

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 January 4, 2011.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS – Mr. Burton noted the Board is looking for people interested in the Diesel tank the school has as a result of the Capital Project. Mr. Yerdon noted that he received confirmation from the Montgomery County Sanitary Sewer District #1 that they were interested. Mr. Burton said the School will review any other interest and award the Diesel Tank at the next meeting. Mr. Capece discussed the Late Bus Runs. He noted he wishes to consolidate the runs to possibly only one day a week instead of five days. Mr. Yerdon expressed that he does not believe that students who are required to stay after school for detention should be allowed to ride the late bus. The board discussed different scenarios regarding students using the late bus and the cost. The Board asked that at the next meeting, Mr. Rockefeller and Mr. Burton provide the Board with figures on how much the late bus costs, how many students use it for extra curricular vs. detention, and how much savings there would be should we cut back the number of days we schedule it. The Board also asked what information Mr. Rockefeller has acquired regarding the changeover of accounting software. He noted he is still receiving information from different companies as well information from BOCES and will provide the Board with more information in the future.

BUSINESS MANAGER – Support Services Committee: Mr. Rockefeller provided information to the Board regarding the recommendation from the Support Services Committee. The committee met and reviewed presentations from PTSI and TAS (Transportation Advisory Services). He noted the Committee recommends TAS and Mr. Mark Walsh to conduct the evaluation of the Transportation Department. Mr. Rockefeller noted the contact will not exceed \$8,700.00 which is aideable. After discussion among the Board members, they voted to appoint Mark Walsh and Transportation Advisory Services to conduct an evaluation of the Transportation Department at a price not to exceed \$8,700.00. **Auction List:** Mr. Rockefeller provided the Board with a list of items to be presented at Auction on January 13, 2011 by County Line Auctions which the Board approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – Mr. Burton provided the Board with a letter from the Fort Plain Activity Council thanking our Mrs. Sincavage and the Girls' Glee Club for their participation in the arrival of Santa Clause in Haslett Park on December 6, 2010. They were very happy to have the school participate in this community event.

He also provided the Board with a letter from the Shults Agency on behalf of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Fulton and Montgomery Counties. Cornell is looking for an approximate space of 3000 sq ft of office space, a classroom space large enough for 20-30 students, and kitchen facilities displaying the characteristics of an average residential kitchen. Mr. Burton noted he has been trying to get in contact with the director of Cornell and as soon as they touch base he will provide more information to the Board. Mr. Burton informed the Board that Mr. Fredericks was going to be late to the meeting tonight as he is at the second night of the fitness center open house. Mr. Burton was at last nights open house and noted they has approximately 35 people in attendance last night and 20 tonight when he was there. They had 20 or so people register already and they will be opening for use on Monday, January 10, 2011. So far they have had very positive feedback from the community. Mr. Burton also noted that he recently heard from a community member that they could get two pages in the Pennysaver for a lesser price than the one page in the My Shopper. They Board will review the costs but they also noted that the two pages of the Pennysaver are smaller than the one page of the My Shopper.

Mr. Burton reminded the Board and the community that Tuesday Morning Coffee Hours have begun. Anyone is welcome to come in and meet with him to discuss the budget or anything else they would like. The coffee hours will run from now until the budget vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Mrs. Dolores Hayes pointed out to the Board that there are many pictures in our local papers and a lot of coverage of the school activities and it would be much smaller and harder to read if you were to use the Pennysaver vs. the My Shopper. The Board agreed that the local paper covers a lot of the functions and that the My Shopper is working out well. Many people are reading it who would normally not be reading the previous newsletter. Mrs. Hayes also asked the Board to remember during the upcoming budget time that the community cannot afford tax increases. She urged the Board to look at the most cost effective ways to provide services without adding anymore burden to the tax payer.

APPOINTMENT (GUIDANCE COUNSELOR – REMAINDER OF SCHOOL YEAR) – The Board appointed **Stephanie Marchone** to the position of Guidance Counselor.

APPOINTMENT EXTRA DUTY (JV SOFTBALL – MURPHY)- The Board appointed Ms. Jennifer Murphy to the extra duty position of JV Softball Coach.

APPROVE FITNESS CENTER INSTRUCTORS – The Board appointed the following Fitness Center Instructors: Donald Stockwell, Phil Thibodeau, Scott Crewell, Craig Phillips, Bryan Cronkhite, Jason McCumber, and James Quackenbush.