

# 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 March 1, 2011.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION-** Mr. Burton provided the Board and public in attendance with an overview of the Buildings and Grounds and Transportation Budgets. He noted that they have kept expenditures down, no increase in Central Administration costs, supplies have been reduced. The total General Support Budget is down by 0.41%. Pupil Transportation is down by 8.78% and there will be no proposition for a Bus Purchase. Mr. Burton and Mr. Rockefeller answered questions from the public and residents in attendance. They reiterated that the Board continues to keep expenses down and will continue to work to present a budget that is fiscally responsible for the tax payers.

**TIME FOR VISITORS –** Dr. Richard Timbs, Bernard P. Donegan, Inc. presented the Board with his Long Range Planning Report for the District. His report consisted of a history of General Fund Revenues, Expenses and Fund Balance, Historical Revenue Trends, Historical Expense Trends, Building Debt, Historical Expenditures and Revenue Trends, Historical Tax Levy and Tax Rate Trends, Fund Balance, and Projections. Throughout his report Dr. Timbs noted how well the District has done in the past to be fiscally responsible. He stressed how important it was for the residents to contact their Legislators to express to them how dependent our district is on State Aid and to ask them to find ways to continue to provide that Aid to our District. Dr. Timbs answered questions from Board Members and members of the public. The Board and Mr. Burton thanked Dr. Timbs for his report.

**PREVIOUS BUSINESS –** Mr. Burton reminded the Board that at the previous meeting they discussed the BOCES Board nomination. Mr. Capece noted that he would like to continue his membership on the Board. The Board voted to nominate Mr. Louis “Rusty” Capece to fill the vacancy on the HFM BOCES Board of Education.

**BUSINESS MANAGER –** Mr. Rockefeller informed the Board that the request for proposals for Insurance is ready. He will be mailing some out tomorrow to local insurance companies and advertising it in the local paper. The Board asked if it could be advertised in other papers and directed Mr. Rockefeller to place the legal notice in papers in the local papers as well as the Albany and Utica Areas.

Mr. Rockefeller also noted that they are reviewing accounting software presentations from RDA which is the current provider, and NERIC. RDA would have a startup cost of \$17,500 and a cost of \$2,500.00 per year for maintenance. NERIC cost is \$28,215.00 and is aidable. Mr. Rockefeller also noted that the cost of the NERIC Program is included in the budget that they have provided to the Board. Upon The Board approved Mr. Rockefeller to proceed with acquiring NERIC as our Accounting Software Program.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS –** Mr. Burton provided the Board with a copy of the letter he sent to Mr. Leonard Logan regarding his acquisition of the **Diesel Tank**. He also contacted Mayor Barton to inform him that they will arrange for removal of the tank once the weather is more cooperative.

Mr. Burton also provided the Board with copies of letters he sent to Canajoharie Central School and Owen D. Young Central School regarding further discussion on **shared services**. ODY had contacted Mr. Burton and will contact again when there Board is available to attend. Canajoharie has not responded yet.

He noted to the Board that NYSBBA has again asked the board to join. The Board decided again to not join because of the cost.

**Mr. Burton provided the Board with a copy of the Rural Schools Newsletter** which included a copy of the Position Paper for their review. He also told them that March 16<sup>th</sup> is Lobbying Day at the Capital.

He also reminded the Board members of the **Mohawk Sacandaga School Boards Association meeting** is March 7<sup>th</sup>.

He provided the Board with the **Non Resident Student Tuition Report** dated February 25, 2011. We have a total of 43 non resident students. 18 Employee children, 13 grand fathered, 2 with letters on file and 10 students who are billed tuition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Mrs. Gail Rivkovich updated the Board on the bullying issues she has spoke about before. She noted that things seem to be getting better and she is working with the bus garage and she wanted to thank the Board and the school as things are getting better. Other items discussed were shared services, mandate relief, and non resident students.

**APPOVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER –** The Board approved **Kyle Smith** as a volunteer with the **Track and Field Program**.

**ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF EXTRA DUTY ASSISTANT SR. CLASS ADVISOR** – The Board accepted the resignation from **Mrs. Louise Clute** as Assistant Sr. Class Advisor.

**APPOINT EXTRA DUTY POSITION (SR. CLASS ASSISTANT ADVISOR)** – The Board appointed **Mrs. Margaret DiBiase** to the extra duty position of Sr. Class Assistant Advisor.

**APPOINT EXTRA DUTY POSITION (MODIFIED BASEBALL CO-COACHES)** – The Board appointed **Bryan Cronkhite and Phil Thibodeau** to the extra duty positions of Modified Baseball Co-Coaches.

**APPOINT EXTRA DUTY POSITION (VARSITY TRACK & FIELD COACH)** – The Board appointed **Mr. Edward Duba** to the extra duty position of Varsity Track & Field Coach.

**APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST** – The Board approved the maternity leave request from **Mrs. Casey Shults** to begin on or about May 14, 2011 and continue through the end of the school year.

**APPROVE AMINISTRATOR REORGANIZATIONAL PLAN** – The Board approved the Administrator Reorganizational Plan as presented.

**APPOINTMENT (ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL/DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION)** – The Board appointed **Mrs. Catherine Brucker** to the position of Elementary Principal/Director of Special Education beginning July 1, 2011.

**ABOLISH POSITIONS** –The Board approved the abolishment of positions as recommended as well as approval to provide letters of warning to those individuals whose positions may be abolished on April 2, 2011. The following list of positions are **abolished**: **Elementary Librarian, Music Teacher, Secondary Science Teacher, Secondary Social Studies Teacher, Elementary Physical Education Teacher, Network Systems Coordinator, Two Elementary Teachers, and Three Teacher Assistant Positions.** The following positions received **warning letters**: **Secondary English, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Secondary Mathematics, one Teacher Assistant and four Elementary Teachers.**