

What's New? Week of October 15, 2007

Important Dates

November 8 - Board Work Session, 5:30 p.m., Central Office

November 8 - Board Meeting, immediately following the Work Session, Central Office

[Click here to view the Hoover City Schools' Calendar for October](#)

The Pointer Report - *posted 10/14/07*

Click the link above to download the full Pointer Report.

Very lively community discussion continues on the [al.com Hoover Forum](#) and [THE Hoover Forum](#).

[Questions, Answers in Hoover - October 14, Birmingham News](#)

[Hoover Report: Significant Dates in the Investigation - October 13, Birmingham News Blog](#) - recap and links to articles regarding this investigation.

Backpack Survey - *posted 10/12/07*

There is growing research to compel us to be concerned about the weight of our children's backpacks. In 2002, the AOTA (American Occupational Therapy Association) teamed up with L.L. Bean to promote awareness of backpack safety, recommending that backpacks be limited to 15% of a child's weight. So, a child weighing 100 pounds should carry a backpack no heavier than 15 pounds.

The ACA (American Chiropractic Association), the APTA (American Physical Therapy Association), and the AAOS (American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons) developed similar recommended limits based on the child's weight:

Person's Weight (lb.)	Maximum Backpack Weight (lb.)
60	5
60-75	10
100	15
125	18
150	20
200 or more	25*

*No one should carry more than 25 lb.

Through this survey, we hope to be able to provide information to our Board of Education and administrators in Hoover City Schools to encourage use of electronic textbooks and/or a class set of textbooks. This is becoming common practice in the more forward-thinking districts across the country. Take a moment to read "[More Schools Going Locker-Less](#)", and "[Eliminating Lockers](#)", both articles from 2002 addressing the idea of removing lockers for other reasons, but the result is that children are provided two sets of textbooks: one for home, one for school. We are aware that this is the practice in some of Hoover's classrooms, but not all. We'd like to gather more information to see exactly where we are and what it would take to ensure all children have access to either electronic textbooks or class sets of textbooks.

The results of this survey will be presented to the Board of Education and Mr. Andy Craig.

This survey opportunity will be available through October 25.

We will ask you for the actual weight of your child's backpack during this survey. If you do not have your child's backpack available, please estimate its weight.

[Click here to view the survey prior to participating in it.](#)

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

October is Statewide Parent Visitation Month - *posted 10/14/07*

The Alabama State Department of Education has declared October as Statewide Parent Visitation Month, recognizing that engaged parents and families make stronger schools. Click the link to view the various materials the State Department has made available to school systems.

[Click here to view the Hoover City Schools calendar for October](#) to identify which parent visitation opportunities are available at your child's school. Be sure to ask your child's teacher and administrators at your school as well!

The State Department has even provided school systems [the opportunity to evaluate their participation in Statewide Parent Visitation Month and to offer suggestions for next year.](#)

Full Video of October 10 Board of Education Meeting - *posted 10/11/07*

[Click here to see the video of the meeting prior to the Executive Session](#) (approximately 2 1/2 minutes).

[Click here to see Part I of the video of the meeting after the Executive Session](#) (approximately 6 minutes).

[Click here to see Part II of the video of the meeting after the Executive Session](#) (approximately 7 minutes).

Hoover High Investigation Update - includes recent television interviews as well.

News Articles and Newsletters

Hoover News

[Questions, Answers in Hoover - October 14, Birmingham News](#)

[Sex Sizzles, But Cheating Can Fry Rush - John Archibald, October 14, Birmingham News](#)

[Report Troubles Some Residents, City Leaders - October 14, Birmingham News](#)

[Hoover Report: Significant Dates in the Investigation - October 13, Birmingham News Blog](#)

[Hoover Changes Outside Pay Rules - October 12, Birmingham News](#)

[Hoover Board to Release Full Report - October 11, Birmingham News](#)

[Technology Helps Improve the Way Teachers Teach - October 10, Birmingham News](#)

[Hoover Council President Wants School Report Released - October 10, Birmingham News Breaking News](#)

[Hoover High Spends \\$40,000 for Apple Macs - October 10, Birmingham News](#)

[Search for New Hoover High Principal Postponed - October 10, Birmingham News](#)

[Time for Hoover School Board to Bite the Bullet - October 10, Editorial, Birmingham News](#)

[Sound Off - School Board Could Learn from Bear Bryant - October 10, Birmingham News](#)

[A Gathering Chorus - October 10, Editorial, Birmingham News](#)

[Time to Clear Air of Smoke - October 10, Editorial, Birmingham News](#)

[Technology Outpaces State Laws - October 10, Birmingham News](#)

[Mayor: Get Report on Hoover Out Quickly - October 9, Birmingham News](#)