



Darcey McLaughlin, President  
Stacy Helmer, Vice President  
Karen Breen-Bondie, Secretary  
Katrina Collins, Treasurer

## **Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 27, 2013**

A call to order was made by President Darcey McLaughlin at 7:04 pm. The meeting was held in the Roosevelt Elementary gymnasium.

**Present:** See sign-in sheet.

**Guest Speaker:** Ferndale Police Chief Tim Collins gave a brief report on criminal activity in our area. Ferndale has experienced a drastic reduction since 2011. Detailed statistics are available on the FP website ([ferndalepolice.org](http://ferndalepolice.org)) and are kept up-to-date. There are also tips on how to keep safe on the site. The police department would like to institute an outlook program to Ferndale homeowners' associations and block groups. There is no formal program in place yet. The city council does not yet have anyone in place to assist in the facilitation but that may change.

The system of policing the community has changed drastically. They have gone from 8 hour to 12 hour shifts. It has helped place more police officers on the street. Crimes are occurring most often in rentals and closer to thoroughfares. There are presently 22 auxiliary police officers. They are not technically reserve police officers and are used mainly for vacation house checks.

The FP are working in conjunction with neighboring police departments to ensure safety. The state fair development is currently underway and the City of Detroit has been working with Ferndale on the development. Also, the department is trying to increase their Twitter involvement for the benefit of residents. Sgt. Brown is the Twitter specialist. There is also a regular column in the "Ferndale Friends" periodical.

Safety tips: Keep your home well lit, always lock your doors, keep a radio on. Report all suspected crimes.

**Guest Speakers:** Gary Meier, superintendent and Stephanie Hall, director of communications and data of Ferndale Public Schools gave a presentation on the student achievement progress the school district is making, how the bond money is being spent and the strategic planning process. Ferndale has been named the best community for music education in America for the third consecutive year. Gary attributed that achievement to the hard work of the staff and commended performers of the Sound of Music, the annual musical that recently concluded its run at FHS.

Stephanie Hall provided instruction on how to access information about the school district and distributed a packet of this year's activity based on weekly activities' articles. FPS is accessible through their website ([ferndaleschools.org](http://ferndaleschools.org)), Facebook, Twitter and a weekly eNews listserv ([fpsfanout@ferndaleschools.org](mailto:fpsfanout@ferndaleschools.org)).

Strategic planning is ongoing. Phase two is just beginning. The third phase will guide district into the future and impact direction of the district. The community can provide input. There will be four town meetings in the third phase. The dates and locations will be publicly advertised.

There are presently 356 (15%) students enrolled as Schools of Choice K-12 in the district. Per Oakland Intermediate Schools, 648 residents students who attend school out of district. For the

2013-14 school year, there will be a cap of 43 new Schools of Choice students. The prior year there were 80.

The administration and staff have been reviewing safety protocols and will soon be ready to roll that information out to parents as a result of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. \$1.5M has been set aside for safety improvements including an electronic system (e.g., keypad entry, card swipe), retrofitting entrances, updating security cameras (access and monitoring). The plan will be finalized and installed in 2014.

Sixty percent of the FPS population is economically disadvantaged. Free and reduced lunch is used as a metric.

**Secretary's Report:** Karen Breen-Bondie read aloud the meeting minutes from September 25, 2012. They were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Katrina Collins reported that the association's bank balance is \$7,844. Seventy-four percent of the neighborhood had paid. Garry Andrews had 100% participation for Upper Drayton. She will communicate via email to block directors directly for any PayPal payments made.

**President's Report:** No formal report given.

**Vice President's Report:** None given.

***Old Business:***

**Snow Plowing Committee:** Kerry Keener reported that the snow removal went very well.

**Block Party:** Katrina reported that this year's block party will be held on the last day of school, Thursday, June 13. Water will be supplied by the Association. Details forthcoming in a flyer to be distributed via block director to all households.

**Beautification Award:** Garry Andrews reported that each block director will be provided 3-5 ballots to nominate homes on their block for the biennial beatification award. Plaques are being stored in Stacy and Scott Helmer's basement. The winner will be announced during the block party.

***New Business:***

**Voting:** A quorum of 20 was not present and an election was not held.

**Block Sale:** Garry reported that the block sale will take place this September 20th and 21st (rain dates 27th and 28th). Advertising will be placed in various newspapers, Craigs List and on Facebook. More info will follow.

**Next Meeting:** TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. These minutes were taken and presented by Karen Breen-Bondie.