

JOINT MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
FARMINGTON HILLS GOLF CLUB-GREEK ISLAND
FEBRUARY 29, 2016 – 6:30PM

The Special Joint meeting of the Farmington and Farmington Hills City Councils and Farmington Board of Education was called to order by Mayor Massey at 6:40pm.

Mayor Massey welcomed everyone to the meeting and each the respective entities introduced their staff and Council members and Board Members present.

Present at the meeting:

Farmington Board of Education Members: President Howard Wallach, Vice President Sheilah Clay, Jessica Cummings, Terry Johnson, Murray Kahn, David Turner and Terri Weems

Absent: None.

Farmington Public Schools Representatives: George Heitsch, Superintendent; Aaron Johnson, Assistant Superintendent; Jon Riebe, Director of Facilities Management; Kathy Smith, Executive Director of Human Resources; Jon Manier, Executive Director of Instructional Services; Mary Reynolds, Executive Director of Business; Diane Bauman, Director of School/Community Relations; Michael Johnston, Director of Information Technology and Jackie McDougal, Director of Special Education

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

Absent: None.

Farmington Hills City Representatives: Dave Boyer, City Manager and Pam Smith, City Clerk

City of Farmington Council Members: Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Schneemann, Jeffrey Scott and Sara Bowman

Absent: Mayor William Galvin and Greg Cowley

City of Farmington Representatives: David Murphy, City Manager and Sue Halberstadt, City Clerk

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS UPDATE

Superintendent Heitsch commented that there is a lot of activity in the Farmington Public Schools that includes building closures and repurposing, building upgrades for several schools and the purchase of new buses and new technology in the form of chrome books for student use. He noted that the 2015/16 budget is revenue positive, which required significant budget cuts in order to do so. Dr. Heitsch stated that transportation and custodial services is a topic of discussion and the administration is reviewing the option of a 3rd party contractor to provide those services.

Dr. Heitsch explained that a Building Site Utilization Committee was formed to review the need for building closures and/or building repurposing due to declining enrollment. The discussion by the

Committee included the elimination of 1 middle school and 1 high school. The school closing and repurposing recommendations will be made public tomorrow night at the School Board meeting. He stated that 5 community forums were held on this issue.

Dr. Heitsch reviewed various stats including the school systems first IB diploma graduates, a 90% graduation rate (higher than the state average) with 700 students taking at least one AP exam. He also mentioned that the National PTA School of Excellence Award was presented to both Lanigan and Highmeadow Schools.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COMMISSION

Mayor Massey stated that Councilmember Steckloff had come to Council with the idea of creating a Community Health Commission and has since put together a proposal with Councilmember Lerner.

Farmington Hills Councilmembers Lerner and Steckloff presented their proposal for a Community Health Commission that would provide education and resources for available health programs and seek opportunities for grant funding.

Ms. Steckloff discussed stats from the 2010 State Death Registry and commented on the increase in poverty and homelessness in the communities and the strong correlation between poverty levels and health. Ms. Steckloff views the Commission as one that would encourage participation in programs such as CPR classes and promote education and reduction of substance abuse and information regarding mental health issues.

Board member Weems inquired if there were any contributing factors identified for the statistics provided.

Ms. Steckloff commented that the community assessment conducted by Botsford/Beaumont Hospital provides a lot of that information and the causes of each death. She originally felt that perhaps it was due to an aging community but that was not necessarily the case. She added that the assessment is available on-line at www.botsford.org.

Councilmember Bridges inquired if it is anticipated that there would be programming and resources made available through the Commission together with sponsored events and educational opportunities.

Mayor Massey stated that there are many programs that already exist, but not a lot of coordination between the programs. It was felt the Commission would provide an opportunity to review redundancies and gaps with regard to health care programs.

Ms. Steckloff agreed that this is a great opportunity for collaboration between the communities and programs already available and that there would be plenty of educational opportunities.

Mayor Pro-Tem Schneemann inquired about the make-up of the Commission. Mr. Lerner responded that the proposal is still in the draft phase but there would definitely be key stakeholders such as the cities, hospitals and schools.

Board member Kahn liked the idea of the Commission but inquired about potential liability with regard to medical testing, etc.

Ms. Steckloff stated that they would have experts involved to conduct any medical testing.

Vice President Clay commented that after going through the screenings and test, people may discover that they need medical treatment and she feels it would be important to refer them back to their own physician.

Mayor Pro-Tem Knol explained that the idea for the Commission would be to coordinate the programs and testing that already exist and then seek grant opportunities to assist with funding these programs.

Councilmember Bridges felt the education component was critical to make sure that the youth have access to resources they need to be successful in school.

Councilmember Rich felt that it was worthwhile to review this Commission as a model to bring the various groups and programs together.

Item #6 on the Agenda was moved up to be discussed at this time as it related to the current topic.

CPR

Councilmember Lerner noted that CPR has now been included in the 9th grade health curriculum in the Farmington Public Schools.

