

## HILLSDALE SCHOOLS

## Additional preschool classes will be offered

By Andy Barrand

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HILLSDALE — The expansion of preschool by the Community Action Agency will bring two new classes to the Bailey Early Childhood Education Center next year.

Hillsdale Community Schools Superintendent Shawn Vondra, updated the board of education on the new classes during Monday night's meeting.

"This is great, because there is still a need for additional preschool classes," Vondra said. "The early childhood center fit into their mission."

The district will also provide transportation to the preschool-aged children on a contract basis. The district already provides transportation service to preschool students at Greenfield School and the CAA office on Barnard Street.

Vondra said students will be dropped off at the three Hillsdale Community School buildings, then three additional bus routes will pick up preschool students.

Other business from Monday night's meeting:

■ Donald Fowler was approved as a full-time bus driver for the district.

"I have been on the route for a couple of months and I am getting to know the kids," Fowler said. "They are beginning to share their stories with me."

■ Gail Ziegel, a long-time art teacher with the district, will be retiring at the end of

the year.

"She is a fantastic teacher," Vondra said. "She is one of those professionals who is leaving on a high note; she has made a connection with students over two decades."

■ Talks continue as area schools work with Jackson and Baker colleges as they look at implementing an Early Middle College in the county. Local officials are working with Baker and Jackson College officials on the program to start 2017-18.

■ Two board seats will be vacant for the November election. Questions can be directed to the Hillsdale Community Schools administration office. The deadline to file is July 26.

■ Hillsdale High School's BPA chapter and the Davis Middle School BPA chapter will be competing at the National BPA competition May 5-9.

■ The June board of education meeting was rescheduled for June 27.

■ The Hillsdale Athletic Boosters Association recently purchased a new timing and scoring system for the track.

■ Contract was approved with B&A Lawn Care to provide mowing for the district.

■ A one-year contract with Chartwells Food Services was approved and a \$1,000 donation was accepted.

■ The corporation's operating millage is up for renewal on the August ballot.