

FINAL

**JOINT MEETING
Farmington Board of Education
Farmington City Council
Farmington Hills City Council
Tuesday, October 21, 2014
Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus
27055 Orchard Lake Rd, Farmington Hills MI**

**JOINT MEETING OF THE FARMINGTON AND FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCILS
AND THE FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Board of Education President Sheilah Clay. President Clay welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested introductions from participants. Mayor Brickner and Mayor Galvin also welcomed everyone.

Farmington Board of Education Members: Sheilah Clay, President, Frank Reid, Trisha Balazovic, Karen Bolsen, George Gurrola, Howard Wallach
Murray Kahn (arrived at 6:40 pm)

Absent: None.

Farmington Public Schools' Representatives: George Heitsch, superintendent; Aaron Johnson, assistant superintendent; Kathy Smith, executive director of human resources; Jon Manier, executive director of K-12 instruction; Diane Bauman, director of school/community relations; Jon Riebe, director of facilities management; Michael Johnston, director of information technology; Debbie McCracken, executive assistant.

Farmington Hills City Council Members: Barry Brickner, Mayor; Michael Bridges, Ken Massey, Valerie Knol, Richard Lerner

Absent: Randy Bruce, Samantha Steckloff

Farmington Hills City Representatives: Steve Brock, city manager; Dave Boyer, assistant city manager; Pam Smith, city clerk; Nate Geinzer, assistant to the city manager

City of Farmington Council Members: William Galvin, Mayor; Jeffrey Scott, Greg Cowley, Steve Schneemann

Absent: JoAnne McShane

City of Farmington Representatives: Vince Pastue, city manager

Also in Attendance: Members of the press, community members

UPCOMING MILLAGE/BOND PROPOSALS:

City of Farmington Hills Road Millage: City Manager Brock provided a brief overview of the road millage that is on the November 4 ballot. The City of Farmington Hills is requesting that the community approve a millage of up to two mills over a ten year period, generating up to \$6.1 million annually. Funds will go toward reconstruction, maintenance, drainage and preservation of the city's neighborhood streets and major mile roads. The city is available to

speak to all groups who would like a detailed presentation on the road millage. The cost to taxpayers, at the full two mills, is \$170/year based on an average home value of \$170,000. Mr. Brock responded to questions from meeting participants regarding the millage.

City of Farmington Road Millage Renewal: City Manager Pastue provided information on the City of Farmington's road and street improvement millage renewal proposal that is on the November 4 ballot. The renewal request is 1.54 mills for major and residential road projects. It was noted that even though the full millage amount is 1.54, the city has levied 1 mill for the last eight or nine years. It was also noted that the road millage does not cover Grand River Avenue, which is controlled by MDOT.

Farmington Public Schools' Bond Proposal: Superintendent George Heitsch reported that, based on the recommendations of the Capital Planning Advisory Committee, the Board of Education authorized a \$131.5 million bond proposal to be presented to the voters at the May 5, 2015 election. He further advised that the District is recommending retaining the services of Plante Moran CRESA to support the bond millage proposal work from November to the election date, with an option to continue CRESA's contract, if the bond passes. The District has also established a Building & Site Utilization Committee, with broad representation of the community, charged to develop recommendations related to future steps necessary for responsible stewardship of District capital and property resources. In addition, a Ballot Information Committee has been formed; its members are Jerry Ellis, Fritz Beyermeister and Leland Bassett, and a 3-person Oversight Committee will also be established.

STUDENT SAFETY: Superintendent Heitsch reported on several student safety initiatives underway in the District. These include Farmington Empowered, a community-wide anti-bullying effort. The first Friday of each month is a Community Purple Out, encouraging everyone to wear purple to promote awareness of the group's efforts. In January, the District will also host Farmington SAFE (Suicide Awareness for Everyone) student forums on the topic of teen suicide. Councilman Massey noted that it is important to continue to make it OK to talk about suicide awareness in the community. He noted that, following dialogue in the Farmington SAFE group, Common Ground now has social media access to their crisis hotline.

Dr. Heitsch also reported that Student Round Table, with representatives from all four high schools, is promoting the work of Farmington Empowered. Dr. Heitsch invited Councilman Massey to meet with Student Round Table to dialogue about a community/high school activity that would promote awareness of these student safety issues. Dr. Massey advised that the Mayor's Youth Council is focusing on "anxiety among students" as another important issue to address among teens. Board and Council members were supportive of this important work.

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ENERGY PROJECT: Nate Geinzer, assistant to the Farmington Hills city manager, presented information on the cities/schools application to the Georgetown University Energy Prize Competition. The competition challenges communities to work together with their local governments and utilities to create and implement long-term plans for continual energy efficiency improvements. It also educates the public and engages students in energy efficiency issues to show benefits and encourage lasting behavior change. Mr. Geinzer reviewed the competition timeline, the project team and criteria and scoring information. He also noted that this project will enhance STEM programming in the schools and community and provide STEM summer camp opportunities and youth engagement in other environmental awareness initiatives. The competition will award a \$5 million prize to the community that leads the way in energy efficiency.

The goal after three years would be to have an established program that is self-supported to allow for continuous development of leadership and STEM skills to support the communities' youth in solving tomorrow's energy problems.

The selection of finalist communities, judging and competition awards will take place in January-June 2017. This community is one of only three communities in Michigan in the competition. More information on the project is available at www.sustainablefh.com. Board and council members asked questions and shared comments regarding this project and expressed their support.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Richard Tengler, Farmington, spoke regarding the Farmington Public Schools' bond proposal and the former Maxfield Training Center property.

Sue Kahn, Farmington Hills, spoke to object to the format for the meeting.

Irving Ginsberg, Farmington Hills, spoke regarding the local cost to educate illegal immigrant children. City Manager Brock responded and advised that the children in question are not currently in the community and Wellspring Center advised that, if any children do come to this community, they will stay and be educated on their campus.

Linda Stulberg, Farmington Hills, spoke regarding security grants and school forum speakers.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting attendees extended thanks for the opportunity to meet and dialogue. It was moved by Karen Bolsen and supported by Ken Massey that the meeting be adjourned at 7:39 pm.

MOTION APPROVED.