

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
North Farmington High School  
32900 W. Thirteen Mile Road  
Farmington Hills, Michigan  
May 24, 2011**

President Wallach called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

**ROLL CALL: Present:** Howard I. Wallach, president  
Sheilah P. Clay, vice president  
Deborah L. Brauer, secretary  
Karen L. Bolsen, treasurer  
Priscilla L. Brouillette, trustee  
Timothy A. Devine, trustee  
Frank L. Reid, trustee

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Superintendent Zurvalec; Assistant Superintendents Cost and Ruhland; Executive Directors Cannon, Manier, Reynolds, and Wilson; members of the staff; students; members of the community; the press; and Executive Assistant Higgins

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Alec Cohen, 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Warner Upper Elementary, and Carly Cohen, 2<sup>nd</sup> grader at Forest Elementary, led the pledge.
2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.** It was moved by Clay and supported by Reid that the Board of Education approve the May 24, 2011 regular meeting agenda, as presented.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS.** President Wallach explained the procedure for making public comments and made announcements/comments regarding: the earlier closed session regarding negotiations, Memorial Day observance, last day of school for seniors and the remainder of the student body, high school graduation ceremonies, and the June 14 study session and closed session regarding negotiations.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE.** Mrs. Brauer summarized the following correspondence received by the Board of Education: Kayla West emailed regarding the layoff list; Nancy Dillon emailed regarding computers on wheels; Laura Ryan emailed regarding Internet access; numerous emails were received regarding privatization of support services; and Jeremy Stoops emailed regarding fulfilling an Eagle Scout requirement.

5. **REPORT FROM THE STUDENT ROUND TABLE PRESIDENT.** Olivia Jones, Student Round Table president, reported on the final meeting of the Round Table earlier in the day during which members were recognized by President Wallach and Superintendent Zurvalec. She also highlighted some of the activities that Round Table members participated in during the year including, most recently, Students Operating Schools (SOS) Day and the Special Olympics Bowl-A-Thon fundraising event.

Officers for the 2011/12 school year were also elected at the final meeting, and Kayla Wimbush, North Farmington junior, was introduced as the Round Table's newly- elected president.

6. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.** Karen Bolsen reported on the recent Revenue Estimating Conference which included the biggest cut ever to public education, despite the reported \$900 million surplus in the school aid budget. She stated that there was no comprehensive discussion on taxation reform during the conference; that the Legislature had agreed to give back dollars to school districts that achieved four out of five best practices as identified in the Governor's education plan; however, that there was very little discussion about what those five practices were or their implications.

Mrs. Bolsen encouraged everyone to contact their legislators to send a message to Lansing that quality education is crucial to Michigan's future.

7. **EVIDENCE OF EXCELLENCE: RECOGNITIONS.** The following individuals were recognized by the Board:

- **State and District PTA Reflections Award Winners.** President Chris Greig made opening remarks noting that this was the 41<sup>st</sup> year of the PTA Reflections contest which recognizes student achievement in the arts. The theme of this year's contest was "Together We Can." Student winners were awarded certificates and medals in the following categories: dance choreography, film/video production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. The PTA Reflections theme for next year is "Diversity means . . . ."
- **FPS 2011 Michigan Green Schools.** Jim Pearse, energy manager, explained the criteria for achieving Michigan Green School status. The Michigan Green Schools Program is dedicated to assisting all Michigan schools to achieve environmental goals which include energy conservation, protecting the air, land, water and animals of our state along with world outreach through good ecological practices and the teaching of educational stewardship of students pre-kindergarten through high school.

The following Green Teams were presented with certificates of recognition:

- Alameda Pee-Wee Power Savers (Terry Schneider)
- Dunckel WE: Green Team (Steve Koponen and Marilyn Rollinger, parent)
- East Titan Green Team (Vera Lucksted, parent)
- Gill Green Team (Mark Terry and Gina Adams-Levy, parent)
- Harrison Interact Club (Angela Leach)
- Hillside Green Team (Anne Sparling, Tod Morrow)

- Kenbrook Green Team (Melissa McDermid)
- Longacre Kilowatt Keeper/Green Team (Jennifer Bailey)

Superintendent Zurvalec announced a short break at 8:22 pm. The meeting resumed at 8:29 pm.

8. **ACCEPTANCE OF 2010/11 GRADUATE LISTS.** It was moved by Brauer and supported by Bolsen that the Board of Education accept the lists of 2010/11 graduates from Farmington High School, Farmington Central High School, Harrison High School, and North Farmington High School and extend the Board's congratulations and very best wishes to all of our graduates and their families.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

9. **APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES.** David Ruhland introduced the recommendation and provided information on Mr. Riebe's educational and professional backgrounds.

