

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 November 16, 2010.

TIME FOR VISITORS – David Blackwell, Bovis Lend Lease, presented the Board with his final Capital Project Report. He noted they are now completing items on the punch list and waiting for some materials that have not arrived yet. Mr. Blackwell also noted that there have been no lost time incidents during this project. He will continue to work with Mr. Burton until the project is completed. Stan Cwynar, Cwynar and Co. Auditors, presented information regarding the 2009-2010 External Audit. The Board approved Mr. Rockefeller's Management Letter and Response to the Audit at the October 19, 2010 Board Meeting.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS – Mr. Capece asked Mr. Rockefeller if there has been any progress regarding the Transportation Consultants. Mr. Rockefeller noted he has received quotes and will be sharing the information with the Support Services Committee at an upcoming date. Mr. Fredericks and the Fitness Center Committee continue to meet to discuss the final plans to present to the full Board of Education regarding the specifics of the Fitness Center. They plan to have an open house for the public on January 3rd and 4th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

BUSINESS MANAGER – Mr. Rockefeller updated the Board on the status of the Rome School for the Deaf Bus Run. He received two bids and with Birnie Bus coming in with the lowest bid of \$218.00 per day. They began the run on November 2nd and we will receive 90% reimbursement. Mr. Capece asked Mr. Rockefeller again for information regarding the cost to heat the bus garage during the winter. The Board, Mr. Burton, and Mr. Rockefeller discussed many different options regarding heating the bus garage. Mr. Kardash provided information he has compiled showing that it would not be feasible to not heat the garage at all. He suggested heating it to above freezing in order to cut the cost of run the buses in the morning as well as pointing out that they need to melt the snow on top of the buses in order to comply with vehicle and traffic laws. Everyone agreed they will work to find the most cost effective way to maintain the garage during the winter months. Mr. Rockefeller told the Board he has a contractual issue he would like to discuss with them during executive session.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS – In Mrs. Tharp's absence, Mr. Burton provided the Board with her report. Mrs. Tharp's report consisted of Morning Program for the Month, Open House was held on October 14th and very well attended, PTA fall fundraiser has begun, a Robotics Assembly was presented on October 21st, PTA Book Fair was held on October 21st through October 26th, Annual Halloween Parade was held on October 29th, The Portable Planetarium visited on November 3, 4, and 5, Student of the Month Breakfast was held on November 10th, and transportation issues. Mr. Capece asked how morning program was going and Mr. Burton noted it continues to be very well attended. Ms. Larrabee's report consisted of the first marking period ended on November 5th, October Students of the Month were named, GearUp has sponsored many College Field Trips, OK2XL sent 18 Students to Hamilton College to listen to a lecture by Condoleezza Rice, Student Council sponsored a Halloween dance and Haunted House, "Dancing on the Stars", the semi-formal fall ball was held on November 6th with many students attending, November 16th Colleen Cushing and Jenn Rivenburgh will be escorting six students to HFM Conference Center to be trained on safeTALK. A program which prepared anyone over the age of 15 to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aide resources. A program was presented to all jr. sr. high school students regarding internet safety, cyber bullying, and sexting, congratulations to the soccer, bowling, and cross country teams for competing in sectional games and OK2XL Minds On field trips are taking place. She also noted the Senior Trip has been planned to go Washington DC with 41 students attending. The Board thanked Ms. Larrabee for her report.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – Mr. Burton shared a letter with the Board from the Class of 1970 and their recent tour of the High School Facility as part of their class reunion. They thanked Mr. VanAvery and noted that he did a wonderful job and provided a lot of information pertaining to the changes over the years. Mr. Burton provided Conference Reports- Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. Hayes, School District Nurses, attended mandated Medicaid Training at HFM BOCES. The training provided new rules set forth by the Federal Government. Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. Hayes were provided very important information and thanked the Board for allowing them to attend. Mr. Burton provided the Board with the Student Moving Report dated October 6, 2010. Our enrollment stands at 888 – 500 in PreK-6th and 388 in 7-12. Mr. Burton provided the Board with information on the 2010-2011 Schools Accountability Status. Our District is in Good Standing in all areas. Mr. Burton also informed the new board members that he is gathering information regarding the mandatory fiscal accountability training and will provide the information to them as soon as it is finalized.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Mrs. Myra Trumbull of the Fort Plain School Related Personnel gave a report on the Cafeteria Staff and some of the changes they have made. She noted they have revamped the menu and included more fruits and vegetables, removed pot tarts and replaced breaded chicken patties with grilled chicken and turkey for salads. She informed the Board that the Food Service Department continues to improve the menu and offerings for our students. The Board thanked her for the information. Mrs. Michelle Brown addressed the Board regarding an issue her son was involved in on the bus recently. She informed the Board that her son was bullied on the bus by older children and she was unhappy with the response she received from the school district. Other parents also expressed their concern over transportation issues and Mr. Burton and the members of the Board of Education expressed their concern and will take the issues into consideration and work together to come up with a solution to prevent any further incidents.

