



# Farmingdale School District

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- DATE:** March 20, 2019
- KIND OF MEETING:** Board of Education Meeting/Budget Workshop
- PLACE:** A. Terry Weathers Board Room, Howitt Middle School East Cafeteria, Howitt Middle School
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Goldberg, Mrs. D'Amico, Mr. Espinosa, Mr. Giordano (Public Session Only), Mrs. Lively, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Soete
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Defendini, Dr. Ripley, Mr. Zakian, , Dr. Brennan, Dr. Olsen, Mr. Motisi, Mrs. Rogers
- EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mr. Valentine, Mrs. LoRusso, Mr. Febbraro, Dr. Peterson, Mrs. O'Regan, Mrs. Smar, Dr. Klocek, Dr. DeHayes, Literacy Consultant Lea Lebowitz, Ms. Hickey, Ms. Tamis, Ms. Donahue, Ms. Knudsen, Ms. Gulotta, Mr. Ferandez, Ms. Wind, Ms. Darby, Dr. McGill-Cunningham, Ms. Puglisi and Ms. Camera

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the A. Terry Weathers Board Room at the Howitt Middle School by Mr. Goldberg, President of the Board of Education.

**Executive Session** Motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mrs. Soete, to meet in executive session to discuss specific legal, collective bargaining and personnel issues in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Motion carried 5-0

Meeting recessed for executive session at 6:30 p.m.  
Mrs. Lively arrived at 6:40 p.m.  
Mr. Giordano arrived at 8:10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened in the Howitt East Cafeteria at 8:10 p.m.

Board President Michael Goldberg welcomed those present for the second budget workshop of the 2019-2020 season. He announced that the Board of

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Education was interested in encouraging all members of the public to share their ideas, comments and questions. He noted that public participation opportunities would be available at the beginning of the meeting and again at the end of the meeting and, as stated in Board Policy, no person should speak for more than three minutes and each period of public participation would be limited to thirty minutes. Mr. Goldberg reminded those present that during Special meetings, public participation would be limited to items on the agenda. Mr. Goldberg pointed out the emergency exit. The public session began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Participation**

Board President Michael Goldberg opened the meeting for the first public participation. No one came forward at this time.

**Budget Presentation:**

**2019/2020 Budget: Capital**

Board President Michael Goldberg and Superintendent of Schools Paul Defendini welcomed all present and introduced Assistant to the Superintendent for Business Michael Motisi. This week’s budget workshop would focus on completed and current capital work, the Smart Schools bond initiative, capital reserve and future capital planning.

Mr. Motisi began his budget presentation with a summary of the presentation made on March 13. The 2019-2020 budget goals were to stay within the tax levy limit, strengthen programs and services, maintain our financial condition and to protect the district from fluctuations in aid, retirement system and health benefit costs while addressing state and federal mandates. Mr. Motisi reviewed the proposed revenue budget and cost element summary.

The update on capital projects included a summary of the voter authorized \$5 million draw down for the purpose of bathroom renovations. In the first phase of the project, 55 bathrooms have been update; 35 bathrooms need a total renovation. Phase II includes an additional 91 bathrooms and are currently in the NYSED approval queue. Work includes energy efficient electrical and plumbing upgrades, in addition to new vanities, commodes and tiling. Facility projects include lighting upgrades, exit alarms, classroom and office space renovations, heating units, PA systems, blacktop and playground upgrades

Mr. Defendini provided an update on the energy performance contract work. Demand and cost savings for the period March 2017 to February 2018 were highlighted. The district’s carbon footprint saw a reduction over 3.6 million electrical kilowatt hours and 58,466 Btu natural gas savings. He detailed the cost avoidance savings as a result of the facility improvement measures, totaling \$938,083. He provided a demonstration of the savings using a high school classroom and a Northside classroom. A summary of anticipated environmental impact savings of emissions reductions and equivalencies in live measures was provided.

Mrs. Lively asked if we had any idea of these savings when we first started. Mr. Defendini stated that we projected that we would save money in general terms. These are the actual numbers.

Mr. Defendini provided an update on the status of Bond 2016. He detailed the completed work, including the Saltzman East Memorial fields, High School stadium, and the Howitt Middle School multi-purpose field and track. He also provided the schedule for anticipated completion and time frames for use for the Woodward Parkway, Northside and Albany Avenue fields, as well as the middle school baseball and softball fields. The work associated with the pool complex would begin in the fall with an anticipated completion of Spring, 2021.

Mrs. D'Amico asked about safety measure for the bleachers. Mr. Defendini explained that the bleacher systems are closer to Conklin Street; we focused on safety. The district used 6 foot bollards, rather than fencing; the bollards are intended to protect the spectators in the bleachers as they will prevent cars from breaking into the fenced in area.

Mrs. Soete asked about the placement of the baseball field. Mr. Defendini stated that the fields had to be Section 8 compliant, ADA compliant, and safety compliant.

Mrs. Lively asked about the roadways and traffic lights. Mr. Defendini explained that Conklin Street is a state road. He explained the various entrance and exits points on the campus.

Dr. Brennan introduced a discussion on the work of the Smart Schools Bond Act. The school district received \$2.9 million in funding which could be used to install high-speed broadband, acquire learning technology equipment, construct education facilities to accommodate pre-kindergarten programs and/or install high-tech security features. Farmingdale will work to install high-tech security feature, continue the work of high speed broadband and wireless capabilities and expand learning technology in the school buildings. Work would focus on the redesign of a technology classroom to work towards a digital manufacturing curriculum, the creation of a STEAM multi-purpose space, a redesign of business classrooms into real-world labs, an upgrade of computer labs into flexible learning labs, an upgrade of media lab spaces and an update to Humanities classrooms.

Mr. Giordano questioned if the software used in our marketing ad sports marketing classrooms can be used in chromebooks. Dr. Brennan stated that the power of the chromebooks is getting close to desktop PCs.

Mr. Motisi reported that expenses associated with the work detailed by Dr. Brennan that could not be attached to the Smart Schools Bond had been built into the budget.

The budget workshop continued with a review of capital reserves. Mr. Motisi detailed the source of funds that support the capital reserves; expenditures associated with the use of the capital reserve funds would require voter approval. The current balance is just over \$11.6 million. The district is considering a recommendation to issue an RFP (Request for Proposals) to hire a consulting group to help us in working towards future capital projects that would rely on input from stakeholders. At this time, possible projects could include solar energy, roof renovations, electrical upgrades and air conditioning. Also to work with the Facilities Advisory Committee.

Mr. Motisi's presentation concluded with a summary of the workshops that would follow in the coming weeks, along with a schedule for the public input, budget adoption, public hearing and the budget vote and election.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Non-Instructional: Appointment / Leave of Absence / Appointment** RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a non-instructional personnel action, "Appointment / Leave of Absence / Appointment" in accordance with Nassau County Civil Service Commission regulations. Appointment does not exceed the number of positions authorized in the budget.

**Public Participation** Board President Michael Goldberg opened the meeting for the second public participation. No one came forward at this time.

**Adjournment** On a motion made by Mr. Morales, seconded by Mrs. Lively, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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Mary E. Rogers, District Clerk