

**JOINT MEETING
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012**

A joint meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council, Farmington City Council and Farmington Public Schools Board of Education was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at the Farmington Hills City Hall-Council Chamber, 31555 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor Barry Brickner; Mayor Pro-Tem Nancy Bates; Michael Bridges, Randy Bruce, Richard Lerner and Ken Massey

ABSENT: Cheryl Oliverio

FARMINGTON HILLS CITY REPRESENTATIVES: City Manager Steve Brock, City Clerk Pam Smith, Assistant City Manager Dana Whinnery

CITY OF FARMINGTON COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor Tom Buck, Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Gavin, Greg Cowley, Kristin Kuiken and JoAnne McShane

CITY OF FARMINGTON REPRESENTATIVES: City Manager Vince Pastue and City Clerk Sue Halberstadt

PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS: President Sheilah Clay, Karen Bolsen, Priscilla Brouillette, George Gurrola, Murray Kahn and Frank Reid

ABSENT: Howard Wallach

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVES: Sue Zurvalec, Superintendent; Diane Bauman, Director of School and Community Relations Services; Michele Harmala, Assistant Superintendent; Bob Crawford, Assistant Principal at Farmington High School; John Manier, Executive Director of Instructional Services; and David Ruhland, Assistant Superintendent.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Mayor Brickner called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mayor Brickner commented that the Councils and School Board are meeting to exchange ideas that promote the health, safety and welfare of their communities. He hopes to keep the dialogue open and to continue to work together on various collaborative efforts towards the betterment of their communities. He introduced Farmington Hills staff.

Mayor Tom Buck stated that he is grateful to work in a community where they can have this type of collaboration. He introduced the Farmington Council members and staff present.

Sheilah Clay introduced the School Board of Education. Sue Zurvalec, Superintendent, introduced the school staff. Ms. Clay stated that the Board is looking forward to the discussion and the unique opportunity to discuss joint missions and interests.

UPDATES ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST:

CPR Training:

Superintendent Zurvalec stated that the idea for including CPR Training into the curriculum within the schools came from a suggestion by Dr. Ken Massey at a joint meeting between the Councils and Farmington Public School Board. Subsequently, school staff met to discuss how they might collaborate on this idea. She introduced Diane Bauman to discuss the collaboration process.

Diane Bauman mentioned that the schools began by offering 5 CPR training sessions for high school students grades 9-12. Through these training sessions, 148 students have been trained in CPR. On-line registration was offered and students were trained on student half days. The trainings were conducted by Farmington Public Safety and Farmington Hills Fire Department and the American Red Cross paid for the \$19 fee covering the cost of the CPR card provided to each student.

John Manier, Executive Director of Instruction, stated that school staff met to discuss where CPR might fit into the curriculum and it was determined that it would be most appropriate within the 9th grade health curriculum. He explained that the health curriculum objectives are being revised by the State of Michigan, therefore, school staff is recommending to the health teachers that they review the required state curriculum and incorporate those changes and consider CPR as a component. Mr. Manier noted that out of 12 school districts that he reviewed, 4 of those districts had CPR as a clear requirement for students to participate; but he does not believe it is a graduation requirement for any of those districts.

Dr. Massey inquired about the timeline for including CPR into the curriculum. Mr. Manier responded that the staff will review changes next school year (2012) and recommend changes for the following year (fall 2013).

Dr. Massey inquired what the schools would do with regard to CPR next year if it were not going to be recommended as part of the curriculum for 2012 and if this timeline could be accelerated. Mr. Manier responded that they intend to continue the volunteer program. The schools could possibly provide for more ½ day trainings at multiple sites if trainers were available to do so, but the schools need to be cautious of revising a curriculum when they do not yet know all of the state requirements.

Dr. Massey spoke to survival rates being higher for those communities that provided CPR education and training. He applauded what the schools have done, but he feels waiting a full year to implement this is too long.

Mayor Brickner thanked Mr. Manier and the schools for reviewing this issue and hopefully the schools will be able to include this into the curriculum very soon.

Kristin Kuiken, Farmington Council, commented that the skill sets achieved through CPR training could also potentially help students obtain a job as a lifeguard, in healthcare, etc.

Cooperation/Shared Services (Task Force)

Frank Reid, School Board Member, commented that the Task Force was formed to discuss ideas for collaboration and the operating procedure has been that if it would benefit 2 of the 3 organizations involved, the idea would be considered further. He acknowledged several areas

that were discussed that included information technology, dispatch services, shared healthcare, etc.

Councilmember Bruce stated that he felt there were many good ideas that came forth and thanked the staff from both cities for all of their time and efforts.

