

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

**Maxfield Education Center  
32789 W. Ten Mile  
Farmington, Michigan  
Tuesday, August 8, 2023  
6:45 pm**

The Special Joint meeting of the Farmington and Farmington Hills City Councils and Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education was called to order by President Cheryl Blau at 6:46 p.m.

President Blau welcomed everyone to the meeting, and each respective entity introduced the Board members, Councilmembers, administrators, and city staff who were present.

**Present at the meeting:**

**Farmington Board of Education Members:** President Cheryl Blau, Vice President Claudia Heinrich, Secretary Zach Rich, Treasurer Terri Weems, Trustees Mable Fox, Angie Smith, and Donald Walker.

Absent: None

**Other Farmington Public Schools' Representatives:** Chris Delgado, Superintendent; Kelly Coffin, Assistant Superintendent, Innovation and Strategic Projects; Diane Bauman, Director of School/Community Relations and Pupil Accounting; Jon Barth, Director of Facilities Management; Cathy Staran, Executive Assistant

**Farmington Hills City Council:** Mayor Vicki Barnett, Mayor Pro-Tem Randy Bruce, Councilmembers Michael Bridges, Jackie Boleware, Valerie Knol, and Ken Massey

Absent: Councilmember Mary Newlin

**Other Farmington Hills City Officials:** Jeff King, Chief of Police; Gary Mekjian, City Manager; Pam Smith, City Clerk; Carly Lindhal, Deputy City Clerk; Steve Joppich, City Attorney; Vickie Sullen-Winn, Director of Communications and Community Engagement.

**Farmington City Council:** Mayor Sara Bowman, Mayor Pro Tem Joe LaRussa, Councilmembers Johnna Balk, and Steven Schneemann

Absent: Councilmember Maria Taylor

**Other City of Farmington Officials:** Bob Houhanisin, Director of Public Safety; David Murphy, City Manager; Mary Mullison, City Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Public comments were shared.

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' UPDATE**

Superintendent Chris Delgado reported that during the summer, the school district is busy with various educational programs, including ESY (Extended School Year) for special education students, summer school, and educational camps. This time is also used for reviewing, evaluating, and planning for the upcoming school year, including conducting program evaluations, analyzing academic achievement results, and aligning funding with intervention programs and staff training. Additionally, the district has added Math & Literacy positions at the elementary and middle levels, Targeted Tutoring programs, and specialized summer training for teachers in literacy interventions.

The District's focus areas include safety, security, infrastructure enhancements and training, Bond upgrades to buildings, K-2 Foundational Literacy, K-12 Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Vision & Mission alignment with Lifelong Learner Profile, marketing and rebranding campaign (partnership opportunity with Cities), D.E.I. efforts encompassing hiring practices, curricular resources, and feedback loops, and re-imagining High School.

Our graduates are promised to embody the District's Vision, Mission, and Profile of a Lifelong Learner.

Dr. Delgado suggested ways for the cities to support schools: continue and expand School Resource Officers, aid homeless and impoverished families, connect students to internships and jobs, and maintain and grow Oakland Community College. He also encouraged volunteering as a tutor, especially literacy/numeracy support, eliminating construction project "red tape," attending public school events, and speaking positively about schools as an Ambassador.

### **CITY OF FARMINGTON UPDATE**

Mayor Sara Bowman provided an update for the City of Farmington, sharing that Farmington is a strong community with over 11,000 residents and 2.7 square miles. Many new homes are being built to bring new families to the community. For example, the Liberty Hill subdivision has sold all 14 newly constructed houses. The Maxfield Training Center will be redeveloped into 53 condos, and the American Legion building on the Grand River will be redeveloped into 32 high-end luxury townhomes.

In addition to housing growth, new businesses have moved into Farmington, including Bob's Big Boy, LaPecora Nera Italian Deli, Cannelle Patisserie, Kymi Greek Grill, and Savvy Sliders, to name a few. Also, coffee shops like Ground Control Roasters, Apothecary Espresso & Coffee, and nail salons have opened up in the community. The Blue Hat Coffee, Heights Brewery, and Taques Bar and Grill will come soon.

The City has plans to celebrate its Bicentennial in 2024.

The Mayor discussed The Hawk's Makerspace, where community members and students can create their products.

Two city council members are employed at Oakland Community College, which offers Police Academy and Apprenticeship Programs. Additionally, Michigan Reconnect Program provides scholarships that cover in-district community college tuition.

Director Bob Houhanisin of the Public Safety Department discussed School Resource Officers (SRO). Rotating officers will temporarily replace the Farmington High School SRO until the officer returns in January.

### **CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS UPDATE**

Mayor Vicki Barnett announced that the City of Farmington Hills had hired Vickie Sullen-Winn as the Communications Director. The director will handle all communications from the City and explore potential partnerships with schools. LaToya Harvey was selected as the Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Employee Development. Her goal is to ensure that the staff reflects the community's diversity.

The City is updating its master plan, with improvements to the Grand River Corridor and collaboration with West Bloomfield on the Orchard Lake Rd and 14 Mile Rd area. The Gateway will be redeveloped with high-end apartments, Smart Bus transportation directly to Detroit, and a transportation hub. Parks & Recreation is upgrading facilities like the Spicer House while following Historic Guidelines. The City aims to maximize building use.

The City is working to provide high-speed, full-service broadband internet at low or no cost within Farmington Hills and Farmington.

Mayor Barnett discussed The Hawk's Makerspace, which offers students and community members tools for creating products, job training, and business resources.

Chief Jeff King of Farmington Hills Police Department discussed the T.E.A.M. training that all School Resource Officers must complete. The training focuses on promoting responsible citizenship, making schools and communities safer, and teaching students about school violence, bullying, harassment, and safety. Officers who complete the training can teach the T.E.A.M. curriculum to students. This program helps to build a stronger relationship between law enforcement and students. Additionally, FHPD is fully staffed and is considering adding additional School Resource Officers for the schools. FHPD also provides active assailant training to the school district and area businesses.

The three entities discussed supporting each other's initiatives and opportunities for overlap. For example, a united voice between FPS, the City of Farmington, and the City of Farmington Hills could have a more significant impact on addressing extended power outages with DTE. Other areas of overlap included school safety, crisis response, shared communications, and Oakland Community College.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted by:  
Zach Rich  
Secretary, Board of Education