

Approved

Hudson School Committee Open Session Minutes

Meeting Date: May 28, 2019

Location: 155 Aspley Street

Members present: Steven Smith, Adam Tracy, Nina Ryan, Matthew McDowell, Michele Tousignant Dufour, and Rebecca Weksner (arrived ~ 7:06 p.m)

Members absent: Glenn Maston

Others present: Dr. Marco C. Rodrigues, Superintendent

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

The meeting was called to order by Committee Vice Chair, Steven Smith.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting: May 14, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2019 was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None

IV. Reports and Presentations

Report of the Superintendent: Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning

Dr. Rodrigues stated that Ms. Kathy Provost, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning, and her team would be presenting updates to the committee on curriculum, instruction, and professional learning.

Topics included:

- Professional Development Advisory Council
- Professional Development survey results were analyzed by the PD Advisory Council
- Action steps for Professional Development for Paraprofessionals and Instructional Staff
- Making Students' Learning visible is a focus and core value throughout ELEVATE, Building Meetings, and Instructional Leadership Teams
- Professional Development offered to support Making Students' Learning Visible
- Looked for opportunities to bring out passion/genius projects
- Development of a new Kindergarten Screening Tool
- Attendance at the S3 Academy (Systems of Integrated Student Support) and development of action steps to build supports for all students.
- Started work on pathways for Engineering, Video Production, Portuguese Interpreter and Translator, Biomedical, Public Service, and Education and Care. Work will continue to articulate courses for these pathways as well as think about other supports such as summer work, internships, establishment of advisory boards, etc.

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- District 1:1 Technology Plan including roll out of Digital Citizenship Plan
- Summer work including workshops and courses, Professional Development Plan, Curriculum Writing
- Year at a Glance Document for every grade level. The plan is to have this document available for parents.

Discussion ensued about the S3 Academy, Kindergarten Screening, and the Pathways.

Subcommittee Reports

None

Budget Subcommittee

None

Policy Subcommittee

None

Strategic Goals Subcommittee

None

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

Ms. Ryan shared that Dr. Rodrigues' evaluation is currently being worked on.

Student Report

None

V. **Matters for Discussion:**

a) Old Business

1. ARC Update

June Murray teacher at Hudson High School presented an update on the ARC (Academics, Relationships, and Community) program that was piloted from February to May at Hudson High School.

Ms. Murray spoke of surveys to the stakeholders, including staff, parents, and students. Results of the surveys had the following highlights:

Academics

- ARC was beneficial
- Students say they turn in more work, are able to get help, and are better prepared for class.
- Teachers have access to students they would not have access to after school.
- Staff feels there is a loss of prep time and some concerns that there is a loss of instructional time. The team is working on a plan to make up for the lost time.
- Overall, parents feel students are accessing extra help but there are concerns about shorter classes.

Relationships

- Staff feel they have better relationships with students

Community

- The number of students on the ineligible list for after school activities has decreased by 30%.

- There has been a 50% reduction in drop in visits to the nurse's office.
- Enrichment activities are offered during ARC and 175 students a week are taking advantage of them.
- Special events such as guest speakers, play previews, class meetings, and pre scheduling for AP exams are held during ARC period. These activities do not take away from instructional time.

Ms. Murray spoke of the impact of ARC on special populations such as special education students and English Language Learners.

90% of parents, 93% of students, and 90% of staff surveyed said that ARC should continue next year.

Mr. Tracy asked about the concerns of reduction of instructional time, and how the planned adjustments will affect this. Discussion ensued. The team noted that the pacing of classes will be different with a full year ARC program versus a four month pilot.

Mr. McDowell commented on the focus on student learning and the connection to the earlier presentation on curriculum.

Discussion ensued about the guidance given by staff to students with their choice of activities during their ARC block. Discussion ensued about the enrichment activities offered.

Mr. Tracy commented that he would like attendance and tardiness tracked if this program continues.

b) New Business

1. Student Presentation on Trip to *São Tomé*

Mr. Anibel Jose Serra and several students gave a presentation to the committee about their recent trip to *São Tomé*. Twenty students spent seven days there. Highlights included:

- CACAU cultural center: Experienced local arts and cuisine
- Visit to Historical Locations on the north side of the island
- Visit to the Chocolate Factory (one of the main exports)
- Kindergarten at Saudade
- Waterfall Sao Nicolau
- Coffee Museum
- Camping at Jale Unesco beach
- Mangrove boat cruise (saw local wildlife)
- Rolas Island
- Equator Mark & the center of the world
- Santana Surf Lesson
- Fundraising activities to bring school supplies to the school children in *São Tomé*

