

**Legislative Finance Committee
Presentation Packet**



**Farmington Municipal Schools
Presented by Dr. Gene Schmidt**

**Great Schools for a Great Community
July 19, 2017**

To: LFC Chairman Senator John Arthur Smith
LFC Vice-Chairman Representative Jimmie C. Hall
LFC Director David Abby
Members of the Legislative Finance Committee

On behalf of the Farmington Municipal Schools, its students, staff, and Board of Education, I extend a warm welcome to our community. I am pleased to share Farmington has a very long and proud tradition of educational excellence, dating back to the late 1880s. As noted on the cover page, Farmington's provides *Great Schools for a Great Community.*" Through the collective voices of our community, the District focused on *Raising the Bar on Excellence*" through the lens of the Strategic Plan that calls for the following Goals:

1. Achieving and continuously improve academic excellence and prepare all students for college, career and life success.
2. Recruit, retain and develop exceptional teachers, leaders and support staff.
3. Engage members of our community including families, businesses, and post-secondary partners in the education of our children.
4. Promote a culture based on mutual respect, integrity, a commitment to excellence and the recognition of success throughout the District.
5. Prioritize resources and align them with Strategic Plan goals

Raising the Bar on Excellence is a living document and starting point for our work to build on our strengths and continually improve our performance as a District whose educational belief system is based on high expectations for all. As such, Farmington Municipal Schools is committed to improving student learning by supporting high quality instruction.

To achieve our goals, the District increasing looks to data to inform and drive decision-making. By setting critical target goals for achievement, the District set ambitious goals in raising student proficiency. For example, the District will meet or exceed the national graduation rate of 83% by SY20.

In an effort to make our schools' success more transparent to the community, a user-friendly District Data Home Page can be found at http://district.fms.k12.nm.us/departments/Data_Assessment/District_Data_Home This link shows District PARRC, Graduation, as well as District Interim (short cycle) assessment data for all schools. As noted on the Legislative Finance Committee Dashboard, School Grade Distribution History highlights the positive progress made in the District. Not long ago the District recorded nine "D" or "F" grades on School Grade Report Cards. Fast forward to 2015-16 and fourteen schools earned "A" or "B" grades. Educational achievement in Farmington is an opportunity to watch the District *Move the Needle* in positive directions.

Respectfully
Eugene J. Schmidt, PhD
Superintendent

Raise the Bar on Excellence – Farmington Municipal Schools

In order to raise the bar on excellence, it is important that proficiency matters for every student, every day. Such is the case for Farmington where leveraging educational partnerships has done much to unify approaches and systems thinking which lead to an even high level of student achievement. As a part of this belief system, Farmington is committed to developing a culture where teachers, school leaders, students, and families/community work together in a shared responsibility for student academic success.

Farmington Municipal Schools sees itself as *turning the curve* in a positive direction. Consider the following:



New Mexico Secretary of Education Hanna Skandera was pictured with Chris Minnich (Executive Director - Council of Chief State School Officers), and School Board members Robyn Hoffman and Bill Young. March 2016

“We were visiting this district because they had worked very hard on training their principals and teachers to use data and assessment results to drive improvement. In fact, they have the biggest growth score in the state of New Mexico in terms of school districts.” March 11, 2016 Chris Minnich

New Mexico Large District 2016 School Board of the Year

Farmington Municipal School Board of Education was named the 2016 NMSBA Large District Board of the Year.

In addition, 16 staff members were state and/or national staff award winners

Northeast Elementary and Hermosa Middle School received “Southwest Region” 2017 National School Design Awards.



Innovative Ideas could become “national best educational practices”

Success in Farmington is predicated on the belief that innovative educational ideas connect students with school. One unique example would be San Juan College High School – a unique, possibly a national one-of-a-kind partnership with Aztec, Bloomfield, Central Consolidated and San Juan College in the creation of an early college high school not constrained by school district borders. The school proved so successful that its enrollment from Cohort I of 80



incoming freshmen in the Class of 2020 increased to Cohort II of 100 incoming freshmen as the Class of 2021.

SJCHS Principal Don Loretto is shown with members of the incoming Class of 2020 at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Another example to an educational partnership that meets a local need in the creation of the Farmington Family Program

which enrolled 74 students in a family and school educational partnership. This success program will almost double in size to 134 students in the upcoming year. Already plans are underway to develop and expand this program into a new K-8 elementary school which focuses on this unique home and school educational partnership.

Additional Accomplishments of Interest

- 2017 Best Communities for Music Education Award
- Northeast Elementary School - 2017 National Title Distinguished School Award
- Three teachers earn National Board Certified Teachers recognition
- National finalist for Middle School Science Teacher of the Year
- National Federation of the Blind Onkyo Braille Essay Contest Winner
- National Finalist Middle School Student Advisor of the Year
- International Science Fair Participant
- Golden Apple Award Recipient

Partners in School Success

Farmington Municipal Schools partnered with the New Mexico Public Education Department in developing systems approaches to Principals Pursuing Excellence, Teachers Pursuing Excellence, Reads to Lead, and a School Improvement Grant. Training in these programs have helped to embed instructional best practices and increased expectations for student achievement.