

## What's New? Week of April 16, 2007

### Important Dates

April 22 - Deadline for Providing Input into the Revised Student Code of Conduct

May 10 - Deadline for Providing Input in the Proposed Drug Testing Policy

May 15 - 9:00 a.m. - District-wide Test of the SchoolCast system

### Community Events - NEW!

**April 26 - *Sporting Clay Shoot* to Benefit Hoover Schools Foundation - Tannehill Sporting Clays, Woodstock, AL - 8 a.m.**

**April 27 - *An Evening in the Park* - Spain Park High School - 7 - 9:30 p.m.**

## New Survey - School Nutrition Program, a.k.a. School Lunches....- *posted 04/12/07*

Please take a few minutes to complete the newest survey on the School Lunch Program. Many changes were implemented this year, and we would like to hear your thoughts on the changes and some possible changes for next year.

This survey will run through April 26.

We will present these results to Ms. Susan Wood, Director of the Child Nutrition Program for Hoover City Schools, after April 26.

[Click Here to take the survey](#)

A Little Background Reading....

[The Current Child Nutrition Policy](#)

[The District Wellness Policy](#)

[The Fact Sheet on the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act](#)

[Section 204 of Public Law 108-265 --- June 30, 2004](#)

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## New Pages Added!

[Math Info](#) - Further discussions of the Math Curriculum in our elementary and middle schools

[Summer Planning](#) - Resources for those summer months

What's New – Hoover School Community Information Network

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[Financial Info](#) - Information regarding the financial health of our school system along with information on our School Budget. Designed to help you understand School Finances. As a taxpayer in our community, the HSCIN believes it is important to have a basic understanding of how our schools are funded and how expenditures are made.

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## [HSCIN Meeting Date](#) - posted 04/12/07

The Steering Committee will hold a meeting on Thursday, April 19, at 8:15 a.m. at Panera Bread in Patton Creek. We will post the Agenda on Tuesday, April 24. All are welcome to attend. E-mail the [Board of Directors](#) if you have questions.

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## [Revision of Student Code of Conduct, aka Discipline Policy](#) - posted 04/10/07

Please take a moment to review the [proposed revised Student Code of Conduct](#). Mrs. Jan Dennis, Assistant Superintendent of Hoover City Schools, is heading up this proposal. All input should be directed directly to Mrs. Dennis at [jdennis@hoover.k12.al.us](mailto:jdennis@hoover.k12.al.us).

***The deadline for comments and suggestions is Sunday, April 22, 2007.***

[Current Hoover City Schools Student Discipline Policy](#)  
[Current Hoover City Schools Policy on Students Rights and Responsibilities](#)  
[Homewood City Schools Student Code of Conduct](#)  
[Vestavia Hills City Schools Student Code of Conduct Classification of Violations](#)  
[Mountain Brook City Schools Student Code of Conduct and Classification of Violations](#)

### [Petition to Review and Rewrite the Discipline Policy for Hoover City Schools](#)

Rick Lyerly, an attorney and parent in Hoover City Schools, has created a petition for community members to sign to ask the Hoover Board of Education to "promptly revise rules and procedures regarding student behavior." Click to download the petition.

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## [Drug Testing of Student Drivers - Draft Policy - Input Requested](#) - posted 04/11/07

The Hoover Coalition for Promoting a Safe and Healthy Community has recommended that the Board of Education approve this Policy to randomly test high school students who hold a parking permit to drive and park on campus. The parking permit cost would go up by \$5 to allow for the additional cost of this program. Approximately 10% of student drivers would be randomly tested each year.

Please take the time to review the Policy and return any comments or suggestions to Carissa Anthony, Coalition Director, at [canthony@hoover.k12.al.us](mailto:canthony@hoover.k12.al.us). The Board of Education is expected to vote on this Policy at their next Regular Meeting on May 14.

