School board review remote learning, approve staff changes

As the end of each school year draws near, students focus less on learning and more on summer. Remote learning didn’t change that. Two principals reported e-learning engagement rates at Thursday’s Hoopeston Area School Board meeting.

Hoopeston Area High School had an average of 51 percent, said Principal John Klaber. The percent ranged from 70 percent on the high end to 45 percent as the year’s end drew closer.

Asked for his thoughts on the number by board President Dave McFadden, Klaber said "remote learning is a difficult beast," in terms of keeping students on task. Unsure at this point what will happen in the next school year, Klaber said personnel "would hate to do it in the fall again, but we’re ready if we need to."

Middle school Principal Michelle White said an average 77 percent of students were engaged but the number dwindled to about 43 percent as time went on. Percentages for Maple and John Greer students were sent to the board before the meeting and not discussed Thursday evening.

Officials are happy and thankful for the effort put forth by staff and the community since in-school attendance was canceled in March. Supt. Robert Richardson called the lunch distribution "a huge success," and called cafeteria workers "champions" for being able to adapt and create a system that "worked like clockwork." Since March 17, 3,600 meals - 400 each week - were provided to students in Hoopeston, Rankin, East Lynn and Cheneyville, along with some in rural areas.

He also thanked the community stepping up. "It was beyond amazing how the community came together and offered food," he said.

Klaber praised his teachers for going "above and beyond" to get materials to students, while Maple Principal Suzi Root gave kudos to families and caretakers, as well as staff, in making sure learning continued for "the kiddos."

Richardson summed up his take on the experience, saying, "We had an opportunity to shine in a crisis and we did that.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Approved spending $182,000 with Technology Resource Advisors Inc., for 351 touchscreen Chromebooks for Maple and 149 Chromebooks for older machines. The price was the lowest of three quotes, including one for $185,000 and one for $240,000, Richardson said.
- Approved employment contracts for district principals, assistant principals Kim Hutzel and Steven Chorak and Curriculum Director Emily Brown.
- Approved resignations of Brian Geiss, eighth grade science teacher; Roberta Sue McDaniel, grades 3-6 general music teacher; Lindsay O’Brien, middle school classroom aide; Rochelle Morgeson, color guard and half time music sponsor; Megan Weeks, sixth grade math teacher and yearbook sponsor; and Jena Schaumburg, third grade teacher.
- Approved the retirement of Julie Stump, Maple Title 1 teacher and high school math teacher Daphne High’s intent to retire at the end of 2022-23 year.
- Approved hiring, pending background checks, Charles Strawser, district custodian; Tracy Zorns, Maple library aide; Chris Kuhnhofer, assistant football coach; Christy Ezikorn, John Greer classroom aide; Samantha Russell, middle school PE teacher; Alyson Knupp, John Greer special ed teacher; and Angie Simpson, middle school yearbook sponsor.
- Approved the transfer of Jane Long from Title 1 aide to Maple library aide; Kalle Zamarripa from John Greer middle school PE teacher; Kelsey Vines from classroom aide to Title 1 aide at Maple; Rochelle Morgeson from middle/high school choral director and grade 1-2 general music teacher to grades 3-6 general music teacher/5-6 grade chorus; Karen Romig from middle school reading

See SCHOOL on other side
**Weather**


For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather.

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**HELP WANTED**

Teasdale Latin Foods has immediate openings on 1st and 2nd shift in both Distribution and Manufacturing. Pay to be determined based on experience level. Stop by the Human Resources office at 215 W. Washington St., Hoopeston, for more details. Please make phone calls.

Hoopeston Area CDJS #1 is looking for bus drivers for the 2020-21 school year. 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 217-283-6688 if you have any questions.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, are offering many job opportunities for full time and part-time positions. We offer full time positions with a full benefit package. 1st and 2nd shifts are available.

Chemical Lab Supervisor—prior experience working in a chemical laboratory.

**IT Assistant**—Troubleshooting and maintaining computers and programs in the facility. Both positions are Full-time Day shift M-F 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

Silgan Containers is hiring a Production Manager/Supervisor Trainee. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/aits/Posting/view/10730

The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes is looking for dayshift kitchen help, 8-2. Food handlers license or Food Sanitation license required

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Lane Mechanics. To apply, please visit: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/aits/Posting/view/10688

We are currently hiring for our Verizon location next to McDonald’s in Hoopeston! Are you interested in pursuing a career in sales where you can earn a base plus commission? Then this position might just be for you! If you like sales, love technology and have a competitive spirit you may have what it takes to join our amazing team! You’ll use your knowledge and passion for technology to deliver an effortless customer experience while pursuing challenging and rewarding goals! This role comes with an hourly base and commission package as well as awesome benefits. Please email your resume to Seth.Wilson@alstergroup.com or stop by our store for more details.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for Full-time and part-time positions. We offer full-time positions with a full benefit package. 1st and 2nd shifts are available. Full-Fill Industries also offers a unique opportunity to choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle. You may choose to work 1, 2, or 3 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and you can pick your shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1st & 2nd shift. We are now offering a part-time flexible work schedule for Moms & Dads who want to earn some extra cash during school hours. We are now offering an 8:00 am - 4:30 pm schedule to fill the needs of your family while your children are in school. 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

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**classifieds**

**RUMMAGE SALES**

HOOPESTON: 908 E. Wymann. 3-6 pm daily until June 1.

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**Obituaries**

**FARNEY** - Geraldine R. (Grays) Farney, 88, of Cissna Park, died Thursday, May 20, 2021, at the Cissna Park Hospital, Urbana. Burial was at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church or donor’s choice. Arrangements were handled by www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

**McKinney**—Marjorie Imogene (Milton) McKinney Carlson, 90, of Hoopeston, died at 8:47 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She was cremated. Memorials are suggested to First Presbyterian Church, 915 E. Orange St., Hoopeston IL 60942. Arrangements are to be handled by www.sunsetfuneralhome.com.

**Scott** — Richard Brian Scott, 50, of Hoopeston, died at 12:16 p.m. Thursday, May 21, 2021, at home. He was cremated and a private family celebration of life held at a later date. Memorials are suggested to donor’s choice. Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Danville, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.sunsetfuneralhome.com.

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**School** continued from other side

interventionist to Response to Intervention (RtI) teacher/reading specialist for grades k-2; Amanda Mathewson from RtI teacher/reading specialist to third grade teacher.

Approved temporary summer help for buildings and grounds, including Linda Lugo, Daniel Lugo, Sara Tribbey, Angela Layden, Riley Wyss, Carl Ankenbrand, Nathanael Crouch, Ethan Smith, Kristi Terrell, Eric Zorns, Payton Small, Lucas Hofer, Linda Walsh, Brooke Walsh, Les Symmonds, Maya Cornelius and Andrea Glotzbach.


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