

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: December 1, 2015

Location: Hudson High School
69 Brigham Street

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

Members absent: None

Others present: Dr. Jodi Fortuna, 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, Jennifer O'Brien.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – December 1, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, with Mr. Davis abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report:

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

Leadership Team Update

Data Analysis

The District Leadership Team meetings have been focused on the analysis of data. The team has identified three pieces:

- 1) Calibration of scoring;
- 2) Organizing and analyzing data; and
- 3) Development of an action plan to adjust practice.

Approved

The Team will begin to develop a common tool for each step of the process with an end result of a concrete action plan to improve student learning.

Finance and Operations

Budget

The focus of Central Office continues to be on preparing the preliminary FY17 budget. The Committee has heard from the entire Leadership Team.

Dr. Fortuna and Ms. Lange met with Town Executive Assistant, Tom Moses, to further discuss the budget and specifically revisit the issue of E-Rate funding. Dr. Fortuna found the discussion beneficial, open and honest and looks forward to continued dialogue and relationship building with the Municipal Departments and School Department.

Curriculum and Instruction Update

Accountability Data Update

The District has received preliminary School Accountability Data. This data is embargoed until the week of December 7th – 11th. The District Leadership Team is preparing to present the data to the Committee at the School Committee meeting on December 15th.

Superintendent's School Visits

Hudson High School – Wednesday, November 18th
Mulready Elementary School – Tuesday, November 23rd

Superintendent's Items of Interest

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

On Wednesday, November 18th, Dr. Fortuna attended the induction ceremony for Hudson High School's National Honor Society and National Jr. Honor Society chapters where 21 juniors and one senior were inducted into the National Honor Society and joined 38 of their peers previously inducted.

Dr. Fortuna notes what an outstanding achievement this is for our students and represents their commitment to academics, character, leadership, and service.

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council

On Tuesday, November 23rd, the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council met for the second meeting of the year. There was wide-ranging discussion that covered the areas of communication, homework, math fact practice and the budget.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna thanked the group for their insight and energy and encouraged all to attend future meetings.

Literacy for All Conference

On November 16th and 17th, Hudson educators, Kathy Provost and Heather Fisher presented with Clare Landrigan, Tammy Mulligan, and Jean Wolf at the Literacy for All Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. Their presentation was entitled "Impacting Student Learning through Literacy Coaching".

Educators Aubrey Andreozzi, Tricia Bowen, Jaime Leger, Jennifer Lewis also presented with Kathy Provost in a presentation entitled "Using Picture Books to Engage Readers and Support Deep Thinking".

Both presentations were well attended and well received by the audience. The 4th grade Battle of the Books will be reimaged in the Nashville Public Schools based on the positive feedback. Dr. Fortuna thanked these educators for being leaders in their fields.

High School Journalism Award

Hudson High School sophmores Dakota Antelman and Lauren Gasek achieved recognition at the Orlando Journalism Conference last week where they both competed in the write-off contests.

Dakota Antelman competed against 70 students from across the country and received a Superior rating, the highest rating, for his sports story. He competed against 70 students from across the country and was one of 12 who received the highest rating.

Lauren Gasek received an honorable mention for one of her field hockey pictures from this year.

Dr. Fortuna congratulated the Journalism Program at Hudson High School, under the guidance of Ms. Vessels, and noted that it is another example of the wonderful things happening in the Hudson Public Schools.

Central District Music Festival

Three Hudson High School musicians were selected for the prestigious honor to represent the District at the 59th Annual Massachusetts Central District Senior Music Festival.

Buren Andrews (tenor voice), Jack Snow (tenor voice), and Thaya Zalewski (clarinet and jazz alto sax) were selected for the January 16th festival at Mechanics Hall. Thaya's audition earned a high enough score to receive a recommendation to audition for the Massachusetts All-State Music Festival later this year.

The Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) sponsors district festivals each year in senior high and junior high divisions. The Festival prepares students for a concert

Approved

performance at historic Mechanics Hall in one of four performing ensembles: Chorus, Jazz Ensemble, Concert Band, and Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Fortuna congratulated to students and their teachers, Mrs. Jeanette McLellan and Mr. Jason Caron.

Mulready Food Pantry Drive

The Mulready community donated over 1,000 food and toiletry items to the Hudson Food Pantry. Dr. Fortuna congratulated Mrs. McGowan's kindergarten class for coming in first place and winning a pizza party and thanked the community for such a successful event.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF Outcome:

The Hudson High School UNICEF Club raised \$1,653.50. Dr. Fortuna noted what an incredible impact the money raised will have on the lives of people in need around the world and thanked the Hudson community for making a difference.

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:

Mrs. O'Brien reported that the Budget Subcommittee met and continues to work on the budget.

Mr. Luoto reported that the Secretarial Negotiations Team met and had a good meeting.

V. **Matters for Discussion:**

1. Hudson High School World Language Department Update Ana Pimentel:

Ana Pimentel, World Language and ELL Family Outreach Coordinator, shared with the Committee an insight into the World Language Department at Hudson High School. The presentation focused on the vision of world language learning so that students not only learn a language but communicate and connect to the culture, the advantages of this thematic planning, and a discussion on the most widely spoken languages in the world.

Ms. Pimentel also highlighted the next steps to improve and expand the World Language Program through curriculum and assessments in order to better serve the students needs and interests.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Ms. Pimentel for her presentation and for all her hard work and efforts with the World Language Department.

2. Communications and Development Update – Denise Reid:

Communication and Development Coordinator, Denise Reid, presented to the Committee an update on the first six months in the District and the Communications Plan being implemented to accomplish the following:

- 1) Provide focus and direction through setting goals that helps achieve the strategic plan;
- 2) Foster strong relationships with Hudson Public School District stakeholders to rally support or school;
- 3) Enable the district to present itself accurately to audiences;
- 4) Help the community members within Hudson and surrounding communities become more familiar with Hudson Public Schools and the educational experience we offer our students;
- 5) Announce Hudson Public Schools District events, achievements and issues facing the District to the community; and
- 6) To deal with obstacles and emergencies effecting the Hudson Public School District.

Ms. Reid discussed working with the administrators and staff, as well as community business leaders, civic leaders and reaching the community through communication channels such as media, electronic, print and interpersonal avenue to increase awareness and support for Hudson Public Schools.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Luoto recommended contacting area senior centers and getting the senior citizens involved.

Committee members thanked Ms. Reid for her ambitious plan and her efforts and look forward to future updates.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

Reclassifications:

None.

VII. **Items of Interest to the School Committee**

Mrs. O'Brien reported that she met with the Internal Traffic Committee and will keep the Committee update on any new developments.

Mr. Davis made inquiry as to who was in charge of the student activities account at the school level. Dr. Fortuna informed the Committee that to be accurate, she would check on that and get back to Committee members with an answer.

Approved

VIII. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:30 p.m., Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, noted that there was need for an Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to preparation for pending litigation, and preparation for bargaining 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 Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Luoto.

Vote by roll call:

Ms. O'Brien – yes
Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes
Mr. Davis - 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