

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: May 10, 2016

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Jennifer O'Brien, Michele Tousignant Dufour, Allyson Hay, Glenn Maston
Elizabeth Hallsworth and Steven Smith

Members absent: George Luoto
Alicia Sagastume, Student Representative

Others present: Dr. Jodi Fortuna, Superintendent
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:06 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien.

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, welcomed Steven Smith as the newest member of the Hudson School Committee.

Ms. O'Brien announced the reorganization of the School Committee as follows:

A motion to nominate Ms. Tousignant Dufour as Committee Chair was made by Ms. O'Brien and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

A motion to nominate Ms. Hay as Committee Co-Chair was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

A motion to nominate Ms. Hallsworth as Committee Secretary was made by Ms. O'Brien and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – April 26, 2016: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Smith abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. **Reports:**

Student Representative Report:

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

District Leadership Team Meeting

The District Leadership Team continued to spend time on the budget and their recommendations for budget reductions to close the remaining budget gap and discussed compliance with Civil Rights expectations from the State and Federal levels.

Finance and Operations

Town Meeting

The Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 2nd. Dr. Fortuna noted how fortunate she is to live and work in a community that supports education to the level that Hudson does. Dr. Fortuna thanked all of the citizens who came out to participate in the meeting and supported both the school budget and capital improvement projects for our buildings.

MTA Representative

Dr. Fortuna announced that the Committee will be working with a new field representative from the MTA. Ted Lewis, the former liaison to the District, is now working in the Higher Ed. Division of MTA. The District's new field representative is Melissa Rebello, the former President of the Shrewsbury Public Schools Paraprofessional Association.

Dr. Fortuna looks forward to building a relationship with the new leadership and working closely with all of the professional associations in the District.

Meeting with State Representative Kate Hogan

On Friday, May 6th, Dr. Fortuna met with State Representative Kate Hogan for a far-reaching discussion about the state of education in Massachusetts, the challenges that the District faces and the innovative approaches that the District is taking to early childhood education, which includes free full-day kindergarten.

Dr. Fortuna noted that the discussion included the challenge of funding the first year of full-day kindergarten. Representative Hogan agreed to assist the District in uncovering any additional funding that might be able to carry us over the one year.

Dr. Fortuna and Representative Hogan will continue to meet throughout the school year to discuss issues and success at the District and State levels.

Final Full-Day Kindergarten Meeting

Dr. Fortuna held the final full-day kindergarten meeting on Tuesday, May 3rd at the Mulready Elementary School and reported that as has been the case at these meetings, parents had excellent questions and there was a great discussion.

Dr. Fortuna extended a special thank you to kindergarten teachers, Kim Colbert and Julie McGowan, who attended these meeting and provided great insight into the day of a kindergarten student that many parents found reassuring.

SEPAC Meeting Update

On Thursday, May 5, 2016, a group of four parents came to the SEPAC meeting. Parents read and discussed the SEPAC by-laws and suggested changes. One parent volunteered to update the by-laws with the changes.

Parents also discussed aspects of SEPAC they would like to see. This group essentially is a new group of parents who have not attended previous meeting this year through the process to activate SEPAC.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at 155 Apsley Street.

Curriculum and Instruction Update

The Center for Educational Leadership and Technology helps school districts and state departments of education throughout the country in the alignment of education reform and information technology. The group was recently tapped to develop a proposal for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support a network of school districts in Massachusetts.

The Center for Educational Leadership and Technology invited the Hudson Public Schools to collaborate on a proposal forming a Massachusetts-based collaborative to be established through a New Venture Fund grant. The focus of the initiative is to fund networks of school districts/charter management organizations working together to improve the systems that impact teacher growth and development, govern curriculum and assessment materials, and/or dictate time and resource allocation policy and practice. The work for this grant will reflect the theory of action that student outcomes can significantly improve when school districts / charter management organizations integrate college-ready standards, curricula and instructional tools, teacher feedback, and professional development.

Hudson Public Schools has been selected as a potential candidate to be a major part of a Massachusetts hub for this grant. Benefits to our District for participating in this work include:

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- Convene with other districts / charter management organizations in the hub around best practices, lessons learned, professional development opportunities and content and system experiences;
- District-wide assessment of assets, deficits, and needs in the area of integration of college-ready standards, curricula and instructional tools, and teacher feedback and professional development;
- Shared planning with the other member school districts in the hub around the approaches to address the deficits and needs identified by the school district assessments; and
- Collaborative work to carry out the plan, which could include:
 - Ongoing collaborative planning and implementation
 - Sharing of tools, methods, professional development
 - Potential joint procurements of systems, content, professional development, etc.
 - Assistance with writing RFPs
 - Assistance with implementation of new systems
- Sub-grant resources to help with stipends, travel, expenses, and local assistance to allow participation in the hub.

