

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: September 21, 2015

Location: Hudson High School
69 Brigham Street

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

Members absent: Brian Davis

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

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:08 p.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – September 8, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. 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

First Team Meeting of the New School Year

The first meeting of the new school year for the District Leadership Team was held on Tuesday, September 15th and focused on the core beliefs that every adult must continue to grow their own professional practice and play an active role in the professional growth of their colleagues. The administrators will apply these concepts when reviewing teacher-created assessments.

MCAS Data Meetings

The District has the MCAS results for the Spring of 2015. Public release and discussion of those results is embargoed until Thursday, September 24, 2015. Districts receive the data prior to public release so that any discrepancies can be resolved and Districts can begin making action plans before the data becomes less relevant for instructional purposes.

Dr. Fortuna has been meeting with individual building leadership teams and curriculum directors to review the data for specific schools and grade levels. The District Leadership Team will be providing the Committee with a report on the District's MCAS growth and performance at the School Committee meeting on October 20th.

Finance and Operations

Meeting with Town Executive

Dr. Fortuna and Patty Lange, Executive Director of Finance and Operations, met with Thomas Moses, Hudson Executive Assistant, for their first scheduled quarterly meeting. Dr. Fortuna reported that the meeting was positive, and believes that these meetings set the tone for future collaboration.

Mr. Moses anticipates that the District will have the budget schedule soon. Mr. Moses also outlined a new point system that the Town will be using to prioritize capital projects.

Dr. Fortuna will keep the Committee informed of any additional updates that come from these meetings.

School Choice Numbers

In response to an inquiry by Ms. Hay at the previous School Committee meeting, Dr. Fortuna provided the following information:

Quinn Middle School: 18 total students

- 2 students enrolled in grade 5 6 seats available
- 7 students enrolled in grade 6 1 seat available
- 9 students enrolled in grade 7 -1 seat available

Hudson High School: 73 total students

- 7 students enrolled in grade 8
- 14 students enrolled in grade 9
- 17 students enrolled in grade 10
- 12 students enrolled in grade 11
- 23 students enrolled in grade 12

Facilities:

In response to an inquiry by Mr. Davis regarding the meadow at Quinn Middle School at the previous School Committee meeting, Dr. Fortuna and Len Belli, Director of Facilities, provided the following conclusions regarding the benefit of the wildflower meadows:

- There is great environmental value to planting meadows in lieu of great expanses of manicured lawns;
- The meadow was a major point in our LEED Gold certification;
- Meadow areas are not watered and are self-sustaining;
- Meadow areas do not need to be mowed and therefore avoid the pollution, exhaust and noise, associated with mowing and leaf blowing;
- Not having to cut the area saves on labor costs for maintenance \$240 per week from April to October or \$6,720/season;
- There are no associated equipment maintenance costs with the wildflower meadow;
- Meadows promotes the sustainability of all types of wildlife including birds and butterflies
- Tall plantings in the meadows use less ground water than lawns;
- Schools cannot utilize fertilizer, herbicides and common pest controls used in private lawn areas to keep them healthy; and
- The first time expense of planting the meadow is also significantly less than sod or lawn installations thus reduced project costs to the taxpayers.

Mr. Davis inquired about the possibility of having the wildflower meadow fenced in because the meadow may possibly result in an increased rodent population. Dr. Fortuna and Mr. Belli also researched that and shared the following information with the Committee:

- Quinn Middle School is the only school where we have not had a rodent complaint to date;
- The cost to place a chain link fence to hide the meadow would be in the range of \$50,000; and
- The Committee could choose to pay for a fall mowing at a height of 8" which would promote the propagation of more wild flowers in the spring.

Open Houses

Dr. Fortuna reported that all schools have completed their fall open houses. The event at each school was well attended. Forest and Mulready changed the format for their open houses this year. Ms. Whitmore and Mr. Champigny reported that the new format was successful.

Curriculum and Instruction Update

Professional Learning Plans to Support the Implementation of the DIP

Curriculum Directors have submitted their professional learning schedule for the year. The plan outlines the activities that will occur in their departments to support the implementation of the District Improvement Plan.

Superintendent's Items of Interest

Mary J. O'Malley Child Development Program Dedication

Dr. Fortuna announced that the dedication of the Mary J. O'Malley Child Development Center will be held on Thursday, October 8th in the Mulready Cafeteria.

Mary O'Malley shared her talent, love, and expertise with the children and families of Hudson for over 40 years in a variety of roles. This dedication ceremony will allow the District to celebrate her contributions to the children and families of Hudson.

8th Grade Summer Reading at HHS

On Wednesday, September 9th, Dr. Fortuna participated in the 8th grade discussions of the summer reading books on. During the summer, Dr. Fortuna read the book "If I Stay" and joined Ms. Freitas and 8th grade students for a discussion about the novel.

Dr. Fortuna was honored to be asked to participate and noted that the organization and full participation of the 8th grade teachers and high school administrators was a great thing to both witness and be a part of.