Mayor Tom Buck also commended the staff from both communities and schools for all of their hard work and efforts. He felt that Mr. Reid did an excellent job facilitating the meetings and Dr. Bruce was very encouraging throughout the process.

Dog Park at (former) Wm. Grace School site

Dana Whinnery, Farmington Hills Assistant City Manager, reported that the demolition of several school buildings led to the discussion about the possibility of utilizing the former William Grace School property for a dog park, which has been a long-time community desire. He stated that after discussions with the schools, a lease agreement was developed and has since been approved by the Farmington Board of Education and Farmington and Farmington Hills Councils. He mentioned that a group of citizens had also formed on their own to research policies and procedures and best practices, liability, etc., for a dog park, which have been incorporated as part of the rules and regulations. Mr. Whinnery outlined the steps being taken to get the park up and running and stated that the city is targeting an opening date in mid June, 2012.

Dispatch

Mr. Whinnery explained that the issue of joint dispatch services has been discussed over the years with various communities and most recently between the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills. He noted that the Farmington Public Safety and Farmington Hills Police Department has worked very hard to work out the operational items. He noted that the collaboration of dispatch and lock-up facilities was initially discussed, but it was determined that the cities would move forward with collaboration for dispatch services only.

He noted that paperwork was sent to the State, which should facilitate state approval of the grant for EVIP funding that would provide for equipment and training costs.

Mr. Whinnery stated that both City Councils approved an Intergovernmental Agreement for a joint public safety/dispatch that will be effective October 1, 2012 for a five year initial period.

Vince Pastue, Farmington City Manager, added that the implementation of the agreement is under way and Farmington has several public safety dispatchers that may be considered for employment with Farmington Hills. He commented that the two communities have worked well together throughout the process, which is vitally important to the success of this consolidation of services

Corridor Improvement Authority

City Manager Pastue reported that both cities have formed a joint Corridor Improvement Authority with each city having its own committee, yet working cooperatively. He noted that the area of the Authority includes Grand River from Mayfield east to Eight Mile Road (eastern edge). He stated that they are developing plans for the area and engaging property owners in those discussions.

Bill Galvin, Mayor Pro-Tem, stated that he will be representing the City of Farmington at the Shared Services Task Force meeting next week and hopes to develop best practice strategies and

explore ideas for generating more revenue. He asked anyone to contact him or other members of the task force with ideas.

Multi-Cultural/Multi-Racial (MCMR)

Tanji Grant, Co-Chair MCMR, acknowledged that her son was going to take one of the CPR training sessions and she expressed her support for the program. Ms. Grant indicated that they had a PowerPoint presentation this evening and she introduced John Golaszewski Co-Chair of MCMR.

Ms. Grant stated that MCMR recognizes that all people are integral to the community's health, harmony and successful future. They explore and celebrate their differences and embrace their commonalities. She explained that MCMR was founded in 1990 and it all began with a conflict between two students at one of the high schools back in the late 1980's. MCMR is comprised of stakeholders throughout the community and meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Room at the Farmington Hills City Hall at 11:45 a.m. and all are invited to attend.

Mr. Golaszewski discussed the changing demographics of both Farmington and Farmington Hills. He pointed out that there are many immigrant populations in both communities and a 1/3 of the business start-ups in the state were by immigrant populations. He commented that this is a direct benefit to both communities and the opportunity for MCMR to take a lead to make the communities the most welcoming possible.

Mr. Golaszewski noted that Michigan is the only State in the Country to lose population, so there is a need to capitalize on the potential economic growth with the immigrant populations and be as welcoming as possible to all populations.

Ms. Grant mentioned the MCMR signature events, including Heritage Week, Rainbow Recognition Awards Breakfast, Martin Luther King Celebration and Dialogues on race and ethnicity. She stated that MCMR is also hosting a porch party event at the Governor Warner Mansion that will include community dialogue.

Mr. Golaszewski mentioned that MCMR is talking with Superintendent Zurvalec about the new metropolis community dialogue.

Ms. Grant reiterated that the communities have an opportunity to be viewed as the most welcoming communities in Michigan and MCMR can be at the forefront of these efforts. She welcomed the participation and assistance from the community leaders and schools.

Ms. Grant read a letter from a former MCMR steering committee member, who moved out of the community but expressed his support of the MCMR and their continued efforts in the community.

JoAnne McShane, Farmington Council, invited the MCMR Co-Chairs to attend their Council meetings to discuss upcoming MCMR events.

Karen Bolsen, School Board Member, thanked both Tanji Grant and John Golaszewski for the great job they do. She feels the communities are making great strides, but encouraged continued support of MCMR.

