

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION**  
**FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2020**  
**POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA**

**Website:** [my.lwv.org/michigan/oakland-area](http://my.lwv.org/michigan/oakland-area)

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**7 Candidates for School District Board Member for TWO 6-year terms**

<p><b>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p><b>TWO 6-year terms</b> <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p>	<p><b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b> Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position that you are running for.</p>	<p><b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b> What are the top three (3) Priority Issues facing your school district and what actions would you take to address them if elected to the school board?</p>
<p><b>CHERYL BLAU</b> 23350 Cass Ave. Farmington, MI 48335</p>	<p>If the shoe doesn't fit, is it the foot's fault? Of course not. You keep trying on different shoes until you find the best fit for your particular foot. Yet this is not what most children in America's classrooms experience. We keep expecting children to change to fit the shape of the school rather than changing our schools to fit the ways children learn. I want to help facilitate change in our schools so that all of our children can thrive during their K-12 experiences here. With 30 years of K-12 teaching experience, expertise in best practices in teaching and current brain research on learning, academic degrees in psychology, education, and leadership, and decades of involvement in our community as a resident, Farmington Area Arts Commissioner, Beloved Community Initiative leader, Farmers Market volunteer, Warnerette, and parent of two Farmington High graduates, I am eager to draw upon my skills and knowledge for the benefit of our students, teachers, and parents.</p>	<p>Parents, students, and teachers are frustrated by the absence of action on the part of our administration and board to address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the individual cases when they occur and systemically. New district policies, initiatives, and curricula must be put in place to address and remedy these issues at every level throughout our school system. Second, with teen suicide on the rise, we must balance our academic expectations with the overall well-being of our students and be willing to consider new instructional models that support our students' physical, emotional, and psychological health and growth as well as their academic progress. Expanding our vocational education options can be part of this process by providing our students with more than one pathway to success and enabling more students to graduate from high school career-ready. Third, our board members must be more responsive to our community's concerns and more respectful to one another.</p>
<p><b>DAVID EHRLICH</b> P. O. Box 2475 Farmington Hills, MI 48333</p>	<p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	

## FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

<p><b>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p><b>TWO 6-year terms</b> <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p>	<p><b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b> Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position that you are running for.</p>	<p><b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b> What are the top three (3) Priority Issues facing your school district and what actions would you take to address them if elected to the school board?</p>
<p><b>MABLE FOX</b> 29303 Fieldstone Farmington Hills, MI 48334</p>	<p>I am a 23 years resident of Farmington Hills and mother of three young adult children. My sons attended Farmington Schools from K-12 grades and they are now attending college. My daughter is a product of Detroit Public Schools with advanced degrees. My campaign is built on Students First. Every Child Deserves a Champion. I am a lifelong champion for our kids and will bring a policy and data-driven approach to ensure that all of our children are successful in a safe and supportive environment. I am an expert in virtual and remote learning, with a career spanning 30 years in educational consulting. For the past 5 years, I have consulted with a leading Michigan online learning company selling, implementing, and monitoring virtual learning programs in districts across the state. I have been an advocate for students with challenges and have experienced firsthand how problematic it is as I guided my two sons and other children. As a certified teacher, I understand the teacher's perspective.</p>	<p>My three priorities are to govern through accountability, transparency, and equity to support our students. I believe that accountability is the cornerstone of transparency and equity. It all works together when there is a process that ensures continuous data analysis by regularly evaluating, monitoring, and adjusting the District's policies and plans.</p> <p>Through accountability, transparency can build trust with parents, students, teachers, and the Farmington Community. Accountability also ensures that every student receives equitable resources needed to be successful.</p>

## FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p><b>STEVEN GOLDBERG</b> 23051 Fox Creek Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48335</p>	<p>Julie and I moved to Farmington Hills with our son Grayson in 2011 and are happy we did. I'm a Director at Blue Cross in the Customer Experience area and have prior experience in strategic planning, finance, and provider relations. I have an MBA and a bachelor's in finance.</p> <p>Volunteering has long been a large part of my life: formal mentoring programs, coaching numerous youth sports teams, presiding over the Proud Dada's club at Hillside Elementary, and more.</p> <p>I believe that change is needed to unlock that passion our educators bring and address the challenges we face, beginning with how the board functions. With twenty years management in the private sector, I bring experience needed to effectively govern our school district. I'm volunteering so I can continue to devote my altruistic efforts to kids.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need much more clarity for all stakeholders: what's our vision, how we will get there, and how decisions are made. Also, given numerous choices parents have for where to live and send their kids, we must consider how we compare.</li> <li>• The culture of our Board is highly divisive and contentious. This not only reflects poorly on our city, but worse is a major distraction from real discussion and oversight on major issues we face. I will make it a priority to change that.</li> <li>• Finally, I want to ensure we attract great educators. I believe FPS is filled with great teachers, though it's unclear how that's measured. We compete against other districts and schools and must operate accordingly. I'm proud to be endorsed by the MEA.</li> </ul>
<p><b>JANET L. RAVITZ MEIR</b> 5554 Edinborough Dr. West Bloomfield, MI 48322</p>	<p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	

## FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p><b>RICHARD MUKAMAL</b> 30130 Deer Run Farmington Hills, MI 48331</p>	<p>I am a 26 year Farmington Hills resident whose spouse teaches in the district. My two adult daughters attended FPS and received an excellent education. My background includes 17 years as a sales and marketing executive in Fortune 500 companies, a consultant specializing in business strategy, a non profit executive and small business owner. I co-founded Crescendo Detroit, a non-profit after school program in the Dexter-Davison neighborhood of Detroit. I am running because I love our community and believe our kids deserve the best quality education we can possibly provide them. Appointed to the board in January 2019, I received my school board certification and Award of Merit from the MASB in my first year. I serve on the Academic Excellence and Policy &amp; Governance Committees. I am a strong strategic thinker with integrity, honesty and openness to community engagement.</p>	<p>The culture of FPS requires transformation in three major areas. First, we should educate our kids to be successful and productive citizens in the 21st century. Our current approach is insufficient. Students must learn core competencies rather than only information readily available to anyone with internet access. Today’s kindergartener will graduate high school and work in industries that do not yet exist.</p> <p>Second, we have already begun to transform how we operate as an educational organization. Every administrator must have clearly defined areas of responsibility, time sensitive goals and be held accountable for their results. Decision making should be based on objective metrics and not on personal considerations or internal politics.</p> <p>Third, we must ensure students and staff feel safe in an environment that embraces equity and inclusion, irrespective of a person’s race, religion or sexual identity. We must implement the strategic plan developed two years ago.</p>

## FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p><b>FRANK RAINES III</b> 22161 Sheffield Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48335</p>	<p>I have been in education for a while now. I love educating students. We, however, are in a society where we are missing the mark with our students. Our students and children could be brilliant if they were given the time to execute their skills and put into practice what's being placed before them. Thus, being a graduate from Central High School, Detroit, I left Michigan to attend MoreHouse College. I was a young preacher licensed under Rev. Dr. Benjamin Lawson Hooks from Greater New Mount Moriah Baptist on Owens and Oakland. That was great blessing in my life. I attended one year and was chosen to be a dorm counselor for the following year, but I didn't return. However, I received a greater Blessing by attending Wayne County Community College. Who would have thought doors would open that wide those years later, I would one of the Professors at school I finished my Associate Degree within the two years. I then matriculated at Wayne State University for a year, and later, the...</p>	<p>There seems to be issues about race occurring within our district, that I read about. Our climate is changing in this society and we are falling backwards instead of moving forward. If the truism of this matter is real, this would be priority #1. Next, I am a listener, that being said, I am not a person who jumps in on anything without practicing listening. My goal isn't to get on the board to make a name for myself, I desirous to give back to the community in which my two daughters graduated. This allows me return and share my gifts from years serving on multiple boards in New York, Across the county and Michigan.</p>

**FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)**

**3 Candidates for School District Board Member for ONE partial term ending 12/31/22**

<p><b>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p><b>ONE partial term</b> <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p><b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b> Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position that you are running for.</p>	<p><b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b> What are the top three (3) Priority Issues facing your school district and what actions would you take to address them if elected to the school board?</p>
<p><b>KEVIN J. HAMMER</b> 26543 Trillium Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48331</p>	<p>My wife and I have lived in Farmington Hills since we were married in 1987. We have three adult children, a 4th child by marriage, and three grandchildren.</p> <p>I graduated from the University of Detroit in 1980 with a BS, Accounting, and from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1983. I am a licensed attorney and CPA.</p> <p>Education is the most important function of state and local governments. I want to work with our Superintendent and board members for the best educational outcomes for our students. Now being retired, I have time to devote to the position as is necessary to fully engage leadership, teachers, parents and community to most effectively prepare students to be good citizens, and for a future in either college or a vocational career.</p> <p>I would bring a proven leadership track record, a collaborative attitude, organizational success, and a commitment to community-building, which I have exhibited in many civic events and organizations in which I have been involved.</p>	<p>In addition to restoring safe, in-person classroom instruction as soon as possible, my top priorities would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with the Superintendent and Board members to establish clear and aggressive goals for improved academic outcomes in order to prepare our students for responsible citizenship, and for college or career.</li> <li>2. Address and resolve racial equity tensions. These are issues, however, that should not burden what should otherwise be joyful and meaningful childhoods and educational experiences. These issues should be resolved at the adult level through increased awareness and with mutual respect. Children’s futures will be more equitable and just by preserving their childhood and providing a high quality education.</li> <li>3. Enhancing the parent/student/teacher relationship. I believe progress can be made in this dynamic by using the latest technology and communication tools. This, and by developing robust personal bonds, we can alleviate many of our academic and social challenges.</li> </ol>

**FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)**

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<p><b>CLAUDIA HEINRICH</b> 21650 Mayfield St. Farmington Hills, MI 48336</p>	<p>I am a 45 year resident of Farmington Hills, graduate of the University of Michigan, with a BA in Education and Eastern Michigan University with a MA in Mathematics. Education has always been a passion of mine; in 2015 I retired after a 40 year career teaching high school mathematics at Riverside High School in North Dearborn Heights, Mercy High School in Farmington Hills, and Stevenson High School in Livonia. In addition, I taught mathematics at Oakland Community College and Schoolcraft College. I have been married to my husband, Dave Heinrich, for 45 years; together we raised 4 daughters who attended Farmington Public Schools from preschool through high school graduation. Two of my daughters live in Farmington Hills, my grandchildren attend Farmington Public Schools.</p> <p>I ask for your vote so that I may continue my dedicated life-long work with education, giving back to this great community that has given so much to me and my family.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff. Violence, school shootings, bullying, racism and the COVID-19 pandemic are all challenges that our students are faced with. Ensuring that the school district invests in the resources and training to support the social emotional needs of the students is a must.</li> <li>2. A solid curriculum that addresses the needs of all learners in the school district; ensuring that every student leave our school district with a post secondary plan to be successful in life, whether it is entering the work force, trade school, 4 year college, 2 year college, certificate programs or the military.</li> <li>3. Insuring that lessons in teaching tolerance and social justice are included across the curriculum – reading, language arts, social studies, civics, history, science and health – at every grade level along with a strong literacy program that includes reading materials to reflect a diverse student population.</li> </ol> <p>Maintaining open communication is a priority.</p>

## FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p><b>DONALD WALKER</b> 37267 Aspen Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48335</p>	<p>I want to serve in a role that helps build future ready students and be a respectful listening ear and voice for parents, teachers and staff. I am a husband, father of three children (all either graduated or attend FPS), and have nearly 30 years in communications and education as an instructor, videographer, editor, and administrator. I have worked with students for my entire professional career. I have held leadership positions in a trade school and communications department for a large school district. Currently, I am the director of a career technical education program and sit on two boards that serve high school career pathways. I am an advocate for International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and Career Pathway work as great choices for both an academic and financial opportunity for students. I am open-minded, accessible, skilled, and ready to serve especially in our current climate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - I will support the new leadership in this area. I will bring resources to support the leadership's plan. I will support accountability measures for FPS employees and students to create a safe, encouraging, and inclusive environment for students and teachers.</li> <li>2. Increased College Prep and CTE Participation - I will work to increase student participation in our advanced programs through greater awareness. I will support innovative curriculum and instruction in the earlier grades that will better prepare students for the rigors of International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement education.</li> <li>3. Accessibility - I will push for a public comment policy that provides comments to questions 30 days after hearing them in board meetings. I will have virtual community meetings with target groups including students. I will use my media experience and time spent in the communications department of DPSCD to create additional lines of communication.</li> </ol>

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