

Minutes are considered "DRAFT" until approved by committee at next meeting

Minutes  
Farmington High School Community Survey Ad Hoc Committee  
October 4, 2018

**Present:**

Beth Kintner, Chair  
C.J. Thomas  
Maura McInnis  
Camille Simpson  
Ellen Siuta  
Chris Fagan

Erica Robertson, Assistant Town Manager  
Kathy Greider, Superintendent of Schools  
Bill Silva, Farmington High School Principal  
Nancy Nickerson, Ex-Officio Member  
Kat Krajewski, Management Specialist  
Jerry Lindsley, Center for Research and Public Policy (CRPP)

**Absent:**

Bill Beckert  
Matt Ross, Director of Technology  
Kathy Eagen, Town Manager

**A. Call to Order.**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**B. Public Comment.**

None.

**C. Minutes**

**1) To approve the attached September 27, 2018 minutes.**

Upon a motion made and seconded (Thomas/Siuta) it was VOTED to approve the September 27, 2018 minutes.

Voting yes were Kintner, Thomas, McInnis, Simpson, Siuta.  
Chris Fagan abstained, as he was not at the last meeting.

**D. New Business.**

**1) Update from the FHS Facility and Financial Ad Hoc Committee.**

No update.

**2) To review the attached draft survey questions.**

The committee reviewed Draft II of the survey. Jerry Lindsley, Center for Research and Public Policy (CRPP) walked the committee through the changes that were made from the previous draft. A copy of Draft II is attached to these minutes as Attachment A.

The committee decided to start their discussion with the financial questions (page 7). Erica Robertson and Kat Krajewski informed the committee that they met with Joe Swetcky, Finance Director and created a draft of the questions that include an average increase in taxes per year (over 20 years) for the average Farmington residential

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assessment based on different project costs. A copy of the draft questions are attached to these minutes as Attachment B.

Below is a summary of the survey discussion:

- Questions #25-27 (financial):
  - \$135.6 million (which was the last project's price) will be changed to \$135
  - Revise question to read "if the investment in the new high school construction or renovation is \$\_\_\_\_\_ this would mean an average increase of \$\_\_\_\_ in taxes per year over 20 years for the average Farmington residential assessment..."
  - Remove the \$50 million option
  - It was noted that the last tier would not include new construction, revise the question to read "if the investment in high school renovation without any new construction is \$75 million..."
- Question #17- Revise to read "increased space and classroom needs for educational programming."
- Remove Question #18
- Remove Question #19
- Remove Question #21
- Question #23- Revise to read "if space could be identified for purchase, I would support a new high school in a different location."
- Question #29-A note for researchers was added to identify opponents (Responsible Farmington) and proponents (Farmington Future/Yes for FHS). in case respondents refer to the organizations by name. United Farmington was also identified as a neutral group.
- Remove Question #31
- Question #43:
  - Move "No children" to the first response
  - Add "Have children who started in the Farmington schools but left for private or other schools
  - Remove "(over 18)" in responses 04 and 05
- Add a question asking the respondent the last time they were inside Farmington High School.
- Remove Question #44
- Remove Question #46
- Remove Question #47
- The committee had a discussion regarding the inclusion of non-resident property owners. In the 2017 referendum the number of property owners (non-electors) that voted was 90. This amounts to about one-half of one percent of eligible voters and 1.2 percent of the total vote. Due to the small percentage, it was decided not to include.

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**3) To take any action on the survey questions.**

Upon a motion made and seconded (Thomas/Simpson) it was unanimously VOTED: To approve the survey questions as amended.

This motion is pursuant to the committee receiving an updated version of the questions (Draft III) via email by Monday, October 8, 2018. The committee can send any comments or suggestions via email before final approval is given to CRPP.

**4) To review the upcoming meeting schedule.**

The committee's next meeting will be November 1, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall Council Chambers.

