

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 February 8, 2011.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS – Mr. Burton noted he had heard from the Montgomery County Sanitary Sewer District and they are not interested in the Diesel tank we have available. Mr. Burton noted that he has had interest from 3 local farmers: Leonard Logan, Karl Veit, and Albert Hayes. The Board voted to randomly select one of the farmers to receive the tank. Mr. McFee asked Student Representative Nolan Reese to draw a name from a hat and he selected Leonard Logan. Mr. Burton will notify Mr. Logan and arrange the specifics of the removal of the tank.

BUSINESS MANAGER – Mr. Rockefeller noted that an auction was held recently with a profit of \$2,686.00. Mr. Rockefeller informed the Board that Mark Walsh with Transportation Advisory Services will be here on Wednesday to conduct interviews and gather information for the report he is compiling. Mr. Rockefeller asked to speak with the Board during executive session regarding personnel issues.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS – Mrs. Tharp presented her report to the Board including: Morning program, January charity was the Ayers Animal Shelter, December Students of the Month, DARE graduation, and Professional Development Day activities. She also noted that the 5th grade students are working with Mrs. Toomey and Mrs. VanValkenburgh on a weekly newsletter for staff and students at no cost to the district. Also, teachers have been utilizing the new display cases to showcase student's work. Grade level meetings are being held to regarding the bullying policy and RTI meetings are being held to review student progress. The Board thanked Mrs. Tharp for her report.

Ms. Larrabee presented her report to the Board. She noted that she included a revised Advisor handbook for the Board's information. She thanked Mr. DiBiase and the students who participated for another successful All County Performance. The Prom Fashion Show is coming up and they have been very successful in getting dresses to be donated or sold at low prices for those students interested. Also, congratulations to Nolan Reese for being named the WAC Bowling Tourney MVP, highest score, and highest average. The Board thanked Ms. Larrabee for her report.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – Mr. Burton reminded the Board of their invitation to the Mohawk Sacandaga School Boards Association Dinner Meeting on March 7, 2011. He asked that they get back in touch with Becky as to whether or not they will be attending. He also noted they have asked the legislators to attend and are awaiting confirmation from them.

Mr. Burton informed the Board that he has received information from HFM BOCES that they are accepting nominations for their Board. Mr. Capece will think about whether or not he will continue as a member.

He provided the Board with Student Moving Reports. Our enrollment stands at 872.

Mr. Burton also noted that this year will be a very difficult budget year. He and Mr. Rockefeller and the Board will be taking a hard look at our expenses to see where decreases can be made. He has asked both Associations to provide him with a list of ideas on areas which can be reduced and ways to save on expenses and he is discussing mandate relief with Assemblyman Amedore and other Superintendents. He also let the Board know he has notified all faculty and staff that he has implemented a spending freeze. No expenses that have not already been approved will be allowed.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Mr. DiBiase provided the Board with a copy of the All-County Festival program. Over 50 students from Fort Plain were involved and the concerts were great. He thanked all those involved with scheduling, transportation, and chaperones and the Board and Mr. Burton for their continued support of the Music Department.

Members of the public expressed their concerns transportation and the upcoming budget. They also discussed mergers and consolidated school districts. They all agreed it is going to be a difficult job to compile a budget but they wanted the Board to keep in mind that the public can not afford higher taxes. Mr. McFee thanked the public for their input and assured them they will continue to be diligent.

APPOINTMENT (SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER) CAUWENBERGHS – The Board conditionally appointed **Margaret Cauwenberghs** to the position of Substitute Food Service .

SUSPEND ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL SEARCH – The Board voted to suspend the Elementary Principal Search and reduce the Administration staff by one position.