

## The Susan Menanson Memorial Library (Responses)

Timestamp	We hope to name the Learning Commons in honor of Ms. Menanson. If you would like to support this proposal, please write a brief statement to explain your position. Please also include information about your relationship with Ms. Menanson as an HHS student, parent, or faculty member.	Name and Relationship (optional)
5/29/2019 12:38:44	Todd Wallingford	
5/29/2019 12:47:36	Great idea. I think it is wonderful memorialize a person who was so important to the HHS community for so long.	
5/29/2019 12:48:55	I am in support of this effort. Susan was my daughters teacher and my daughter had had a hard time with English in the past. Ms. Menanson made her believe in herself again. That her ideas matter and that no matter what you read it will enrich you.	
5/29/2019 12:54:47	1000000% YES!!!!!!!!!!	Mike Nanartowich
5/29/2019 13:01:28	yes	
5/29/2019 13:02:25	Susan Menanson and I taught next to each other for 7 years. We shared laughter, a love of culture, a passion for BBC Earth and she attempted to convert me with regards to my disdain for Shakespeare. I watched her cultivate a love of literature in her students. Naming the library after her would be a fitting honor for a woman who loved teaching and her students.	June Mrray
5/29/2019 13:06:33	I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to know Ms. Menanson as both a teacher and a colleague. Her classes were challenging, insightful, often intimidating, and myself along with my fellow graduates reminisce about the times we had her class. I was very fortunate to be able to work along side her and see not only her teacher-side, but her "human-side" as well. Her love for literature and critical analysis of text often still ring in my head when reading my own books. I fully support and would appreciate that Ms. Menanson and her legacy of teaching at HHS be honored in this way.	Arianna Ciesluk
5/29/2019 14:12:21	I whole-heartedly support this wonderful idea. Susan's love of literature, students and HHS make this a no-brainer. Thanks to whoever came up with this proposal! Pat Emmons HHS School Nurse	
5/29/2019 14:13:43	I full support this! she was an amazing teacher who loved her students and what she taught. She always had a captive audience in her classroom !	Bruce Hedison
5/29/2019 14:50:10	I am in support of renaming the Learning Common in honor of Susan Menanson. Susan Menanson was a fierce advocate for the written word and for learning. She insisted that students take their writing seriously, read carefully, and engage with tough ideas through text. She believed in the power of the written word to move people and change the world, and she helped generations of students learn that too. I have met random HHS grads, who are now in their 20s or 30s, and they all still remember Mrs. Menanson and the impact she had. Renaming the Learning Commons would help the legacy of Susan live on, and would be a meaningful gesture for the generations of students and staff members whose lives she touched.	Whitney Nielsen
5/29/2019 19:45:59	Susan was my teacher when I was in high school and then my colleague for the last ten years. The HHS library should be named after her because she introduced so many HHS students to the importance of reading. It was more than reading; each book offered humor, tragedy, a new adventure, and a life lesson. A room that houses knowledge is the perfect way to commemorate someone who not only challenged her students to explore the literary world and never stop learning but also lived that way herself. Our community is better because she was a part of it.	Pamela Porter
5/30/2019 7:08:40	When I first came to Hudson High School as an English teacher, Susan Menanson was right there ready to share her ideas, materials and feedback with me. I have been ever so grateful. With her support, I became a better teacher. I was also surprised by her willingness to continue to grow as a teacher, even after years of being an educator. She would listen to me and use my ideas in her own classroom.	Emily Smyth
5/30/2019 7:30:01	When I was in Middle School, my mother (Carol Hobbs) began working at Hudson High School. Soon after I was introduced to Susan Menanson. She was one of the smartest, sharpest, and funniest women I ever met. I grew up listening to her wisdom and sarcastic, dry humor. When she retired last year she left me (what else but) books. Reading and literature were her truest passions. I'm sure if any of us were to go up to the Learning Commons and pick out a book, she could tell us all about it. She seemed to know every piece of literature that was ever brought up in conversation. Susan dedicated so much of her life to teaching anyone and everyone the beauty in the written word at HHS. Naming the Learning Commons after her would be the best way to honor her memory, and her memory should be honored.	Charlotte Huxter
5/30/2019 8:10:47	I think it sounds like a great idea.	Erin Jameson
5/30/2019 12:33:37	Ms. Menanson was easily one of the most amazing teachers I have ever had the privilege to have. She was everything I aspired to be: witty, intelligent, charismatic, loving, empathetic, and unabashedly herself. She taught me how to be a better person as well as a better scholar. She believed in the beauty of education and literature, and I believe that the library should honor her long lasting impact.	Kaleigh Brennan

