

# 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 October 7, 2009.

**TIME FOR VISITORS** – The Board approved the request from the **Class of 2010 Advisors and Class Officers** to attend their senior trip. The class has voted to travel to Washington, DC on Friday April 23, 2010 and return on Sunday April 25, 2010. They will be finalizing the cost of the trip dependent on the number of students who confirm their attendance (tentative number of 55 students) and will be taking approximately six chaperones, and they will be traveling by commercial bus. The Class thanked the Board for their approval.

**Mr. David Blackwell, Bovis Lend Lease, Inc.** presented his monthly report for September 2009 on the Capital Project. He noted there were no lost time incidents and work remains on schedule. Mr. Capece noted that the Johnstown School District was going to build a bus garage and the State has recently curtailed their plans. Mr. Blackwell noted that we are much further along in our process and our contracts have already been awarded. The Board thanked him for his report. Mr. Ted Arndt, Administrative Intern, presented a report to the Board regarding the Summer School Program held this summer. The Educational Skills Program was a summer program for seventh and eight grade students which lasted 15 days and was designed to inspire students to invest in their academic career. Mr. Arndt noted that the design of the program was to facilitate a dynamic learning environment. To achieve that goal, a typical day in the program has four components. These are whole group instruction at the start of the day, rotating small group instruction, skills drills, and then culminating group instruction at the end of the day. Each of these components uses a thematic approach to address target skills indentified that were identified by the general education staff. Mr. Arndt stated that this program was received very well and the students enjoyed attending the programs. The Board thanked Mr. Arndt for his presentation.

**PREVIOUS BUSINESS** – Mr. Burton provided information that the Board had requested regarding our Bus Mechanic. He noted that our mechanic received a diploma from the Nashville Diesel and Automotive School. Mr. Capece asked about the progress of the Feasibility Study. He also noted that he had spoke to Mr. Martin and Dr. Pole and asked them to consider the impact of the Amish Community on our own communities.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Mr. McFee reported on the support services meeting which was held on October 2, 2009. The Committee discussed changes to the Capital Project and also discussed allowing Mr. Burton to approve small changes orders. Mr. McFee noted that the Committee felt it would be advantageous to allow Mr. Burton to approve any changes up to \$20,000.00 and any other change orders should come before the Board of Education. The Board approved Mr. Burton to authorize changes up to \$20,000.00. Mr. Burton informed the Board that the estimate of \$90,000.00 for the underground electrical work came back at \$48,000.00 from National Grid and funds continue to be closely monitored.

**BUSINESS MANAGER** – Mr. Rockefeller provided the Board with information concerning changes made to some bus routes. Mr. Rockefeller explained that with the resignation of a bus driver effective September 25, 2009 he and Mr. Eggleston and Mr. Hajczewski of the transportation department have reviewed the bus routes and consolidated and revised some of the routes. They feel at this time the routes are feasible but noted that they will continue to monitor the capacities as the number of children allowed is dependent on size. Mr. McFee was concerned about the changes and wanted to make sure the routes were still allowing for the correct number of children and Mr. Rockefeller assured him they did and that they will be reviewed again periodically. The Board approved the change in the bus routes.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** – Mr. Burton provided the Board with information regarding the savings realized during the four day work weeks in the summer of 2009. Mr. Burton explained that from July through August, the Elementary and High School were closed for the day. By doing this, the school saved approximately \$8,000.00 between the cost of

electricity and natural gas. Mr. Burton noted this was done on a trial basis for the summer of 2009 and is something the Board can again review for the upcoming summer if they wish to.

Mr. Burton also provided the Board with the Student Moving Report. Our enrollment stands at 883 with 484 in grades PreK-6 and 399 in grades 7-12.

Mr. Burton wanted the Board to know we received approval back to use the Stimulus Money. This money was used in the budget to save positions, allow us to get instructional items and more instrumental and vocal programs, and also use some for professional development.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Capece asked that New Business be added to the agenda in the event a Board Member would like to bring something to the Board. Mr. Capece asked if the Board would consider holding any upcoming meetings in a different location in order to accommodate the public in attendance. They will discuss possible solutions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Residents expressed their thoughts and concerns regarding issues such as tax amounts, perceived unprofessional conduct by staff, students' access to retrieve forgotten items after school has been dismissed, and the importance of communication between administrators and parents. The Board thanked the residents.

**APPROVE CHANGES TO THE HFM BOCES SUBSTITUTE LIST** – The Board approved the changes to the HFM BOCES substitute list dated October 1, 2009.

**APPOINTMENT (PART TIME SCHOOL AGED GED INSTRUCTOR-PERRY) -** The Board appointed Patricia Perry to the position of part time School Aged GED Instructor. Her rate of pay will be \$25.00 per hour.

**APPOINTMENT (PART TIME TRANSPORTATION AIDE – POLIDORI) –** The Board appointed Shannon Polidori to the position of part time transportation aide.

**APPOINTMENT (SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER - MAY) –** The Board approved Gary May to the position of Bus Driver substitute.

**ACCEPT LETTER OF RESIGNATION (VILLENEUVE)-** The Board accepted a letter of resignation from Paul Villeneuve from his position as a Regular Run Bus Driver effective September 25, 2009.