Michael Bridges, Farmington Hills Council, complimented both Mayors for bringing this topic to the joint session for discussion. He applauded the Co-Chairs for their work.

Mr. Golaszewski stated that if Farmington/Farmington Hills becomes the poster child for being a more welcoming community, it would be in line with the Governor's immigration initiative that has 3 components: entrepreneurship, talent retention and a Welcoming Michigan Center that is opening in the Detroit area. He added that we are all cultural ambassadors for the community.

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Sheilah Clay, School Board President, inquired about arab-american demographic statistics for Farmington and Farmington Hills. Mr. Golaszewski responded that those demographics were not available. He mentioned that in 21.4% of the households in Farmington Hills another language other than English is spoken and that is the same for 19.8% of the households in Farmington.

Superintendent Zurvalec pointed out that there are now over 100 languages spoken by students in the Farmington Public School District.

FOCUS ISSUE:

Suicide Prevention Task Force Update

Dr. Ken Massey, Farmington Hills Council, explained that in early 2010, the Police reported that there were 4 attempted suicides and 9 threatened suicides by kids. He stated that he and Dr. Bruce and Mayor Pro-Tem Bates came together to discuss possible resources and City Council approved the formation of the Suicide Prevention Task Force.

Dr. Massey pointed out that there are plenty of resources, but not enough open discussion on the topic, and this is a national issue. He stated that they wanted to take a proactive approach to address this issue. The task force has 26 members ranging from members of public safety, common ground, doctors, school representatives, etc.

Heather Irish, representing MINDS, commended the communities and schools for discussing mental health issues. She stated that she started MINDS, a mental health education program in 1998 (Shining Light on Mental Health). The program was brought into the schools and was extremely successful, starting with 500 kids and now seeing 24,000 kids. She reported that suicide is the third leading cause of death for teenagers 10-24 years of age and second leading cause for teenagers 18-24 years of age. She noted that the first leading causes are accidents and homicide, but people can teach kids safety rules and not to play with guns; but kids are not being taught about mental health issues.

Ms. Irish stated that approximately 95% of suicides are caused by untreated or undiagnosed mental health issues. If kids can be taught how to identify mental health issues, then they can be taught how to get help and get better. She stated that they are treatable issues and 1 in 4 people will have a mental health problem at some point in their life. She added that there is not enough talk about mental health, but there is now a lot to know about it.

Ms. Irish stated that the program provides for training of students in the classroom, and it is a science-based curriculum that teaches students how the brain works and when it doesn't work, what symptoms they might notice.

Ms. Irish discussed the presenters credentials for training the students and the curriculum included at different grade levels.

Ms. Irish stressed that the program is an education and refuting stigma program and they do not diagnose or provide treatment. The MINDS program conducts approximately 600 presentations a year. She stated that the students want to talk about these issues, but they don't have the facts.

Mayor Buck inquired, as community leaders, how they could engage in dialogue with students.

Ms. Irish stated that the Suicide Task Force has done a tremendous job in a short period of time and should be commended. She suggested public relations announcements to get the message out that it is okay to talk about mental health and that help is available; and to continue the community dialogues. She stated that educating parents is important, but don't forget to include the kids.

Ms. Kuiken, Farmington Council, thanked Ms. Irish for bringing this information to them and for the tremendous service to the community.

Ms. Irish urged everyone to talk to their kids about mental health and open up that dialogue. She noted that symptoms for various mental health issues can be found on the website www.mindsprogram.org.

Michele Harmala, Assistant Superintendent, stated that she was a former Special Education Director and in her current position under Children Support Services, she continues to work with issues of mental health. She wanted to share what the schools are working on in this area as she feels this is a community effort and they need to prepare an environment for students to learn about these issues.

Ms. Harmala noted that the 9th grade health curriculum has a component called Social Emotional Health that addresses warning signs, risk factors, protective factors for depression and suicide and provides access to information in these areas. This is considered universal support for students as all 9th graders participate in this, but they also provide a Tier 2 or Tier 3 approach for students that require more intense education. She stated that the education also reviews intervention strategies and discusses how to implement those strategies.

Nancy Bates, Farmington Hills Mayor Pro-Tem, inquired about the school protocol for students who indicate that they may be contemplating suicide.

Ms. Harmala responded that it would depend on whom the child was reporting the information, but they have social workers, they may contact parents, etc.

Bob Crawford, Assistant Principal, added that they assess the situation first but work with various people of the community including the parents, Police Liaison Officers at the schools, outside therapist, family members, teachers, physicians, etc. to get the students the help they need.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bates expressed concern that there is a disconnect with students and information they have and knowing the warning signs. She pointed out that the Task Force started with getting information out about depression and now the focus is to target possible triggers and issues such as gender identity and effects of social media and drugs.