**E. Other Business.**

Kat Krajewski reported that the Town Manager's Office is working on completing a frequently asked question section for the survey committee to be placed on the Town website and a flyer to distribute to spread the word about the upcoming survey.

**F. Adjournment.**

Upon a motion made and seconded (Thomas/Simpson) the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Krajewski  
Management Specialist

THE CENTER  
FOR RESEARCH



& PUBLIC POLICY

## FARMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY SURVEY DRAFT II

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Researcher:	Date:
Time start:	CB:
Time end:	Supervisor:

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Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a research assistant at The Center for Research and Public Policy. We are talking today with a random selection of residents of Farmington, Connecticut about the Farmington High School facility. Your input will help guide decisions over the years ahead. Your responses are strictly confidential and we will not ask for your name.

### SCREENER

A. Are you at least 18 years of age or older?

- 01 Yes (**Continue**)
- 02 No (**Thank and ask for qualified respondent or terminate**)
- 03 DK (**Thank and terminate**)

B. Are you currently a resident of Farmington, Connecticut?

- 01 Yes (**Continue**)
  - 02 No (**Thank and ask for qualified respondent**)
  - 03 Unsure (**Thank ask for qualified respondent**)
-

## **QUALITY OF LIFE**

1. Please describe your overall quality of life living in Farmington, Connecticut. Would you say it is...?

- 01 Very good;
- 02 Good;
- 03 Poor; or
- 04 Very poor.
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

2. And, how would you describe your own standard of living today compared to two years ago? Would you say....

- 01 Improved;
- 02 No movement, but good;
- 03 No movement, and not so good; or
- 04 Declined.
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

3. Please rate the Farmington town services overall using a scale of one to ten where one is very poor and ten is very good.

Rating Farmington Town Services	Very Poor										Very Good	DK
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	

4. Please rate your overall impression of the quality of the Farmington Public Schools using a scale of one to ten where one is very poor and ten is very good.

Rating Farmington Public Schools	Very Poor										Very Good	DK
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	

## A FRESH START

A committee has been charged with collecting input from residents to assist town leaders in developing the future upgrades and updates of the Farmington High School facility.

This survey is an effort to collect important views among residents.

### Interest

5. How interested would you say you are in the renewed planning process for a new or renovated Farmington High School? Would you say...?

- 01 Very interested
- 02 Somewhat interested
- 03 Somewhat uninterested
- 04 Not at all interested
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

6. Overall, and in general, how important is it to you that changes are made to the Farmington High School? Would you say...?

- 01 Very important
- 02 Somewhat important
- 03 Somewhat unimportant
- 04 Not at all important
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

7. Based on all you know or have heard about the existing high school, what high school facility changes should the town consider going forward? (**Researchers: Probe several times: “Is there anything else?” and accept multiple responses**)

- 01 A facility that is better designed to **educate**
- 02 A facility that is better designed to **attract new families** to town
- 03 A facility that is **safe and secure** for students, faculty and staff
- 04 A warm, more **comfortable** building for visitors, students, faculty and staff
- 05 High school facility can be used as a **Community Shelter**
- 06 Ensuring ADA: **Handicap** accessibility
- 07 Maintaining **accreditation**
- 08 Larger **cafeteria**
- 09 Larger **auditorium**
- 10 Better **parking**
- 11 **Tennis courts**
- 12 **Code** compliance
- 13 New **roof**
- 14 Adding a **second floor**
- 15 **Reducing the sprawl**
- 16 Maintaining the **historic appearance** / look
- 17 **Update** the 1928 building
- 18 **Demolish** the 1928 building
- 19 **Keep / mothball the 1928 building**
- 20 Improving **energy efficiency**
- 21 Improved and ADA accessible **athletic fields**
- 22 Ensure **21<sup>st</sup> century learning** is available to our students
- 23 **Temperature control**
- 24 **Gymnasium** – upgraded and/or ADA compliant
- 25 **Preserve the existing high school** for other uses
- 26 **None – no need for a new or renovated high school (exclusive)**
- 27 **Unsure/no suggestions (exclusive)**
- 28 Other: (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

## Awareness

The following are several issues, based on a **Statement of Need** for the high school facility, that will require repairs or upgrades at the existing high school. For each, please tell me if you were very aware, somewhat aware, somewhat unaware or not at all aware of each issue.

