

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** April 24, 2018

**Location:** Administration Building  
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Michele Tousignant Dufour, Allyson Hay, George Luoto, Glenn Maston, Elizabeth Hallsworth, Steven Smith and Adam Tracy

Members absent: None

Others present: Dr. Marco C. Rodrigues, Superintendent  
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary  
Ben Carme, Student Representative

**I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:01 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting: April 10, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2018 was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 5-0-2, with Ms. Hay and Mr. Maston abstaining, the motion passed.

**Public Participation:**

Parents and students voiced their concerns over the reduction in personnel for next year.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, thanked the students, parents and community members for sharing their thoughts and concerns.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared that the Committee and Dr. Rodrigues would schedule a public forum at a future date to further discuss these concerns.

**Reports:**

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Rodrigues updated the Committee on the following:

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The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents was awarded a grant for 20,000 Euros by the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) to pay for travel-related expenses for 10 superintendents to visit Lisbon, Portugal from April 11 to April 18, 2018.

The purpose of the trip was to provide Massachusetts public school Superintendents with an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the Portuguese speaking communities in order to better serve the children of Portuguese descent in our public schools. The trip was also to explore potential partnerships with Portuguese organizations to develop student exchanges between Massachusetts public schools and schools in Portugal, as well as teacher exchanges.

Participants

Superintendents of school communities with high incidence to Portuguese speaking families were chosen to participate in the trip to Portugal.

Marco Rodrigues	Superintendent	Hudson Public Schools
James Adams	Superintendent	Ashland Public Schools
Todd Gazda	Superintendent	Ludlow Public Schools
Robert Dutch	Superintendent	Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical High School
Luis Lopes	Superintendent	Southeastern Regional Technical High School
Kathy Smith	Superintendent	Brockton Public School
Bonny Gifford	Superintendent	Dartmouth Public Schools
Robert Baldwin	Superintendent	Fairhaven Public Schools
Julie Hackett	Superintendent	Taunton Public Schools
Jay Lang	Superintendent	Chelmsford Public Schools
Thomas Scott	Executive Director	Mass Association of School Superintendents

Itinerary

FLAD contracted with Study in Portugal Network (SiPN) to host the Superintendents and to create an itinerary designed to provide maximum exposure to education, culture, and local organizations.

The participants experienced the following:

- Met with Professor Vasco Rato, FLAD President
- Met with Professor Michael Baum, Study in Portugal Network (SiPN) Director
- Met with Margaret Young, US Embassy Assistant Public Affairs Officer on Education Exchanges
- Visited to secondary level school Padre Antonio Vieira in Lisbon
- Visited to the Science Museum - Pavilhao de Conhecimento Centro Ciencia Viva

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- Met with local Marine Biologist at a Setubal fish market
- Met with local Marine Biologist, founder of Ocean Alive
- Visited Ocean Alive initiative with a boat tour of the Sado Estuary
- Visited the historic city of Evora, a UNESCO World Heritage City
- Visited Monsaraz in the Alentejo Region
- Visited Estoril Hotel and Hospitality School – Turismo the Portugal
- Visited Estoril Higher Institute for Tourism and Hotel Studies
- Visited elementary level school Escola Francisco Arruda in Lisbon
- Met with Dr. Joao Costa, Portugal's Secretary of State for Education
- Visited the historic city of Sintra

### Connections

The itinerary allowed for meeting with principals, teachers, support staff, marine biologists, scientists, fisherwomen, students, higher education, US Embassy personnel, and the Secretary of State for Education. The conversations were rich and provided a clear picture of the educational landscape in Portugal.

- Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD)

FLAD is interested in expending their reach to include opportunities for student exchange at the high school level. Potential areas for partnership and studies were discussed with FLAD President, Professor Vasco Rato.

- Study in Portugal Network (SiPN)

Discussions with SiPN's Leadership focused on potential areas for semester and summer programs, training, internships, and customized faculty-led programs.

- US Embassy

Discussions with Margaret Young, US Embassy Assistant Public Affairs Officer on Education Exchanges, were extremely helpful. Superintendents identified areas of challenge in regards to recruiting teachers of Portuguese through the J-1 Visa process. Recommendations were made and potential solutions identified in order for teacher recruitment to occur in a more expeditious manner.

### Education in Portugal at a Glance

- Public education is centralized and administered at the national level
- National political arena is a challenge for sustainable educational practices
- High levels of bureaucracy interferes with school funding and daily operations
- Teachers are hired through a nationwide selection process
- Teacher placements are either permanent or on a 4-year rotation
- Teacher salary scale and seniority are unstable and not attractive to new teachers
- Teachers must have a Master's degree to acquire a teaching licensure

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- Resource allocation is based on student enrollment
- All resources are allocated through the national government
- Cluster of schools comprises a “small school district” = 811 Clusters nationwide
- Class sizes range from 20 to 26 students
- Aging population – Portugal’s declining enrollment = 10,000 students per year
- Compulsory attendance: ages 6 through 18 (since 2015)
- Standardized assessments in grades 9, 11 and 12

Discussion ensued.

