

JOINT MEETING MINUTES
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL
FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
LONGACRE HOUSE – FARMINGTON ROAD, FARMINGTON HILLS
FEBRUARY 28, 2018 – 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 6:34pm.

Mayor Massey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present at the meeting:

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

Absent: Council Member Samantha Steckloff

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

City of Farmington Council Members: Mayor Steve Schneemann, Mayor Pro-Tem Sara Bowman, Council Members William Galvin, Joe LaRussa and Maria Taylor

Absent: None

City of Farmington Representatives: David Murphy, City Manager and Mary Mullison, Deputy City Clerk

Farmington Board of Education Members: President David Turner, Vice President Terri Weems, School Board Members Jessica Cummings, Terry Johnson, Mark Przeslawski, Angie Smith and James Stark

Absent: None

Farmington Public Schools Representatives: George Heitsch, Superintendent

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS UPDATE

Superintendent Heitsch provided the following update:

Bond Issue

Dr. Heitsch noted that schools are in phase 3 of the bond issue that included updates to North Farmington High School, Beechview and Kenbrook Elementary Schools, Warner Middle School, Alameda (early childhood development) and various outdoor athletic fields and tennis courts. He stated that the schools are also trying to determine where to place adult learning.

School property

Dr. Heitsch stated that the schools are currently in negotiations with the City of Farmington Hills for the city to purchase the Harrison High School facility and property and conversation on that issue took place last night with input from the School Board. He mentioned that once a decision is made with regard to

this property, decisions can be finalized on where to place early childhood development and adult learning space.

Student Success

Dr. Heitsch reviewed various statistics including a graduation rate of approximately 92% (higher than the state average) with approximately 66% of those students going immediately to college after graduation as compared to 33% in schools in surrounding areas.

Councilmember Bridges inquired if the security features noted in the bond issue have been implemented in all of the schools and if the graduation rate is consistent. Dr. Heitsch responded that security will be updated in all schools once renovations are complete. He noted that the graduation rate is stable at between 88-92% with 60-68% of those graduates going off to college.

(School Board President David Turner arrived at 6:45pm)

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Mayor Massey stated that due to the Florida shooting incident, the schools are on everyone's mind but these incidents go well beyond the schools into faith-based facilities, outdoor events, etc. He noted that the cities have a joint Emergency Preparedness Commission that takes an all-hazards approach to preparedness. He mentioned that tonight presentations will be made by the Farmington Hills Police Chief Charles Nebus; Farmington Public Safety Director Frank Demers and Farmington Hills Fire Chief Jon Unruh on what the cities are doing with regard to community preparedness.

The Chiefs reviewed the various programs and resources used by the Departments in the following areas of community preparedness: Preparation and Planning, Training, Prevention, Intelligence Gathering, Emergency Communications, Emergency Response, Emergency Warning Systems, Tactical Response and Medical Response. Some of the programs and resources mentioned included neighborhood watch programs, ALICE active shooter training, OKAY2SAY program, annual exercise drills with Beaumont Hospital and weekly ride-a-longs with hospital EMS. School programs included school liaison officers, CPR training, AED drills, Fire Prevention programs and Stop the Bleed training that they hope to implement in the schools soon. Chief Unruh spoke about the Emergency Management operations and the Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.), a joint effort with both Farmington and Farmington Hills and that a trauma surgical response team is currently underway.

Police Chief Nebus and Public Safety Director Demers mentioned that serious crimes are down in both communities.

Barbara Smith, Director of Trauma-Beaumont Hospital, commented on the joint activities with the Farmington Hills Police and Fire Departments, including active shooter events. She noted that the hospital holds regular exercises and has experts come in to provide continuing education to staff. She commented on the Stop the Bleed program that the hospital is teaching throughout the community and she encouraged all to take this training.

Director Smith stated that the new hospital Emergency Room is planned to open in November. Over 1,300 patients were admitted into the trauma system last year and falls are the leading cause of traumas. Several Beaumont doctors also serve on the Oakland County Community Crime and Violence Task Force and make recommendations to that group.

Mayor Massey stated that the communities are safe and he hopes that this came across in the presentations. He recognized the members of the Emergency Preparedness Commission (EPC) that were present and opened the meeting up for questions.

In response to questions from the Council and Board members, discussion was held on emergency response times, a model school in Indiana that incorporated camera monitoring systems and other technology, use of Narcan, exercises and meetings held with school officials, the implementation of overdose mapping (ODMAP), intervention on mental health issues, new 911 capabilities, promoting the OKAY2SAY program and gaps in infrastructure or technology needs to further programs.

It was confirmed that the Chiefs would be hosting annual preparedness trainings for Houses of Worship on an annual basis and the plan for the initial training is to touch on all events and crime prevention as a whole. Active assailant training will be conducted throughout the community, including area businesses.

The schools are currently discussing ALICE training for preparedness in the schools.

Discussion was held on youth mental health programs and it was noted that the Fire Department and Farmington SAFE sponsor programs dealing with youth mental health and that a member of the Mayor's Youth Council serves as liaison to the Emergency Preparedness Commission and also serves on the FEMA Youth Preparedness Council.

Mayor Massey also acknowledged the May Day Program offered at East Middle School.

In closing, Mayor Massey mentioned that Farmington Mayor Pro-Tem Bowman, Farmington Hills Councilmember Bruce and School Board Member Stark would be meeting to discuss potential collaborative efforts to bring forth for consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beth Hulett, Farmington Hills resident and member of the Farmington PTSA, believed there was more that the PTSA could do to work with the communities and schools on these efforts and would like to meet with the Councils and schools to discuss how they could further assist.

She questioned the proposed Bills to allow guns in schools and Police Chief Nebus responded that Chiefs typically look to the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police to comment on any legislation; but commented that the best practice is to probably keep guns out of schools.

Kelly Carpenter-Crawford, Farmington Hills resident, mentioned the Greater Farmington Film Festival that is being held Mar 1-4, 2018.

Lisa Farris, Farmington Hills resident, inquired what the schools have learned about any weaknesses from events that have occurred. Dr. Heitsch spoke to the importance of communication between the adults and children at the schools.

Ms. Farris thought the OKAY2SAY program is a great tool, but improved efforts are needed with regard to promoting the program and getting kids to talk.

Further discussion was held on ways to further promote this program and all agreed that getting kids to talk was essential.

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ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

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

Steve Schneemann, Mayor

Mary J. Mullison, Deputy City Clerk

Approval Date: June 18, 2018