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Monday, March 19, 2018

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HA board tables two coach resignations, approves two others

Two coaches got a temporary reprieve on their resignations after nearly 50 people - including students, parents and fellow teachers - spoke on their behalf at Thursday's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting.

Matt Colston, Hoopeston Area boys basketball coach, volleyball coach Samantha Pugh, cheerleading coach Lindsey Childress-Bryll, and athletic director Michl Kearney all submitted resignations from their athletic-related duties, which were on the agenda to be accepted at Thursday's meeting.

The board tabled accepting Colston's and Pugh's resignations after several athletes, parents and staff spoke in their favor.

Ginger Gonzalez, a personal aide in the district, kicked off comments, saying she loves her job but that recent activity has her questioning who to trust. Some people are doing things "they know aren't right. Saying the situation was a "hot mess," she said clear guidelines needed to be established and wished for "a reset button."

Pugh spoke on Colston's behalf, saying she did not like him at first but changed her mind after working with him. Colston's motto, she said, is "if you expect greatness, you'll get greatness," adding Colston pushes his student athletes to achieve that greatness.

Pugh said former local minister Micah Mobley told her that "mediocrity is acceptable in Hoopeston" but that

"Matt is not ok with being mediocre."

Bill Crose, the father of two sons who played basketball under Colston's tutelage, "was here for the dark age" when the Cornjerkers were not winning. He related that once, Colston was in Rossville on his way to Danville, when one of Crose's sons called the coach to see about getting in some court time, as it was the only time the boy had free. Colston returned to Hoopeston so the athlete could practice. "I knew the mindset had changed," Crose said.

Among Colston's alleged infractions are pushing athletes to spend as much time as possible practicing, allowing younger students to practice and letting team members practice past 9 p.m.

"Not one high schooler goes to bed at 9 p.m.," said former Cornjerker Brennan Crose, who played under Colston, graduated in 2014 and went on to play college ball.

Defending Colston's other policies, Crose asked, since the state has limits on how much time athletes can practice, "Why put more limits on the program than the state does?"

Crose said middle school student Ben Brown was kicked out of the gym while trying to practice, which is "clearly stating we do not want him to be successful."

See RESIGNATIONS on other side

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Letters to the Editor

Born free, taxed to death

My fellow Hoopetonians,

I am just going right to the point. In my opinion, which, by the way, is protected under the first amendment to the United States of America's Constitution, for you Socialist and Commie types. You know: the people who think they know what is best for you and hold you down through heavy regulation, taxes and fees.

I am fed up with it. The City Council and the School Board have no sense of fiscal responsibility. Spend,

spend and spend some more. You all spend money like drunken sailors on shore leave.

The school board has spent almost a quarter of a million dollars on just one administrative position and 6.55 acres of land. Are you kidding me?

Come on people, wake up and vote!! It is the one power you have to fight against tyranny.

I also resent these - what I will describe as modern day carpetbaggers - coming to town and taking advantage of our dismal local economy and poverty.

I say vote against any incumbents and any taxes. Let them take it out of their pay. I have voted already. Remember people the only power you have is your vote, unless you have a bunch of money. If you have bunch of money, one can go around and take advantage of others' misfortune. Another man's pain can be another man's gain.

John Palmer
Hoopeton

"If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."

George Washington

Resignations continued from other side

You'll never have a successful program if you don't have kids in grades five to eight in the same program."

High school history teacher Eric Zorns talked about his son, who is "dying to play for (Colston.)" His voice cracking, Zorns said "it breaks my heart that it may not happen."

Other comments about Colston, who is also the school's geography and world history teacher, included "he's teaching them if you're willing to work as hard as you can, you can be successful,"; the district motto is expect more and "he expects more and now you want to get rid of him."

After a closed session, the board approved tabling Colston's and Pugh's resignations as coaches, but approving Pugh's resignation as high school study hall aide.

Kearney will no longer be AD but will continue his duties as physical education teacher, said Supt. Suzette Hesser.

In other personnel action, the board:

- Transferred Suzanne Boyer from John Greer PE to half time HAHS Freshman Success and half time health teacher for 2018-19.

- Hired Jeanie Hesse as high school classroom aide, effective March 13.

Obituaries

INMAN - Marsha Kay Inman, 62, of Shelburn, Ind., formerly of Hoopeton, died at 6:58 p.m. (EST) Thursday, March 15, 2018 at Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the noon memorial service Saturday at Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeton. She will be cremated. Memorials are suggested to Grant Township Food Cupboard.

SPENCER - Roberta M. (Queen) Spencer, 77, of Rossville, died at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14,

2018 at Accolade Healthcare, Paxton. Visitation was 2-5 p.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. celebration of her life Monday at Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeton. Burial will be Rossville Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice.

TROSPER - Janet Lynn (Warf) Trospen, 66, of Danville, formerly of Hoopeton, died Thursday, March 15, 2018, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Memorial visitation will be 2-6 p.m. Monday at Pape Family Funeral Home, 10 E. Williams St., Danville. Memorial service will follow at 6 p.m. Memorials are suggested to CARA or Carle Hospice.

Lunch Menus

Hoopeton Area grade schools

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

TUESDAY: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad, peaches, milk

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

THURSDAY: Ham & cheese sandwich, Sun Chips, Calypso Crush juice, fruit cup, milk

FRIDAY: No school

Hoopeton Area Middle School

MONDAY-THURSDAY: Cook's choice

FRIDAY: No school

FRIDAY: Pizza, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeton Area High School


MONDAY-THURSDAY: Cook's choice

FRIDAY: No school

Weather

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Benjamin Franklin

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