



### **November 15 Developed Suburbs Forum**

- 2:00 Greeting, introductory comments and presentation on social and economic trends in fully developed cities and school districts
- Myron Orfield
- 2:20 Opportunities and challenges in school districts in Twin Cities fully developed suburbs
- Helen Bassett, Robbinsdale School District school board member
  - Melissa Krull, Minnesota State University, Mankato (formerly Eden Prairie School District Superintendent)
  - John Schultz, Hopkins School District Superintendent
  - John Thein, Roseville School District Superintendent
- 3:00 Questions/Discussion
- 3:20 Break (10 minutes)
- 3:30 Opportunities and challenges in fully developed cities in the Twin Cities suburbs
- Jason Aarsvold, Brooklyn Park Director of Community Development
  - Edwina Garcia, Richfield City Council
  - Debbie Goettel, Richfield Mayor
  - Tom Harmening, St. Louis Park City Manager
  - Craig Waldron, Oakdale City Administrator
- 4:20 Questions/Discussion
- 4:40 Comments from Minnesota House Speaker designate Paul Thissen
- Wrap – up

#### **Links to videos of conference panels:**

<http://media2.law.umn.edu/law/archive/2012/Suburbs01.mp4>

<http://media2.law.umn.edu/law/archive/2012/Suburbs02.mp4>

## Panel Participants – Developed Suburbs Forum

### City Panel

**Jason Aarsvold** is Brooklyn Park's Director of Community Development, leading the department responsible for Planning, Economic Development, Code Enforcement/Public Health, and Building Inspections. He grew up in Brooklyn Park and has been with the city's Community Development Department for almost 14 years. Mr. Aarsvold holds a Bachelor of Arts in Local and Urban Affairs from St. Cloud State University and a Master's in Urban and Regional Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato. He has received Economic Development Finance Professional and Housing Development Finance Professional certification through the National Development Council and is a member of the Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM) and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO).

**Edwina Garcia** has a forty year history of service to Richfield and Minnesota. She moved to Richfield in 1972 and served on various city commissions, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, public school advisory committees and civic organizations including as chair of the Community Council. She won multiple awards for her involvement during this time and served two terms as a member of the Richfield City Council in the mid-1980s. Garcia was then elected to four terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives (1992-2000). She will now return to the Richfield City Council after her election earlier this month. She has received the Gene and Mary Jacobson Citizen of the Year award in 2008 and the Richfield Neighborhood Champion award from Family Partnerships in 2007 and 2010. She is currently on the Board of Directors at Adler Graduate School, the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches and the Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin. She received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Minnesota and also attended law school at the university.

**Debbie Goettel** is the Mayor of the city of Richfield and is in her second term serving a total six years to date. She is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's in civil engineering and a math minor with an emphasis in environmental engineering. She also did graduate work in environmental science at the University of Minnesota and in environmental sustainability at Harvard University. She now consults in the environmental, health and safety fields. Her policy background also includes an appointment by the governor to the tax reform task force, service on the Clean Air Dialog round table for the Environmental Initiative, and two positions with the Regional Council of Mayors—as a member on the executive board and co-chair of the Environmental Sustainability committee. In the past she has worked on the reauthorization of TEA21 and ICETEA (federal transportation bills), focusing on transparency, local jobs and job training. Locally she was the environmental expert reviewing the brownfields legislation for the state of Minnesota and she has experience as a community organizer working with faith based organizations on local and state policy issues.

**Tom Harmening** has been employed with the City of St. Louis Park for 17 years. Prior to being appointed City Manager by the Council in 2004, he served as the City's Community Development Director and was closely involved in successful renewal efforts along Excelsior Boulevard and other significant redevelopment initiatives. Prior to his employment with St. Louis Park, Harmening served for five years as Community Development Director for the City of Hopkins, five years as Planning Director for the City of Hastings, and three and a half years as City Coordinator for the City of Watertown, Minnesota. Harmening holds bachelors of science and master's degrees in urban studies from Mankato State University.

**Craig Waldron** is the City Administrator for Oakdale, Minnesota (began in 1993). Prior to Oakdale, Dr. Waldron worked as the Community Development Director for the City of Roseville, a Business Finance Specialist for the State of Minnesota, the Director of Physical and Economic Development for the Region Nine Development Commission and as a Planner with the City of Mankato. Craig has a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Iowa, a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Studies from Minnesota State University, and a Doctorate in Public Administration from Hamline University. He has also completed Post-Doctoral work at Hamline.

### **School Panel**

**Helen Bassett** became the first African American to serve on the Robbinsdale School Board in 2002 and was elected to her third full term on the Board earlier this month. Bassett has faced tough issues on the board, including school closures, re-bounding of attendance areas, and addressing privatization of services. Prior to her time on the board, Bassett served for over five years on the Robbinsdale Area Family Services Collaborative and was on the district's inaugural Community Collaborative Council, a council established by the school district as a citizen's advisory group on integration and desegregation policy and programming. Bassett now manages the Minnesota Fathers' Adoption Registry for the Minnesota Department of Health, and leads outreach, training and the administration of the program.

**Melissa Krull** is the former superintendent of schools in Eden Prairie (2002-2011). She now teaches for Minnesota State University, Mankato, and provides coaching on equity in education. During her tenure at Eden Prairie, Krull instituted several reforms contributing to the district's strong record on narrowing racial achievement gaps—most notably a successful effort to revise elementary school attendance boundaries to promote more integrated schools. During her tenure, the district also reconfigured its elementary schools, introduced “looping” (a method that keeps students with a team of teachers over more than one year), started a Spanish-language immersion program and enhanced the district's use of technology in teaching and administration.

**John Schultz** has served as Superintendent of Hopkins Public Schools since 2006. John spent the first 13 years of his career teaching junior high science. During this time he also had opportunities to teach students with special needs and adjudicated youth. In 1999, Dr. Schultz entered school leadership, and served as the associate principal of Eden Prairie High School, as well as Director of Teaching and Learning for the Hopkins Public Schools. Schultz holds a Bachelor's degree from Augsburg College, a Master's degree in Soil, Water, and Climate Science and a Ph. D. in Curriculum and Instruction.

**John Thein** is Superintendent of Roseville Area Schools. Dr. Thein joined Roseville Area Schools in 1988 and served as Assistant Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent prior to becoming Superintendent of Roseville Area Schools in August of 1998. He received his Doctorate in Education from St. Thomas University. Dr. Thein has an extensive background in school finance and has been the driving force behind several innovative cooperative ventures with local municipalities and school districts.