



# Farmingdale School District

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**DATE:** March 25, 2020

**KIND OF MEETING:** Budget / Public Input

**PLACE:** Virtual Meeting / Google Meet

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Goldberg, Mrs. D'Amico, Mr. Espinosa, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Lively, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Soete

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Defendini, Dr. Ripley, Mr. Zakian, Dr. Brennan, Dr. Olsen, Mr. Motisi, Mrs. Rogers

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. in by Mr. Goldberg, President of the Board of Education. In accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order related to temporary modifications to Public Officers Law, the meeting was conducted in a virtual format to allow for the uninterrupted continuation of our important work. The Board meeting notice indicated that access to the meeting would be posted on the district's website at [www.farmingdaleschools.org](http://www.farmingdaleschools.org) and a live feed would be available on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).

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

Motion carried 7-0

Meeting recessed for executive session at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened in public at 8:00 p.m.

Board President Michael Goldberg opened the meeting with the following statement:

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Pursuant to Executive Order 202.1 (and subsequent orders closing District schools) issued by the Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, signed March 12, 2020, and due to the concerns of the Board of Education for the Health and Safety of the community emanating from the current COVID-19 pandemic, there would be no in-person public access to the board meeting and instead the meeting will be live streamed and recorded. Access to the live stream could be had by accessing the school district's website for a link that will bring you to a youtube site and the recording of the meeting can be accessed on [www.farmingdaleschools.org](http://www.farmingdaleschools.org). In addition, the public participation portion of the meeting was suspended by board resolution.

On a motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mrs. Lively, pursuant to the aforementioned Executive Orders, the Board suspended the public participation portion of the meeting and therefore, accordingly, there would be no public participation at this Board meeting.

Mr. Goldberg continued, stating that the Board of Education was interested in encouraging members of the public to share their ideas, comments and questions. Feedback and questions should be directed to the Board's email account at boe@farmingdaleschools.org. Questions and comments would be publicly addressed at the next Board meeting. Mr. Goldberg thanked everyone for their anticipated courtesy and cooperation. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Superintendent's Update** Board President Michael Goldberg introduced Superintendent of Schools Paul Defendini and asked for an update on the status of the school and instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Defendini began by stating that there had been significant changes to the instructional and operational systems of the school district. He stated that he and his administrative team were very proud of the efforts made by every member of the school organization: the food service department has provided over 1,000 meals for the families of our community; the operations and maintenance staff members have cleaned over 1.2 million square feet of our buildings; teachers have provided online instructional resources and personalized instruction to our 5,500 students; telephone and mail systems have been set up to ensure that we are in continual contact with our school community. Our work continues as we strive to meet the needs of our students in an environment that allows for the protection of the health and safety of us all. Mr. Defendini thanked the Board of Education for their continued support. He also congratulated and thanked the members of the Farmingdale family for their tireless efforts over the course of the last ten days. He recognized that we will continually assess the work we are doing during these uncertain times.

**Budget Presentation - Michael Motisi** Superintendent of Schools Paul Defendini continued with an introduction of the Assistant to the Superintendent for Business Michael Motisi. Mr. Motisi began his 2020-2021 Budget Presentation. He stated that the powerpoint would include an outline of the goals, detailed revenue, fund balance, reserves and appropriation calculations, proposed state legislation, capital projects, facility work and the budget calendar.

Budget goals for 2020/2021 would continue with those established over the course of the last several years and include staying within the tax levy limit, managing programs and services, continuing to stabilize the district's financial condition and continuing to protect the district from fluctuations in state aid and retirement system and health benefit costs. Mr. Motisi detailed the sources for district revenue, which is comprised of property taxes and PILOT payments (78% of total revenue), state aid (18%) and other, unpredictable revenue streams, which include tuitions, property rental, Medicaid reimbursements, interest payments, student fees and the application of fund balance and reserves to operating costs. Mr. Motisi further detailed each category of revenue, explaining the subcategories of state aid, including foundation and high tax aid, reimbursement and expense drive aid, categorical aid, and grants. A new "Community Schools Set Aside" program provides for funds to support the transformation of school buildings into community hubs. High tax aid is intended to

provide relief to areas across the state that are viewed as high wealth due to high property values. Foundation aid provides for an appropriate share of state aid based on wealth and student need. He explained reimbursable aid, wherein the district pays for certain services and then waits for the reimbursement. This would include transportation, library, textbooks, software, computer hardware, technology and BOCES services. Categorical and grant funding includes Universal Pre-K, Title grants, IDEA an special legislative grants, which can vary from year to year. Mr Motisi provided comparative details from the 2019-2020 revenue to 2020-2021 anticipated revenue and stated that the district would see an additional 2.78% year to year increase.

Mr. Motisi's presentation continued with an explanation of this anticipated appropriations for 2020-2021, which include a .32% overall increase the salaries. There is a slight decrease in health insurance costs and a slight increase in TRS contribution costs. The ERS rates remained stable. There were increases to FICA and Medicare costs. Transportation costs have increased based on calculations within a new five-year contract. Offsets to the increases include combining routes and changing bus stop locations.