Required Needs	Very Aware	Somewhat Aware	Somewhat Unaware	Not at all Aware	DK
8. Meet ADA Handicap Accessibility requirements	01	02	03	04	05
9. Meet and maintain high school accreditation requirements	01	02	03	04	05
10. Increased space for the auditorium, library, cafeteria and classrooms to accommodate students and educational needs	01	02	03	04	05
11. School safety and security upgrades	01	02	03	04	05
12. Improvements - to address environmental issues such as temperature, water, air, noise and light	01	02	03	04	05
13. Roof repairs required	01	02	03	04	05
14. Code compliance including energy efficiency improvements	01	02	03	04	05
15. Parking lot improvements such as traffic flow and number of spaces	01	02	03	04	05
16. Sprawl of the building, after additions, has caused increased internal travel time, hallway congestion, wasted usable space, and the need to cross outside the building during class changes which reduces security	01	02	03	04	05
17. Increased space and classroom needs such as Farmington Public Schools Central Office, programs such as robotics, the alternative high school and other educational programming	01	02	03	04	05



## Statements: Going Forward

The following are several statements related to the Farmington high school. As I read each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

Statements	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK
18. In either new construction or renovation – attracting new families and students to town should be a priority	01	02	03	04	05
19. I could be convinced to support new construction or renovation if I clearly understood the annual cost in new property taxes to me and my family	01	02	03	04	05
20. I could be convinced to support new construction or renovation if I clearly understood the need					
21. Public communication of a new design should outline upgrades and desired updates for an improved learning environment	01	02	03	04	05
22. An updated and upgraded high school facility is important to maintaining home property values	01	02	03	04	05
23. If space could be identified, I would support a new high school in a different location	01	02	03	04	05

## Support and Opposition

24. While we have not yet covered the costs in this survey associated with new construction, heavy renovation or just light renovation which meets only minimal upgrade requirements, which of these directions would you say you are leaning towards today? Would you say ...?

- 01 A newly constructed high school where about 85% is new and where all required or most of desired upgrades are considered;
- 02 A heavily renovated high school where all required and some of the desired upgrades are accomplished; or
- 03 A lightly renovated high school where only the minimum required upgrades are accomplished.
- 04 **Do Not Read:** None of these options
- 05 **Do Not Read:** Unsure / Don't know

The committee, tasked with looking at future upgrades and updates of the Farmington High School facility, will be exploring new construction, heavy renovation and light renovation that will range in overall cost from \$65 million dollars to \$135 million dollars.

25. If the investment in new high school construction or renovation would mean an additional \$750.00 per year for the average Farmington property owner over 20 years, how strongly would you support or oppose the effort in a new referendum? Would you say you would...?

- 01 Definitely support it **(Go to Q29)**
- 02 Probably support it **(Go to Q28)**
- 03 Probably oppose it
- 04 Definitely oppose it
- 05 Unsure / don't know

26. And, if the cost of the investment was \$500.00 annually over 20 years for the average Farmington property owner? Would you say you would...?

- 01 Definitely support it **(Go to Q29)**
- 02 Probably support it **(Go to Q28)**
- 03 Probably oppose it
- 04 Definitely oppose it
- 05 Unsure / don't know

27. And, if the cost of the investment was \$250.00 annually over 20 years for the average Farmington property owner increased annual property tax? Would you say you would...?