***All comments should be submitted by Thursday, May 10, at 5 p.m.***

The HSCIN conducted an online Survey asking community opinion on this proposed policy. The results can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

***Your input into the Policies that govern our Hoover City Schools is crucial to creating and maintaining our community school system.***

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## [District Parent Involvement Plan](#) - posted 04/12/07

This was discovered at the District Office on Thursday, April 12. The heart of a District's effort to engage families in their children's learning comes from the District Parent Involvement Plan. It should be developed by parents and families and should be shared and available to all within the District.

Because the HSCIN's goal is to engage Hoover's families in their children's education, we have posted it here. Please take a moment to look over the Plan. We are seeking information as to how it was developed and how often it will be reviewed and will post the information as soon as it is available.

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## [American School Board Journal Announces MAGNA Award Winners](#) - posted 04/15/07

The American School Board Journal (ASBJ) gives this award to School Boards that demonstrate outstanding Best Practices.

Over the past 13 years, they have featured many excellent examples of school district leadership, and this year is no exception. The ASBJ found common threads running through many of the winning programs: community, collaboration, and partnership.

The winning Magna entries are full of practical advice on how districts solved pressing problems -- problems that will sound very familiar to school board members and administrators: how to engage the community, attract new teachers, improve student eating habits and health, increase academic achievement, and prepare students for the world of work.

Please take a moment to read some of these Best Practices by clicking on the link above. These School Boards have faced many of the same challenges we here in Hoover are currently facing, and have found working solutions to these challenges.

## Hoover High School Named One of U.S.'s 24 Model High Schools - posted 04/10/07

[The International Center for Leadership in Education](#) selected Hoover High School as one of 24 model high schools in the nation, Principal Richard Bishop announced yesterday. The Center is "Committed to Rigor and Relevance for All Students."

The Center's [website](#) is full of interesting information on academic rigor. There is also an opportunity to participate in the National Essential Skills Study (NESS). This is a free online survey for educators, business/industry and the general public to share their opinions about what is essential for students to learn by the time they graduate from high school.

[Click here to take the NESS Survey.](#)

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## Engaging Families Presentation - posted 04/09/07

As part of the HSCIN's continuous mission to engage families in their children's education, we have posted this presentation made to Educators on a page entitled [Engaging Families...for Educators](#).

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## Pay Attention, Parents....posted 04/10/07

*From the [Hoover Coalition Promoting a Safe and Healthy Community](#):*

### **Alcohol and Footwear Companies Target Teens**

Reef has introduced the Dram- a sandal with a flask capable of holding three ounces of liquor, per sandal. The Dram, a common term for measuring one ounce of liquor, is the latest addition to Reef's line of flip flops. Last year Reef introduced a sandal with a bottle opener in the heel. The Dram is user friendly, coming with it's own church key, bottle opener and tiny funnel that can be attached to one's key chain. The polyurethane flask is encapsulated in each heel. This quick money-maker for Reef is the perfect paraphernalia and alcohol hiding place for teens. Here's the link to a picture and description of the sandal: <http://www.reef.com/productdetail/guys/footwear/sandals/2597>

Also be on alert for a new alcohol product called Spykes, made by Anheuser-Busch. It is a malt beverage with 12 percent alcohol content — about the same as wine. It comes in mango, lime, melon and chocolate flavors and is infused with caffeine as well as the herbs ginseng and guarana. Sold in 2-ounce bottles that go for 75 cents to a dollar apiece, Spykes “gives kick to your beer, flavor to your drink, and is a perfect shot,” according to the promotional Web site, [www.spykeme.com](http://www.spykeme.com). It's also cute — about the size of a nail polish bottle — so it can easily slip into the tiniest clutch purse or tuxedo pocket.

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## From the [Board of Education Page](#):

### [The Role of the School Board](#) - *posted 04/15/07*

What EXACTLY is the role of the five-member Board of Education? What jurisdiction do they have over what areas within our school system? What is "micromanaging"? What jurisdiction do they have over personnel decisions?

The HSCIN is working to produce a complete document outlining the role of the School Board and its members. Until then, here are a few links you may find interesting and helpful:

[The Role of School Boards](#). From the Center for Public Education.

