

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: March 8, 2016

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

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

Members absent: Brian Davis

Others present: Dr. Jodi Fortuna, Superintendent
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary
Alicia Sagastume, Student Representative

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:03 p.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting –February 9, 2016: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Luoto abstaining, the motion passed.

Regular Meeting –February 23, 2016: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 6-0, 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 tried a flipped classroom approach to the most recent meeting after Assistant Principal Rachel Scanlon made the suggestion at the last meeting that media,

other than reading, could be a successful approach to sharing information and developing a common understanding of a balanced assessment system.

The District Leadership Team watched four online modules and completed the associated readings. The modules were created by the State of Wisconsin using RttT funding. The Federal government via RttT provided substantial money to states to develop “balanced assessment systems”.

Dr. Fortuna suggested that if the Committee had any interest in seeing the modules that were building the District’s basic understanding of a balanced assessment, the online modules and materials could be found at:

<http://www.wisconsinrticenter.org/educators/understanding-rti-a-systems-view/balanced-assessment/ba-module.html>.

Finance and Operations

Air Quality Test at Quinn

The preliminary air quality test results from the lab and JEES Environmental regarding air quality at Quinn Middle School Classrooms A205 and B202 have been received. The Facilities Department included B202 in the tests because it is a room serviced by the same air handler as A205 so the same air is circulated in both rooms.

The report indicates that all of the results are below the typical spore levels of 200-2,000 ct/m³. No major issues with other fibers were found, and there were no out of limit issues with TVOCs (toxic VOC’s). All those readings were 0 ppb (parts per billion).

Transition to Aesop Software

The District is currently transitioning from Subfinder to Aesop for substitute management and attendance. Subfinder was purchased by Frontline Technologies who owns Aesop. Technology, Human Resources and the Finance offices are currently training on the new system. All collective bargaining Executive Boards were made aware of the change and staff and substitutes were notified of the transition this week. Aesop will be fully implemented on April 25, 2016.

The long-term goal of the District is to have Aesop data feed the attendance module in Budgetsense. This will require all employees in the District, even those who do not require substitutes when absent, to use the system for requesting time off, which is a significant change for the custodial and cafeteria staffs. The District is looking forward to using the Aesop system because of the many features it offers.

Discussion ensued.

School Van Answers

The District has been in contact with the Town regarding their most recently purchased vehicle. The Recreation Department purchased a van in June 2011 through the Plymouth County Commissioners Cooperative procurement contract. The price for a 15-passenger van in 2011 was \$24,902.

If the District utilized the same cooperative and specifications as the Town recreation van, the total price for a 15-passenger Ford T350 van is currently \$29,819. The price breaks out in the following manner:

- \$27,800 for a 12-passenger van
- \$893 extended the cab for 15-passengers
- \$817 front and rear air conditioning
- \$309 cruise control

Total: \$29,819

Insurance for the 2011 recreation van is an annual price of \$663.00 under the Town policy.

Curriculum Review Task Force

Preschool

Dr. Fortuna noted that later in the evening, the Committee would hear a presentation by Catherine Kilcoyne and Steve Freitas regarding the potential unification of the Hudson Public Schools Preschool with the CHAPS Preschool. Hudson Public Schools would continue to provide special education services.

Superintendent's Items of Interest

Dr. Fortuna shared a message that Dr. Reagan shared with his staff this week, and stated that the purpose for sharing was twofold. First, that it shows the genuine respect that administrators have for teachers and students. Second, it highlights the strong character that students demonstrate in a way that the Hudson community should be proud of.

“Colleagues,

Over the past two days, I have witnessed two examples of large-scale positive student behavior in two very different environments. First, about 200 students came out to support our hockey team last night as they battled Algonquin in the MIAA playoffs. While the team came up a little short, they played hard and fairly from beginning to end to close a very successful season. The fans, better known as the Red Sea, were tremendous. They were full of positive energy and represented the high school well. It was nice to see so many students together supporting their school. They started the game by singing along in full

force to the National Anthem and ended by chanting “we still love you” to the team as the buzzer sounded ending the game with a disappointing loss.