RATIFY MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH SCHOOL RELATED PERSONNEL - The Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement dated November 17, 2010 between the Fort Plain Central School District and the Fort Plain School Related Personnel Association.

APPROVE HFM BOCES SUBSTITUTE LIST- The Board approved the HFM BOCES substitute list dated **November 1, 2010** as presented.

APPOVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS – The Board approved the following school volunteers: **Jennifer Jones – Elementary Nurses Office; Sarah Maiello – Bowling Program; Sal Davi – Bowling Program; and Donata Oldick – Cheerleading Program.**

APPOINTMENT – EXTRA DUTY POSITION (GIRLS MOD BASKETBALL) – The Board appointed Mrs. Kolbe Gray to the extra duty position of Girls Modified Basketball Coach.

APPOINTMENT – EXTRA DUTY POSITION (GIRLS MOD BASKETBALL) – The Board appointed Ms. Amber Fredericks to the extra duty position of Girls Modified Basketball Coach.

APPOINTMENT – EXTRA DUTY POSITION (GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL) – The Board appointed Mr. Phil Karker to the extra duty position of Girls Varsity Basketball Coach.

APPROVE HOME TUTOR – (BADE) – The Board approved Mrs. Renee Bade as a Home Tutor for our District.

APPOINT SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST (SHIMMON)–The Board appointed Mrs. Denise Shimmon as School Psychologist. The School Psychologist position is for the regular school year only and is contingent upon the allocation of Federal monies.

APPROVE BUS DRIVER/CLEANER TRANSFER TO CLEANER– The Board approved the transfer of Mr. Jack Calbet from his position of Bus Driver Cleaner to Cleaner Position.

APPROVE MAINTENANCE WORKER TRANSFER TO BUS DRIVER/MAINTENANCE POSITION – The Board approved the transfer of Mr. Michael Surnear from his position of Maintenance Worker to Bus Driver/Maintenance Position.

APPOINTMENT (REGULAR RUN BUS DRIVER - TYMCHYN) – The Board conditionally appointed **Mr. Richard Tymchyn** to the position of Regular Run Bus Driver.

ACCEPT RESIGNATION (FT 1:1 AIDE – OLDICK) – The Board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Donata Oldick from her position of FT 1:1 Aide.

RE-INSTATE TEACHER’S ASSISTANT (OLDICK)–The Board appointed Mrs. Donata Oldick as Teacher Assistant based upon the notice of Federal Funding Allocation for the remainder of the school year.

APPOINTMENT (FULL TIME 1:1 AIDE – WALLIS) – The Board conditionally appointed **Paula Wallis** to the position of Full Time 1:1 Aide.

APPOINTMENT (PART TIME BUS AIDE – SERVIDONE) – The Board conditionally appointed **Marilyn Servidone** to the position of Part Time Bus Aide.

APPOINTMENT (PART TIME BUS AIDE – CHRISTMAN) – The Board conditionally appointed **Sarah Christman** to the position of Part Time Bus Aide.

APPOINTMENT (FULL TIME AIDE – MCFEE) – The Board conditionally appointed **Kristy McFee** to the position of Full Time Aide.