

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2008, 8:00 P.M.**

**Held at HUDA SCHOOL
32220 FRANKLIN ROAD, FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN**

The meeting was preceded by an extensive tour of the facilities at Huda School, conducted by Principal Ali.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Franklin Village Council was called to order by President Fred Gallasch at HUDA SCHOOL, 32220 Franklin Road, Franklin, Michigan at 8:05p.m. President Gallasch thanked the school officials for the invitation to meet at the facility and the informative tour provided. He explained that this is a special informational meeting to gain a better understanding about the school and its activities. He wanted to stress that the Council would not make any decisions nor take any actions at this meeting. He further explained that this meeting would not take the place of a regular official meeting, such as the Planning Commission, Historic District Commission or the Council, and that there would be public hearings as required. The Public would be able to make comments after the presentations tonight.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mark Jahnke, Alan Harnisch, Bill Lamott, Dominick Schiano, Amie Saltzman, Fred Gallasch, President

Absent: Brian Coyer (excused)

Also Present: Eileen Pulker, Village Clerk
Jon Stoppels, Village Administrator
John Staran, Village Attorney
Patrick Browne, Police Chief

III. PRESENTATION BY HUDA SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Before the introduction of Dr. Anan, Stephen Estey, Attorney with Dykema Gossett who had assisted the school with the Phase II renovations and who initiated this meeting on behalf of the school, had a few remarks regarding the purpose of this meeting. He then introduced Dr. Anan who thanked the Council for the opportunity to meet with the School Officials and hoped that the meeting would be beneficial to all by providing them and the public with a better understanding of the school, its curriculum, its benefits to the children, and its activities. In his opening remarks, Dr. Anan introduced Azra Ali, Principal of the school and Jim Basel, Director of Academic/Student Affairs and several other teachers in the audience.

A. Huda School Issues – Dr. Anan Abdelrahman, Board President

1. Huda School History – Dr Anan gave a brief history of the school. He introduced the concept of the ICA and its philosophy which was the basis and foundation of the Huda School in 1987.

He emphasized that since its inception the school has not increased its activities.

2. Building Expansion Plan – 1st Phase was for interior improvements and renovations of those items which were essential and mandatory, not cosmetic, i.e., structural integrity of the walls, air conditioning, elimination of asbestos and electrical upgrade for the computer labs. 2nd Phase will concentrate on the renovations of the gym and the outside, taking into consideration all the concerns for parking, traffic and the safety of the children and the neighbors. The school would like to increase the capacity of the classrooms but has no intention of expanding the program.

3. Building uses and users – When the school was purchased in 1987 it was a pre-school through 8th grade school and it will continue to be a parochial/Islamic school, pre-school through 8th grade. Any and all activities are intended to protect the children as well as the integrity of the school. On those occasions when the capacity of the school is not large enough, other locations for such activities are used, such as Shanandoah, Seaholm and West Bloomfield Schools.

4. Organizations using the building and their directors – There is a weekend school on Saturday as well as after school activities, sports, adult education, clubs and youth programs.

5. Neighbor Concerns – We will address the concerns of the community when they come and hope that the community will do the same for the school. We are looking for mutual respect.

B. Huda School Overview – Azra Ali, School Principal

Azra Ali gave a brief background of her education and teaching experiences and accomplishments. She emphasized her and the school's appreciation of the Franklin Community and all its attributes which further enhances the school's own sense of pride and community. She also briefed the audience on the school's goals and accomplishments and points of pride (see brochure).

IV. PUBLIC REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

Jane Polan, 27340 Willowgreen Ct., wanted to thank all the staff from the school who volunteered at the Franklin Round-Up. It helped in improving the reputation of the school of being a good neighbor. You talked about expansion and wanting the classrooms larger. How much space are you talking about?

Without speaking with the engineering team, Dr. Anan couldn't be specific, but guessed it would be the equivalent of 3-6 classes or rooms, a staff room, and more storage which they now have none. At the present they are putting things outside. He re-iterated that this would not be an expansion, just space that would fit their needs better.

Mike Seltzer, 27160 Scenic Dr., expressed his concern that if the school has 305 students paying \$5800/yr., how much of that tuition comes back to the Village of Franklin? How many students live in the Village? What will the Village gain from the school's expansion program? He is confused that if the school is decreasing the activities, why does it need to expand? Does this expansion change the footprint?

Dr. Anan explained that in order to expand the classrooms they have used dividers, splitting a larger room in half. The school needs to renovate and improve the space in the rooms.

Seltzer added, does this change the footprint? Dr. Anan replied that only if the Council allows.

Mr. Estey stated that the school would take into consideration the general concerns of the citizens, address them with the architect, then go before the Council and Planning Commission with the revised plans. In regards to the tuition, he stated that all private schools are tax exempt.

Jesse Polan, 37340 Willowgreen Ct., asked for an understanding of the future forecast of the number of students, the future utilization of the school and the frequency of activities for the next 5 years, 10 years, etc.

Deb Roberts, 26820 Willowgreen, is a member of the Birmingham school board but spoke as a resident, stated that all the students are our children no matter if they go to Huda school, a catholic school, or a Jewish school or where they live. She also explained that there is an advantage of having a private school in our community. The public schools are revenue-based, thus they are leased most nights of the week and must stay open those nights to generate funds. Roberts stated that she applauds the school for accomplishing what they have for less than \$6000/student. The student outcomes on standardized test are phenomenal. She sees a confusion about words, such as "expansion" and "footprint" but is confident that it will be ironed out. Roberts opined that the diversity which she has seen in the schools has blossomed and provides a great opportunity for all the children.

