

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: September 8, 2015

Location: Hudson High School
69 Brigham Street

Members present: Jennifer O'Brien, Allyson Hay, George Luoto, Brian Davis,
Michele Tousignant Dufour, 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 – 7:08 p.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – August 25, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Ms. Tousignant Dufour abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

Dr. Fortuna noted that this will be the first Superintendent's Report of the 2015-2016 school year.

Summer Retreat

During the summer, the District Leadership Team spent four days learning together. The entire team read the book "Driven by Data" and several chapters from the book "Visible Learning for Teachers". The team meetings focused on educator evaluation and calibrating practices in this area and building on the District's capacity for using data to impact instruction.

Opening of School

Dr. Fortuna reported that the opening of school on Tuesday, September 2nd went quite smoothly. On the first day, there were a few buses that were running quite late from the elementary and middle school, but after students and teachers become familiar with the dismissal routines and the road construction ends, these kinks will work themselves out.

Dr. Fortuna especially thanked the Principals and staff for their assistance in making everything run so smoothly.

Dr. Fortuna reminded parents of Quinn Middle School students of the drop-off and pick up procedure and asked that drivers pull all the way up to the top of the driveway and wait for students who will walk up to their car. The Hudson Police Department will be on hand to assist in enforcing this procedure is followed.

Dr. Fortuna also acknowledged the unusual summer temperatures, and noted that extra water will be provided in all school buildings to keep students hydrated and cool.

Bus Stops

Dr. Fortuna noted that the District has received several requests for bus stop changes, and that each request is individually evaluated before a final determination is made. Student safety is the top priority when making decisions, but unfortunately, the District is not able to accommodate all requests.

Dr. Fortuna reminded the community of School Committee Policy EEAA-*Student Transportation*:

Each year the Hudson Public School District reviews student enrollment and existing bus routes to ensure efficient and safe transportation for all eligible students. Hudson will provide transportation services to all students entitled to such services under the law.

Safety is a responsibility that is shared between the family and the school. While the law requires the School Department to provide a defined level of transportation, it does not relieve parents/guardians of students from the responsibility of supervision until the student boards the bus in the morning. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure the student safely arrives at, and departs from, the bus stop. The parent/guardian is responsible for escorting the student to and from the bus stop where there are no sidewalks, where sidewalks are only on one side, where the bus stop is on the opposite side of the street, and where there are traffic or other safety concerns.

I. Eligibility for Transportation

In addition to the mandate contained in Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 71, Section 68 relative to the transportation of students, it is the policy of the Hudson Public

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Schools to transport students in grades Kindergarten through Grade 12 who reside in the town of Hudson, as follows:

- 1. Kindergarten students living more than 1/2 mile from their assigned school.*
- 2. Elementary school students living more than 1 mile from their assigned school.*
- 3. Middle school students living more than 1 1/2 miles from the middle school.*
- 4. High school students living more than 1 1/2 miles from the high school.*

Printed bus passes will be issued to eligible students and walk-zone, determined by distance from school as stated in 1-4 above, will be enforced for all students K-7.

This policy, being consistent with current state law, may require students to walk up to one mile to a bus stop

Finance and Operations

Dr. Fortuna shared with the Committee some of the work completed during the summer by the Facilities Department and thanked Len Belli, Director of Buildings and Grounds, and his crew for all their hard work:

District:

- Painted 46 classrooms
- Added power and cable for 21 new projectors
- Painted stairwells and hallways Forest Avenue and Hudson High School

Quinn Middle School – Removed, modified and replaced all window wall bookcases to improve heating system performance under contract

Hudson High School – in-house staff prepared cafeteria floor for new porcelain tile

- contracted for new cafeteria porcelain tile
- replaced failed water heater
- re-lamp 2500 fixtures from compact fluorescents to LED
50% reduction in electrical usage for lighting. Lamps were purchased for \$1 each under MassSave Program.

Farley – started necessary wiring to replace the HVAC control system

- Contractor will install new HVAC control units this Fall
- Replaced Gym divider curtain, removed old panel system

Mulready, Farley and Forest - Re-lamped over 2000 fixtures– 25% reduction in lighting electrical usage. Lamps were purchased through MassSave Program.

Administration Building – refurbished Ladies Room

Elementary Curriculum

Dr. Fortuna thanked Karen Martin and the following members of the Elementary Team for their hard work and dedication over the summer developing curriculum and analytic rubrics:

- Wendy Sanchez
- Michelle Daigneault
- Lauren O'Brien
- Sue Hehir
- Melissa Cronin
- Kristin Charbonneau
- Collen White
- Jen Volpicelli
- Erin McKay
- Nadine Barry
- Carlene Isham
- Michelle Welton
- Teri Buscemi
- Lisa Leger
- Lisa Hastings
- Maria Ricciuti
- Catherine Murphy
- Julie McGowan
- Krissy Peterssen
- Julie Basler

V. **Superintendent's Items of Interest:**

On Wednesday, September 2nd, Dr. Fortuna attended the final meeting of the grant-funded Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. This initiative was funded by a grant secured by Dr. Sam Wong and has greatly benefited the Hudson community and students. The Coalition began with a goal of a 20% reduction in the percentage of High School Students, grades 9-12, who reported drinking alcohol or using marijuana within the past 30 days and misusing prescription drugs in their lifetime. The coalition used a three-pronged approach to address these issues community engagement, environmental changes, school-based programs. The Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition exceeded one of its goals, partially met another, and failed to meet the third.

- Students who reported using alcohol in the past 30 days increased .5%. Of more concern is that the percentage of students that reported binge drinking in the past 30 days has increased by 21%;
- Students who reported using marijuana in the past 30 days decreased by 10%; and
- Students who reported misusing prescription drugs in their lifetime decreased 49%.

All data is extrapolated from the MetroWest Adolescent Health Surveys administered in 2010 and 2014.

Dr. Fortuna extended her personal thanks to Dr. Wong, Katelyn Dore, and Michael O'Brien who have been steadfast partners with the District to help strengthen the healthy decision making of our students.

Open Houses

Dr. Fortuna announced the following Open House dates:

Elementary Open House	September 16 th	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Quinn Open House	September 10 th	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
High School Open House	September 17 th	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Professional Teacher Status Award Ceremony

This year the District has changed the way that we recognize teachers that have achieved Professional Teacher Status, so that it reflect the importance of Professional Teacher Status. The Superintendent awards Professional Teacher Status on the recommendation of the Principal because we believe that the teacher is a teacher deserving of the status and will take their students far while making Hudson proud.

This year we will be awarding Professional Teacher Status to 13 educators. We will be having a brief ceremony on Tuesday, September 29th at 6:30 p.m.

Enrollment:

As of this date, enrollments numbers are unofficial. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education collects enrollment data in October, March and June.

VII. **Subcommittee Reports:**

None.

VIII. **Matters for Discussion:**

Update on the Proposed Delay in the Hudson High School 2017 NEASC Accreditation Visit:

Dr. Fortuna reported to the Committee that a letter was sent to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges on August 17, 2015 advising them of the District's decision to postpone the self-study and site visit process for a period of three years.

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As of this meeting, the District has not received a response.

Dr. Fortuna will continue to update the Committee on any new developments regarding the proposed delay in the Hudson High School 2017 NEASC Accreditation visit.

Updated School Committee Organizational Matter:

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, informed the Committee that due to schedule challenges, Ms. Hay has asked to step down as Committee Co-Chair and advised the Committee that this item will be tabled to the next scheduled meeting on September 21st for a vote.

IX. Matters for Action:

1. Approval of Contract with Atlantic Construction & Management, Inc. in the Amount of \$15,000.00 for Project Management Services for the Roof Project at the J.L. Mulready Elementary School:

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the contract with Atlantic Construction & Management, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000.00 for Project Management Services for the roof project at the J.L. Mulready Elementary School.

A motion to approve the contract with Atlantic Construction & Management, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000.00 for Project Management Services for the roof project at the J.L. Mulready Elementary School was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

X. Reclassifications

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

XI. Items of Interest to the School Committee

Dr. Fortuna welcomed Denise Reid as the new Communication and Development Coordinator. Ms. O'Brien commented on the importance of this position and the impact it will have on the District, and looks forward to working together with Ms. Reid in the future.

Ms. Hay inquired about the morning drop-off procedures and asked how that is being communicated to parents.

Dr. Fortuna shared that the students have 15 minutes before the beginning of the day to go directly to their classrooms, get settled, and prepare to start learning. Teachers have noticed and commented on the difference already and that the students enjoy going directly to their classrooms and get ready for the day.

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Mr. Davis commented on the landscaping at Quinn Middle School as an eyesore and expressed concern over rodents that may habitat there and inquired if the area could be moved to the back of the school or fenced in as it could become a potential safety issue.

Discussion ensued.

XII. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 7:32 p.m., Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, noted that Executive Session was needed to discuss strategy with respect to preparation for pending litigation, because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position, or legal position, of the Committee.

Ms. O'Brien called the roll:

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

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session was made by Mr. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee