

# 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 15, 2011.

**TIME FOR VISITORS** – Dr. Patrick Michel, HFM BOCES Superintendent introduced himself to the Board and members of the public. He encouraged member to contact him as they review the HFM BOCES Administrative Budget. He also indicated his availability to attend future Board of Education Meetings or answer any questions at their request. The Board thanked Dr. Michel for attending and noted they look forward to working with him.

**PREVIOUS BUSINESS** – Lauri Dahlin, Food Service Director, gave a report on the status of the upcoming Health Fair. It is being sponsored by the Child Nutrition Advisory Committee and will be held on Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10am – 2pm at the Jr. Sr. High School. It will feature local organizations, businesses and school groups that will education and promote a variety of nutrition, health, fitness and wellness services throughout the area. The Fitness Center will be open for tours also. Mrs. Dahlin thanked Mrs. Jenks, Co-Chairman, and the other BOE Representative Mr. McFee as well as they entire committee: Mr. Burton, Ms. Larrabee, Mrs. Brucker, Mrs. Tharp, Kris Kirkpatrick, Phil Thibodeau, Michelle Boylan, Robin Dineen, Myra Trumbull, Dawn Minnich, Denise Looman, Stephanie Rogers, Jane Bonville, and Maisie Orsillo.

**BUSINESS MANAGER** – Mr. Rockefeller noted the Transportation Advisory Services results will be in soon and Insurance Proposals are coming in steadily.

**PRINCIPAL REPORTS** – Mrs. Tharp presented her report to the Board consisting of: Morning Program, Monthly Charity – “Go Red for Women”, January Students of the Month, “Bully Proof your Child” Program for parents and educators to be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, MATH-A-THON, and congrats to three Harry Hoag Sixth graders who won the annual Scottish Rite Masons of Utica Essay Contest: Siera Nichols, Austin Crouse, and Gracelyn Oldick. The Board thanked Mrs. Tharp for her report. Ms. Larrabee presented her report consisting of February Students of the Month; OK2XL is scheduled to go to Proctor’s Theater to watch a performance of The Lion King on March 10<sup>th</sup>; Students in Mrs. DeKalb’s Money Management class are submitting the top five essays for USA Today’s Dream Job Contest; Mr. Frank’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade technology students have built 60 blur bird nesting kits for the NYS Blue Bird Society; Mrs. Van Patten arranged for two Skype visits by young adults authors, Prom is coming soon and the Prom Fashion show was held on March 12<sup>th</sup>, congratulations to our 31 WAC Academic All-Stars; Annual Hilltopper Hitting Camp was successful, Winter sports reception was held on March 9<sup>th</sup>; Renee Bade is taking over for Mrs. Wilder’s science classes while she recovers; staff participated in the Relay for Life and raised \$335. The Board thanked her for her report.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** – Mr. Burton provided the Board with a Writing Program Update from Mrs. Joan Scanlon-Dise; Career Teach Course List Update; and Budget/Funding Information from School Board Associations. He also provided them with information regarding the HFM BOCES Annual Meeting to be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>. He asked the Board to let Mrs. Dahlin or Mrs. Smith if they will be attending before March 24<sup>th</sup>. The Student Moving Report dated February 28, 2011. Our enrollment stands at 873 students with 488 in grades PreK – grade 6 and 385 in grades 7 – 12.

Mr. Burton provided the Board with conference reports from Mrs. Pombrio and Mr. Snyder. Mrs. Pombrio attended LOTE (Languages Other Than English) Test Development. She learned appropriate test construction and worked in teams to develop several possible test questions for this year’s upcoming exam. She noted the test is still to be administered at the end of the year and will be given at approximately the same time as in prior years as well. There is still a great deal of information and processing that need to be worked out but the HGM BOCES Staff has asked that each district continue to provided personnel to collaborate further. The have also asked that we send in individual portion of the test to be evaluated for use in this or future test. She thanked the Board for allowing her to attend this important session.

Mr. Snyder attended The Conference for Adobe Photoshop Users. He attended classes which strengthened his base knowledge and skills the students would be utilizing in class. He also learned new ways of manipulating photographs. He has been teaching digital photography for the last two years and enjoys it very much. This conference enhanced his knowledge and increased his confidence in how he teaches his students. He thanked the Board for allowing him to attend.

Mr. Burton provided the Board with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Academic Athletic Report. 47.25% of our athletes are on the Honor Roll or Principal’s List.

Mr. Burton presented a power point regarding the realities of the Governor’s Proposed Budget. He explained that our State Aid would be reduced by \$861,477.00. He went on to explain that other districts around are seeing the same inequities and all HFM

BOCES Districts are being treated unfairly. He urged the public to contact their legislators over the next two week and tell them you want to see equity in State Aid Cuts. He provided a sample of the "SOS" Save our Schools letter to use.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Members of the public and staff/faculty commented on PreK and Kindergarten programs, contractual raises and pay freezes, quality of education with the cuts that have been implemented, bullying policy, seniority, and taxes.

**RATIFY MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT** –The Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the Fort Plain Teachers' Association and the Fort Plain Central School District regarding Retired Employees as Coaches.

**APPROVE CHANGES TO HFM BOCES SUBSTITUE LIST-** The Board approved the HFM BOCES Substitute List dated March 1, 2011 as presented.

**TENURE APPOINTMENT (A. MANIERI)** – The Board made the following tenure appointment: **Miss Amanda Manieri**, effective September 1, 2011.

**TENURE APPOINTMENT (K. MCCUMBER)** – The Board made the following tenure appointment: **Mrs. Katie McCumber**, effective September 1, 2011.

**TENURE DENIED (K. GRAY)** – The Board voted to deny tenure to Mrs. Kolbe Gray to extend her Probationary Appointment until August 31, 2012.