- 05 Definitely support it **(Go to Q29)**
- 06 Probably support it
- 07 Probably oppose it
- 08 Definitely oppose it
- 05 Unsure / don't know

28. Please tell us three or four things you would need to see, hear or better understand before you would feel comfortable saying **you would definitely support** either new construction or renovation of the Farmington High School. **(Researcher: Probe – “Is there anything else?”**

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## Communication

29. Please tell me where you usually get information about the Farmington school system and town? **(Researchers: Accept multiple responses)**

- 01 Internet / Websites
- 02 Farmington Town newsletter
- 03 Everbridge
- 04 Farmington Schools Website
- 05 Farmington Town Website
- 04 TV
- 05 Radio
- 06 Local Newspapers: Printed
- 07 Local Newspapers: Online
- 08 Friends/Family/Neighbors/Co-workers
- 09 Social media such as Facebook
- 10 Employer
- 11 Directly from the schools / school system
- 12 Emails
- 13 Flyers/brochures
- 14 Direct mail
- 15 Opponents of school facility initiatives
- 16 Proponents of school facility initiatives
- 17 State news outlets (papers, radio, TV)
- 18 Blogs
- 19 Farmington Public Schools App
- 20 Talk of Farmington
- 21 Front Porch or similar community forum
- 22 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- 23 DK/Unsure

30. Please tell me which, if any, social media you use. If you don't use social media, simply say so.  
**(Researchers: Accept multiple responses)**

Social Media Used	
01	Facebook
02	Twitter
03	Pinterest
04	LinkedIn
05	Snap Chat
06	YouTube
07	Google Plus+ (not "Google")
08	Yelp
09	Instagram
10	Foursquare
11	Front Porch Forum or similar community forum
12	Other: _____
13	Don't Use Social Media <b>(exclusive)</b>

31. How likely would you be to attend one or more public meetings or presentations about a newly revised approach to high school upgrades and updates? Would you say...?

- 01 Very likely
- 02 Somewhat likely
- 03 Somewhat unlikely
- 04 Not at all likely
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

## HISTORY: THE 2017 REFERENDUM

Now, we'll ask you to think back to the 2017 Farmington High School new construction and renovation referendum.

### Supported / Opposed

32. Regardless of whether you voted in the 2017 referendum or not, please tell me if you strongly supported, somewhat supported, somewhat opposed or strongly opposed the new high school construction as outlined on the referendum ballot?

- 01 Strongly supported (**Continue**)
- 02 Somewhat supported (**Continue**)
- 03** Somewhat opposed (**Go to Q34**)
- 04 Strongly opposed (**Go to Q34**)
- 05 Had no opinion / no interest (**Go to Q35**)
- 06 Unsure / Don't Know (**Go to Q35**)

33. Please tell me two or three reasons you supported (strongly or somewhat) the 2017 new high school construction referendum.

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### **Researchers: Q33 ONLY for those opposed – codes 03/04 in Q32)**

34. Please tell me two or three reasons you opposed (strongly or somewhat) the 2017 new high school construction referendum.

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## Perception Statements

The following are several statements about the 2017 Farmington High School referendum process. For each, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree based on all you know or had heard. If you are unsure, simply say so.

Statements	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK
35. I was confident I knew the cost to me of a new high school in additional property taxes	01	02	03	04	05
36. I saw the overall cost of the new high school as too high	01	02	03	04	05
37. I clearly understood the proposal for the high school that was presented in the referendum	01	02	03	04	05
38. The communication to the public was adequate – I had enough information to make an informed decision	01	02	03	04	05
39. Public input was sought in the planning process	01	02	03	04	05

40. In millions, please try to recall and tell me the total proposed cost for the Farmington High School new construction and renovation as presented in the 2017 referendum ballot?

