya K. Edwards, 35, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 8:05 a.m. Saturday in the 800 block of East Seminary. Wanted on an Iroquois County warrant for failure to appear/speeding, she was released on bond.

Jan German, sixth grade and Early Childhood teachers, respectively.

• Approved transferring Aaron Fell from freshman boys basketball coach to JV boys basketball coach.

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