

**JOINT SPECIAL MEETING  
FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CITY OF FARMINGTON  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
at the Maxfield Training Center  
33000 Thomas Street, Farmington  
April 15, 2008**

A joint meeting of the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education, the Farmington City Council, and the Farmington Hills City Council was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 at the Maxfield Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street, Farmington, Michigan. The meeting was hosted by Farmington Public Schools.

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Debby Brauer, trustee; Karen Bolsen, trustee; Sheilah Clay, trustee; Frank Reid, treasurer; and Howard Wallach, president

Absent: Priscilla Brouillette, vice president; Gary Sharp, secretary

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Diane Bauman, director of school and community relations; Catherine Cost, assistant superintendent of instructional services; Cheryl Cannon, executive director of operations; Samir Haddad, executive director of instructional equity and support services; Debbie Higgins, executive assistant to the Board of Education; Mary Reynolds, executive director of business; David Ruhland, assistant superintendent of human resources and legal services; Sue Zurvalec, superintendent

**FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Valerie Knol, mayor, Tom Buck, mayor pro tem; JoAnne McShane, Michael Wiggins

Absent: David Wright

**FARMINGTON CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Susan Halberstadt, city clerk; Vince Pastue, city manager

**FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jerry Ellis, mayor; Nancy Bates, mayor pro tem; Barry Brickner, Randy Bruce, Kenneth Massey, Robert Mason, and Cheryl Oliverio

**FARMINGTON HILLS CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Steve Brock, city manager; Dana Whinnery, assistant city manager

President Wallach called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Welcoming remarks were made by President Wallach, Mayor Knol, and Mayor Ellis followed by the introduction of elected officials and school district administrators.

- 1. FOCUS ISSUE: FARMINGTON FORWARD VISION AND GOALS.** Superintendent Zurvalec began the presentation by providing background information on Farmington Forward, the District's new dynamic long-range plan, and its dynamic plan goals. Following approval of these plan goals by the Board of Education in June 2007, strategies and action plans to implement them were identified. Since providing for instructional learning facilities to meet the learning needs of students now and into the future is critical to the implementation of these goals, and considering the current uncertainty of financial resources, a study committee of representative members of the school community was established - Farmington Forward Learning Configuration and Facilities Study Committee.

Mrs. Zurvalec then reviewed the Farmington Forward mission statement and vision and its four broad goals: (1) curriculum, instruction and student achievement; (2) community relations; (3) budget and finance; and (4) human resources/operations/ technology. The video, "Shift Happens: Did You Know" about globalization and the information age was shown.

- 2. LEARNING CONFIGURATION AND FACILITIES STUDY COMMITTEE UPDATE.** Cheryl Cannon, executive director of operations, and Catherine Cost, assistant superintendent of instructional services, provided an update on the work of the Learning Configuration and Facilities Study Committee and its subcommittees.

The 48-member committee was charged by the superintendent to: (1) review and summarize research on pre-K-12 learning configurations and the facilities to complement those findings, and (2) examine priorities identified and make recommendations to the Board of Education for any changes in learning configurations and facilities.

From this committee, six subcommittees were formed: (1) communications, (2) pre-kindergarten/all-day kindergarten, (3) learning configurations, (4) space allocations/configuration, (5) support buildings, and (6) facility assessment.

Next steps were discussed: the Learning Configurations Subcommittee will summarize their research and make recommendations to the committee-at-large; the Facilities Subcommittee will report their findings to the committee-at-large by the end of the school year; and a marketability study will be undertaken.

- 3. COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE.** Superintendent Zurvalec announced that beginning in January 2008, a core group of key community leaders met twice to dialogue about the potential for a community initiative to support college scholarships for graduates of Farmington Public Schools, similar to the Kalamazoo Promise and other initiatives being established in the metro Detroit area. The initiative is in the exploratory stage. The group is scheduled to meet again in May to explore data, set a funding target, discuss options, and develop next steps.

Discussion took place regarding evaluating the needs for post-secondary education, inviting a representative from the City of Kalamazoo to a future meeting, dropout rates, legal challenges (i.e., eligibility requirements, residency fraud, legal guardianship), impact on property values, and the process for obtaining community input.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.** There were no public comments.

5. **ITEMS OF INTEREST TO ELECTED OFFICIALS**

- Council Member Brickner discussed energy grants, renewable energy sources, and the possibility of partnering with the city in a wind/solar powered experimental lab at Heritage Park. Discussion took place.
- Council Member Massey discussed the shortage of medical care professionals, preparedness, and requiring CPR certification as part of the curriculum. There was brief discussion.

6. **ADJOURNMENT.** President Wallach adjourned the joint meeting at 8:40 pm.

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Valerie S. Knol, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

Gary D. Sharp, Secretary  
Farmington Public Schools  
Board of Education

APPROVED: May 19, 2008