

# 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 December 7, 2010.

**TIME FOR VISITORS** – Mr. Donald Stockwell, Physical Education Teacher, presented the Board with an update on the **Fitness/Physical Therapy Center**. He noted the committee has been meeting to finalize the details of opening to the public. The students and faculty are using it now and it is going very well. They plan to have an Open House for the public on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm – 8:00pm with an opening date of January 5, 2011. Mr. Stockwell noted that discussion regarding the fee schedule which he included for the Boards approval. The Board approved the **fee schedule** for the Center as provided. Mr. Stockwell also discussed the fee to be paid for an instructor. He noted that in asking surrounding communities who also have fitness centers, the range for instructor pay was between \$10.00 and \$25.00. After discussion, the Board approved payment of **\$14.00 an hour for fitness instructors**. Mr. Burton noted that the Fitness Center should be self sustaining with the membership fees paying for the instructor fees. The Board thanked Mr. Stockwell for his report.

**PREVIOUS BUSINESS** – The Board asked for an update on the **bus cameras**. Mr. Rockefeller noted they have been in contact with the company and will be supplying the Support Services Committee with pricing for all buses at the December 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. All the buses have cameras, four have new ones. It would cost approximately \$28,000 to do all the buses over. Mr. Yerdon noted he would rather see bus aides/monitors or students on the buses. The issue of liability was discussed at length. Mr. Rockefeller also noted that there will be presentations by the **Transportation Consultants** who are interested in provided services at the Support Services meeting on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Burton noted he received word that the Village does not want the **Diesel Fuel Tank** remaining from the capital improvements. He has contacted local farmers and received some interest. He noted if any one else is interested to please contact him. They will then decide who will receive it. Interested parties must be FPCS residents and remove the tank by themselves.

**BUSINESS MANAGER** – Mr. Rockefeller informed the Board that the **Fire Reports** were ready for submission. The Fire Inspection was performed on November 27<sup>th</sup> with only a few minor issues noted. They were corrected by the 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board accepted the Fire Reports.

Mr. Rockefeller provided the Board with the 2011-2012 Budget Planning Calendar. The Board accepted the **2011-2012 Budget Planning Calendar**.

Mr. Rockefeller provided the Board with the **2010-2011 School Tax Collector's Report**. Again this year, approximately 85.58% of taxes were collected. The Board accepted the 2010-2011 School Tax Collector's Report.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS** – Mrs. Tharp provided her report to the Board. She noted that teachers have to complete a Professional Development Plan according to their contract and she is pleased with the topics they are presenting this year. She also noted that Parent Teacher Conferences were held recently with 96% of parents attending. They have Make A Wish Angels being sold now to support Jordan Waner who was recently awarded a wish by the foundation. The PTA is working with students to help them raise money to attend Nature's Classroom and St. Johnsville School District is possibly interested in sending their students and have been meeting with our teachers to learn more about the program. The Board thanked her for her report.

Ms. Larrabee presented her report to the Board. They are also selling Angels to raise money for Make A Wish in honor of Jordan Waner. The Student Council is holding a Winter Pep Rally and Can Drive. Also a decorating contest, elf auction and concert by FLAME are scheduled. They Student Council is very active this year and doing a very good job involving students. They are also conducting their annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing. She reminded those in attendance that the holiday chorus and band concert are scheduled soon. The Board thanked her for her report.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** – Mr. Burton informed the Board that both the Girl's Soccer and the Cross Country Team were named Scholar Athlete Teams.

He also noted that Coffee Hour will begin after the holidays on Tuesday Mornings. He encouraged the Board and any members of the public who would like to discuss the upcoming budget or any other issues pertaining to the school district are welcome to attend. Mr. Burton provided the Board with conference reports from Mrs. Sue Summerfield and Mrs. Donna Yerdon who both attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Mathematics Teachers of NYS. They both found the conference very informative and came away with information to share with their colleagues.

Mr. Burton provided a copy of a letter from Mr. Karker to the Rural Metro Medical Services thanking them for serving as stand-by medical services during the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual varsity cross country invitational.

Mr. Burton also provided the Board with a letter from the Business Teachers Association of NYS acknowledging Mr. Kathleen DeKalb's volunteer participation as Board Liaison during their annual conference. They were very appreciative of her service.

Mr. Karker provided the Board with the Fall Sports Reports for their information.

Mr. Burton provided the Board with the **Student Moving Report dated November 30, 2010**. Our enrollment stands at 875 (489 in the HHS and 386 in the HS).

Mr. Burton also provided the Board with an update on the number of students utilizing the late bus. The Board will continue to discuss this issue and ways to remain cost effective.

**APPROVE CHANGE ORDER FOR CAPITAL PROJECT** – The Board approved the Change Order for the Capital Project for the cost of **Tack Board Walls in the amount of \$46,569.25**. Mr. Burton noted this cost was already allocated and is not extra money needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** Members of the public expressed their concerns regarding late bus runs, monitors vs. cameras on buses, and the status of the new principal search.

**APPOVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS** – The Board approved the following school volunteers: **Ron Terranova and Bill Shaul – Boys Basketball.**

**APPOINTMENT (ART TEACHER – REMAINDER OF SCHOOL YEAR)** – The Board appointed **Jody Golem** to the position of Art Teacher.

**APPOINTMENT (PART TIME ELEMENTARY AIS TEACHER – REMAINDER OF SCHOOL YEAR)** – The Board appointed **Joanne Kennedy** to the position of Part Time Elementary AIS Teacher along with her previous appointment of Part Time Pre-Kindergarten Teacher.

**APPOINTMENT EXTRA DUTY COORDINATOR OF PARTS INVENTORY AND EXTRA BUS RUNS** – The Board appointed **Mr. Chaz Ruszkowski** to the extra duty position of Coordinator of Parts Inventory and Extra Bus Runs.

**APPOINTMENT EXTRA DUTY COORDINATOR OF 19A EXAMINATIONS AND REGULAR BUS RUNS** – The Board appointed **Mr. Tom Hajczewski** to the extra duty position of Coordinator of 19A Examinations and Regular Bus Runs.