

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** March 25, 2014

**Location:** Administration Building  
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Susan Dunnell, Lynn Valcourt, Jennifer O'Brien, and Benjamin Hoell

Members absent: Brian Davis and George Luoto

Student Representative: Alex Schley

Others present: Dr. Kevin M. Lyons, Superintendent  
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary

**I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:05 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Susan Dunnell.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular Meeting – March 11, 2014: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Hoell. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

**III. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Kevin Lyons**

Budget Update: The approved FY15 School Committee Budget was presented to the Town Finance Committee by Dr. Lyons and Committee Chair Susan Dunnell on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was also attended by member Jenn O'Brien and administrators Patty Lange, Jodi Fortuna, Ellen Schuck, Cathy Kilcoyne and Len Belli. The presentation led to a good discussion regarding the deficit and questions on long-term funding of Town budgets.

Dr. Lyons reported that on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, the Massachusetts House and Senate agreed to a resolution that would increase both Chapter 70 funding and unrestricted local aid to Hudson by more than \$400,000. While this is a very positive development, the budget remains a serious problem.

Quinn Principal Selection Forum: The forum was held on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> to have a community discussion about the criteria for selecting the next principal. While it was not well-attended, the Screening Committee received a lot of good data.

The Committee has selected 8 semi-finalists for interview and Dr. Lyons will continue to update the Committee on any new developments.

Athletic Director Search: The Athletic Director Finalist Forum was held on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The three finalists, Jessica Gould, Jeffrey Wood and Ted Zawada presented. The Forum was very well-attended and the audience asked numerous questions.

Principal Brian Reagan will continue his process of reviewing input from the Forum and from the visits made by the finalists and check references.

Dr. Lyons thanked Dan McAnespie, Chair of the Screening Committee, and members Mary Beth Ryan, Tim Reinhardt, Carolyn Weed, Rick Karlson, Shelli Francolini, Jenn O'Brien, students Patrick Cadden and Elizabeth Hydro, Deb Campbell and Steve Santos.

The Producers, HHS Drama Society: The Hudson High School Drama Society staged a very successful production of the Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan play, *The Producers*, on May 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Lyons noted that the production and acting were fabulous and the orchestra was awesome and congratulated the cast and crew, along with Kathleen McKenzie who did a wonderful job as faculty leader of the Drama Society and the parent support group who do so much for the Drama Society.

District Review Team Visit: After four days of interviews, classroom observations, and dozens of interviews with teachers, parents and School Committee members, the Center for District and School Accountability completed its visit to the District on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Team's exit interview with administration stressed many positives. The draft report will be forwarded in a few weeks.

Dr. Lyons thanked Dr. Fortuna for being the Team liaison and the key logistician and document researcher. The Team left with 1,500 pages of documents and all interview schedules and observations went perfectly.

HHS Certified as PLTW Provider by WPI: On Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Hudson High School received notice that WPI has certified Hudson High School as a Project Lead the Way provider. This is great news that will bring new opportunities to our students and programs beginning in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Lyons thanked Ellen Schuck who continued to be the driving force behind keeping the courses rolling out and getting budget needs met from the very beginning.

Family Literacy Night, March 13<sup>th</sup> - Family Literacy Night was held on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at Mulready and was another successful event with over 200 people attending. The guest performer, David Polansky, wowed

the crowd with a very engaging performance that had children and their parents dancing, singing, and learning some very sophisticated vocabulary.

Dr. Lyons noted that the event would not be possible without the great staff leadership and thanked the following volunteers: Lori Belcourt, Beth McNulty, Lauren O'Brien, Catherine Murphy, Anna Knight, Katelyn Terranova, Cassia Freitas, Mairin Gulliver, Alexanne Whitney, Aubrey Andreozzi, Pat Bergeron, Jen Volpicelli, Lisa Lewis-Kane, Paige Lewis-Kane, Lisa Hastings, Dorothy Kramer, Alice Poirier, Carole Dunlap, Heather Fisher, Judy Hamilton, Donalene Groom, Lisette Zinner, Stacy MacLeod, Ken Letourneau, Libby Renner, Dave Champigny, Mary McCarthy, Karen Martin and Sharon MacDonald.

Hudson High School Business Professionals of America: The Hudson High School Business Professionals of America placed in the regional contest on March 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> and competed against approximately 600 students.

Dr. Lyons congratulated the following winners:

Human Research Management: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Matt Snow

Economic Research Team: 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Emma Polk, Matt Snow and Candice DeCenzo

Small Business Management Team: 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Dan Bothwell and Sydney Fredette

Fundamentals of Desktop Publishing: 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Christine Butler

Human Research Management: 5<sup>th</sup> Place, Ryan Leahy

Interview Skills: 5<sup>th</sup> Place, Emma Polk

Prepared Speech: 8<sup>th</sup> Place Mark Imbillicieri

#### IV. **Special Reports and Presentations:**

Assabet Valley Collaborative Programs and Relationship with Hudson:  
Executive Director Cathy Cummins: Executive Director Dr. Cathy Cummins presented to the Committee the 2012-2013 Annual Report of Assabet Valley Collaborative and informational brochures which highlighted the programs of the Assabet Valley Collaborative.

