

# 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 18, 2009.

**TIME FOR VISITORS** – **Mr. Bill Connor, Bovis Lend Lease, Inc.** presented the monthly report for October 2009 on the Capital Project. He noted work remains on schedule and is progressing well. The Board thanked him for his report. (A copy is included).

**PREVIOUS BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Mr. Capece asked that the Board consider beginning each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board agreed.

**BUSINESS MANAGER** – **Mr. Rockefeller** noted that the Audit Committee has met to discuss the RFPs. The Audit Committee will present a report later in the meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – The Support Services Committee met to discuss the progress of the project. Everything is progressing well and continues to remain on budget. The Audit Committee met to review the Proposals received for Internal and External Auditor. The committee will meet again to further discuss the information received and present their recommendation to the Board at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORTS** – Mrs. Tharp presented her report to the Board consisting of November Morning Program; a construction demonstration was held on October 29<sup>th</sup> for students and teachers; the Halloween Parade was held on October 30<sup>th</sup> and very well attended by parents; 3<sup>rd</sup> graders hosted their special friends for lunch on November 5<sup>th</sup>; October Students of the Month we honored on November 10<sup>th</sup>; Parent Teacher Conferences were held on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>; PBIS Committee is recognizing all students who did not receive a log-in for the first quarter; NYS 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Assessments will be administered on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and score in early December; Casual for a Cause for October was the ALS Foundation and received many donations; November's Charity is the Susan G. Komen for the Cure; Student Council has begun collecting recycling; a number of Kindergarten students are not on level according to DIBELS for this time of year, remedial teachers have begun working with students to ensure they have as much help as possible to fill the deficits; the K-1 class has been successful with students; there will be poster contest for each of the holidays starting with Thanksgiving; computer glitches with the new program are being addressed; and every ten weeks or when necessary; class lists meeting are held with the classroom teachers, remediation provider, guidance counselor, school psychologist and Mrs. Tharp to discuss progress of students and whether a change to their program should be made. The Board thanked Mrs. Tharp for her report.

Ms. Larrabee presented her report to the Board consisting of the first marking period ended November 6<sup>th</sup> and despite problems with the grading program, report cards will be mailed November 13<sup>th</sup>; the Fall Sports Reception was held on November 10<sup>th</sup>; October Students of the month were named, the soccer, volleyball, and cross country teams were competing in section games with special congratulations to the girls varsity soccer for their Section II Class C Championship; the Topper Talent Showcase is being organized by Mrs. Sincavage; a Peer Mentoring Program is being organized; tenured teacher have begun meeting with Ms. Larrabee about their professional development plans; SMART Boards are being installed; National Honor Society is sponsoring a blood drive; HFM Regional Superintendents' Day is being planned for February 11, 2010; 9<sup>th</sup> grade Family Math Night will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>; Congratulations to Sue Summerfield who presented at the Association of mathematics Teachers of NYS; Department Meeting Schedules have

been distributed,; the Class of 2010 have taken over the recycling program in the high school building; and SADD is selling Holiday wreaths and poinsettias with proceeds to benefit the Post-Prom Party. The Board thanked Ms. Larrabee for her report.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** –Mr. Burton provided the Board with a report from Mrs. Cheryl Phillips regarding the Annual Capital District Speech and Hearing Association Workshop entitled Don't Be Afraid of Stuttering: Practical and Functional Approaches to Stuttering Therapy. She found the conference very informative and thanked the Board for allowing her to attend.

Mr. Burton presented the Student Moving Report. Our enrollment is 861 with 476 grades PreK-6 and 385 in grades 7-12. The Board discussed class size in relation to the Budget and how enrollment relates to State Aid.

Mr. Burton noted the Administration is beginning the budget process with staff. In the absence of Department Coordinators, the Administrators will be working with their staff and guiding them through the budget time line.

Mr. Burton noted that there is a new workbook from Ruby Payne, "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" that is being provided to all teachers through the Title 1 Grant.

He provided the Board with details of the events being held during the Village of Fort Plain's LAST NIGHT celebration. Also, the Fort Plain Pacers Program held their program kick off. About 30 members attended and were provided instruction by a representative from MVP Health Care. Mr. Burton thanked the Jr. Sr. High School Student Council and community members/organizations for their support of the program, specifically Mr. Phillips for his efforts to collect donations from faculty and staff who made a large contribution.

**APPROVE SECOND READING OF POLICY AUDIT** – The Board approved the second reading of the policy audit as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** The Board and residents discussed supervision of children during the school day and the importance of communication between faculty and parents.

**APPROVE ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE HFM BOCES SUBSTITUTE LIST** – The Board approved the changes to the HFM BOCES Substitute list dated November 1, 2009 as presented.

**APPROVE MATERNITY LEAVE REQUEST** – The Board approved the request for maternity from Mrs. Sarah Ackroyd. Her leave will begin on or about February 12, 2010 and she will return to work on or about May 3, 2010.

**APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER** – The Board approved Mrs. Donata Oldick to volunteer with our Cheerleading Program.

**APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER** – The Board approved Mr. William Shaul to volunteer with our Boys Basketball Program.

**APPROVE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER** – The Board approved Mr. Ron Terranova to volunteer with our Boys Basketball Program.