

**ANNUAL JOINT MEETING
CITY OF FARMINGTON
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 29, 2010**

A joint meeting of the the Farmington City Council, Farmington Hills City Council, and Farmington Public Schools Board of Education, was held on Tuesday, June 29, 2010, at Maxfield Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street, Farmington, Michigan. The meeting was hosted by the City of Farmington.

Present:

Farmington City Council: Mayor Tom Buck, David Wright
(Absent: McShane, Knol, Wiggins)

Others: Vince Pastue, City Manager
Sue Halberstadt, City Clerk

Farmington Hills City Council: Mayor Jerry Ellis, Nancy Bates, Michael Bridges, Randy Bruce, Ken Massey, Cheryl Oliverio
(Absent: Brickner)

Others: Steve Brock, City Manager
Kathy Dornan, City Clerk

Farmington School Board: Frank Reid, President, Deborah Brauer, Howard Wallach, Gary Sharp (left at 6:45)
(Absent: Bolsen, Brouillette, and Clay)

Others: Sue Zurvalec, Superintendent
Steve Schwartz, Oakland County Commissioner

Facilitator: Leslie Knopp, Traverse Management Resources, Inc.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Farmington Mayor Tom Buck called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Participants introduced themselves and noted the Council or Board they represented. Brief updates were given by Farmington City Manager Pastue, Farmington Hills City Manager Brock, and Superintendent Zurvalec.

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING -2-
June 29, 2010

Pastue reviewed budget changes for the next fiscal year. He also discussed changes in hours and staff.

Brock indicated a balanced budget was passed without a tax increase. He spoke about the renovation of City Hall, its long term savings in energy costs, with project completion slated for this fall.

Superintendent Zurvalec reviewed the three parts to the School budget plan: reduction, facility closure, and concessions from union employees. She indicated they were looking into the costs of demolition of buildings; keeping playgrounds open with the installation of gates; and looking at the option of selling buildings.

Facilitator Knopp explained her role as a facilitator in helping the schools and community work more effectively together. She went on to indicate this would not be a decision making meeting, but rather a discussion of ideas and goals. She brought up three key points as follows:

1. Values in common
2. Related challenges and concerns
3. Potential opportunities and ideas for future collaboration

PROCESS :

- Research based
- Designed so everyone participates
- Inductive/inclusive
- Systematic/efficient

CONTEXT FOR DISCUSSION:

- All leaders who share in responsibilities for area
- All have interest in maintaining or improving quality of life
 - Strong schools
 - Safe Communities
 - Engaged residents
 - Excellent services
- All are impacted by issues related to:
 - Facilities/buildings
 - Safety
 - economics

The participants were separated into four groups with representatives from the different organizations intermingled in each group. They were provided a focus question and given index cards to document answers to questions. They were given 5 minutes to share answers and discuss ideas. Each table then presented their findings.

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING -3-
June 29, 2010

The groups were as follows:

Table #1 - Buck, Wallach, Oliverio, Bates
Table #2 - Pastue, Reid, Massey, Schwartz
Table #3 - Zurvalec, Wright, Bridges, Brock
Table #4 - Brauer, Ellis, Bruce

FOCUS QUESTION #1

"What specific qualities, characteristics & ideals do you hold in high value that, when in place, demonstrate the character and quality of life you want to see in the greater Farmington/Farmington Hills community?"

RESULTS:

Table #1 - Wallach presented the results as follows:
Quality education (college degree), safe environment, recreational opportunities, recognition and respect of cultural differences & strengths, consolidation of government, services and purchasing, strong downtown business, attracting new businesses in both communities.

Table #2 - Pastue presented the results as follows:
Sense of place, individuals feeling secure in community and comfortable, engaged citizens, multi-generational activities, encouraging economic growth and stability, neighborhood vitality, and property maintenance.

Table #3 - Bridges presented the results as follows:
Quality education, mutual beneficial cooperation, sustainable redevelopment - energy and environment, maintain balance and inclusive diversity, balance with policy making.

Table #4 - Ellis presented the results as follows:
Clean, safe neighborhoods, great parks system, activities for all ages, spirit of community - people taking care of one another, value non-partisan elections, well-educated community, green consciousness.

After the presentation from each table, Facilitator Knopp summarized and consolidated the main ideas as follows:

"WHAT DO WE VALUE?"

- Education
- Neighborhood
- Inclusion of diversity

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING -4-
June 29, 2010

- Business friendly environment
- Sustainable redevelopment
- Safety
- Spirit of community
- Do things to help people thrive

FOCUS QUESTION #2

"What specific challenges do you see or concerns do you have that must be addressed in order to achieve the character and quality of life you want to have in the great Farmington/Farmington Hills community?"

Table #1: Wallach presented the following results:

Improve stability of funding sources so as to not overburden community, reduce impact of seniority based contracts, improve community involvement and engagement, elect problem-solving people, not politicians, improved marketing of our community.

Table #2: Pastue presented the following results:

Emphasizing importance of community involvement, lack of unified vision, reliable funding needed for schools, state and regional economy, thinking in broader terms to eliminate silos.

Table # 3: Wright presented the following results:

Economics, turf, internal forces - existing legal structures, relationships, existing affiliations, breaking them down so they're not barriers. External forces - Federal, State and local; other communities incapable of handling own needs adding to our ability to operate, changing demographics, greater families in need, aging population.

