



# Farmingdale School District

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**DATE:** March 24, 2021

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

**PLACE:** Virtual Meeting: [www.farmingdaleschools.org](http://www.farmingdaleschools.org)

**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 8:00 p.m. 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).

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

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 would 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.

**Motion to Suspend Public Participation**

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

Motion carried 7-0

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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 responded to by members of the central administrative team and would be publicly reviewed at the next regular Board meeting. Mr. Goldberg thanked everyone for their anticipated courtesy and cooperation. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Superintendent's Update****Budget Presentation - Michael Motisi**

Board of Education President Michael Goldberg introduced Superintendent of Schools Paul Defendini and asked for an introduction to this week's budget presentation. Mr. Defendini stated that Mr. Motisi's presentation would summarize last week's presentation and then would address some of the capital work happening across the district.

Assistant to the Superintendent for Business Michael Motisi began his presentation with an overview and summary of the operating budget as detailed on March 17. All presentations would be available on the district's website at [www.farmingdaleschools.org](http://www.farmingdaleschools.org). Mr. Motisi outlined the 2021-2022 budget goals. He detailed the proposed revenue budget and the cost element appropriations summary.

Mr. Motisi began his capital presentation with a review of the voter approved propositions of capital reserve funding for the use of bathroom renovations. He stated that some of the projects needed SED approval. His summary showed the three phases of the projects and detailed those completed, those in progress and those not yet started. Additional facilities projects include fire alarm upgrades, doorway projects, a new CTE area at Farmingdale High School, middle school ceiling tile replacements, playground replacement at Albany Avenue, rubberized playground surface replacement at Northside, locker replacements at Saltzman East Memorial and floor abatement at Woodward Parkway. The Energy Performance Contract No. 2, including the continued replacement of interior and exterior lighting (LED lights), the placement of window films for energy savings, and the renewable energy photovoltaic electric generation carports, will continue in 2021-2022. Slides of each of the campuses were presented with the anticipated carport placements.

Mr. Motisi provided an update on the aquatic center project. Photographs of the work site were shared. The competitive pool structure, the community pool, the mechanical room with filtration and heating systems, and an artists rendering of the completed site were provided. Mr. Motisi stated that the early construction of the building steel frame started to go up that day.

Dr. William Brennan, Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and

Organizational Development, provided an update of the Smart Schools Bond Act and the district's plan to install high tech security features, high speed broadband and wireless internet connectivity and the expansion of classroom learning technology. The district has received just over \$2.5 million dollars in total. Encumbrances currently include the purchase of interactive boards, a TV studio at Farmingdale High School, CNC routers and printers, and security equipment. The installation of one-button lockdown system, interior cameras, exterior cameras and the upgrade to servers and storage are all planned for Summer 2021.

Mr. Motisi provided an overview of the status of the capital reserve fund. He stated that the reserve was established through an approved voter proposition. The capital reserve is funded through year end fund balance and the reallocation of reserves and/or interest. Voter approval is also required for any planned expenditures. The capital reserve fund has a maximum not-to-exceed value of \$20 million. Drawdowns have been approved for roofing projects, bathroom renovations and the energy performance contracts.

The district is required to complete a building condition survey and five year capital facilities plan; this is currently complete and will be part of a review for future capital work planning.

The presentation transitioned to long term planning Mr. Motisi stated that the district's Moody's report remains at a Aa2 level. It was noted in the 2020 report that the district' cash balance as a percentage of operating revenues is under the US median and narrowed significantly between 2015 and 2019. In addition, the district's fund balance as a percent of operating revenues is also lower than the US median. This is a result of the district's use of fund balance and, specifically, the use of the capital reserve funds. Mr. Motisi used the historical data of available fund balance and reserve data to explain the changes in our fiscal position. He spoke about the challenges in using trends to design projections based on the CPI and associated tax levy limits. CPI rates fluctuate based on unemployment rates, federal policy changes, world events and other factors. He demonstrated the changes in state aid from 2008-2009 and the long-term impact of reductions in any given year. TRS and ERS costs tend to follow a cyclical pattern but the health benefit costs are inconsistent and not easily projected.

Mr. Motisi provided a budget to budget comparison from the approved 2020-2021 approved budget to the 2021-2022 proposed budget. His slide included both the revenue and appropriations sides of each and included the anticipated impact on fund balance. Reserves are used for one-time expenses or for unanticipated expenses. In 2020-2021, the increases in expenses associated with COVID-19 has resulted in many one-time expenditures. The district was well situated to be able to absorb the increased costs.

Mr. Motisi's presentation concluded with a summary of the proposed budget, the upcoming budget workshops, and the budget vote and election to be held on

May 18, 2021 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Howitt West gymnasium.

## Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mrs. Lively that the Consent Agenda consisting of Items I (1)-(3) be approved as a whole with action recorded separately.

### *I Items for Action*

**Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Nassau County Board of Elections for the May 18, 2021 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 18, 2021 Budget Vote and Election.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Kathy Lively, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

**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 18, 2021 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 11, 2021, 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.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Kathy Lively, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

**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 18, 2021.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Suzanne D'Amico, Vice President
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Kathy Lively, Trustee
<b>AYES:</b>	Lively, Morales, Goldberg, Espinosa, Giordano, D'Amico, Soete

**Adjournment** On a motion made by Mrs. D'Amico, seconded by Mr. Espinosa, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion carried 7-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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Mary E. Rogers, District Clerk