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## **Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education votes on Facilities Studies Team recommendation - "yes" to Option D**

*Farmington, Michigan*— On Wednesday, February 24, the Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education voted 6-0 to move forward with Option D from the Addendum of the Facilities Study Team Report.

### **Option D**

- Middle schools are reconfigured into two 5/6 and two 7/8 schools.
- All elementary schools are reconfigured as K-4 schools. (The decision on whether Highmeadow Common Campus, the District's in-district school of choice, remains a K-5, or changes to a K-4 or K-6 school, still needs to be determined.)
- Eagle, Flanders, William Grace and Wooddale Elementary Schools are closed at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.
- Alameda Early Childhood Center, Farmington Community School, Visions Unlimited, and Cloverdale School programming and locations remain as is.
- The Maxfield Training Center (MTC) would close. Staff would be relocated to the Ten Mile building and other District education buildings.
- The District Science Center moves from the Ten Mile building to the warehouse at Central Office.

There is an estimated savings in the Option D plan of \$9.8 million over five years and \$21 million in cost avoidance for an estimated anticipated savings of \$30.8 million. These savings will help the District to address the projected \$18 million shortfall for the 2010-2011 school year. However, closing schools is just one part of the solution to address the shortfall. The District is also looking at budget reductions and savings from contract negotiations with all of its employee groups which will begin shortly.

The District will begin to form Transition Teams for the schools that will be closing. Boundary lines will begin to be redrawn and a redistricting plan developed to accommodate the new configurations of the schools. The new boundaries are expected to be completed by early April 2010. A team of middle school administrators, teachers and counselors will continue to work on grade-level transition planning and a task force will begin to look at the development of the K-4 configuration for the elementary schools.

## **Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education votes on Facilities Studies Team recommendation - "yes" to Option D...continued**

"We know that schools are more than the brick and mortar," said Superintendent Susan H. Zurvalec. "What makes a school so special are the students, staff and parents all working together."

"The Board of Education thanks the Facilities Study Team for the countless hours that they put in to develop their recommendations given to the Board," said Board President Frank L. Reid. "When it came down to 'are we going to protect buildings or protect programming for our students', I chose to vote for the students."

"We don't want to close schools or make these budget cuts, but by law the District is required to submit a balanced budget," said Board trustee Karen L. Bolsen.

Throughout the months ahead, the District will continue to provide updates on the process through updates on the District's list serves, web postings, school newsletters, the District's newsletter UpDate, programs on TV-10 and its other regular methods of communication.

All the information regarding the Facilities Study Team recommendations can be found on the District's web site at [www.farmington.k12.mi.us](http://www.farmington.k12.mi.us).