Getting ready

Brandon and Debbie Klaber, left, welcome youngsters and their parents to a Back-to-School Bash on August 10 at First Church of God, Hoopeston. The event was open to the community. The church also worked with Hoopeston Multi Agency on its school supply drive. Today is the first day for students in Hoopeston Area schools.

Photo submitted

HA board sets August 1, 2020 as Honeywell demo deadline

The former Honeywell School building could be just a memory by this time next year, if Hoopeston Area School Board has its way.

The board set a target date of August 1, 2020 to have the building taken down and will backtrack from that date to make other decisions.

Among those decisions is how to dispose of things such as playground equipment; what to do with items of historical value in the building; how to dispose of parts of the building itself, including woodwork and metal railings; and what to do with the property once the school is gone.

The finance committee would like an advisory committee to be formed of school district and community representatives to decide how such things should be handled, said board member Lisa Leigh, finance committee member.

The suggestion drew mixed results from other board members. Lee Cox and Rich Eisenmann favoring moving ahead with demolition but Lawrence Jahn, finance committee chairman, said an advisory committee could be "a good benefit to the (finance) committee."

Business manager Mark Eighner said the finance committee "has a lot of ideas. We're just short on follow-through." An advisory committee - perhaps including someone who lives near Honeywell and could talk to neighbors - could be an asset in making decisions.

Some board members suggested that industrial arts students could harvest some of the building's materials, like the hardwood, which could be used for projects but the logistics of that are problematic.

"I'm not for using class time because it would be counterproductive," said high school Principal John Klaber. "By the time they got (to Honeywell) and got their hammers out, it would be time to come back," he said.

Wade Clemons, buildings and grounds supervisor, suggested students might volunteer to get the materials on a Saturday.

While Jahn favors taking the time to put together an advisory committee, he also wants the project to move quickly to completion. "We're not going to put any heat in the building and without heat, the building is going to (deteriorate) pretty quickly," he said.

Clemmons is anxious to get the building down as soon as possible, too. "Wade would like to put bids in the paper and have it down tomorrow," Eighner joked.

It was Clemmons who came up with the August 1 date, saying Hoopeston Area will wait until winter to have asbestos removed because it's cheaper then. With that and other issues that need to be addressed, "August 1 of next year is about as soon as it's going to come down."

In June 2016, board members approved closing the school - which opened in 1927 - at the end of the 2016-17 year. In July 2018, the board heard from a consultant on the legal steps necessary to sell the property or dispose of it in other ways. Last March, the board voted unanimously to level the building.
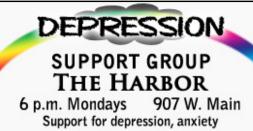
In other action, the board voted 6-1, approving a new salary of $72,800 for Emily Brown, district curriculum director. The increase was recommended by previous Supt. Suzzette Hesser.

Board President Dave McFadden said the raise was supposed to be voted on in July but was inadvertently omitted from the agenda, which included a four percent increase for other administrators.

Prior to the vote, board member Lee Cox made a motion that the vote be tabled due to confusion about Brown's base salary. Financial data on the district website does seem to have contradicting information. The proposal for salary increases lists the base salary plus retirement for administrators. Curriculum director is listed with a base of $64,251.71 for 2019-20. On the district list of salary and benefits, the base is listed as $48,433, with retirement of $4,790.07, for a total of $53,223.07.

Cox' motion died for lack of a second.

A motion to approve the raise, made by Leigh and se-

Board continued from other side

conded by Eisenmann was approved 5-1-1, with Cox voting no and Craig Lee abstaining. Yes votes were cast by Leigh, Eisenmann, Jahn, McFadden and Debbie Klaber.

In related business, the board unanimously approved the wall-to-wall collective bargaining agreement - covering noncertified employees - with Hoopeston Education Association, through the 2019-20 year. Union membership approved the contract the previous week, said Dylan Swank, HEA president.

In other business, the board:

● Approved a $10,416 payment to MTSS Network (formerly Response to Intervention) for professional learning and coaching.

● Approved purchasing a 25-passenger bus from Central States Bus Sales for $37,050.

● Approved spending not more than $7,000 for the annual audit, to be done by Russell Leigh & Associates.

● Announced the tentative budget and set a public hearing on it at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 in the high school library.

● Heard from Supt. Robert Richardson that a public engagement forum will be held September 16 at the Lorraine Theatre. The public is invited to come and get answers to questions they have about the school district. More information on the forum will be forthcoming.

● Heard from Maple Principal Suzi Root that the boiler replacement project is going well. The old boilers have been replaced and the new ones are on-site. Installers have been "professional and accommodating," she said, adding that everyone is looking forward to "consistent heat."

From the Blotter

A 25-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 7:49 p.m. Thursday that items were missing from her home in the 500 block of South Sixth Ave. Police are investigating.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 9:08 a.m. Friday for a report of a truck fire at 15088 E 4000 North Rd. No report of damages was made at the time of the report. No injuries were reported.

Lunch Menus

Hoopeston Area Grade Schools

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, broccoli/cheese, cucumber slices, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Taco Max Snax, chips & salsa, baby carrots, salad, peaches, milk

WEDNESDAY: Chicken pot pie, biscuit, celery sticks, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Pancake & sausage nuggets, Tri-Tater, baby carrots, mandarin orange, milk

FRIDAY: BBQ/bun, baked beans, cucumber slices, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area Middle School

MONDAY: Ham & cheese or PBJ, chips, apples, carrots, milk

TUESDAY: Pancake & Sausage, hash brown, salad bar, mandarin orange, milk

WEDNESDAY: Ravioli, Max Stix, salad bar, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Mini corndogs, baked beans, salad bar, peaches, milk

FRIDAY: Pizza, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area High School

MONDAY: Chicken strips or hot ham & cheese, salad bar, mixed vegetables, applesauce, milk, juice

TUEDAY: Pancake & sausage or Hot Pocket, hash brown, salad bar, mandarin orange, milk, juice

WEDNESDAY: Ravioli or BBQ rib/bun, Max Stix, salad bar, pears, milk, juice

THURSDAY: Mini corndogs or cheeseburger, baked beans, salad bar, peaches, milk, juice

FRIDAY: Pizza or fish sandwich, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk, juice

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today. High 85. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 67. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of storms late. High 90, low 70.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedroom upstairs apt. Many updates, move-in ready. $400 month. Call 217-504-4670

Very clean studio apartment for rent at Princess Theater Apartments. Rent is $450 per month and includes all utilities. Laundry facilities available. Application required. Deposit and first months rent along with a one year lease are also required. Applications can be found online. b2lpropertymanagement.com

HELP WANTED

Part-time High School/Middle School Cafeteria Worker Must hold a valid driver's license. Duties include Cashier; Delivery; and Dishwasher. Hours: 10:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Start Date: Immediately Applications are available online only at Hoopeston Area CUSD's website, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 is looking for a full-time district custodian. If interested, please apply online or in person at the District Office. Online applications can be found on the school website, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us. Please call the district office at 217-283-6668 if you have any questions.

The City of Hoopeston is seeking applications for a fulltime Multi-Departmental position. Applicant must have a CDL or the ability to obtain one within 60 days of hire. The ability to operate and maintain equipment a plus. Please inquire at City Hall for more information about the position, 217-283-5833. Applications may be picked up and returned to City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, has job opportunities for full time/ summer time/part time. We offer a unique opportunity to choose the schedule that fits your life style. You may choose to work 1, 2, 3, or 4 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and can pick their shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1st & 2nd shift. We also offer full time positions with a full benefit package. If you are interested in applying for a growing company, please apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

HOUSES FOR RENT

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