It was moved by Reid and supported by Brouillette that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Jon S. Riebe as the director of facilities.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

10. **PUBLIC HEARING: SCHOOL OF CHOICE OPTIONS AND APPROVAL OF SCHOOL OF CHOICE OPTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2011/12 SCHOOL YEAR.** Superintendent Zurvalec called the public hearing to order and explained the various school of choice options [Intra-District, PA 227 (children of staff), and Section 105 (out-of-district)]. Under Section 105, a pupil may transfer from one local school district to another within the same county or intermediate school district. In accordance with the State School Aid Act, the District accepts applications from employees who choose to have their children attend school in the District through PA 227.

Superintendent Zurvalec stated that it was the recommendation of the committee that the District offer 25 slots, at the kindergarten level only, on a District-wide basis for the 2011/12 school year. If approved by the Board, the release of Intra-District and PA 227 information and kindergarten applications will begin immediately. Applications will be due by June 10. Once these placements are made, space permitting, Section 105 information will then be released in August. All placements will begin and be completed in August 2011. Further, in accordance with Board Policy/Procedure, if the number of applications exceeds the number of spaces available at the elementary schools, lotteries will be held. None of the recommendations include transportation.

There were no members of the community wishing to address the Board.

It was moved by Brauer and supported by Brouillette that the Board of Education approve the *Intra-District* School of Choice Program, as presented in the School of Choice Options Committee's memo dated May 13, 2011.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

It was moved by Reid and supported by Clay that the Board of Education approve the School of Choice Options Committee recommendations regarding *PA 227* School of Choice, as presented in the committee's memo dated May 13, 2011.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

It was moved by Bolsen and supported by Reid that the Board of Education approve the *Section 105* recommendations of the School of Choice Options Committee, regarding 25 slots in kindergarten only, as presented in the committee's memo dated May 13, 2011.

**VOICE VOTE: Ayes:** Bolsen, Reid, Brouillette, Clay, Devine, Wallach

**Nays:** Brauer

**MOTION APPROVED.**

There were brief comments by the Board regarding the District's K-12 commitment to out-of-district students, how the determination was made for the number of slots (25) available in kindergarten, financial advantages of the Section 105 Program, and declining enrollment.

11. **FARMINGTON FORWARD REPORT: DISPROPORTIONALITY PROGRESS REPORT AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SUPPORT (PBIS).** Superintendent Zurvalec made brief introductory remarks and indicated the data being presented was critical data, and that the District has made a commitment to change these results for all students.

Michele Harmala, executive director of support services; Steve Vercellino, positive behavior intervention support (PBIS) coordinator; and Pam Choate, Longacre Elementary School teacher; presented the report on the disproportionality of minority students in special education (being suspended and/or expelled at a greater rate than other students) as cited by the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, Michigan Department of Education (MDE). As a result of this citing, the District has implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention Support system at every school.

The team presented the discipline data that pointed to the disproportionality and how PBIS is aligned accordingly. They explained what disproportionality is, why the District was cited by the MDE, where the District is in its continued implementation of PBIS, and where it is headed. They also reviewed the steps that the District has undertaken this year to address defined needs. They reported that suspension and expulsion data revealed disproportionality at the upper elementary, middle school, and high school levels, as well as by gender.

There was discussion regarding the data presented, level violations, consistency and enforcement of policies, tardies/detentions, expectations of tardy policies, education/role of parents in terms of tardiness particularly with students who are too young to drive.

Over the next three to five years, implementation of PBIS and work toward eliminating disproportionate representation will include:

- recommendations for necessary policy and procedure changes, if any;
- continued enhancement of the implementation of PBIS within each school and across all departments;
- identification of behavioral screeners, interventions, and progress monitoring tools as a part of the Response to Instruction/Intervention (RTI<sup>2</sup>) system;
- practice changes related to data coding of behaviors within Zangle; analysis and use of behavioral data including student, staff, parent, and climate surveys to inform changes in the PBIS system; ongoing coaching and professional development; and
- development of a PBIS sustainability plan that includes an annual evaluation and specifically documents changes in outcomes for students.

There was further discussion regarding the correlation between newness of students and incidences of misbehavior, academic and behavioral failure, intervention resources to address academic failure of students in their first year in the District, importance of getting to the core of why particular behaviors are being exhibited, appropriate placement of students upon entering the District, difference between suspensions and expulsions, options for students suspended for 180 days, history of students prior to entering the District, having a process in place to teach newly-enrolled students the District's expectations of them, irrationality of addressing tardiness issues with time out of school, existence of racism in our culture/community/District, and honest conversations about race.