Jane Polan, 27340 Willowgreen Ct., was delighted to have HUDA School in the Village, but an Islamic newsletter/email that was sent out caused a lot of concern because it led to rumors that the school was going to become an Islamic Center. She, too, was concerned that in the future the use of the building might change.

Dayle Hoffecker, 26057 Romany Way, referred to the school's website (the ICA website) that said it had plans to expand and become a Cultural Center. Her concerns were the uses of the school which were never approved. This was an elementary school. Activities have been altered, added and increased. The neighbors have observed lights on in the school and cars in and out from 5am to 1am. According to the website, there are prayer meetings at different times of the day and night. Her concerns also referenced an August letter sent by the Village to the school asking specifically for all the "special uses" which have never been applied for nor approved. As of yet, this letter has not been answered. That is not to say that some things wouldn't be approved. She also found inconsistencies in some of tonight's statements, i.e., the

school hasn't expanded. When, yes, the school has expanded by adding a toddler program this year. Previously the school had been a K-6th grade school and as of this year it is now a Toddler-8th grade school; and stating the school has complied with everything was wrong in that no it hasn't. She also questioned when the public hearing for the special use permit was to occur.

Chris Pray, 26011 German Mill, had several positive comments about the school but questioned why the lights are on all the time? He has observed them on at 3am. Are there motion-sensors and are they working?

Zyad Kafri, 30500 Rushmore, stated that he had moved to the Village to be close to HUDA School. He is a member of the FCA community and the ICA and a two student user of the school. He re-iterated that the school holds lectures on parenting integrated with culture-emphasizing how to raise good kids in this country. There are youth programs which generate lots of drop-off traffic, but only a small percentage of these activities are centered on religion. These are by no means connected to radical Islamic activities.

Chris Gettel, 26030 Romany Way, has concerns over the increased usage of the building over the last 18 years, resulting in more traffic, more people, more activities. It is her opinion that the school is not complying with the Village requirements, especially those parameters within the historic district. It appears that HUDA has not had to comply with the same procedures as others in the historic district.

Felicia Molnar, 26081 Carol, didn't have any issues with the content of the education or the programs at the school. Her concerns centered on the environmental impact that effect those in the historic district and the immediate vicinity, i.e., the amount of people, the water issue, and the disappearance of green space with any school expansion. The expansion is not welcomed, the streets are too narrow to carry the increased traffic and the traffic flow itself. The historic nature of the community needs to be respected and she fears that the school is not being respectful. The school is fine as a school but it is not a community center. The noise and light pollution on a daily basis must be kept in check.

Chris Gettel, 26030 Romany Way, questioned if the people using the school during the week are the same people on the weekend. She has had young men hanging around her corner at night. Who are they?

Joyce Fletcher, 31925 Franklin Rd., suggested that the school need not expand if it reduced the curriculum down to Pre-school to 6th grade, thus eliminating the 7th and 8th grades.

Dr. Anan addressed some of the issues and concerns of the public. He re-iterated that the school is not asking to expand, just improve the site. There will be no new bricks and mortar in the ground. He said that he was sensitive to the environment and that the school would work with the Council on the traffic issue. He assured the audience that the same people using the school during the weekend are the same people, parents that use it during the week. It is one group, one community. If there are any suspicious people around call the authorities. The school has no intention of increasing its numbers and, in fact, might get smaller due to the

natural growth of the student population and the opening of new schools. Most of the students are from Birmingham, Farmington, West Bloomfield and Troy. He will look into the lighting situation, stating that the cleaners leave the building between 10 and 11 pm. and there should only be a guard light outside.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consider Resolution for a Legislative Body Relating to a 401 (a) Qualified Retirement Plan with ICMA.

Jon Stoppels explained that there is an administrative change with ICMA which needs to be approved before December 31, 2008. There is no change to the Village, just re-establishes it with the Village.

Mark Jahnke suggested that since it was only an administrative change the Council should approve it and put it on the agenda for January's meeting for further discussion.

Motion by Jahnke and supported by Harnisch to approve the Resolution for a Legislative Body Relating to a 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan with ICMA as follows, and place the matter on the agenda for January, 2009:

WHEREAS, the Employer has employees rendering valuable services; and

WHEREAS, the Employer maintains a retirement plan administered by the ICMA Retirement Corporation which is qualified under section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Plan"), and which provides retirement benefits for eligible employees;

WHEREAS, the Employer has previously authorized the Plan to "pick-up" and treat employee contributions for Federal income tax purposes as contributions made to the Plan by the employer; and

WHEREAS, Internal Revenue Service Revenue Ruling 2006-43 (1) requires that the Employer take contemporaneous action evidencing an intent to establish a proper "pick-up" under section 414(h) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, and (2) provides transition relief for employing units which take formal action respecting future pick-ups in writing prior to January 1, 2009, and Employer wishes to take such additional action to avoid doubt with respect to this issue:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Employer hereby agrees that Plan contributions, although designated as employee contributions, shall henceforth be treated as Employer contributions and shall be made by the Employer in lieu of contributions by the employee.

Ayes: Jahnke, Harnisch, Lamott, Schiano, Saltzman, Gallasch, President
Nays: None
Absent: Coyer

Motion carried.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lamott and supported by Schiano to adjourn.

Ayes: Jahnke, Harnisch, Lamott, Schiano, Saltzman, Gallasch, President

Nays: None

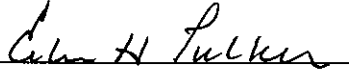
Absent: Coyer

Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Beke, Recording Secretary



Eileen H. Pulker, Village Clerk

Fred Gallasch, Village President