M.A.S.S Content Day

Dr. Fortuna began year two of the three-year Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Induction Program. The focus of the program in year two is the implementation of strategy and the focus on problems of practice.

The first meeting of the year held on Thursday, September 19th was very helpful as administrators begin to implement the District Improvement Plan. The collaboration with colleagues from around the State allowed Dr. Fortuna to focus on problems of practice and gain new perspective.

Buddy Bench Dedication

Dr. Fortuna extended her appreciation to the Farley Home and School Association and the family of Liz Barberio for the donation of the Friendship Bench to the Farley Playground. The bench serves as a place for students to celebrate the power of friendship in order to combat some of the negativity that can exist in the world of a child.

Dr. Fortuna encouraged all to stop by and see it.

Enrollment

Dr. Fortuna reported that all enrollment numbers are up, except for Hudson High School. Students enrolling reflect the demographic change in Hudson.

Subcommittee Reports:

Policy Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Monday, September 28th. The Committee is in the process of scheduling future meetings for Budget Subcommittee, Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee and Secretarial Negotiations.

Matters for Discussion:

None.

V. Matters for Action:

1. Approval of Quinn Middle School Mural:

Principal Jason Webster presented to the Committee the plans for a mural for the Quinn Middle School which expands on their mission statement of “At Quinn Middle School we seek to prepare students for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and integrity. Together we are inspired by the ideals of honesty, responsibility, empathy, and courage.”

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the mural for Quinn Middle School.

A motion to approve the mural for the Quinn Middle School was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

2. Approval of Standard Medication Protocol Change:

Lee Waingortin, Director of Nursing, presented to the Committee a PowerPoint of “Saving Lives – A Case for Stocking Narcan in Our School Health Offices” and highlighted that an opioid overdose occurs due to too much opioid in the system. Opioids block the receptors that control breathing resulting in respiratory failure, cardiac failure, then death. Narcan reverses an overdose by knocking the opioids off the receptors in the brain and restores breathing, acts within one to three minutes to reverse the overdose, and is the only effective medication to reverse an opioid overdose.

Ms. Waingortin also shared that Narcan does not create a high, therefore, has no street value, no major side effects, administers through the nostrils so no needles are used, only administered by trained school nurses, and that this has the unanimous support of Hudson Board of Health Director Dr. Sam Wong, Dr. Fortuna and Hudson Public School nurses.

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval for this standard medication protocol.

A motion to approve the standard medication protocol change was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

3. Approval of the Hudson High School Drama Society Overnight Field Trip to New York on April 12-13, 2016:

Dr. Fortuna recommended that the Committee approve the Hudson High School Drama Society overnight field trip to New York City on April 12-13, 2016.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School Drama Society overnight field trip to New York City on April 12-13, 2016 was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

4. Approval of the Hudson High School 9th Grade Overnight Field Trip to Washington, DC on April 26-30, 2016:

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the Hudson High School 9th Grade Overnight Field Trip to Washington, DC on April 26-30, 2016.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School 9th grade overnight field trip to Washington, DC on April 26-30, 2016 was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. O'Brien. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

5. Approval of Proprietary Product Selection for Hudson High School Domestic Hot Water Heater Replacement:

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the proprietary product selection for Hudson High School domestic hot water heater replacement.

A motion to approve the proprietary product selection for Hudson High School domestic hot water heater replacement was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

6. Approval of the Proprietary Product Selection for Hudson Public Schools Self-Adjusting Wireless Building Clock System Replacement:

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the proprietary product selection for Hudson Public Schools self-adjusting wireless building clock system replacement.

Approved

A motion to approve the proprietary product selection for Hudson Public Schools self-adjusting wireless building clock system replacement was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

7. Approval of School Committee Reorganization:

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

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

8. Approval of Contract with Looney Math Consulting in the Amount of \$16,700.00 for Professional Development:

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the contract with Looney Math Consulting in the amount of \$16,700.00 for professional development.

A motion to approve the contract with Looney Math Consulting in the amount of \$16,700.00 for professional development was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

VI. Reclassifications

None.

VIII. Items of Interest to the School Committee

Mr. Luoto received an email regarding an event being held in Worcester on Wednesday, September 23rd on Anti-Core and asked Dr. Fortuna if there were any new updates from the State.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Fortuna will continue to keep the Committee updated on any new developments regarding MCAS and PARCC testing.

Mr. Luoto also thanked Dr. Fortuna and Ms. Lange for meeting with Mr. Moses and noted that it is very important during these budget times, especially this coming year.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Tousignant Dufour shared with the Committee a recent national theater blog, OnStage, recognizing the Hudson High School Theater Program.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna noted that the details of the Onstage blog will be in a press release being published soon, and thanked Kathleen McKenzie and students for all their hard work in making the program such a wonderful success!

Mr. Luoto shared an interesting article he found in USA Today on Code.org.

IX. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:10 p.m., Committee Chair Jennifer O'Brien noted that there was no need for Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee