



Public Budget Forums

Farmington Public Schools is hosting three identical Public Budget Forums in order to share as much information as possible as it pertains to the current educational funding crisis in the State and how it is affecting Farmington Public Schools. The Forums will address possible budget reductions in the following areas: Athletics, District Instructional Support Services, Elementary Programming, Human Resources, Secondary Programming, and Support Services. Each session will run 20 minutes with 10 minutes between each session. This will make it possible for attendees to attend three of the different presentations.

The three forums will be identical enabling parents, staff and community members to choose which Forum time best meets their scheduling needs.

All the Forums will be held at the Maxfield Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street in downtown Farmington, with the opening presentation in Room 1.

- **Thursday, January 14** **7 - 9 p.m.**
- **Thursday, January 21** **7 - 9 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, January 26** **11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Why is the District holding Public Budget Forums?

As you know, school districts in Michigan, including Farmington Public Schools, are all in a funding crisis. As of December 14, 2009, Farmington Public Schools' projected revenue shortfall for the 2010-2011 school year is approximately \$18 million (if there is no further loss in funding). Further reductions in revenues could increase the shortfall. School districts are legally obligated to submit balanced budgets on June 30th of each year without knowing the funding that they will receive from the State. The State has until October 1st of each year to submit their balanced budgets which includes funding for public education. Because of this structure, we are not able to calculate exactly the projected shortfall. For the District's current fiscal year, the State adopted the budget for school aid on October 19, 2009 which included a loss of 20j funding (\$191 per pupil) and \$165 per pupil foundation loss. Three days later, an estimated proration (an additional loss) of \$127 per pupil was announced, but reinstated on Monday, January 11, 2010.

Unfortunately, because of the size of the anticipated deficit, it is unavoidable that reductions will result in staff layoffs and program reductions.

The District wants to share information with all stakeholders and provide opportunities to receive input and feedback.

The Board of Education will not be making any decisions on reductions without considering all of the feedback.

What can I expect at the Forums?

Over the past several months, the District's Budget Committee, along with principals and other administrators have been carefully evaluating numerous cost-cutting options, including modifying and reducing programs and services. This has included analyzing data regarding the cost savings, feasibility, benefits and challenges of various options, as well as the potential impact on students' educational experiences.

The Forums will each be opened with an overall budget presentation by Superintendent Sue Zurvalec which will be held in Room 1 and run for 20 minutes. The superintendent will provide the overview of the State funding picture and how it affects Farmington Public Schools. Attendees will then have the opportunity to hear three presentations on possible budget reductions in the following areas: Athletics, District Instructional Support Services,



Elementary Programming, Human Resources, Secondary Programming, and Support Services. The sessions will run for 20 minutes with 10 minutes between each presentation. Attendees will receive handouts from all of the areas.

While there will be limited time for questions, attendees will be encouraged to fill out the on-line feedback form, www.surveymonkey.com/s/FLR83WD, where they can make sure that the District understands where their priorities lie. All of the feedback will be shared with the Board of Education before they vote on the Budget Reduction Plan at the Tuesday, March 2 Board of Education meeting.

Budget Forum Agenda

7:00 - 7:20 p.m. Welcome and Overview of School Funding Crisis presented by Superintendent Sue Zurvalec

7:30 - 7:50 p.m. Presentation - choose one of six presentations

8:00 - 8:20 p.m. Presentation - choose one of six presentations

8:30 - 8:50 p.m. Presentation - choose one of six presentations

The six areas are Athletics, District Instructional Support Services, Elementary Programming, Human Resources, Secondary Programming, and Support Services.

The Computer Lab and mobile labs will be open throughout the evening for those who would like to fill out their Feedback Forms while on site.

What if I'm unable to attend one of the Forums?

The same information presented at the Budget Forums will be available on the District's web site, www.farmington.k12.mi.us, beginning Thursday, January 14, including an on-line version of the feedback form. You may also view the Superintendent's overview presentation which will be cablecast on TV-10 throughout January and February.

What else can I do?

In addition to attending the Budget Forums and providing feedback for the Board, parents, staff and community members are strongly encouraged to continue to contact their legislators in Lansing, along with Governor Granholm, and ask them to restore the budget cuts to education. All the contact information can be found on the District's web site. As always, additional comments and questions can be sent to info@farmington.k12.mi.us.

The District is holding a special **Board of Education meeting** on **Wednesday, February 24** where the **Budget Reduction Plan will be presented**. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. and be held at **North Farmington High School** in the auditorium. North Farmington High School is located at 32900 W. Thirteen Mile in Farmington Hills. It is important to note that NO Board action will be taken at this meeting. The Board will **vote on the Budget Reduction Plan** at their meeting on **Tuesday, March 2** which will also start at 7:30 p.m. and be held at **North Farmington High School** in the auditorium. These two meetings will be cablecast LIVE on TV-10.

**All budget information can be found on the District's web site:
www.farmington.k12.mi.us**