Mayor Massey reported that the school districts where CPR was part of the curriculum had 3 to 4 times higher survival rates. By adding this into the school curriculum it will reach every student that is taking a health care course, which is about 90% of the students. He noted that there are fewer out-of-hospital events due to the education of symptoms and it also provides students with a new skill set. He stated that 27 states require CPR training as part of graduation requirements and there are currently Bills in the House and Senate that may soon make this a requirement in Michigan. Mayor Massey suggested hosting a city-wide CPR Day as a community event. He applauded the schools for helping the communities get this into the school curriculum.

Mr. Lerner spoke of the current F2H Fit program that is a collaborative effort amongst community groups to promote and participate in a healthy lifestyle. He stated that this program will continue and they are reviewing ways to include new technology such as Fitbit. F2H Fit also hosts the Drugs 101 program that is in its 3rd year in the schools with the next class to be held April 18th at North Farmington.

Mayor Massey mentioned that the after-school program received a grant so that all of the youth could obtain a Fitbit to study and track their activity levels. He added that Farmington SAFE will continue and would also play a role under this new Commission if formed. The next Farmington SAFE community forum is scheduled for April 27, 2016 at City Hall at 7pm.

JOINT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE

Mayor Massey stated that at one time the communities and schools had come together to develop a Joint Inter-governmental Task Force to collaborate on programs and Councilmember Bruce was a member of that task force.

Councilmember Bruce stated that the idea behind the joint task force was to collaborate on various programs that would in turn save money for the entities involved or at least be revenue neutral. He stated that through efforts of the task force came the collaboration with Farmington for dispatch and IT services

and the task force had also reviewed the idea of consolidation of benefits. Dr. Bruce stated that the group fell apart, but he feels it is time to re-create this type of task force.

Mayor Massey and Councilmember Bridges commented that during the Election process they heard from many residents that they would like to see the communities and schools work together and residents expect that cooperation.

President Wallach stated that he had no objection to re-creating the task force but felt it lost energy as there was no longer a great deal of progress being made. As long as there is something to accomplish, he would not object.

Board Member Kahn inquired about the communities' relationship with businesses and OCC.

Mayor Massey stated that Farmington Hills has good relationships with many of the large businesses, some of which are willing to financially support community programs. He stated that OCC has a new President and they are also facing financial challenges and seeking ways to save money so there may be ways to collaborate with them as well; but he feels it is up to the leaders of the communities and schools to lead the way and show that cooperation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Schneemann stated that all of the groups here tonight are funded by the same tax payers and the community expects them to work together. He suggested opening up the meetings to a broader range of community leaders with meetings held on a regular basis.

There was a consensus to review the opportunity of re-creating the Joint Inter-Governmental Task Force.

Mayor Massey suggested that the City Managers of both communities and Superintendent Heitsch meet to discuss this issue and to include one additional member of each group to begin brainstorming ideas for collaboration.

The volunteers for the task force included Councilmember Bridges (Farmington Hills), Terry Johnson (Board of Education) and Sara Bowman (Farmington).

Councilmember Bridges asked if the administrative staff of the schools could meet with the new President of OCC to see if there are any opportunities for collaboration with them. Superintendent Heitsch stated that the school administration would do that.

Mayor Massey thanked the public for attending the meeting. He suggested holding a joint meeting between the City Councils and Board of Education twice a year with a meeting around February or March of each year and then again in possibly late September once school is back in session. Mayor Massey stated that the schools have a lot of tough decisions ahead of them and voiced Council's support.

Mayor Pro-Tem Schneemann echoed those comments stating that Farmington is also supportive of the schools and sensitive to the discussions coming up. He added that there are also many shared issues between Farmington and the schools with regard to property and that ongoing dialogue is important.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Massey opened the meeting up for public discussion noting that each member of the public would have 5 minutes to speak.

Bill Lubaway referenced an article in the Observer Newspaper and Letters to the Editor making negative comments about presenters at a recent Martin Luther King, Jr. event. He stated that he listened to the recording of the event and felt that the meeting was taken over by the first speaker and was off track from there. He commented on the lack of Board of Directors for the Multi-Cultural/Multi-Racial Committee that sponsored the event and suggested that the group should be suspended until they have identified leadership.

Ed Malewski suggested consolidation of transportation services as well as facilities. He feels there are too many buildings between the governmental entities.

Becky Lasecki commented that she heard rumors of the Costick Center closing and suggested the idea of building a new recreation center. She also commented on the number of incidents involving food allergies and suggested further education on that topic in the schools in conjunction with CPR.

Sue Kahn thanked the government entities for hosting this joint meeting and stated that the school district needs to recognize how important it is for all of the groups to work together. She added that health issues related to caregivers is another important topic that should be addressed. She mentioned that she spoke to all 3 groups previously about the Martin Luther King, Jr. event and issues with MCMR, but her question as to how that happened still has not been answered. She encouraged all 3 entities to continue this collaboration.

Linda Stolberg applauded the efforts to work collaboratively. She expressed concern with MCMR and one-sided views expressed from that group recently. She spoke of the importance for the schools to represent intellectual diversity and stated that it is the responsibility of the communities and schools to tell the citizens how much funding is being provided to MCMR.

Joan Grindel also noted her concern with the presentation on the Martin Luther King, Jr. event and that the views expressed were one-sided with nobody there to express opposing views. She feels a moratorium for MCMR is a good idea.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk
City of Farmington Hills