This afternoon, our drama society put on a wonderful preview of the spring musical, Spamalot. About 400 students were in the auditorium for this special performance and they were all respectful as the students on stage did one of the hardest things a young person can do – perform in front of their peers. The audience clearly understood and admired the talent and hard work of our student performers. Spamalot will be performed this weekend – I hope you will consider attending.

While these kinds of behavior are not solely the result of the expectations we set as a school community, they certainly play a role. Sometimes we spend so much time focusing on the relatively small percentage of students who struggle to behave appropriately, that we lose sight of the majority of students who meet or exceed our expectations on a regular basis. We have much to be proud of.”

Dr. Fortuna noted that the District continues to go through a tremendous period of positive change. The fact that the change is positive does not make the change process any easier and people still feel unsettled and unsure. The fact that administrators, teachers and students are working together in a supportive manner sets a tone that she is exceptionally proud of.

Enrollment

All enrollment numbers are up to date. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education collects enrollment data in October, March and June.

Subcommittee Reports:

None.

Matters for Discussion:

V. 1. Hudson High School Preschool Update – Cathy Kilcoyne and Steve Freitas

Dr. Fortuna introduced Cathy Kilcoyne, Director of Pupil Services, Steve Freitas, and Christina Shea of CHAPS.

Ms. Kilcoyne shared the Hubert School Feasibility Report and highlighted the District goals and student achievement goals for the partnership between CHAPS and Hudson Public Schools.

Mr. Freitas shared a brief history of the partnership and noted that this partnership brings the experiences of the core values to Hudson Public Schools through the consistency of one educational voice across preschool, high expectations of students’ academically, ethically and social emotional development to the younger students, learning, growth and accountability, as well as increased professional development opportunities for the preschool staff.

Approved

Ms. Kilcoyne invited parents with any questions to attend a meeting being held on Thursday, March 10th in Room G101 at Hudson High School, or contact Cristina Shea at CHAPS directly with any specific questions that they may have.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. O'Brien thanked Ms. Kilcoyne and Mr. Freitas for the wonderful opportunity for the District and that the collaboration is a natural fit.

Mr. Luoto thanked the District for moving ahead with what is a win-win situation for the Hudson community.

Dr. Fortuna noted that the Hubert School Feasibility Report would be posted on the District website and again encouraged parents with any questions to attend the meeting being held on Thursday, March 10th in Room G101 at Hudson High School.

2. AP Capstone Presentation – Dr. Brian Reagan

Dr. Brian Reagan updated the Committee on the Advanced Placement (AP) Capstone Program at Hudson High School. Dr. Reagan shared that the innovative program helps students stand out in the college admissions process and develops critical skills needed for students to succeed in college and future careers. The AP Seminar and AP Research courses allow students to immerse themselves in topics that matter to them, while they develop the analytic, research, problem-solving, and communication skills that colleges seek in applicants, and that, to date, over 140 colleges have endorsed the AP Capstone Program. Students who earn a score of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP exams will receive the AP Capstone Diploma.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Dr. Reagan for bringing this great program to Hudson High School.

VI.

Matters for Action:

1. Approval of Contract with Capeway Roofing Systems, Inc. in the Amount of \$944,300.00 for Roof Replacement for the J.L. Mulready Elementary School:

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the contract with the Capeway Roofing System, Inc. in the amount of \$944,300.00 for roof replacement for the J.L. Mulready Elementary School.

A motion to approve the contract with the Capeway Roofing System, Inc. in the amount of \$944,300.00 for roof replacement for the J.L. Mulready Elementary School was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Approved

Reclassifications:

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

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

Mr. Luoto stated that he would like to attend a conference and asked if there were sufficient funds available in the School Committee budget.

Dr. Fortuna will check with Ms. Lange and report back to Mr. Luoto.

Discussion ensued.

VII.

Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:28 p.m., Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, noted that there was need for an Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to preparation for contract negotiations with non-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 Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour.

Vote by roll call:

Ms. O'Brien – yes
Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes
Mr. Luoto - yes
Ms. Hay – yes
Mr. Maston – yes
Ms. Hallsworth – yes

Committee Chair Jennifer O'Brien announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary
Hudson School Committee