

FORT PLAIN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Home of the Hilltoppers INFORMATION NETWORK CO-OP

STAFF/MEDIA NEWSLETTER

In an effort to keep our community and staff informed as to decisions made by the Fort Plain Central School Board of Education, a newsletter is issued by the superintendent's office following each board meeting. Comments, questions and suggestions should be directed to Superintendent of Schools, Douglas C. Burton (993-4000x3500). Below, please find highlights of the Board of Education meeting held January 19, 2011.

TIME FOR VISITORS – Tom Giglio, Famtec, Inc., gave a presentation to the Board regarding the camera systems currently installed in some of our buses. His presentation was very informative and gave the Board much information about the how the camera systems work, the software that is involved with it, and the many time saving and cost saving options available to the district.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS – The Board had discussion regarding the ongoing topic of the late bus runs. Different scenarios were discussed and information was provided to the Board regarding frequency of student usage as well as the cost for the extra runs. After much discussion, the Board eliminated the late bus runs on Mondays and Fridays and beginning January 31, 2011, they will consolidate late bus runs to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday only.

BUSINESS MANAGER – Mr. Rockefeller informed the Board that his office has completed compiling the information requested by Mark Walsh of Transportation Advisory Services with regard to their evaluation of our Transportation Department. All the information has been mailed out and he is awaiting a reply from Mr. Walsh.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS: In Mrs. Tharp's absence, Mr. Burton presented the Board with her report and offered to answer any questions they had. Her report consisted of Morning Program, Student of the Month, Community Service Events planned by Student Council, Cyber Bullying Assembly, School Mall Kickoff, PTA Elves Night Out, Chess Club, and Team Teaching via the internet. Ms. Larrabee presented her report to the Board. She noted next week begins Regents Exams with they will also begin the new scoring of the tests. The Junior Class is having a hard time finding a vendor for the annual prom fashion show so they have come up with a new idea. They are asking for gently used prom gowns which they will model and then sell or donate after the show to those girls interested. Also "Nonagon" – a play written by high school student Matthew Soto, will be performed in April. They are currently looking for those students and teachers interested in participating. She also noted Mrs. Sacco's 12th grade Participation in Government class is doing presentations regarding different sections of school policy and have invited those staff members who deal with these items to view their presentations. They are doing a great job. Then Board thanked Ms. Larrabee.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – Mr. Burton reminded the Board and members of the audience that we are still offering Tuesday Coffee Hours. He has had a few people attend and reminded the public if they have any issues they would like to discuss or any questions to please feel free to stop in the District Office at 8:30am. Mr. Burton provided the Board with a conference report from Mrs. Kathie DeKalb, Mrs. Mary McCall, and Mrs. Lisa Trembley regarding the Regional Technology Awareness Day Conference they attended on December 10th. There were 36 workshops available which they divided and attended as much as they could. They acquired many new ideas and a great deal of information to share with their colleagues.

Mr. Burton noted he has not heard from the Montgomery County Sanitary Sewer District #1 in regards to the Diesel Fuel Tank that is available however he does know there has been a change in the chairman and therefore they are waiting to hear from the new chairperson. He also noted if the Sanitary Sewer District does not want the tank, there is another interested party they will give it to. Lastly, Mr. Burton noted that the Cornell Cooperative Extension Representative met with the Safety Committee regarding the availability of our facilities for their use for their programs. The Committee agreed we could offer our facilities when we have staff available and Cornell would be required to provide insurance proof and then fill out the use of facilities forms.

2011-2012 SCHOOL CALENDAR – Mr. Burton provided the Board with a copy of the proposed 2011-2012 school calendar. He noted they have again provided for four emergency days and also in working with the Mr. Lathers and the FPTA they have scheduled the Superintendent's Conference Days to be before the first day of school. They are scheduled for August 31st and September 1st. The Board approved the 2011-2012 School Calendar as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT- The camera systems currently installed were discussed as well as the GPS systems on the cameras.

APPROVE HFM BOCES SUBSTITUTE LIST- The Board approved the HFM BOCES substitute list dated **January 7, 2011** as presented.

APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER – The Board approved Mrs. Gail Rivkovich as a volunteer in our Elementary Gym Classes.