- 01 Under 50 million
- 02 50 to under 75 million
- 03 75 to under 100 million
- 04 100 to under 125 million
- 05 125 to under 150 million
- 06 150 to under 175 million
- 07 175 to under 200 million
- 08 200 million or more
- 09 Don't know / Unsure / Don't recall

## DEMOGRAPHICS

41. Please tell me the number of years you have lived in Farmington, Connecticut?

- 01 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Researchers: Please enter one number, no words or ranges)  
77 DK/Unsure  
99 Refused

42. Please tell me your age?

- 01 18-24  
02 25-34  
03 35-44  
04 45-54  
05 55-64  
06 65 or older  
07 Refused

43. Please tell me which of the following best describes the children you may have...

**(Researchers: Accept Multiple Responses)**

- 01 Have children not yet of school age (pre-school or younger)  
02 Have children of school age currently attending Farmington schools  
03 Have children of school age not attending Farmington schools (private school, etc)  
04 Have older (over 18) children who attended Farmington schools in the past  
05 Have older (over 18) children who did not attend Farmington schools (such as didn't live in Farmington / attended private)  
06 No children  
07 Unsure / Don't know / Refused

44. Are you currently registered to vote in Farmington?

- 01 Yes  
02 No  
03 Unsure

45. How likely would you say you are to vote in a second, new referendum on high school new construction or renovation? Would you say...?

- 01 Very likely  
02 Somewhat likely  
03 Somewhat unlikely  
04 Not at all likely  
05 Unsure

46. What is your highest grade of school completed?

- 01 Did not graduate from high school
- 02 High school graduate or GED
- 03 Associates degree
- 04 Some college
- 05 College graduate
- 06 Post-graduate or professional degree

47. Please tell me which of the following Farmington neighborhoods best represents where you live. If none of these, simply say so.

- 01 **Neighborhood known as:** Unionville- Lake Garda
- 02 Neighborhood known as: West District – Southwest -- Westwoods
- 03 **Neighborhood known as:** East Farms – Oakland Gardens- Health Center – Talcott – Route 10 North
- 04 **Neighborhood known as:** Farmington Village –Meadows – Route 10 (south)
- 05 **Neighborhood known as:** Highlands- Route 4 – Brickyard Rd
- 06 Other / None of these

48. Which of the following categories best describes your total family income before taxes?

- 01 Under \$50,000
- 02 \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
- 03 \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
- 04 \$100,000 to less than \$175,000
- 05 \$175,000 to less than \$200,000
- 06 \$200,000 to less than \$225,000
- 07 \$225,000 to less than \$250,000
- 08 \$250,000 to less than \$300,000
- 09 \$300,00 or more
- 10 Unsure

***‘Thanks you very much for your participation in this important survey.’***

CODE: Gender by observation.

- 01 Male
- 02 Female



If the investment in the new high school construction or renovation is \$\_\_\_\_\_ this would mean an average of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in taxes per year over 20 years for the average Farmington residential assessment, how strongly would you support or oppose the effort in a new referendum? Would you say you would...?

- 01 Definitely support it (**Go to Q29**)
- 02 Probably support it (**Go to Q28**)
- 03 Probably oppose it
- 04 Definitely oppose it
- 05 Unsure/don't know

**(Note to CRPP - Average Residential Assessment is \$226,777)**

If the investment in the new high school construction or renovation is **\$135.6 Million** this would mean an average of **\$513** in taxes per year over 20 years for the average Farmington residential assessment, how strongly would you support or oppose the effort in a new referendum? Would you say you would...?

If the investment in the new high school construction or renovation is **\$125 Million** this would mean an average of **\$435** in taxes per year over 20 years for the average Farmington residential assessment, how strongly would you support or oppose the effort in a new referendum? Would you say you would...?

And, if the investment in the new high school construction or renovation is **\$100 Million** this would mean an average of **\$348** in taxes per year over 20 years for the average Farmington residential assessment, how strongly would you support or oppose the effort in a new referendum? Would you say you would...?

If the investment in the new high school construction or renovation is **\$75 Million** this would mean an average of **\$261** in taxes per year over 20 years for the average Farmington residential assessment, how strongly would you support or oppose the effort in a new referendum? Would you say you would...?

If the investment in the new high school construction or renovation is **\$50 Million** this would mean an average of **\$174** in taxes per year over 20 years for the average Farmington residential assessment, how strongly would you support or oppose the effort in a new referendum? Would you say you would...?