2. First Reading of Proposed Adoption of School Committee Policies: Section G
Mr. Smith introduced this section on non-contractual employee benefits. These will be posted on the website so people have the opportunity for feedback.
3. First Reading of Proposed Adoption of School Committee Policies: JLCB Immunization Policy
Mr. Smith stated that this policy was updated with some minor changes. Mr. Tracy asked about restrictions/exclusion of non-vaccinated students when there are communicable diseases present in school.
Discussion ensued about resources and regulations to aid in decisions about exclusion. This will be posted on the website so people have the opportunity for feedback.
4. First Reading of Proposed Adoption of School Committee Policies: Section E: Transportation
Mr. Smith introduced this section focused on walkers and riders and bus safety. These will be posted on the website so people have the opportunity for feedback.
5. SEPAC Presentation
Ms. Cheryl Langill and Ms. Michelle Roderick gave a presentation on the Hudson SEPAC with the following highlights:
 - Mission Statement
 - SEPAC Board & Training
 - Concerns of SEPAC members
 - Professional Development for Parents
 - 2019 SEPAC Survey Results
 - Topics of interest include ADHD, Social Emotional Issues and Executive functioning
 - Possible topics presentations for 2019-2020
 - Executive Functioning
 - Transition FSCN
 - MCAS FSCN
 - Hands on Food Allergy workshop
 - Basic rights
 - Possible kids yoga
 - Integrated Children's therapy
 - Dyslexia
 - Recognizing staff members who have gone above and beyond with Making a Difference Award

Discussion ensued about funding for SEPAC

VI. **Matters for Action:**

- a) Old Business
 1. Approval of Proposed MASC Transportation Resolution
Mr. Smith stated the only change from the last read was the addition of a reference. A motion to approve the proposed MASC Transportation Resolution, was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.
- b) New Business
 1. Approval of Chartwells Contract Renewal
Ms. Patricia Lange Executive Director of Finance and Operations, and Mr. Chris Callahan of Chartwells presented a contract amendment for the Committee's approval. This amendment includes projections for next year.
Discussion ensued about results from this year and how this will transition into next year and how the capital improvements affect functionality and efficiency.
A motion to approve the Chartwells Contract Renewal for the 2019-2020 school year was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.
 2. Approval of MGL Chapter 40 Section 13E establishment of a Special Education Reserve Fund
Mr. Smith stated that the committee recently approved the establishment of a Special Education Reserve Fund. The town has asked for a vote citing the Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40 Section 13E.
A motion to approve MGL Chapter 40 Section 13E establishment of a Special Education Reserve Fund was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0 the motion passed.
 3. Approval of FY20 Comprehensive School Health Services Grant in the amount \$200,000.00 paid in \$50,000.00 increments over four years
A motion to approve the FY20 Comprehensive School Health Services Grant in the amount of \$200,000.00 paid in \$50,000.00 increments over four years was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Ms. Ryan. On a vote of 6-0 the motion passed.
 4. Approval of FY19 Lowes Toolbox for Education Grant in the amount of \$4950.00
A motion to approve the FY19 Lowes Toolbox for Education Grant in the amount of \$4950.00 was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.
 5. Approval of Reclassification of Funds
A motion to approve the reclassification of funds as presented was

Approved

made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. McDowell. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Ms. Weksner abstaining the motion passed.

VII. Items of Interest to the School Committee

Ms. Tousignant Dufour commented that we need to be aware of the potential development of 34 Tower St and the impact on our school district.

Mr. Smith said that the High School graduation is this Sunday. He asked that if Committee members plan to attend to notify Dr. Rodrigues.

VIII. Executive Session

At 9:24 p.m., Committee Vice Chair Steven Smith noted that Executive Session was needed for the following reasons:

- a. To conduct a strategy session in preparation for discussions pursuant to section 2.a (annual compensation) of the Employment Agreement between the Hudson School Committee and Marco Rodrigues ("the Superintendent), whereby an open session may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the School Committee.
- b. To discuss strategy in preparation for CBA negotiations with union personnel (Hudson Education Association)

Vote by Roll Call

Ms. Weksner	yes
Ms. Tousignant Dufour	yes
Mr. McDowell	yes
Ms. Ryan	yes
Mr. Tracy	yes
Mr. Smith	yes

IX. Adjournment

At 9:24 p.m., Committee Vice Chair, Steven Smith announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to public session

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
Hudson School Committee