Heather Irish stated that kids view the counselor or social worker as being there for the “bad” kids. She said that the kids have said in her presentations that they want to know that someone is there specifically for them to talk about mental health issues.

Mayor Brickner also touched on the importance of getting the information to the PTSA.

Mr. Crawford stated that the Task Force has had phenomenal support from the PTSA and he feels there is more community involvement than he has ever seen and that this is a very unique community in that respect. Mayor Pro-Tem Bates concurred and expressed how people came forward to participate when they first formed the Task Force.

Joanne McShane, Farmington Council, stated that she was surprised at how students have opened up to the Police Liaisons. Mr. Crawford concurred and commented that this program serves the community well.

Dr. Massey, Farmington Hills Council, acknowledged that there are Mayor’s Youth Council members on the Task Force in order to reach out to students; and the Task Force has a Facebook page and posts the various activities, information and resources. Community forums have been held and there are more scheduled. The Task Force has changed its focus from awareness to subject material as Mayor Pro-Tem Bates mentioned such as gender identity, social media, stress, drugs, etc.

Dr. Massey acknowledged that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and he mentioned related upcoming community events. He commented on the success of the Task Force and mentioned that they have created a fund named after his step-son in order to provide for some of the activities, and they are working on obtaining 501c.3 status.

He stated that the Task Force has been very successful and the fact that the two communities and schools are meeting to discuss these issues proves that this is a community that cares.

Dr. Massey cited two families that had expressed how the information provided at the community forum held last September had helped them talk to their children and open up that dialogue about suicide. He thanked Heather for providing the information this evening.

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST TO ELECTED OFFICIALS:

F2H Fit

Richard Lerner, Farmington Hills Council, presented information regarding a fitness challenge program. The idea came from a guest speaker at a MML Conference who was the Mayor of Oklahoma City that challenged his city to lose 1 million pounds after being named one of the 25 most obese cities in the United States.

He presented various websites that were created for these types of fit challenges and outlined his idea for a similar program in the community that would be called F2H Fit. The challenge could occur between communities, between different schools, etc. The idea fits in with reaching out to the community and joint efforts.

Mr. Lerner stated that he would be suggesting resolutions from both communities and the Farmington Public Schools to participate with a representative from each to be part of a Farmington/Farmington Hills Foundation. He suggested that an organizational meeting would

need to be held to outline the top level projects and task list and develop a budget and fundraising campaign. The target start date is early 2013.

Mr. Lerner stated that he would like to know if there is interest in the program.

Dr. Massey felt this was a great idea and he likes the competition component between communities and/or schools and bringing the community together through this program. He inquired if this program would help further demonstrate cooperation between community groups relative to state revenue sharing.

City Manager Brock stated that he is not sure about the program qualifying towards EVIP funding; however, the Governor has a health care initiative. He felt there could potentially be state grant funding available for this type of program.

In response to Councilmember Kuiken, Mr. Lerner stated that the idea initiated from the Mayor of Oklahoma City and his program; but also thought it was a good idea for a joint project that would not be too costly and touches on every aspect of the community.

Mayor Buck stated that he loves the idea and feels that it also ties into the branding of the community as green and creating areas that are walkable, for biking, etc.

Dr. Bruce, Farmington Hills Council, stated that he is very impressed with the information provided and feels it is a great idea. He believes there is a strong bond between physical and mental health.

OTHER COMMENTS:

Mayor Brickner mentioned the Relay for Life this weekend at Shiawassee Park.

Frank Reid, School Board member, suggested that it would be helpful to have the city and school leaders characterize the potential impact of the personal property tax impact on the respective entities and portray that to the legislators.

JoAnne McShane, Farmington Council, felt it was wonderful how Farmington Hills and the schools collaborated on the development of a dog park. She suggested taking this further to collaborate on being development ready in order to meet the challenges and bring about more economic development with vacant buildings and shopping centers. She also spoke to increasing volunteerism and teaming volunteers and students with area businesses.

Sheilah Clay, School Board President, pointed out that the schools have reviewed future uses of vacant school buildings and most of those are now being utilized.

Mayor Brickner volunteered to speak to the students at any of the schools.

Michael Bridges spoke to the unique opportunity to meet and all work together and agreed that the personal property tax could have a significant impact on communities and that reviewing the financial situation moving forward is important.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Brickner adjourned the Joint Meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk

Reviewed by: Sue Halberstadt, City Clerk
City of Farmington

Sue Zurvalec, Superintendent
Farmington Public Schools

J. T. (Tom) Buck, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED BY FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL: June 18, 2012