

# 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 September 23, 2009.

**ACCEPT PRIVATE DONATION CHECKS** – The Board accepted checks in the amount of \$25.00 from Marion Dillenbeck and \$10.00 from Lore and Leo Koppel in memory of Mr. Mark Norris. They asked that the funds be utilized for high school library purchases.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS** – Mrs. Tharp presented her report to the Board consisting of kindergarten Parent Orientation Night on September 16<sup>th</sup>, Morning Program has begun, the NED Show will be presented on September 28<sup>th</sup> for grades 1-6, Harry Hoag School Talented & Gifted program will begin with the Student Council Elections, the Annual Open House will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade DARE will begin on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Tharp noted there are 50-6<sup>th</sup> graders and 30-6<sup>th</sup> graders attending Nature's Classroom this year. Also, thanks to the Fulmont Center, 8 students are attending who could not afford the cost. Also, Mrs. Tharp noted that there has been an increase in the number of students eating breakfast. We are still receiving item donations from Wal-Mart which are being used by our students and being shared with the high school and the senior center. The Board thanked Mrs. Tharp for her report.

Ms. Larrabee presented her report to the Board consisting of enrollment of 416 in the Jr. Sr. High School, the first week went smoothly and schedule changes are being handled now, 7 students are currently interested in participating in a GED program in the Jr. Sr. High School, all faculty members have a full 6 class teaching assignment. Paul Cardettino is our new Social Studies teacher, Mr. Arndt is working as an administrative intern to the principal, school supplies have again been donated by the DKG organization, Open House will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm, the After school program will get underway on September 21<sup>st</sup>, Jenn Rivenburgh is now working full time as a TA for discipline, all memos from the main office are begins sent to staff via email in an effort to GO GREEN, Student assemblies have begun, members of the National Honor Society expressed interest in helping with a peer mentor program in the jr. high school, Building level team will be of primary importance to disseminate information throughout the building, Congratulations to Sue Summerfield who earned support for her family math night through donorschoose.org, a special thank you to the class of 2009 for the tree that was planed in memory of Mrs. Trish McVeigh, the cross country invitational is this weekend, and the code of conduct includes some minor changes. The Board thanked Ms. Larrabee for her report.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** – Mr. Burton presented information to the Board showing that we continue to be a school “in good standing” with the NYS Department of Education and also information on our drop out rate. Mr. Burton noted that the Business Education Alliance is working with superintendents all over our area as well as businesses to find out ways to decrease our drop out rate and make sure there are jobs and careers around for those students who remain in school.

Mr. Burton noted that the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual cross country invitational was held. 42 teams with 1,265 runners participated. Thank you to Mr. Karker for organizing another successful meet.

Mr. Burton told the Board that the 1955 Time Capsule was opened at an assembly recently. The time capsule was found inside the 1955 cornerstone in the front of the Elementary School. It was a copper box which over the years had allowed for deterioration of the contents. Mr. Burton has been in contact with a restoration firm as to a cost to salvage the contents. Mr. Burton and the Board discussed ideas for a new time capsule to be included in this renovation and Mr. Burton will form a committee to oversee ideas of items to be included.

Mr. Burton noted the economy hasn't change and we are watching state aide amounts and revenue. It is time to begin looking at ways to save for the upcoming budget year as the budget preparation is not going to be an easy task.

**ACCEPT BUS PROPOSITION VOTE RESULTS** – The Board accepted the voting results from the Bus Proposition held on September 22, 2009. 250 – YES 437 – NO. Mr. Vance thanked the residents for coming out to vote and for attending the Board meetings. He thinks we should look into a 10 year buy back program.

**CONFERENCE REQUEST-** Mr. Burton presented the Board with a conference request from Mrs. Kathie DeKalb to attend the NYS Conference of Business Teachers. Mrs. Hudyncia noted asked Mr. Burton if it is a contractual obligation for the Board to allow for teachers to attend conferences. Mr. Burton noted that it is not required however we do try to provide as much professional development for our teachers as we can. The Board approved the conference request from Mrs. Kathie DeKalb to attend the NYS Conference of Business Teachers.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Residents discussed the bus proposition and suggested consolidation of the bus runs, and questioned how maintenance will be performed now that the buses are no longer under warranty. The Board will consider the residents suggestions and concerns. Mrs. Cheryl Reese addressed the Board and asked them to reconsider their decision to cut student planners. The Board thanked everyone for their comments.

**EXTRA DUTY APPOINTMENT -** The Board appointed Jeff Jones to the extra duty position of Modified Volleyball Coach.

**APPOINT SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS** – The Board approved the following list of physical education aides volunteers in the elementary school: Sandra Mallett, Alan Hazzard, Joshua Race, Matthew Summerfield, Bethany Cramer, Anthony Battisti, Mary Richardson, Travis Johnson, and Martin Hoffman.

**APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER** – The Board approved Mrs. Helen Calbet as a volunteer in Mrs. Patty Sweet’s Room.

**APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER** – The Board approved Mrs. Marcia Matis as a volunteer in Mrs. Patty Sweet’s Room.

**APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER** – The Board approved Amanda Aker as a volunteer with the Cross Country Program.

**APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER** – The Board approve Bryan Cronkhite as a volunteer with the Basketball Team.

**APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST** – The Board approved the maternity leave request from Mrs. Katie Sacco. Her leave will commence on or about February 12, 2010 and continue through on or about April 12, 2010.