

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: November 3, 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 – 7:04 p.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – October 20, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Ms. Hay abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

Leadership Team Update

Budget

The Leadership Team has turned its attention to the crafting of budget recommendations for the School Committee. Dr. Fortuna and Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Patricia Lange held individual meetings with all administrators regarding their budget needs for FY17. On Tuesday, October 27, 2015, the Leadership Team met to develop consensus around the budget recommendations that would be forwarded to the Committee during the upcoming budget meetings.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna thanked the administrative team for their thoughtfulness in their presentations. The budget recommendations that will be forwarded to the School Committee truly represent positions and materials that is needed for students.

Finance and Operations

Budget

In addition to developing budget recommendations and documents for FY17, Patty Lange has been working closely with Elaine Gratton and the Town to complete the “Year End Report” for FY15, which is a time consuming cooperative effort between the District and the town.

Dr. Fortuna thanked Patty and Elaine for their efforts on this mammoth project, and noted that they will attend a School Committee meeting in December to present the year-end report to the Committee, as well as the results of a recent student activities account audit.

Curriculum and Instruction Update

Technology Professional Learning

On Wednesday, October 21, Hudson High School staff members Ryan Dailey, Rebekah Whitesel, Kate Cellucci, Erin Learned, Eric Ahearn, and Ellen Schuck attended the Annual Project Lead The Way Conference at WPI. Ryan Dailey presented the work the High School’s Project Lead The Way teachers have been doing to ensure Hudson students have a consistent practice and expectations for their engineering notebooks.

MassCUE Conference:

On Thursday, October 22, 2015, Hudson High School staff members Rolf Wasserman, Meghan Gasek, Linsey Colarullo, Danielle Spilotros, Pamela Mark, Allison Rozet, Laura Bettina, Lynda Chilton, and Ellen Schuck attended the Annual MassCUE Conference at Gillette Stadium. Members attended a variety of workshops which focused on incorporating a variety of technology resources into their curriculum.

School Visits

- Monday, Oct. 26th - Forest Avenue School and Mulready Elementary School
- Wednesday, Oct. 26th - Quinn Middle School and Farley Elementary School

Dr. Fortuna shared an interesting observation made during these visits as she traveled across two different elementary schools in one day. In both schools, she observed first grade classrooms and saw the same math concept/lesson being presented in each classroom where math instruction was taking place, and witnessed each teacher as responsive to the needs of the children in front of her, but it was clear that the learning

Approved

expectation was the same for the first grade students in Hudson, something that would not have been observable three years ago.

Dr. Fortuna recognized the teachers and leaders for their outstanding work that they are doing to provide the best educational experience possible to our children.

Superintendent's Items of Interest

Superintendent's Advisory Council – Monday, October 26th

The first Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting was held on Monday October 26th. Representatives from all five schools were present. Dr. Fortuna noted that this continues to be one of her favorite standing meetings. This year, the group brought forth an extensive list of issues that they would like to discuss, including but not limited to:

- 4th grade band
- Curricular consistency and consistency of expectations between teachers
- Standard-based report cards
- World Language Instruction
-

The group will also be discussing the budget and progress on our District Improvement Plan.

Dr. Fortuna invited all to attend the next meeting on Monday, November 23rd from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room at the Administration Building.

Boston College Principalship Advisory Council – Tuesday, October 27th

Dr. Fortuna was asked by the Dean of the Lynch School of Education to participate on the Boston College Principalship Advisory Council (BCPAC). Boston College views the BCPAC as providing a valuable service to Boston College and the greater educational community in the region. The purpose of the group is to provide feedback for the ongoing improvement of Boston College Educational Leadership program.

As an active member of this council, Dr. Fortuna will be asked by the faculty of the Educational Leadership Program to review curriculum, instructional models, and practicum experiences. In addition, BCPAC members will help faculty interpret longitudinal data about the professional performance of Boston College program graduates.

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, congratulated Dr. Fortuna on her appointment and thanked her for representing Hudson Public Schools and being part of such an important council.

Approved

Quinn Mural Presentation – Wednesday, October 28th

The Quinn Middle School unveiled the school's new outside mural. The group gathered inside the Quinn lobby where they shared the meaning of the new mural and how it came to be, as well as an inside collage of student work depicting their person interpretations of the values of the school that are so beautifully painted in the outside mural.

The outside of the building reflects the values promoted within the Quinn Middle School: Honesty, Respect, Empathy & Courage, and the Quinn community views this mural as a meaningful symbol of their efforts and what they stand for as a middle school.

