

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2018

**Location:** Administration Building  
155 Apsley Street

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

**Members absent:** Allyson Hay  
Ben Carne, Student Representative

**Others present:** Dr. Marco C. Rodrigues, Superintendent  
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary

**I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:03 p.m.**

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting: December 5, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2017 was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**Public Participation:**

None.

**Reports:**

**Report of the Superintendent**

Dr. Rodrigues shared the process that the District follows for school cancellations and delays and to ensure that decisions to delay or cancel schools are made in a thoughtful and consistent manner, the Superintendent developed a protocol that provides the opportunity for multiple stakeholders to opine on the District's and Town's readiness to open the schools at its regular time.

The purpose of the protocol is to assist the Team in answering the following questions:

- 1) Considering the impact of the weather, can students and staff safely arrive at the school?
- 2) Considering the impact of the weather, can students and staff safely return home after the school day?

*Approved*

The Team is comprised of the following members:

- 1) Superintendent
- 2) Assistant Superintendent
- 3) Executive Director of Finance and Operations
- 4) Director of Buildings and Grounds
- 5) Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
- 6) Director of Technology
- 7) Director of Department of Public Works
- 8) Coordinator of Transportation – North Reading Transportation

The protocol consists of:

1. Activating a conference call to discuss impending weather;
2. Evaluating multiple media weather forecasts for accuracy;
3. Evaluating District, Town and Transportation level of readiness to operate under inclement weather;
4. Networking with Superintendents of surrounding communities on their thoughts and potential decisions; and
5. Answering the questions above.

If the impending weather is likely to affect the opening of schools and the Team reached the decision to delay or cancel school, members of the Team proceed to inform all pertinent parties, including media outlets, families, community partners and District staff.

Discussion ensued.

### **Student Report**

None.

### **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. Presentation of the 2017-2018 Superintendent's Academic Achievement Award:

Dr. Rodrigues congratulated Dakota Antelman as the recipient of the 2017-2018 Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence. The award is sponsored by the Massachusetts Superintendent's Association.

High School Principal, Dr. Reagan, shared that Dakota Antelman is Editor-in-Chief of the school's award winning newspaper, The Big Red. He is at the top 5% of his graduating class and also a peer tutor for the school's Writing Center.

*Approved*

Dakota is a freelance writer for the Community Advocate and was one of ten finalists in the National Scholastic Press Association Contest, as well as a finalist in the Journalism Education Association for a multi-media.

Dakota prides himself in his curiosity, which drives his interest in journalism and pushes him to appropriately challenge information presented in class.

Dakota's favorite quote is:

"I can't imagine a person becoming a success who doesn't give this game everything he's got."

- Walter Cronkite

Committee members congratulated Dakota for his accomplishments.

2. Discussion of Hudson High School Program of Studies:

Principal Reagan and Director of Guidance, Angie Flynn, presented an outline focusing on the additional courses and changes proposed for the 2018-2019 school year.

Mr. Reagan and Ms. Flynn highlighted the high school schedule, new course offerings, electives and graduation requirements.

Discussion Ensued.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School Program of Studies 2018-2019, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

3. Discussion of Assabet Valley Collaborative Annual Report and Financial Audit

In compliance with the laws and regulations concerning education collaboratives, Dr. Rodrigues shared with members a copy of the Assabet Valley Collaborative 2017 Annual Report and the FY17 Financial Report.

Discussion ensued.

**Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of the FY19 School Budget

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared with members that the vote tonight will be on the budget numbers and that the budget narrative to be presented to the Town on February 5<sup>th</sup> will be presented to the Committee at the next scheduled School Committee meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Discussion ensued.

*Approved*

Dr. Rodrigues shared the process undertaken for the zero-based budget and the three main priorities that the District considered: student enrollment, programs and services.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the recommended FY19 School Budget personnel line of \$32,303,843.00 was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the recommended FY19 School Budget general expense line of \$7,923,729.00 was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the recommended FY19 School Budget transportation line of \$2,084,000.00 was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith.

Discussion ensued.

2. Approval of Adoptions and Revisions of School Committee Policies “Section A”

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared that no public feedback or comments were received.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the recommended adoptions and revisions to School Committee Policy ‘A’ was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith.

3. Approval of Proposed School Committee Policy *Substance Use Prevention and Education Policy*

Dr. Rodrigues recommended approval of Proposed School Committee *Substance Use Prevention and Education Policy*.

A motion to approve Proposed School Committee Policy *Substance Use Prevention and Education* was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

4. Approval of Contract with Raymond Design Associates in the Amount of \$17,500.00 for the Administration Building Envelope Study

Dr. Rodrigues recommended approval of the contract with Raymond Design Associates in the amount of \$17,500.00 for the Administration Building envelope study.

*Approved*

A motion to approve the contract with Raymond Design Associates in the amount of \$17,500.00 for the Administration Building envelope study was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**Reclassifications:**

A motion to approve the reclassification of funds No. 1, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the reclassification of funds No. 2, as presented, was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, 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) 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  
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