

**JOINT MEETING
FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 27, 2007**

A joint meeting of the Farmington City Council, Farmington Hills City Council, and the Farmington Board of Education was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at the Maxfield Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street, Farmington, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor McShane.

FARMINGTON COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Buck, Valerie Knol, JoAnne McShane, Michael Wiggins, and David Wright.

FARMINGTON HILLS COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Bates, Barry Brickner, Randy Bruce, Jerry Ellis, Kenneth Massey, and Cheryl Oliverio.

FARMINGTON SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Bolsen, Priscilla Brouillette, Frank Reid, Gary Sharp, and Howard Wallach.

FARMINGTON HILLS REPRESENTATIVES: City Manager Brock, City Clerk Dornan, and Assistant City Manager Whinnery.

FARMINGTON REPRESENTATIVES: City Manager Pastue, and City Clerk Halberstadt.

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES: Superintendent Zurvalec, Samir Haddad, and Mary Reynolds.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcoming remarks were made by Mayor McShane followed by the introduction of elected officials, staff and School District administrators.

FARMINGTON FORWARD DYNAMIC PLANNING PROCESS

Superintendent Zurvalec reviewed the mission and vision statement of the Farmington Forward Dynamic Planning Process. She discussed the formation of a steering committee in January 2007, comprised of staff, parents, community members and students, to establish goals of "Farmington Forward." She advised the committee will hold focus groups with community members and staff to present their goals and provide an opportunity for feedback.

Demographic Trends

Simir Haddad spoke about the significant demographic changes taking place in the United States and how those changes are impacting our schools. He discussed the factors influencing these changes including: political, immigration patterns and higher birth rates among minority populations. He further discussed the population trends and changing student population. He noted the future challenges facing the schools in terms of increasing parent outreach, cultural competence training for staff, and equity issues relative to achievement gaps.

Discussion followed regarding graduation rates and achievement levels among ethnic groups and reasons for the increase in the number of special needs children in the district.

Superintendent Zurvalec pointed out research that shows early childhood intervention has a direct impact on reducing the number of special needs children.

Councilmember Bates noted the quality program provided to special needs children has made Farmington School District a magnet for families requiring those services.

Discussion followed regarding reduced funding of federal programs such as Headstart which diminishes opportunities for children most in need.

A video was shown on emerging technologies and their impact on the future society.

Multicultural Multiracial Committee (MCMR)

Karen Bolsen, Co-Chair of the Multicultural Multiracial Council, discussed the history behind the creation of MCMR organization. She spoke about the make-up of the Council as well as the mission statement and guiding principles of the organization. She provided an update on ongoing activities which include: Dr. King Candlelight Walk, Heritage Week, Student Diversity Conference, Rainbow Breakfast and annual cultural luncheon. She discussed a strategic planning initiative targeting four areas: neighborhoods and housing; community education; programs and services; and business and employment.

FARMINGTON HILLS SUSTAINABILITY STUDY

Farmington Hills City Manager Steve Brock gave a brief presentation on the Farmington Hills Sustainability Study that was commissioned by the City to develop long term economic, social and environmental strategies.

FARMINGTON UPDATE

Farmington City Manager Vince Pastue provided a review of current and long term projects in Farmington including: update of City's master plan; creating pedestrian-friendly Grand River; and Shiawassee Park renovations. He mentioned Councilmember Buck is working with the Downtown Development Authority to develop a brand or image program for the City.

DISCUSSION/OTHER ISSUES

Discussion took place regarding the economic issues facing the public schools including the impact of legacy costs. Farmington Hills Councilmember Ellis encouraged a letter campaign to the legislature in support of proposed bills that would address the legacy issues and benefits provided to those entering the teaching profession.

Farmington Hills Councilmember Ken Massey discussed the activities of the Emergency Preparedness Commission. He stated the EPC has proposed an essay contest in the schools entitled, "What Has My Family Done to Prepare for Emergencies?" He stated this type of contest would promote students' awareness of the need to prepare.

Discussion followed regarding preparedness in the schools including education in CPR and use of defibrillators.

Farmington Councilmember Buck complimented the School Board for their leadership in bringing important information forward regarding emerging trends.

Farmington Hills Councilmember Ellis noted very few cities meet with their school boards and have the close relationship enjoyed by both communities and the board.

Farmington Councilmember Wright noted the greater need is not necessarily increased education in technology, but rather how to learn to get along with others and communicate effectively.

Superintendent Zurvalec noted that the diversity of our community is a major advantage for our students who leave school with the ability to relate to others of all cultural backgrounds.

Farmington Mayor McShane asked how we continue to remain who we are and what we are all about without losing our core which is our identity and our character and all those positive benefits that we bring to our community. She

asked how do we change and grow and compromise without crossing that line, without losing all those elements of what has made us great.

Mayor McShane asked if we lose the quality of our schools, the safety and services in our community, would we morph into something we would have never chosen to become or we would rather not be. She stated we must help each other in our efforts to continue to improve, grow and adapt to an ever-changing environment.

Mayor McShane stated it is all about our communities and how we support one another. She stated our legislators are listening, but they are not hearing. She suggested Michigan is a ticking time bomb. She spoke about the sad economic stories throughout the community and state. She stated there needs to be decisive and swift action in Lansing before further damage is done and becomes irreversible.

Mayor McShane thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further comments or issues for discussion, Mayor McShane adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

CITY OF FARMINGTON

JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

Vicki Barnett, Mayor

Kathryn A. Dornan, City Clerk

FARMINGTON SCHOOL BOARD

Karen L. Bolsen, President

Frank Reid, Secretary

APPROVED: May 21, 2007