Mr. Motisi provided an overview of the 2020-2021 initiatives that are built into the budget proposal, including an introduction of psychiatry services in partnership with South Oaks hospital and academic program pilots, including an expansion of an academic center and the math inquiry lab supports at the middle school, teacher training, student social/emotional programs. Capital projects include lighting and sound systems, lockers, playgrounds, concrete work, fencing, elevators, ceiling and boiler replacements. Mr. Motisi detailed some of the larger capital projects that were on-going including the building of the aquatic center, districtwide bathroom renovations, and a third energy performance contract.

As he concluded his presentation, Mr. Motisi stated that the district is continuing the budget cycle as established under the regulations. It is anticipated that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that there might be changes to the budget calendar and even to the budget vote and election process. As guidance is provided by the Governor's office and the New York State Education department on any adjustments, the district would be proactive in providing information to our residents. At this point in time, the budget vote is scheduled for May 19, 2020 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Board President Michael Goldberg thanked Mr. Motisi for his efforts in developing a budget that stays within the tax cap limitations.

At the state level, the Governor's proposal includes changes to the STAR program based on income levels and changes to the foundation aid and expense based aid formulas.

### **Items for Action**

<b>Authorization of Reserve Fund Expenditure Proposition #2</b>	BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Farmingdale Union Free School District, Towns of Oyster Bay and Babylon, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York, as follows:  <b>Section 1.</b> The proposition hereinafter set forth is hereby authorized to be
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submitted for the approval of the qualified voters at the annual school district election to be held in said School District, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

**Section 2.** The School District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to include as a part of the notice of the annual district meeting and election notice with reference to the submission of said proposition in substantially the following form:

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at said annual election to be held on May 19, 2020, the following proposition will be submitted:

**RESERVE FUND EXPENDITURE PROPOSITION #2**

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District, Towns of Oyster Bay and Babylon, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to expend \$5,000,000 from the Building and Facilities Capital Reserve Fund in order to pay the cost of bathroom renovations at various schools, including incidental expenses in connection therewith.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>Voting:</u></b>
Mr. Espinosa	Aye
Mr. Giordano	Aye
Mrs. Lively	Aye
Mr. Morales	Aye
Mrs. Soete	Aye
Mrs. D'Amico	Aye
Mr. Goldberg	Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**Authorization  
of Reserve  
Fund  
Expenditure  
Proposition #3**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Farmingdale Union Free School District, Towns of Oyster Bay and Babylon, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York, as follows:

**Section 1.** The proposition hereinafter set forth is hereby authorized to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters at the annual school district election to be held in said School District, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

**Section 2.** The School District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to include as a part of the notice of the annual district meeting and election notice with reference to the submission of said proposition in substantially the following form:

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at said annual election to be held on May 19, 2020, the following proposition will be submitted:

RESERVE FUND EXPENDITURE PROPOSITION #3

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District, Towns of Oyster Bay and Babylon, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to expend \$350,000 from the Building and Facilities Capital Reserve Fund in order to pay the cost of construction management services in connection with Energy Performance Contract II improvements in the district, including incidental expenses in connection therewith.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b><u>Name:</u></b>	<b><u>Voting:</u></b>
Mr. Espinosa	Aye
Mr. Giordano	Aye
Mrs. Lively	Aye
Mr. Morales	Aye
Mrs. Soete	Aye
Mrs. D'Amico	Aye
Mr. Goldberg	Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

**Adoption of  
the Annual  
Budget Vote  
and Election  
Resolution**

RESOLVED, that the Farmingdale Union Free School District Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Annual Budget Vote and Election of the Farmingdale Union Free School District, of the Towns of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, and Babylon, Suffolk County, New York, shall be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. in the West gymnasium of the Weldon E. Howitt Middle School, 70 Van Cott Avenue, Farmingdale, New York, and the Public Hearing shall be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. in the East cafeteria of the Weldon E. Howitt Middle School in said district for the purposes set forth in the annexed notice.

RESOLVED, that said notice (copy attached) be published once in each of four weeks in the seven weeks preceding the annual budget and election voting in the *Massapequa Post* and the *Farmingdale Observer*, two newspapers having general circulation in the district. The first notice must appear at least 45 days before the date of the vote.

RESOLVED, that the school District Clerk is hereby authorized to amend and/or supplement this notice hereinafter set forth from time to time as in her discretion such amendment may be required.

RESOLVED, that Michael Goldberg is designated as Permanent Chairperson of the Election and Suzanne D'Amico will serve as the alternate Chairperson in accordance with Section 2025 of the Education Law.

**Appointment  
of Chief  
Inspector,  
Assistant  
Clerks and  
Inspectors /  
Budget Vote  
and Election**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Elections of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approve a resolution to appoint the Chief Election Inspector, Assistant Clerks and Inspectors of the Election for the school district Budget Vote and Election dated May 19, 2020.

**Approval of a  
Memorandum  
of Agreement  
with the  
Nassau  
County Board  
of Elections  
for the May  
19, 2020  
Budget Vote  
and Election**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Farmingdale Union Free School District approves a memorandum of agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections regarding election services for the May 19, 2020 Budget Vote and Election.

**Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mrs. Lively, the meeting was adjourned,

Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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Mary E. Rogers, District Clerk