

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: March 20, 2018

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

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

Members absent: George Luoto

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

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:02 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting: February 27, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2018 was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Public Participation:

None.

Reports:

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Rodrigues held a Family Listening Session on School Safety on Monday, March 5th at the Quinn Middle School.

Dr. Rodrigues reported that over 100 parents/guardians attended the session, as well as School Committee members Liz Hallsworth, Michele Tousignant-Dufour and Steve Smith, Hudson Police Department members: Chief Michael Burkes, Detectives Chad Crogan, Seamus Veo and Capitan DiPersio, Administrators: Jason Webster, Matt Gaffney, Melissa Provost, Rachel Scanlon, Kelly Sardella, Dave Champigny, Kathy Provost, Denise Reid, Danica Johnson and Translators: Sandra Maiuri and Maria Garcia.

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The Listening Session for Families was very productive with great questions and remarks from parents and guardians. The discussions evolved around Training and Education, Equipment, Protocols, as well as communication with parents regarding evolution of the EMS work, the work discussed during the listening session, and next steps.

Dr. Rodrigues reported that the Organized Student Walk-Out was held on March 14th at 10:00 a.m. for 17 minutes. The tragedy in Parkland, Florida a few weeks ago and other losses of life on school campuses across the nation over several years have driven increased interest in student-led civic engagement efforts and actions, including the idea of school walk-outs. The Hudson Public Schools embraces students' Constitutional rights to peaceful assembly and free expression. The goal of the District, in responding to walk-out plans and other forms of peaceful assembly, is to try and keep focus on teaching and learning while providing guidance and planning to support student and staff safety.

Based on social media messaging, there are at least three major student-led efforts being planned:

1. March 14: Women's March Action – call for school walkout for 17 minutes at 10 am
2. March 24: March for Our Lives for all to participate in Washington, DC
3. April 20: National School Walkout for students across nation in local districts

We respect and support the right of our students to advocate for causes that are important to them and welcome the opportunity to work with any student or student group to discuss appropriate and creative ways to do so while at school.

In order to support and guide our students, building principals, teachers, and support personnel have met with student leaders to:

- Assess their needs and provide guidance.
- Remind students that Hudson supports their rights to peaceful assembly and free expression, but that school is about teaching and learning as priority, and that the Hudson Student Code of Conduct remains in place and will be enforced.
- Help ensure that any efforts to invite participation are open and that the events be inclusive of ALL students.
- Ask students to be respectful of students on campus who may not wish to participate, and/or students who may hold opposing views to those being shared during the event.
- Assess if there are teachable moments that could be relevant to class instruction or lessons.

Discussion ensued.

Student Report

Ben Carme, Student Representative, reported that Hudson High School participated in the National School Walkout and that the event was a success, with students respectful of the true reason behind the event.

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Hudson High School also held its first Annual Mr. Hudson High School night, which was a huge success and raised funds for the National Honor Society and Community Council.

Mr. Carme also shared that spring sports have begun at the high school, and that the new water fountain is up and running, and to date, almost 2,000 bottles of water have been saved.

Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Smith shared that the Policy Subcommittee continues to work on Section B of the policies, and those policies will be brought before the full Committee on March 27th for the first reading.

Mr. Maston shared that the Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting in April to discuss the high-level School Committee goals.

Discussion ensued.

Matters for Discussion:

1. Food Service Update:

Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, updated the Committee that an RFP was issued on March 15, 2018.

The following six companies responded:

Café Services, Inc.
Chartwells
Whitsons
Genuine Foods
Papa Gino's and D'Angelos Grilled Sandwiches
Aramark

A mandatory site walk was scheduled for March 20, 2018 and the following three companies were in attendance:

Chartwells
Café Services, Inc.
Whitsons

Ms. Lange reported that the anticipated award date is scheduled for May 8, 2018.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Lange will continue to update the Committee with any new developments.

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2. Finance Committee Update

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, reported that on Thursday, March 8th, the Finance Committee approved the budget and noted that it was a great meeting with very encouraging conversation.

Discussion ensued.

Matters for Action:

1. Approval of the 2018-2019 School Year Calendar

Dr. Rodrigues recommended approval of the 2018-2019 School Year calendar.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the 2018-2019 School Year calendar was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Reclassifications:

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

None.

Executive Session/Adjournment

At 7:37 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) 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 Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth.

Vote by roll call:

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

Approved

Mr. Tracy - yes

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