Table #4: Bruce presented the following results:

Insufficient revenue to maintain services and a quality school system, shifting population due to economic crisis, challenges to attract new business with high paying jobs, foreclosures and shuttered businesses, bring our young adults back home.

After presentation from each table, Facilitator Knopp went over combined results and discussion followed.

"WHAT ARE OUR CHALLENGES/CONCERNS?"

- Stability of funding sources and burden on community
- Seniority based contracts
- Community involvement and engagement
- Electing politicians over problem solvers
- Marketing our community

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING -5-
June 29, 2010

- Emphasizing community involvement
- Lack of unified vision
- Reliable dollars for schools and government
- State and regional economy
- Silos - hopelessness and negative attitudes
- Shifting population
- Attracting new business, high paying jobs
- Insufficient revenue to maintain quality services, schools
- Changing demographics/aging population
- Bring young adults back home

FOCUS QUESTION #3

"What specific opportunities and ideas should be considered for collaboration in order to overcome challenges and concerns and to sustain or move toward the character and quality of life you value for this community?"

RESULTS:

Table #1: Wallach presented the following results:

Examine all services and purchases for possible consolidation, work collaboratively to market the community in all aspects, recruit and elect problem solvers at all levels, create meaningful community opportunities, engaging community more.

Table #2: Pastue presented the following results:

Shared services, pursue legislative changes, developing revenue streams to provide services to schools, eliminate barriers, community brand marketing, shared community vision, business ready development - zoning process.

Table #3: Zurvalec presented the following results:

Create task force appointed by school board and city councils - enhancing cooperative ventures and quality of life issues, expand community volunteerism and dialogue, engaging citizens on issues, one city - consolidation of two cities or services, unified effort to market and recruit quality businesses, creating a unified task force to reform funding.

Table #4: Brauer presented the following results:

Consolidation of services, corridor improvement authority on Grand River to attract businesses, privatizing services and cooperative bidding, coordinating philanthropic causes, coordination of public and private entities (i.e. programs), establishing language/culture club.

After presentation from each table, Facilitator Knopp went over combined results and discussion followed.

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING -6-
June 29, 2010

"WHAT OPPORTUNITIES AND IDEAS SHOULD WE CONSIDER?"

- Examine all services and purchasing for consolidation
- Collaborate to market the community
- Recruit & elect problem solvers at all levels
- Create meaningful community opportunities
- Shared services
- Pursue legislative changes - funding - eliminate barriers
- Shared community vision
- Business ready zoning & process
- Task force to enhance cooperative ventures & quality of life issues
- Expand volunteerism dialogue to engage citizens
- One city
- Unified effort to market & recruit
- Task force to reform funding for schools and government services
- Consolidation
- Corridor improvement on Grand River
- Privatizing & cooperative bidding for services
- Coordinate philanthropic efforts
- Coordinate public/private entities on programming
- Establish language/culture club to get to know each other

DISCUSSION

Facilitator Knopp went over the common themes that were apparent in the combined lists.

Councilman Massey indicated we need legislative changes to look at creative solutions. We need to urge legislators to implement legislation that allows cities to operate, and provide stable funding sources.

Councilman Bridges agreed that we are in need of legislative action, as well as a task force to look at consolidation opportunities.

Councilwoman Oliverio commented that in order to make legislative change it takes action from all involved.

Councilman Massey said there is a need to stop bickering and come together to make changes.

Facilitator Knopp suggested using a task force as a vehicle to continue conversation and organize ideas.

Councilman Wright agreed that a task force is needed but that there should be an informal connection between the three bodies, one member from School Board and one from each city, to meet periodically on their own

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING -7-
June 29, 2010

schedule. They can think through what can be accomplished in a quieter forum. He recommended forming the task force as soon as possible.

Councilman Bruce stated the task force should pick the top two or three from the list and start hammering out details. He noted it is too easy to leave the meeting, have the ideas evaporate, and not come back together for another year.

Mayor Ellis said the real value would be to go to Lansing as a consolidated unit, one School Board and two communities, that it would be a far more powerful voice.

Board Member Brauer stated it would be beneficial for the three entities to be viewed as one community.

Commissioner Schwartz emphasized the need to take action now; pick issues and form a task force immediately.

Councilman Bridges indicated that it could be a conduit for other communities to do the same thing.

Councilman Massey suggested that we should move forward with the process in order to not lose momentum.

Mayor Buck indicated this meeting provided good perspectives on our community, what we are and what we can be, and the challenges we face. He stated forming a committee as a unified voice would send a stronger message to Lansing.

City Manager Brock suggested that elected officials should be on the task force.

Board Member Reid, Councilman Bruce, and Mayor Buck volunteered to serve on the committee.

Board Member Brauer suggested there should be more than one joint meeting per year.

Councilman Massey emphasized the need for follow-up on all of the ideas that were presented.

Mayor Ellis indicated joint meetings will only be effective if all members from both Councils and School Board show up.

Board Member Reid advised ideas generated by the committee can be reviewed by the group as a whole.

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING -8-
June 29, 2010

Councilman Massey indicated that if others start seeing progress, then they will jump on board as well.

City Manager Brock pointed out Lansing believes money can still be saved at the local level. He stated before going to Lansing, each community and school district must do all they can to ensure all possible cost savings has been achieved.

Facilitator Knopp indicated there needs to be a movement beyond just talking and sharing ideas.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Buck thanked all participants and Leslie Knopp for her effective facilitation of the meeting. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

CITY OF FARMINGTON

T. J. (Tom Buck), Mayor

Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

APPROVED: August 16, 2010