Dr. Cummins presentation also highlighted the commitment of the collaborative in bringing communities together to provide high quality services to children, families and the region through the job alikes program, transportation, family success partnerships, cooperative purchasing, and professional development.

Committee members thanked Dr. Cummins for the wonderful work of the Collaborative and their continued support to Hudson.

Kindergarten/Preschool Registration: Dr. Jodi Fortuna updated the Committee on the kindergarten registration numbers. There are currently 176 students registered: 19 half-day students and 34 full-day students registered at Forest Avenue, 30 half-day students and 39 full-time students at Farley Elementary. Only Mulready Elementary School held a lottery for full-day slots, and Mulready currently has 15 half-day students and 22 full-day students.

Dr. Fortuna noted that the approximate class size remains steady with an approximate class size of 14 for half-day students at Mulready Elementary, 19 students at Forest, and 15 students at Farley Elementary. For full-day students, the approximate class size at Mulready Elementary is 18, Forest Avenue 18 students, and 15 students at Farley Elementary.

Dr. Fortuna thanked Renee Graca, school nurses and the building support staff who assisted for their great work during the registration process.

V. **Old Business**

Second Reading and Approval of Proposed Policy IJNDC Social Media: Employees.

Dr. Lyons recommended approval of the proposed School Committee Policy IJNDC: *Social Media Employees*. A motion to approve the proposed School Committee Policy IJNDC *Social Media: Employees* was made by Mrs. O'Brien and seconded by Mrs. Dunnell. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Second Reading and Approval of Proposed Policy JRA Student Records and Addendum JRA-R Student Records:

Dr. Lyons recommended approval of proposed School Committee Policy JRA *Student Records* and Addendum JRA-R *Student Records*.

A motion to approve the proposed School Committee Policy JRA *Student Records* and Proposed School Committee Policy JRA-R *Student Records* was made by Mr. Hoell and seconded by Mrs. O'Brien. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Dr. Lyons recommended approval to rescind School Committee Policy JRA *Cumulative Records*.

A motion to rescind School Committee Policy JRA – *Cumulative Records* was made by Mrs. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Hoell. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

V. **Community Comments**

None.

VI. **New Business**

1. Approval of Teacher Kate Cellucci to Attend PLTW Training in Baltimore: Dr. Lyons recommended approval for teacher Kate Cellucci to attend PLTW training in Baltimore July 20-July 25<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to approve teacher Kate Cellucci to attend PLTW Training in Baltimore July 20-July 25<sup>th</sup> was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Hoell. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Superintendent's Request to Not Extend His Current Contracts after June 30, 2015: Dr. Lyons recommended approval of his request to not extend his current contracts after June 30, 2015.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the amendment to the current contracts of Dr. Lyons so that the notification period required is only 60 days was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Hoell. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Discussion of Succession Plan for Superintendent:

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell opened the discussion regarding the succession plan for the Superintendent.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the intent of the Committee to negotiate with counsel to offer Dr. Fortuna a contract, with the terms to be determined, and to modify her contract now so it will recognize additional responsibilities in terms of assuming, filling in the gaps and working with Dr. Lyons to gain coverage in those other areas, and then to assume the role of Superintendent as of July 1, 2015, or sooner, should Dr. Lyons chose to exercise his 60-day notification period and seek other opportunities was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. O'Brien. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

VII. **Reclassifications**

A motion to approve the reclassification of funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Hoell. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

*Approved*

**VIII. Subcommittee and Building Committee Liaison Reports**

Ms. Valcourt noted that the Budget Subcommittee will meet with the Home and School Association on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Valcourt noted that communication was received regarding the Annual Day on the Hill.

**IX. Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 8:13 p.m., Mrs. Dunnell noted there was a need for Executive Session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session in preparation for negotiations for non-union personnel.

A motion to enter Executive Session was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Hoell. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Dr. Lyons called the roll:

Mrs. Dunnell: Yes  
Ms. Valcourt: Yes  
Mrs. O'Brien: Yes  
Mr. Hoell: Yes

Mrs. Dunnell announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Valcourt, Secretary  
Hudson School Committee

Approved

List of Documents Source and Location

<b>DOC NAME</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
School Committee Minutes of March 11, 2013	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Superintendent's Report	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
<i>The Producers</i> Program	HHS Drama Society	Superintendent's Office
<i>The Producers</i> Photo	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Certification Document 9: Visit Reporting Document dated March 11, 2014	Terry Adams, WPI	Superintendent's Office
Memorandum and Announcement re: Family Literacy Night (3)	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
School Health and Safety Advisory Council Agenda	Jenny Gormley	Superintendent's Office
2012-2013 Assabet Valley Collaborative Annual Report	Dr. Cathy Cummins	Superintendent's Office
PowerPoint Presentation and Informational Brochures re: Assabet Valley Collaborative Programs	Dr. Cathy Cummins	Superintendent's Office
Kindergarten Registration Report 3/25/14	Dr. Jodi Fortuna	Superintendent's Office
Proposed School Committee Policy IJNDC <i>Social Media: Employees</i>	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Proposed School Committee Policy JRA <i>Student Records</i> and Addendum JRA-R <i>Student Records</i>	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
School Committee Policy JRA <i>Cumulative Records</i>	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Reclassifications (1)	Patty Lange, Finance Director	Superintendent's Office