

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: January 23, 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 – 7:02 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting: January 9, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2018 was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Ms. Hay abstaining, the motion passed.

Public Participation:

None.

Reports:

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Rodrigues presented his Entry Findings to Committee members and the experiences of his first few months as Superintendent in Hudson. Dr. Rodrigues has engaged in multiple activities to collect, analyze, and synthesize information from a multitude of sources and from listening sessions with stakeholders within and outside of the school community.

The listening sessions and school visits have provided him the opportunity to speak with school administrators, parents, teaching and support personnel, students, and members of the School Committee to learn about their priorities, expectations, concerns, and vision for the District. In addition, the review of District data and pertinent documents were essential activities to assist him in capturing evidence of the District's strengths and areas for potential growth and development.

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The current mission of the Hudson Public Schools states that “In partnership with families and community, we will maintain standards of academic excellence, preparing all students to be intellectually curious, academically confident, and successful active citizens in a competitive and global environment”.

This mission is anchored on the belief that 1) Learning and Growth apply to both student and adult; 2) High Expectations for academic standards and professional learning are critical; 3) Accountability measures must be in place at the District, school, and classroom levels; and 4) Consistency in the learning expectations must guide students’, parents’ and educators’ roles and responsibilities.

As the new Superintendent, Dr. Rodrigues embrace his new role with great respect to the history, traditions, and culture of the Hudson Public Schools, and brings his own values and beliefs which he shares and instills through his leadership actions and practices.

The Entry Findings highlights the patterns, trends, and major findings encountered throughout the process. The findings were organized into five focus areas: Organizational Effectiveness, District and School Climate and Culture, Teaching, Learning and Student Supports, Communication, and Budget Development. These areas encompass all the elements inherent in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s District Standards and Indicators and the Essential Conditions for School Effectiveness documents.

In conclusion, the Entry Plan process provides Dr. Rodrigues the opportunity to review data, evaluate District’s protocols, and observe teaching and learning practices. Through this process, trends and patterns organically emerge, identifying areas for deeper investigation and further discussions.

In the next few months, the District Leadership Team will be engaged in the exploration of the identified areas above, will conduct root cause analysis, and will work collaboratively to develop the District Improvement Plan.

Discussion ensued.

Student Report

Ben Carme, Student Representative, reported that midterms at the high school have been completed, and the new semester will begin on January 24th.

Mr. Carme also noted that due to the weather, the grounds were very dangerous for students and teachers.

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Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Smith shared that Policy Subcommittee continues to work on reviewing and updating the policies and will provide an update to Committee members next month.

Matters for Discussion:

1. Discussion of Grants and Corporate Partnership Program:

Communication and Development Coordinator, Denise Reid, presented to the Committee an update on the District and the Communications Plan:

- 1) Grants and private donations in the amount of \$370,415;
- 2) FY18 expected funding pending approval in the amount of \$362,620;
- 3) Growth on Social media;
- 4) Networking to increase Hudson Public Schools presence in the community; and
- 5) Future development goals

Ms. Reid discussed working with the administrators and staff, as well as community business leaders, civic leaders and reaching the community through communication channels such as media, electronic, print and interpersonal avenue to increase awareness and support for Hudson Public Schools.

Dr. Rodrigues introduced the Corporate Partnership Opportunities program which will enhance the District's ability to fulfill its mission of delivering world-class education today, for the global leaders of tomorrow through the Mini-Grants Program, School Sponsor Program and the Program Sponsor.

Discussion ensued.

2. Discussion of Budget Narrative:

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, discussed with Committee members the Budget Narrative which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on Monday, February 5th.

Committee members thanked Dr. Rodrigues for the very informative and comprehensive budget book.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Rodrigues shared that the Budget Book will be posted on the District website for the Hudson community to review, as well as hard copies distributed to the Hudson Senior Center and Hudson Library.

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3. Discussion of Food Service Update

Patty Lange, Executive Director of Finance and Operations, updated the Committee that the Food Service subcommittee has met twice. Consultant, Ms. April Lasky, presented to the subcommittee information on self-op models and vendors for food service.

Based on her presentation, the subcommittee requested more in-depth information for all options from Ms. Lasky. Due to this request, the previously scheduled meeting has been postponed to allow for more pertinent information to be gathered.

Ms. Lange will continue to update the Committee with future developments.

Discussion ensued.

Matters for Action:

1. Approval of May Town Warrant

Dr. Rodrigues recommended approval of the May Town Warrant.

Discussion ensued.

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

2. Approval of Hudson High School World Language Trip to Madrid, Spain in April, 2019

Dr. Rodrigues recommended approval of the Hudson High School World Language trip to Madrid, Spain in April, 2019.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School World Language trip to Madrid, Spain in April, 2019 was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

3. Approval of Contract with Focused Schools in the Amount of \$16,900.00 for Professional Development

Dr. Rodrigues recommended approval of the contract with Focused Schools in the amount of \$16,900.00 for Professional Development.

A motion to approve the contract with Focused Schools in the amount of \$16,900.00 for Professional Development was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Approved

Reclassifications:

None.

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

Ms. Hay shared that with her departure from the Committee in May, a new liaison to CHAPS is needed.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Maston congratulated Hudson High School Junior Sean Morton on his All-State Music Festival performance on the French horn.

Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:38 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 Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth.

Vote by roll call:

Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes

Ms. Hay – yes

Mr. Luoto – yes

Mr. Maston – yes

Ms. Hallsworth - yes

Mr. Smith – yes

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