[Five Characteristics of an Effective School Board](#). From the Center for Public Education.

[Role of School Board in Facilities Planning](#). From the National School Board Association. Recommends that School Board members NOT be involved in details regarding construction of facilities and facilities planning.

[Unique Role of School Boards](#). From the National School Board Association's conversation with the National PTA President in 1998. Stresses keeping the public in public education and that school boards must remember they are accountable to the public they serve.

[Becoming a School Board Member](#) from the Alabama Association of School Boards. Helpful reading on what is expected of Board members in Alabama.

[School Governance](#). American School Boards Journal. Many great articles available to help school board members govern their systems more effectively. Series on "micromanaging" is good reading

[The Role of the School Board](#). Information excerpted from the NSBA Key Work of School Boards Guidebook.

[Roles and Responsibilities of School Boards and Superintendents, A State Policy Framework](#). Education Commission of the States

[Vestavia Hills Board of Education](#) delineation of roles of the school board and the superintendent. From their website.

[Report Advocates New Role for School Boards](#). Written in 1992, interesting report on what school boards SHOULD be doing as opposed to what they ARE doing.

[What is the Role of School Boards?](#) From the Society for Quality in Education in Canada. Short article on the dangers of school boards' micromanaging and where it can lead in terms of student achievement.

[Finding the Best: Attracting and Retaining Outstanding School Board Members](#). From the American School Board Journal.

## Committees

Currently there are no standing committees that serve the Board of Education. Look for an upcoming HSCIN report on how other Boards of Education are successfully using Committees to share decision-making with their communities.

Research supports the use of Standing Committees as a way for Board members to better govern the school system they serve. In an article entitled "[Governance by Committee](#)" in the *American School Board Journal*, Doug Eadie states, that "**standing committees are one of the preeminent keys to doing the kind of high-impact governing work that makes a significant difference in district affairs**".

Textbook Committees are currently the only often-used committees by the District, and those are created when needed and abolished when the textbook has been selected. Board member Bill Veitch brought up the possibility of creating committees at the April 2007 Board meeting. No consensus was reached on that issue.

The Parent and Community Member Advisory Committee to the District School Improvement Committee first met in September, 2006. This Committee was designed to give input on Parental Involvement Issues related to School Improvement.

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## Hoover Teachers in the News.....

Congratulations to **Pamela Harman**, who teaches at Spain Park High School, for becoming one of 16 finalists for Alabama's Teacher of the Year 2007.

[Teacher Finalists Are Announced - April 13, Birmingham News](#)

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## New Parent Resource Links Added

[Center for Public Education Q & A: Homework](#). Posted 04/15/07. Great list of questions and answers regarding "why homework" and what kind of homework is beneficial.

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## News Articles and Newsletters

[Indoor Track Idea Revives on Southside - April 14, Birmingham News](#)

[Some Officials Against Apartment Relocation - April 13, Birmingham News](#)

[Teacher Finalists Are Announced - April 13, Birmingham News](#)

[Hoover School Chief Finalist to Start North Carolina Job - April 11, Birmingham News](#)

[Restoring Public Trust - \*Editorial\*, April 11, Birmingham News](#)

[Regaining Trust Not Enough - \*Speak Out\*, April 11, Birmingham News](#)

[Police Vigilance May Have Saved Students' Live - \*Editorial\*, April 11, Birmingham News](#)

[Underage Drinking Arrests Offer Lessons for Families - \*Sound Off\*, April 11, Birmingham News](#)

[Ross Bridge Builders Seek New Site for Apartments - April 11, Birmingham News](#)

[Land Swap May Clear Way to Expand Trace Crossings - April 11, Birmingham News](#)

[Hoover School Officials Want Input on Code of Conduct - April 11, Birmingham News](#)

[Craig's Contract \\$184,000 A Year - April 10, Birmingham News](#)

[Hoover High School Named One of U.S.'s 24 Model High Schools - April 10, Birmingham News](#)