Though still a proposal and not a guarantee of funding, the Center for Educational Leadership and Technology has significant relevant experience in such collaborative work with major philanthropic foundations, they are confident that they can prepare a successful proposal.

Discussion ensued.

Superintendent's Items of Interest

Numbers for the Past Two Weeks:

- 5 parent meetings
- 11 meetings with individual staff members
- 2 school visit for 3 hours each
- 5 meetings with individual Administrators
- 2 meetings with groups of Administrators
- NSIP Content Day
- 1 Labor Management meeting
- 1 meeting with Government official
- 253 emails sent

Subcommittee Reports:

None.

V. **Matters for Discussion:**

1. Update on Budget – Dr. Jodi Fortuna and Patty Lange

In order to close the budget and pass the budget in June, Dr. Fortuna presented to the Committee a list of budget cuts:

School	Description	Amount
Quinn	Quinn Materials	15,000.00
Hudson High School	CH222	30,000.00
Hudson High School	Graduation	2,000.00
Hudson High School	Principal office supplies	2,500.00
Hudson High School	Tech HW	1,500.00
Hudson High School	PD	1,000.00
Hudson High School	Inst. Tech	1,150.00
Hudson High School	Tuition and Books Future Steps	10,000.00
Hudson High School	Career Pathways	3,000.00
Athletics	Supplies	1,300.00
Personnel	Clinical Psych	25,000.00
Personnel	Math Coach	17,439.60 (.2 reduction)
Personnel	Math Coach	15,390.40 (.2 reduction)
Personnel	ELL Coach	71,415.00
Todd	Supplies	4,000.00
Karen	Supplies	5,000.00
Farley	Supplies	2,000.00
Forest	Supplies	1,500.00
Mulready	Supplies	1,000.00
Nursing	Supplies	1,499.00
B&G		85,600.00
Courses		8,000.00

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Fortuna noted that approval of the FY17 budget cuts will be tabled for vote at the next scheduled School Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

Executive Director for Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, presented to the Committee the Student Activities Reports for Hudson High School as highlighted by the following information:

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Discussion ensued.

A motion to authorize the list of active accounts, as presented, was made by Ms. Hallsworth and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the transfer in the amount of \$2,837.72 of the inactive student activity funds totaling less than \$500.00 to the Student Activities General Fund to be used for general purpose fund activities was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the transfer in the amount of \$1,568.53 from Life Skills to fund Friday Night Out activities and set up a Friday Night Out Club was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the transfer in the amount of \$9,319.40 of the inactive student activity funds totaling greater than \$500.00 to the Student Activities General Fund with a recommendation to spend the funds to be made to and voted on by the School Committee was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the transfer in the amount of \$32,843.22 of the inactive student activity funds from old class accounts to the Student Activities General Fund with a recommendation to spend the funds to be made to and voted on by the School Committee was made by Ms. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Ms. Lange also asked that the Committee schedule a future Policy Subcommittee meeting to discuss draft proposals for the new Student Activities Guidelines.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour will email Committee members to arrange a convenient date.

Ms. Lange will also be present at a future School Committee meeting to discuss the Student Activity Funds for the Quinn Middle School.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of Contract with American Pride Insulation Co., Inc. in the Amount of \$33,800.00 for Re-insulating HVAC and Plumbing Piping at the Mulready Elementary School

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the contract with American Pride Insulation Co., Inc. in the amount of \$33,800.00 for re-insulating HVAC and plumbing piping at the Mulready Elementary School.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the contract with American Pride Insulation Co., Inc. in the amount of \$33,800.00 for re-insulating HVAC and plumbing piping at the Mulready Elementary School was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. O'Brien. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Reclassifications:

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

Ms. Hay asked for a copy of the School Department's section of the Annual Town Report.

Dr. Fortuna advised her that it is included in the Annual Town Report book.

Ms. Hay also wanted to confirm, on behalf of Mr. Luoto, that the Dual Language presentation is scheduled for May 24th?

Dr. Fortuna confirmed that the presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24th, however, noted that both Ana Pimental and Erin Goldstein are presently out on maternity leave and will not be present that evening.

Ms. Hay also inquired, on behalf of Mr. Luoto, if a meeting has been scheduled for Forest Avenue parents and the Principal to discuss MCAS results.

Committee members and Dr. Fortuna had no recollection of such a discussion.

Ms. Hay will check with Mr. Luoto for further information on said meeting.

Ms. O'Brien invited all to attend the 50th Anniversary of J.L. Mulready Elementary School scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Tousignant Dufour thanked Ms. O'Brien for her years of service as Chair of the School Committee.

VI. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:08 p.m., Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that there was need for an Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to preparation for contract negotiations with union personnel because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the Committee.

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth.

Approved

Vote by roll call:

Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes

Ms. Hay – yes

Ms. O'Brien – yes

Mr. Maston - yes

Ms. Hallsworth – yes

Mr. Smith - yes

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary
Hudson School Committee