Dr. Fortuna thanked all who attended the Quinn Middle School Mural unveiling, former principal Brian Daniels, representatives from the architecture firm, Cultural Council member Barbara Worrest, School Committee Member, Allyson Hay and Selectman John Parent.

Dr. Fortuna also thanked art teacher Lisa O'Brien for creating and painting outside mural and art teacher Diane Hoff for conceptualizing and working with students to develop the complementary collage on the inside of the school.

Haunted Physics Lab- October 28th

Dr. Fortuna thanked Physics teachers Bekah Whitesel and Reed Prior and Special Education teacher Paul D'Allessandro on a successful Haunted Physics Lab. The students were extremely well-prepared and offered thoughtful, kid-friendly explanations of complex physics concepts, all for the benefit of our community and the Hudson Food Pantry.

First Steps in Rebuilding the Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The membership drive was held on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at Forest Avenue Elementary School. Seven parents attended and spoke about what they wanted the Special Education Parent Advisory Council to be like. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5, 2015.

The agenda for the November 5th meeting is to review the by-laws and continued discussion of building the Special Education Parent Advisory Council.

The Basic Rights presentation has been scheduled for Thursday, November 12th.

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:

Policy Subcommittee met on Monday, October 26th and continued discussion on the list of policy priorities for the upcoming year.

Dr. Fortuna notified the Committees that negotiations for the Custodial and Cafeteria team will begin in the near future.

V. **Matters for Discussion:**

1. Career Pathways Update – Scott Darlington:

Scott Darlington presented to Committee members an update on the career development work that is going on at Hudson High School. Mr. Darlington also announced that the MetroWest Career Pathways Fair will be held on Friday, November 20th at Hudson High School.

Hudson High School intern student Sophia Togneri presented to the Committee her experiences while interning with the Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Task Force, an internship sponsored by Hudson Rotary. Intern students Sophia DiPlacido and Robert Cuddy presented to the Committee their experiences while interning in the Engineering Department of Boyd Coatings.

Their presentations were very well received by Committee members who thanked them for their efforts and noted that there are many good things going on in Hudson.

Discussion ensued.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Jessica Winders, Athletic Director, to attend the National Athletic Directors Conference in Orlando, Florida December 12-15, 2015:

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval for Athletic Director, Jessica Winders, to attend the National Athletic Director Conference in Orlando, Florida December 12-15, 2015.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the out-of-state travel for Athletic Director, Jessica Winders, to attend the National Athletic Director Conference in Orlando, Florida December 12-15, 2015 was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Ms. Hallsworth abstaining, the motion passed.

VII. **Reclassifications**

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, No. 1, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Approved

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, No. 2, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, No. 3, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, No. 4, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

VII. Items of Interest to the School Committee

Ms. Hay expressed an interest in joining Dr. Fortuna on school visits.

Mr. Maston expressed an interest in sitting in on additional data budget meetings.

Mr. Davis asked for an update to the request for the speed limit change on Brigham Street and the Educator Hall of Fame.

Ms. O'Brien shared that the Home and School at the High School met to discuss the all-night party after the prom which is in jeopardy due to the lack of parent participation.

Discussion ensued.

Discussion of Massachusetts Association of School Committee Annual Meeting Resolutions:

Discussion took place relative to the proposed resolutions to be voted on at the MASC/MASS 2015 Conference and recorded as follows:

Resolution 1 – Regarding High School Starting Times:

A motion to vote No on Resolution No. 1 was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 2 – Poverty and Children:

A motion to vote No on Resolution No. 2 was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 3 – Tying Test Scores to Chapter 70 Funding:

A motion to vote No on Resolution No. 3 was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 4 – Support For an Equitable and Sustainable Placement Program for Students Covered Under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act:

A motion to vote No on Resolution No. 4 was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Approved

Resolution 5 –Tax Reform Ballot Question:

A motion to vote No on Resolution No. 5 was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 6 – Membership of a School Committee Member on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education:

A motion to vote Yes on Resolution No. 6 was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 7 – Relative to the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessments for Kindergarten Students:

A motion to vote Yes on Resolution No. 7 was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Amendment to Article VIII, Section 1:

A motion to vote Yes on Amendment to Article VIII, Section 1 was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Amendment to Article VIII, Section 1 and Section 4:

A motion to vote Yes on Amendment to Article VIII, Section 1 and Section 4, was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Discussion ensued.

VIII. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:55 p.m., Committee Chair Jennifer O'Brien noted that there was no need for Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee