

# 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 February 10, 2010.

**TIME FOR VISITORS** – Mr. Dave Blackwell, Bovis Lend Lease, provided the Board with his report on the **progress of the Capital Project**. He noted the project continues to progress on schedule and on budget. Work is being completed in the administrative area in the Elementary School and soon the structural steel will be set at the bus garage site. The Board thanked Mr. Blackwell for his report.

Mrs. Lauri Dahlin, Food Service Director, presented a report to the Board detailing the **Three Year Review of the Goals of the District's Wellness Policy**. She noted that there are 14 goals, we are in excellent compliance in 11 of the goals, and adequate compliance in 3. The Wellness Policy members recommended changes to the Wellness Policy and the Student Beverage Policy which the Policy Committee will present later in the meeting. The Board thanked Mrs. Dahlin for her report.

**PREVIOUS BUSINESS** – Mr. Capece asked about the elimination of the **North of the River bus run**. They are still in the process of organizing the existing runs along with the incorporation of the new students.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Capece expressed that he felt teachers are spending too much time on **cell phones** during the instructional time. He also wanted to know why the faculty handbook has not been updated. Mr. Burton noted that the complaint about teachers and cell phones was addressed immediately after it was brought to his attention. The administrators will continue to monitor the situation.

**BUSINESS MANAGER** – Mr. Rockefeller presented information to the Board regarding the upcoming election and budget vote. The Board approved the current **list of election inspectors**. The Board voted to amend the list of election inspectors to include Rebecca J. Smith. The Board approved the change in **hours of the budget and election vote** to be held on May 18, 2010. Hours of voting will be from 11:00am to 9:00pm.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS-** Mrs. Tharp provided her report to the Board consisting of Morning Program highlights, January Students of the Month, New semester began January 25<sup>th</sup>, Arts and Education assembly, Fort Plain "Pacers", teachers visited a Binghamton City School and Macarthur Elementary School to observe the Scot Foresman program, letter to parents, Mrs. Dise's program for PreK, and upcoming events. The Board thanked her for her report. In Ms. Larrabee's absence, Mr. Burton provided the Board with her report which consisted of second semester beginning, January Students of the Month, All County Music Festival, Ashley Smith and Tory Stella were selected to attend the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Forum and Legislative Breakfast in Albany on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Winter Ball will be held Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Trembley's English Class will see the play Fahrenheit 451 at Proctors, GEARUP is sponsoring a field trip to SUNY Albany, Mrs. Jarabek's Advanced Spanish Class will share their knowledge of the language with the second graders, Report Cards were mailed on February 5<sup>th</sup>, Teachers have been encouraged to publicize and take pictures of their multitude of positive experiences in our school, TA for discipline Jenn Rivenburgh reported a totals of 427 discipline issues since the beginning of school, Randy Wojdyla, owner of Seivert's Sports in Amsterdam, donated \$1000 to the Baseball program in the form of 10 \$100 scholarships to attend baseball camp, and College Goal Sunday will be held Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – The Policy Committee met to discuss amendments to policies. The Board approved the amendment to **Policy 5640 (Smoking/Tobacco Use)**

The Board approved the amendment to **Policy 7320 (Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs, and other Substances (Students))**.

The Board approved the amendment to **Policy 5665 (District Wellness Policy)**.

The Board approved the amendment to **Policy 7370 (Student Beverages)**.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** – Mr. Burton provided the Board with the Student Moving Report dated January 29, 2010. Our enrollment stands at 866. 477 in PreK – 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 389 in grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>.

**CONFERENCE REPORT – Mr. Dale Smith and Mr. Craig Phillips** attended the “Be The Best You Are” Baseball Coaches Conference on January 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> in Cherry Hill, NJ. It was a very informative conference and they learned many different techniques as well as meeting many contacts. Mr. Smith thanked the Board for allowing them to attend.

**CONFERENCE REQUEST –** Mr. Burton provided the Board with a request from **Mrs. Catherine Brucker, Director of Special Education**, to attend the Technical Assistance Meeting for Committee on Special Education on March 15<sup>th</sup> through March 17<sup>th</sup> in Lake Placid, NY. The conference is an annual technical assistance meeting addressing a myriad of topics relating to the Special Education Department. Upon The Board approved the conference request for Mrs. Brucker.

**PUBLIC COMMENT –** The Board listened to comments and addressed concerns from those in attendance regarding cell phone use by faculty and staff, All County Band and Chorus, Bus Routes, and the Teacher Handbook.

**APPROVE ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE HFM BOCES SUBSTITUTE LIST –** The Board approved the changes to the **HFM BOCES Substitute list dated February 1, 2010** as presented.

**APPOINTMENT (SUBSTITUTE FOOD SERVICE WORKER) SPAULDING -** The Board conditionally appointed **Sara Spaulding** to the position of Substitute Food Service Worker subject to the rules of the Montgomery County Civil Service Commission

**APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER -** The Board approved **Mr. Timothy Conrad** to volunteer with our Athletic Programs.