

# 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 March 17, 2010.

**TIME FOR VISITORS** – Mrs. Patricia Perry, School Aged GED Instructor, presented a report to the Board regarding the School Aged GED Program she is teaching at the Jr. Sr. High School. She noted the program is 12 ½ hours weekly, and normally a two year program. Students must test out of each subject and also receive a total of 2250 points on the overall test in order to complete their GED. The Program is preparation for life beyond the test. It provides opportunities and support to enable growth and skill development, works on taking ownership of their learning and life choices. There is also a vocational element to the program which works on readiness for the job market as well as guidance in life style choices that can impact success. Mrs. Perry noted that she enjoys working with these students and will provide the support they need during their upcoming tests. The Board thanked her for her report.

**PREVIOUS BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

**BUSINESS MANAGER** – Mr. Rockefeller noted he had received a recommendation from the Support Services Committee to submit letters of intent to purchase 2 International buses. Quotes came in a few thousand dollars less for the Internationals and the rest of our fleet is International which will maintain the same type of parts. He noted the purchase of the buses will be contingent on a positive budget vote. The Board authorized Mr. Rockefeller to sign **letters of intent to purchase 2 International Buses** contingent upon a positive budget vote in May.

Mr. Rockefeller asked to speak to the Board in executive session regarding the possibility of having an auction and some of the items that will be included. The Board agreed.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS** – In Mrs. Tharp's absence, Mr. Burton presented her report to the Board. He noted that parent teacher conferences have been moved to April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the River Rats came to school to discuss healthy living and approximately 123 students were able to attend a River Rats hockey game. They received many compliments on how well behaved our students were. Items included in her report were: Morning program for March, February students of the month, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students travelled to the NYS Theater Institute to see "And Then There Were None.", Professional Development Day on February 11<sup>th</sup> went well and included instruction in Scott Foresman Reading and Math Programs, Rubicon-Atlas Curriculum Mapping, and "Increasing Parental Involvement". Also, Pennies for Patients collected a total of \$1,577.00 to be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Ms. Larrabee presented her report to the Board. She noted that OK2XL is in New York City and are having a wonderful time, they attended Journey to the Stars at the museum and also the musical, Memphis. She also noted that Mrs. DiBiase and her classes attended Minds On and she received notice that they won the mathematics workshop they participated in with other students. Her report included February Students of the month, the Winter Ball was successful with about 180 students attending, Mrs. McCall and Mrs. DiBiase each took students to participate in Minds On Workshops, Class of 2010 is gearing up for their senior trip and the parents will meet to discuss expectations and rules on March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Mock Trial Team will be competing for the first time on March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Montgomery County Courthouse, Ms. Cushing and Mrs. Congdon are helping young ladies who are in need of prom dresses with the Cinderella Project. She also congratulated Mr. Phillips, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Thibodeau on successful hitting camps, and Mr. Karker and the winter sports coaches for their successful seasons. Upcoming events include and assembly with Mr. Rick Bender sponsored by Tobacco Free Schools, Annual Pops Concert is March 25<sup>th</sup>, GearUp is offering another college field trip, National Honor Society's induction ceremony will be April 16<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Van Patten has arranged for author, Ryan Smithson, to speak to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders on his book Ghosts of War. Mrs. Rivenburgh reported there are a total of 515 discipline issues reported since the beginning of the year, and the graduation report has been released from the State Education Department. Fort Plain's results are very good. 66 students enter the cohort in 2005. 82% (55 Students) received a Regents or Local Diploma. 2% (1 Student) received an IEP diploma. 5% (3 students) are still enrolled. 2% (1 student) transferred to the GED Program. 9% of that cohort (6 students) dropped out. The Board thanked Ms. Larrabee for her report.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** – Mr. Burton provided the Board with information regarding **HFM BOCES Annual Meeting** to be held on April 14<sup>th</sup>. He asked that Board members interested in going please contact Mrs. Smith.  
Mr. Burton provided the Board with the **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Academic Athletic Report** from Mr. Karker. 40.8% of our athletes are on the Honor Roll or Principal’s List and there are 25 W.A.C. Academic All Stars.  
Mr. Burton also provided the Board with the **Student Moving Report dated February 28, 2010**. Our enrollment stands at 864 with 475 in PreK- 6<sup>th</sup> and 389 in grades 7-12.

**CONFERENCE REQUEST** – Mr. Burton provided the Board with a request from Mrs. **Colleen Conti** to attend the Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training in Albany on June 15<sup>th</sup> through June 17<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the Board may wish to table their decision for executive session so that they may discuss the request in further detail. The Board tabled the request.

**APPROVE SECOND READING OF POLICY** – The Board approved the second reading of **Policy #6410 (Staff Use of Computerized Information)**.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – The Board listened to comments and addressed concerns from those in attendance regarding Busing, wage freezes and raises, extra duty positions and salaries, cutting of BOCES programs, afterschool programs, and financial concerns for the district.

**APPROVE CHANGES TO HFM BOCES SUBSTITUTE LIST**- The Board approved the changes to the HFM BOCES substitute list dated **March 1, 2010** as presented.

**TENURE APPOINTMENT (C. BROWN)** – The Board appointed tenure to **Miss Casey Brown**, effective September 1, 2010; Tenure Area: Elementary.

**TENURE APPOINTMENT (A. BUDZIK)** – The Board appointed tenure to **Miss Amanda Budzik**, effective September 1, 2010; Tenure Area: Elementary.

**TENURE APPOINTMENT (C. KIRKPATRICK)** – The Board appointed tenure to **Miss Caitlin Kirkpatrick**, effective September 1, 2010; Tenure Area: Elementary.

**TENURE APPOINTMENT (M. SEARLES)** – The Board appointed tenure to **Mrs. Michelle Searles**, effective September 1, 2010; Tenure Area: Special Education.

**TENURE APPOINTMENT (D. OLDICK)** – The Board appointed tenure to **Mrs. Donata Oldick**, effective September 1, 2010; Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant.

**TERMINATION OF EXTRA DUTY APPOINTMENT** – The Board approved the termination of **Mr. Richard Smith** from his position of **Assistant Track and Field Coach**.

**APPOINTMENT OF EXTRA DUTY POSITION** - The Board appointed **Edward Duba** to the position of **Assistant Track and Field Coach**.

**APPROVE DISPOSAL OF THREE UTILITY VEHICLES** – The Board approved disposing of three utility vehicles, (Bus # 29, Bus # 20, and the 1989 Ford 1 Ton).

**APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER** – The Board approved **Mrs. Katie McCumber** to volunteer with our **Softball Program**.

**AUTHORIZE MR. BURTON TO APPROVE MOA WITH FPTA** – The Board to authorized Mr. Burton to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Fort Plain Teachers Association if ratified by the Association.