### **Student Report**

Ben Carme, Student Representative, read the following statement to Committee members:

“ Hello, as many of you know, students have been expressing extreme concerns in relation to recent teacher layoffs. I am here to represent the student body and also voice my own concerns. The students are outraged by the decisions you as a committee and as superintendent have made. It's extremely sad to see the recent decline in student enrolment, but it's extremely frustrating to see nothing being done to combat this issue.

It may be necessary to layoff teachers, the number don't lie. But there is a difference between going at a problem with a scalpel and going at a problem with an axe. We feel you are jumping to soon with a major decision. After all, these teachers are the ones teaching the students in the classroom. Not once were the students asked their opinions on this decisions, not once were the students asked how they can help with population issues. WE feel we are voicing our concerns but you aren't listening. Tonight being a prime example. You as a committee and superintendent have a job to fulfil, definitely to keep the district in a healthy state, but also to represent the concerns of the community and the student body, that is what you were elected to do. Something must be done, these students are leaving pretty rapidly, the some that are staying aren't staying for certain administration personnel but are staying because of the relationships they develop with teachers. Now, this may seem like some angry parents and students but it is far from it. WE are concerned, and what makes us unique is our persistence, with the spotlight on the youth across the whole nation we are inspired to keep fighting. There must be another way, this cannot be the only option that you have. Administration is still being hired, yet, teachers are being let go. Now, let's step into the future, when you fix the problem of low enrolment, now we have to hire teachers back. Mathematically speaking that will cost the district more, not only is high cost attach, but mean while you are breaking strong relationships and are pushing strong teachers away. I am here demanding a change, I am here on behalf of the student body, I am not just representing my voice, but the entire community as a whole.”

### **Subcommittee Reports**

Mr. Tracy shared that the Strategic Goals Subcommittee met to begin work on the School Committee goals and will present them to the full Committee at the scheduled School Committee meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Matters for Discussion:**

1. Financial Projection – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:

Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, presented to the Committee the FY18 budget projections highlighting school choice, circuit breaker, and the Town appropriation, as well as a summary of FY18 budget savings by category for the general expense savings and transportation savings.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, thanked Ms. Lange for the updated information.

Discussion ensued.

**Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of Revolving Account

Dr. Rodrigues responded to inquiries made by Mr. Luoto at the previous meeting regarding different options for the use of funds in this account, and explained that the best option would be to transfer these funds to a comparable account and recommended the student activities account for athletics.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the transfer of the balance of the Driver's Ed Account in the amount of \$22,168.24 into the Student Activities Account, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Ms. Hay abstaining, the motion passed.

2. Approval of Proposed Adoption and Revisions of School Committee Policy Section 'B'

Dr. Rodrigues noted that School Policy BBBE *Unexpired Term Fulfillment* has been updated to reflect additional language relative to a resolution in the event of a tie vote.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the adoptions and revisions to School Committee Policies Section 'B', with the exception of School Policy BBBE *Unexpired Term Fulfillment*, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

3. Second Reading and Approval of Proposed Adoption of School Committee Policy JFBB *School Choice Policy*

A motion to approve the adoption of School Committee Policy JFBB *School Choice*, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

4. Approval of Proposed Revisions of School Committee Policy JFBA *Intradistrict Choice Policy*

A motion to approve the adoption of School Committee Policy JFBA *Intradistrict Choice*, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

5. Approval of Proposed Adoption of School Committee Policy ECABC *Security of School Buildings Policy*

A motion to approve the adoption to School Committee Policy ECABC *Security of School Buildings Policy*, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Smith. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Ms. Hay abstaining, the motion passed.

6. Approval of Proposed Adoption of School Committee Policy DD *Funding Proposals and Applications*

A motion to approve the adoption of School Committee Policy DD *Funding Proposals and Applications*, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Ms. Hay abstaining, the motion passed.

7. Approval of Hudson High School Overnight Field Trip to Sao Tome in April, 2019

A motion to approve the Hudson High School overnight field trip to Sao Tome in April, 2019, with the correction of the travel date on the school documentation to reflect April, 2019, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Rodrigues updated the Committee that the Hudson High School trip to Germany in April of 2019, which was previously approved by the School Committee, due to the Easter holiday, the travel dates have been changed to February of 2019.

8. Approval of Grants Awarded

Ms. Tousignant Dufour presented the following grants received for approval:

- FY18 River Community Grant in the amount of \$2,419.00

A motion to approve the grant awarded to the District, as presented, was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

- FY18 High Quality Instructional Summer Planning Grant in the amount of \$5,492.00

A motion to approve the grant awarded to the District, as presented, was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

**Reclassifications:**

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

**Items of Interest to the School Committee:**

None.

**Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 8:10 p.m., Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that Executive Session was needed for the following reason:

1. To conduct contract negotiations with union personnel (Hudson Education Association, Hudson Paraeducators Association and Hudson Cafeteria Workers Association), whereas discussion in 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. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth.

Vote by roll call:

- Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes
- Ms. Hay – yes
- Mr. Luoto – yes
- Mr. Maston – yes
- Mr. Smith– yes
- Ms. Hallsworth - yes
- Mr. Tracy - yes

*Approved*

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary  
Hudson School Committee