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Tuesday, April 23, 2019

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HA school board approves class credit, graduation changes

Future Hoopeston Area students will need fewer credits to graduate, but not because their workload is lessened.

Hoopeston Area High School had awarded one credit per semester course but at Thursday's Hoopeston Area school board meeting, the board unanimously approved lowering that to a half credit per semester course.

This year's seniors will need 44 credits to graduate. That number will drop to 22 starting in 2019-20.

At last month's meeting, high school Principal John Klaber requested the change, saying it would put the district in line with the state. He added that the move would also boost graduation rates, as some students in Response to Intervention classes have also had to take credit recovery classes to earn enough credits to graduate.

In related action, the board unanimously changed its policy regarding the number of credits needed to graduate.

A second change proposed by Klaber was also unanimously approved by the board: using the Latin system for grade point average recognition at graduation.

Under his proposal, students with a GPA over 4.0 - four students - would graduate summa cum laude and wear a gold tassel. Seven students with a GPA of 3.7 to 4 would graduate magna cum laude and wear a silver tassel. Seven or eight students currently with a GPA of 3.25-3.69 would graduate cum laude with a bronze tassel.

National Honor Society students would wear a blue one under the Latin system.

In other business, Athletic Director Matt Colston suggested a change to a line item all sports budget rather than having a lump sum split among the sports.

Colston said using a line item budget would bring equity to sports budgets, rather than one sport taking the lions share and leaving little for others.

With a line item budget, coaches could purchase training equipment, on which the district is currently "woefully behind," and would allow more flexibility. "To be honest, from a coaches' perspective, we would buy what we needed," he said.

The plan would incorporate all sports costs under one

umbrella. As an example, Colston said this year, a pitching mound was needed and was purchased with money from another fund "because it had to be done."

Also, this year, Hoopeston Area, who is hosting the May 3 county track meet, had to purchase hurdles for the new all-weather track. Twenty were bought, but more are needed and will be borrowed from other districts. "We can't host it if we don't have them," Colston said.

The cheer squad is interested in competing against other squads, which doesn't have long-term costs, but up front, rollaway mats are needed at a cost of about \$4,000. There would also be a one-time fee for choreography, similar to show choir, he said.

If approved, the district budget would have to be amended to reflect the change. The suggestion was referred to the district finance committee.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the revised 2018-19 calendar and heard from Supt. Suzi Hesser about the proposed 2019-20 calendar, which may change pending state legislation.
 - Approved a two-year cooperative football/cheerleading agreement with Armstrong High School.
 - Approved the district concussion protocol team members as HAHS principal, dean of students, head coach and teacher and the district athletic director and athletic trainer.
 - Approved a resolution expelling a student for the remainder of the school year.
- In personnel action, the board:
- Accepted resignations from Ashley Powell, basketball cheer coach; Diane Swartz, Maple paraprofessional; Mary Smith, John Greer Response to Intervention (RtI) teacher; Maria Rademacher, first grade teacher; and Mallory Brittenham, seventh grade science teacher.
 - Approved hiring Erika Seidel as seventh/eighth grade English language arts substitute teacher for the 2019-20 year; Alexa Morton, kindergarten teacher; Natalie Hen-
- See GRADUATION on other side**

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From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11:43 a.m. Thursday at North Fifth St. and East McCracken.

Police said a 2015 Chrysler, driven by Sarah M. Kelnhofer, 36, of Hoopeston, and a 2014 Nissan, driven by Esteban Rangel, 70, also of Hoopeston, collided. Rangel's vehicle was towed from the scene to his residence.

Jason Simonton, 37, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 9:08 p.m. Thursday for a

battery in the 600 block of East Young. Simonton was located, charged and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Amelia Young, 23, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 5:58 p.m. Friday to remove someone from a location in the 500 block of South Market. Wanted a Champaign County warrant, she was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await extradition.

Danny Schmidt, 59, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a hit-and-run accident reported at 6:45 p.m. Fri-

day in the 700 block of West Main.

Keelan Pratt, 22, of Rossville, reported that his 215 Chevrolet, parking facing northbound, was hit by a northbound vehicle.

Schmidt was located and charged with operating an uninsured motor vehicle and leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

Brandon Enos, 33, of Danville, was arrested after police were called at 6:52 p.m. Friday to the 200 block of North Fourth St. for a domestic dispute. Enos was charge with domestic battery and criminal dam-

Briefly

The Gathering

Rossville Community Organization will sponsor The Gathering, a monthly get-together for Rossville area senior citizens, at 1 p.m. Thursday. The event will be held at Rossville Fire Station.

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include: **Cooking the Books**, 6-7 p.m. Thursday. This month, it's Say Cheese. Choose a recipe from our special section and we'll copy it for you to take and make. Bring it back to share with others. Bring serving utensils. Drinks and table service provided.

Stitchin' Time, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays. Crochet instruction provided or bring your own projects. All

Graduation continued from other side

kel, first grade teacher; Nathan Gayheart, HAHS science teacher; Kevin Mikuze, HAMS dean of students; and Aaron Fell, HAHS head girls basketball coach.

- Approved transfers of Angie Torres from Maple, John Greer and HAHS English as a Second Language paraprofessional to HAMS paraprofessional; Amanda Mathewson from third grade teacher to John Greer RtI teacher; Lynn Wyss from HAMS classroom paraprofessional to John Greer classroom paraprofessional; Rhonda Carter from HAMS classroom paraprofessional to Maple classroom paraprofessional; and Carolyn Lander from Maple classroom paraprofessional to HAMS classroom paraprofessional.

Statements of support for leaving Wyss, Carter and Lander in their existing positions were made prior to the board vote.

- Approved Ashley Powell as volunteer basketball cheer coach.

needle crafters welcome.

Littles at the Library, 10:30-11 a.m. Fridays. Children ages 0 - 5 are welcome with parents or day care providers.

Kindergarten registration

Kindergarten registration will be held at Maple School from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. April 29 and 1-5:30 p.m. April 30. Parents must call to schedule an appointment, which will include a 30-minute screening of their child. To schedule an appointment, call 283-6665.

Children must be five on or before September 1 to attend kindergarten.

Obituaries

CHANDLER - Betty J. (Hinds) Chandler, 93, of Hoopeston formerly of Cissna Park, died April 17, 2019 at Autumn Fields, Hoopeston. Visitation was 10 a.m. until the noon funeral Monday at Cissna Park United Methodist Church. Burial was in Cissna Park Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the church or Iroquois Memorial Hospice, Watseka. Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, is handling arrangements.

Weather

Slight chance of showers today. High 63. Tonight, decreasing clouds. Low 41. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 66, low 47.



age to property and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Police are investigating a report made at 10:38 p.m. Saturday at Casey's General Store, 1022 W. Penn. An unidentified driver left without paying for fuel.

Police were called at 3:21 a.m. Sunday to Casey's General Store, 225 E. Orange, for a report that several items were taken from the building. The burglary is under investigation.

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