

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

Minutes
Farmington High School Community Survey Ad Hoc Committee
November 15, 2018

Present:

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

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

Absent:

Matt Ross, Director of Technology

A. Call to Order.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

B. Public Comment.

Jay Tulin, 39 Timberline Drive, shared his survey findings with the committee. One finding is how misinformation can impact the referendum and the second is the importance of exposing the community members to the high school facility.

C. Minutes

1) To approve the attached November 1, 2018 Minutes.

D. Upon a motion made and seconded (Thomas/Beckert) it was unanimously VOTED to approve the November 1, 2018 minutes.

E. New Business.

1) Update from the FHS Facility & Financial Committee.

Kat Krajewski provided an update on the FHS Facility and Financial Committee. She explained that the committee held its information gathering meeting last Thursday, November 8, 2018 at the FHS Auditorium. Approximately 30-35 people were in attendance and 8 spoke at public comment. The issues that were addressed are consistent with the topics that have been discussed at Facility & Financial Committee meetings (ex: the cost of doing nothing) as well as in the survey results. The committee's next meeting is a joint meeting with the Survey Committee on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 7:00 in the FHS Cafeteria. The committee is working on securing a date to meet in December to work on their recommendations to the Town Council and Board of Education.

2) To review and discuss the survey findings and recommendations.

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The committee reviewed the draft document titled "Survey Results-Findings & Recommendations." A copy of this document is recorded with these minutes as Attachment A.

Staff members created this document based on the survey results and the committee discussion at the November 1, 2018 meeting. The committee had general discussion regarding the presentation of the results and made the following modifications:

- Edits in the "Findings" Section
 - Add "as outlined in the Statement of Needs" to the bullet that reads "Residents are aware of the needs of FHS"
 - Remove the bullet that reads "15.5% support a project where the minimum required updates are accomplished;" reword to read "There was less interest in a renovation where the minimum required upgrades are accomplished (15.5%); and add to the section "74.1% of respondents support a project that is more than the minimum requirements."
- Edits in the "Recommendations" Section
 - Remove the bullet point that reads "An interest group in support of the project will be beneficial to get the message out-need to get into the neighborhoods." The data regarding family and friends under this bullet point will be moved to the communication section.
 - Revise "better, focused communication to read "focused, clear, concise communication is necessary to build support of a project."
 - There was a recommendation to add specific questions to focus on under the recommendation that reads "a new building committee should use the survey results throughout their process."

The committee also discussed adding a section on the observations made by the consultant. In the presentation, CRPP summarizes their findings, which include the opposition identifying and turning out people to vote.

Staff will implement the changes and email the committee by the end of the day tomorrow (November 16, 2018). If the committee has any update or additional comments, please let Erica know by Monday, November 19, 2018.

3) To confirm the upcoming meeting schedule.

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The committee's next meeting is the joint meeting with the FHS Facility and Financial Committee on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the FHS Cafeteria.

The committee discussed the agenda for the meeting, which will include a presentation of the survey results and a review of the survey committee's findings and recommendations. It was suggested to include a question and answer section for the committees to discuss the survey results.

F. Other Business.

None.

G. Adjournment.

Upon a motion made and seconded (Thomas/Beckert) the meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Krajewski
Management Specialist

FHS Community Survey Ad Hoc Committee
Survey Results- Findings & Recommendations- DRAFT
November 8, 2018

SUMMARY

The Farmington High School Community Survey Ad Hoc Committee selected the Center for Research and Public Policy to collect input regarding citizen attitudes towards and willingness to finance a high school project. The research study included 400 completed survey response, collected from October 17-25, 2018. The survey included the following areas for investigation:

- Quality of life living in Farmington;
- Current standard of living;
- Rating Farmington Town services;
- Rating Farmington Public Schools;
- Interest in and perceived importance of Farmington High School upgrades/updates;
- Awareness levels for Statement of Need required high school repairs;
- Overall support or opposition to modifying Farmington high School;
- Support and opposition to new construction/renovation at varied cost levels/tax impact levels;
- Sources for information about the Farmington school system and town;
- Views on the 2017 high school referendum-support or opposition;
- Reasons for 2017 support or opposition in the referendum;
- Understanding of the 2017 associated high school new construction/renovation costs;
- Demographics.

The survey conducted by CRPP is approximately proportional to population contributions of Farmington, without significant over-or-under representation of various geographic or demographic groups within a sampling fame. A "super random digit" sampling procedure was utilized to derive a working telephone sample of both listed and unlisted telephone numbers. In addition, a "mixed access" sample of both cell and landline phone numbers was utilized.

Statistically, the sample of 400 surveys had an associated margin for error of +/- 4.89% at a 95% confidence interval.

FINDINGS

- **High Quality of Life**
 - 99.3% of residents surveyed reported their quality of life living in Farmington as very good (72.8%) or good (26.5%).
- **Satisfaction with Town services and Farmington Public Schools**
 - The positive rating for Town services was 87.9% and 82.1% on public schools.

- **Friends/Family/Neighbors/Co-workers, Printed Local Newspapers, and Farmington Town Letter are the 3 main ways people get information about the school system and Town.**
 - Friends/Family/Neighbors/Co-workers- 31.5%
 - Local Newspapers: Printed- 29.0%
 - Farmington Town newsletter- 23.3%
 - 9.5% use social media for information (Facebook is the most popular)
- **Residents are aware of the needs of FHS**
 - Approximately two-thirds of all residents surveyed were aware of most of the needs
 - Respondents were most aware of the needs for school safety and security upgrades (68.0%), required roof repairs (67.5%), and increased space to accommodate students and educational needs (67.3%)
- **There is support for a project**
 - 15.5% support a project where the minimum required updates are accomplished
 - 74.3% support at least a \$75M project
 - 62.3% support at least a \$100M project
 - 54.5% support at least a \$125M project
 - 51.0% support at least a \$135M project
 - 82.8% of respondents agree that an updated and upgraded high school facility is important to maintaining home property values
- **74.1% of respondents support a project that is more than the minimum requirements**
 - 32.8% support a new (at least 85% new) FHS where all required and most desired are considered; 41.3% support a renovated FHS where all required and some desired are accomplished.
 - 84.3% agreed that they could be convinced to support if they clearly understood the need.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **An interest group in support of the project will be beneficial to get the message out—need to get into the neighborhoods**
 - Friends/family/neighbors/co-workers is how most Farmington residents get their information (31.5%)
- **Better, focused communication**
 - Encourage more public participation
 - 54.3% think public participation was sought in the planning process

- Need to get people inside FHS (look at cross tabulations)
 - Show the public how the committee arrived at the proposed project
 - 59.8% said they had enough information to make an informed decision
 - Communicate the required vs. desired upgrades
 - 88% of those surveyed agreed that this should be distinguished in public communication
- **Facility Project Cost**
 - Clearly articulate & justify the price of the project (show residents what they are getting—required vs. desired)
 - 41% of those surveyed to not recall/know the price of the last project
 - 52% of those that opposed the project believe the price was overblown, costly, excessive, etc.
- **A new building committee should use the survey results throughout their process**

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