

**JOINT MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, August 15, 2017
6:30 pm**

**Farmington Community Library
23500 Liberty Street**

A joint meeting of the Farmington and Farmington Hills City Councils and Farmington Board of Education was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, at 23500 Liberty Street, Farmington, MI. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Galvin.

Mayor Galvin welcomed everyone to the meeting and each of the respective entities introduced the Board members, Council members and administrators present.

Present at the meeting:

City of Farmington Council: Mayor William Galvin, Mayor Pro Tem Steven Schneeman; Councilmembers Sara Bowman, Greg Cowley, and Jeffery Scott

Absent: None

City of Farmington Representatives: David Murphy, City Manager; Kevin Christiansen, Director of Economic and Community Development; Kate Knight, DDA Director; and Sue Halberstadt, City Clerk

Farmington Hills City Council: Mayor Ken Massey, Mayor Pro Tem Samantha Steckloff, Councilmembers Michael Bridges, Randy Bruce, Richard Lerner, Theresa Rich and Valerie Knol

Absent: None

Farmington Hills City Representatives: Dave Boyer, City Manager; Gary Mekjian, Assistant City Manager; and Pam Smith, City Clerk

Farmington Board of Education Members: President David Turner, Vice President Terri Weems, Trustees Jessica Cummings, Terry Johnson and Angie Smith

Absent: Secretary Mark Przeslawski and Treasurer James Stark.

Farmington Public Schools Representatives: George Heitsch, Superintendent; Aaron Johnson, Assistant Superintendent; Jon Riebe, Director of Facilities Management; John Manier, Executive Director Pre-K Instructional Support Services; Jennifer Kaminski, Chief Financial Officer; Diane Bauman, Director of School/Community Relations; Jacqueline McDougal, Director-Special Education; and Kathy Smith, Executive Director – Human Resources and Employee Relations

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS: BOND RENOVATIONS IN PHASE 2

Bond Updates: Dr. Heitsch gave a District report which included bond projects and property updates. He reported on Phase 2 bond work at Longacre, Wood Creek and Hillside elementary schools. He stated the Farmington Steam Academy, grades K-7, will be open this coming school year. He noted Power Middle School was under construction this summer as well. He stated they are winding up an 18-month renovation project at Farmington High that includes a new auditorium to be completed by October.

Dr. Heitsch discussed all that is included in the school renovations including technology upgrades. The total dollar amount that is being invested in the community is \$71 million. He noted renovations of the schools has a direct impact on increase in property values. He stated so far every renovation project has come in under budget.

November Ballot Proposal: Dr. Heitsch discussed the school proposal that will be on the November ballot. The District is asking the community for a Headlee override so that the full 18 mills can be levied.

Responding to Councilmember Knol, Dr. Heitsch confirmed the schools under renovation will be occupiable by the start of school with work going on in the evening.

Responding to Councilmember Bridges, Dr. Heitsch stated the only thing different about the Steam Academy is that it will not be open to students outside the Farmington Public Schools.

Discussion followed regarding the plans to alleviate traffic at the Steam Academy during peak hours.

Responding to Councilmember Lerner, Dr. Heitsch confirmed Harrison High School is on track to close June 2019.

Responding to Councilmember Knol, Dr. Heitsch stated the Wood Creek Elementary school staff and community got together to work towards establishing Wood Creek as an International Baccalaureate School (IB). He stated the school is currently at a candidate status level in the process towards becoming an IB school.

Discussion followed regarding the curriculum and goals of an IB program.

Vice-President Weems stated the IB curriculum moves beyond The Leader in Me Program that is currently in other elementary schools. The program helps students to become better individuals, provides a worldview, and also incorporates a foreign language.

Responding to Councilmember Knol, Assistant Superintendent Johnson confirmed the District partnered with Woodcreek in sharing the cost of the program. He further confirmed that the District intends to add courses to the other schools that are offered at the Steam Academy such as courses in Science and Foreign Language.

Responding to Councilmember Lerner, Dr. Heitsch stated student enrollment is declining slower than projected.

Responding to Councilmember Scott, Dr. Heitsch confirmed the move of the Administration offices from the hill is still on schedule.

Discussion followed regarding the success of the Hackbot Program, Eight Grade Interviews, and May Day Program at East Middle School.

Mayor Galvin discussed the challenge of redeveloping the 3 ½ acre old courthouse property. He stated developers are interested in the property, but also want an option to develop the entire hill on which School Administration, bus depot and Ten Mile School are located. He would like to have a discussion with the District regarding an option for a joint Request for Proposal (RFP).

CITY OF FARMINGTON ECONOMIC UPDATE

Director Christiansen provided an update on economic development in Farmington. He stated the City is looking at what it wants to preserve, enhance and transform. He discussed a number of redevelopment projects including partnering with the District on the former Flanders Elementary School property where 33 homes have been developed. He spoke about the significant transformation in the downtown that will take place with the redevelopment of the Maxfield Training Center. He noted another significant transformation will take place with the redevelopment of the hill where school administration and the old courthouse are currently located.

Director Christiansen discussed the partnership with Farmington Hills relative to the Corridor Improvement Authority where the intent of the Plan is to improve the appearance, connectivity, and economic competitiveness of the Grand River Corridor.

Discussion followed regarding the move of School Administration off the hill and the challenge of finding a location for the bus depot. Discussion continued regarding the vision for the redevelopment of the MTC property and the success of zoning changes enacted by Farmington.

Kate Knight, DDA Director, spoke about the programs and events planned for the downtown including the Harvest Moon event in September and the rollout of Public Art Blueprint. She noted the redevelopment of the MTC property is a huge opportunity for the downtown.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was heard.

COUNCIL & BOARD COMMENT

Members of the School Board and both Councils offered closing comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was heard.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Sue Halberstadt
Farmington City Clerk