**Public Comment.** Chris Greig, PTA president, addressed the Board regarding parent involvement and parents as partners.

12. **5/6 VISIONING UPDATE.** Catherine Cost, assistant superintendent of instructional services, provided an update on the work of the 5/6 Visioning Group. The group was formed to address the issues that continue to persist at the upper elementary level (mostly related to scheduling and teaming) following last year's school closings and building reconfigurations. In November 2010, the work group was charged to review the upper elementary teaching philosophy and analyze the implementation of the schedule.

Dr. Cost reported that because of the complexity of the task, an impartial, outside facilitator was chosen to facilitate and help guide the work of the group. The committee met six times from January 2011 through April and developed 12 recommendations which she presented.

Dr. Cost also reviewed next steps which include:

- communication of approved recommendations;
- parent meetings at both Power and Warner upper elementaries;
- ongoing parent meetings (of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students) during the course of the 2011/12 school year are being discussed. They would focus on what is going well and what still needs to be revisited;
- transitioning current 4<sup>th</sup> grade students to the upper elementary schools; and
- upper elementary leaders are collecting feedback from teachers regarding teaming.

There was discussion regarding concerns about math; critical nature of including parents as part of the process and partnering with students, teachers, and parents; concern with specials classes (music, art, and physical education) and the District's vision with regard to world languages; variation in instructional time dedicated to music versus art and physical education; socio-economic levels of students and obesity and medical conditions that accompany them; and effectiveness of world language classes.

- 13. REVIEW OF PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR EAGLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BY THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER.** Cheryl Cannon, executive director of operational services, reviewed the proposed Purchase Agreement between the District and the Islamic Cultural Association for the purchase of Eagle Elementary School which was closed at the end of the 2009/10 school year. She noted that in January 2011, the District received a written offer from ICC to purchase Eagle Elementary School for \$850,000. Following an appraisal in February conducted by District legal counsel, it was determined that the fair market value of the Eagle property had increased to \$1.1 million. The agreement was modified accordingly and will be presented to the Board for action on June 14.

- 14. APPROVAL OF 2011/12 OAKLAND SCHOOLS BUDGET RESOLUTION.** It was moved by Reid and supported by Brouillette that the Board of Education adopt the resolution in support of the Oakland Schools General Fund Operating Budget for the 2011/12 school year and waive the reading of the resolution.

There was a comment by the Board that the budget documents received from Oakland Schools continued to be insufficient in terms of linking dollars spent, particularly at the technical centers, and lacked data on the students that are being served. It was requested that Superintendent Zurvalec relay this information to Oakland Schools as they develop future budgets.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Clay, Brauer, Reid, Brouillette, Bolsen, Devine, Wallach  
**Nays:** None

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

15. **APPROVAL OF 2011/12 BREAKFAST PROGRAM RESOLUTION.** It was moved by Brouillette and supported by Brauer that the Board of Education approve the Breakfast Program Resolution for the 2011/12 school year and waive the reading of the resolution.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

16. **APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING DATES FOR THE 2011/12 SCHOOL YEAR.** It was moved by Clay and supported by Bolsen that the Board of Education approve the schedule of Board meeting dates for the 2011/12 school year, as presented.

It was further moved by Clay and supported by Bolsen that Debbie Higgins be appointed as the individual responsible for implementing the public notice requirements of the Open Meetings Act, Section 5(1).

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

17. **REVIEW OF BID FOR REPLACEMENT OF HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL UTILITY TRACTOR.** Mrs. Cannon reviewed the rationale for the replacement of a utility tractor for Harrison High School. The tractor is used for grass cutting, snow removal, and grooming of the artificial turf on the ball fields. An award recommendation is planned for June 14.

18. **AWARD OF BID FOR REPLACEMENT OF FILE AND PRINT SERVERS.** It was moved by Brauer and supported by Brouillette that the Board of Education authorize administration to accept the low bid for the purchase and installation of the replacement servers including the additional five (5) servers from Netech Inc, Novi, MI in the amount of \$185,045; to be paid from the 2011/12 Capital Projects Technology Fund.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Devine, Bolsen, Clay, Brauer, Reid, Brouillette, Wallach  
**Nays:** None

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

19. **PREVIEW OF JUNE 14, 2011 STUDY SESSION.** Superintendent Zurvalec reviewed the following items which are planned for the June 14, 2011 study session:

- A. Evidence of Excellence
  - 1. Recognitions
    - (a) Ecybermission Competition State Champion
    - (b) "You be the Chemist" Challenge State Champion
    - (c) Career Technical Education Students
    - (d) High School All-State Academic Ski Teams
    - (e) Harrison High School World Champion "RoboHawks"
    - (f) Judy White-Ora "Teaching with Heart and Soul" Award Recipient
    - (g) Farmington PTA Council Officers
  - 2. Galileo Celebration
- B. Final Report of the District PTA Council President

**Preview of June 14, 2011 Study Session (cont'd)**

- C. AdvancED District Quality Assurance Review (QAR) Report

- D. Review of Non-Resident Tuition Rates for 2011/12 School Year
- E. Budget
  - 1. Review of Administrative Restructuring Plan and Instructional Priorities
  - 2. Public Hearing: Proposed 2011/12 Fiscal Year Budget
  - 3. Review of 2010/11 Revised General Appropriations Resolution (2010/11 Budget Amendments)
  - 4. Review and Recommendation for Approval of Summer Tax Levy
  - 5. Fund Balance Review
- F. Farmington Forward Year-End Reports (1 of 2)
  - 1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Achievement
  - 2. Community Relations
- G. Recommendation for Approval of Purchase Agreement for Eagle Elementary School by the Islamic Cultural Center
- 8. Recommendation for Award of Bids
  - 1. Replacement of Local Area Network (LAN) Infrastructure
  - 2. District-Wide Annual Paving, Paving Repairs, Seal Coating and Lining Capital Projects
  - 3. Replacement of Harrison High School Utility Tractor

**20. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** None during this portion of the meeting. A public comment can be found on page 5, under item 11 - Farmington Forward Report: Disproportionality Progress Report And Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS).

**21. EXPENDITURES.** It was moved by Bolsen and supported by Reid that the Board of Education approve the expenditures as outlined in the printout dated May 24, 2011 as follows:

General Fund	\$21,037,849
Special Education Fund	359,777
Debt Fund	0
Capital Projects – Technology & Other Projects	52,350
Capital Projects – Maintenance/Bus Purchases	115,277
Nutrition Services Fund	217,909
Athletic Fund	89,620
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$21,872,782</b>

**ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes:** Brouillette, Reid, Brauer, Clay, Bolsen, Devine, Wallach  
**Nays:** None

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

22. **GIFTS TO SCHOOLS.** It was moved by Bolsen and supported by Reid that the Board accept the following gifts with thanks:

<b>2010/11 Donations</b>		<b>Amount</b>
1.	Mr. & Mrs. LaBurn	\$265.00
2.	Dr. & Mrs. Chris Kazmierczak	9,643.00
3.	Mr. & Ms. Shawn Spencer	22,500.00
Total		<b>\$32,408.00</b>
This Period		\$32,408.00
Previous Balance		5,840.00
2010/11 Year-to-Date		<b>\$38,248.00</b>

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

23. **REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES.** None.
24. **REPORTS FROM BOARD REPRESENTATIVES.** None.
25. **CONSENT AGENDA.** It was moved by Clay and supported by Bolsen that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda dated May 24, 2011, as follows:
- A. Approval of Minutes
    - 1. April 20, 2011 Board Workshop (Non-Instructional Support Services RFP Process)
    - 2. April 20, 2011 Special Meeting/Closed Session (Negotiations and Attorney-Client Privilege)
    - 3. April 26, 2011 Special Meeting/Closed Session (Negotiations)
    - 4. April 26, 2011 Regular Meeting
    - 5. May 3, 2011 Annual Joint Meeting with the Cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills
    - 6. May 4, 2011 Board Workshop (Privatization of Non-Instructional Support Services)
    - 7. May 4, 2011 Special Meeting/Closed Session (Negotiations)
    - 8. May 10, 2011 Special Meeting/Closed Session (Negotiations)
    - 9. May 10, 2011 Study Session
  - B. Head Start Director's Monthly Report (April 2011)
  - C. Personnel Items

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

26. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS.** None.
27. **NEW BUSINESS.** None.

**28. GOOD AND WELFARE**

- The Board commented on a visit to Highmeadow Common Campus and Lanigan Elementary School to see Bridges math experienced by kindergarten and first grade students.
- Superintendent Zurvalec thanked North Farmington administration, staff, and TV10 for hosting the Board of Education meetings over the past several months.

**29. ADJOURNMENT.** It was moved by Clay and supported by Brouillette that the Board adjourn the May 24, 2011 regular meeting at 11:15 pm.

**MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

---

Deborah L. Brauer  
Secretary