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5/30/2019 12:33:46	Ms. Menanson was the best English teacher I have ever had, she made me a much stronger writer. Also, she made sure that at the beginning of every class, throughout the entire year, there was time for us all to read. She was always filled with so much energy directed towards reading, I think that naming the library after her will fill the library with as much energy and vibrance as she had.	
5/30/2019 13:03:36	A legend	
5/30/2019 13:16:55	I had Ms. Menanson as a teacher when i was a sophomore. I was originally afraid of her- I wasn't used to English class being really intense. But Ms. Menanson was actually one of the kindest teachers I have ever had. In class she eventually started to notice what I was reading as IR books and began recommending some of her favorite classics for me to read. I of course read them and at the end of class we would talk about the books I had read. She really cared about books, and her students and the whole school. I really enjoyed my 10th grade English class and all the lessons that Ms. Menanson taught me. I think the library being named after her would be a fitting legacy at HHS.	
5/31/2019 9:27:19	<p>May 31, 2019</p> <p>Dear School Committee:</p> <p>I now eat lunch without Susan Menanson. This makes me sad, and I do, despite my best efforts, tear up when I consider the absence of her conversation which has delighted, challenged, and taught me so much over these past 12 years. I want to say up front, I miss her. Susan was my colleague, and my dear friend. She was also one of the best teachers I've had the honor to know.</p> <p>When I first came to Hudson High School, Susan Menanson was the mentor who offered me materials, a planned curriculum, and the model of not taking myself so damn seriously. She made me laugh at myself, and then at the often-ridiculous cyclical nature of pedagogical theories, and she was never shy about calling bunk bunk. She had clear vision polished over the generous years of her teaching career.</p> <p>And she was moved by good literature. Susan had astounding recall of everything she'd ever read. That encyclopedic love of words is rare. Susan was rare. We teachers, and all her students through the years were blessed to know her wisdom, wit, and intellect.</p> <p>At Susan's retirement celebration just last spring, I read a poem by David Wright titled "Lines On Retirement, After Reading Lear." It's a poem celebrating the retirement of a friend, and it uses references to Shakespeare's play. An aside: Susan avoided King Lear because she had a squeamish reaction to images of eye gouging and eye injuries, so I may have been playfully needling our resident Shakespeare scholar. One excerpt from this poem reads:</p> <p>So don't wait for skies to crack with sun. Feel  the storm's sweet sting invade you to the skin,  the strange, sore comforts of the wind. Embrace  your children's ragged praise and that of friends.</p> <p>I've felt such grief over Susan's death so soon after retirement, grief filled with regrets that Susan did not get to travel again to Australia, to perfect her Bridge game, or to do any number of bright adventurous things she had planned. I know many of Susan's friends share this grief. On reflection, I realize that for Susan literature allowed a heightened experience of being human in the world. She knew that books well-written allowed the reader to feel the wealth of emotion and deeper thinking that makes life rich. Susan Menanson opened this rich world for so many students in her long career as an English teacher. And she opened the door to the best teaching practices for all teachers who had the honor of her company.</p> <p>Please hear our "ragged praise" of Susan Menanson. She loved books. She loved sharing this passion with all who knew her. We are made better by embracing the love of literature Susan exemplified. Our learning commons at Hudson High School could have no better name than The Susan Menanson Memorial Library.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Carol Hobbs (English Teacher, Hudson High School)</p>	Carol Hobbs, friend and fellow 10th grade English teacher

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5/31/2019 17:18:05	I was a student of Ms. Menanson's many years ago. She was a wonderful teacher. You could see her genuine love for literature, and attending her class was interesting and enjoyable. She was a HHS institution and I'd love to see her honored in this way.	Maryann Waugh, Class of '95
6/1/2019 12:19:27	I am in favor of naming the Learning Commons in honor of Susan as I know how dedicated she was to enrich the lives of her students with literature. Susan was my tenth grade English teacher at HHS and one of my graduate professors when receiving my MAT in English at Fitchburg State University. After receiving my Masters I went on to become an English teacher at QMS here in Hudson, where I was honored to work beside her as a member of the secondary English department in Hudson Public Schools. As a former student and colleague, I would love for something that meant so much to Susan to stand in her memory.	Kara (Wood) Kittredge - former student and colleague
6/1/2019 12:49:17	<p>So much of my professional work with Susan involved reading. Finding books to add to the curriculum or for summer reading that students would love. Our curriculum reflects her great choices – The Curious Incident and Jenna Fox. We had heated debates about how to teach students to notice important moments in the text. No matter how many professional books about reading instruction I said we needed to read, she read them and respected my ideas about teaching. She always brought me gifts from the New York Times – book choices in the review section, articles for my English and journalism classes. Her love of reading permeated all her conversations.</p> <p>Even in our last visit with her right before her death, we talked books. The mystery book she was devouring and a book on the Cold War that she loved. I said that I would bring a Kindle the next time that I visited so that she would have an easier time purchasing and reading her new books. Reading to her was a joy and a gift – the joy of finding a book that my son would finally love, the joy of recommending books to colleagues in all departments of our school, the gift of having deep conversations with her about the books that she loved. I frequently find myself after her death wondering what she would say about that section of To Kill a Mockingbird that I just taught. I regret that I won't get to hear her insight and analysis. This weekend we will pack and store the books that she collected and loved. We will sort them and add a space in our school library to recognize her love of reading and our love for her. Renaming the school library would be another step in that process, the process of remembering her and the gift of reading that she brought to her students and colleagues.</p>	Amy Vessels
6/3/2019 14:42:59	I fully support naming the Learning Commons in honor of Susan Menanson. She was truly an inspiration to all students and colleagues. Her enthusiasm for reading and learning was infectious, even some of the most challenging books such as Shakespeare!	Melissa DiFonzo, friend and colleague
6/4/2019 13:39:33	I knew Susan Menanson for many years as she taught all three of my children and I worked at the high school with her. She was dedicated to the students of Hudson High School and showed a great love for the English language and writing. It would be very fitting to rename the library at the high school in her honor.	Sherry Sleeper
6/4/2019 13:41:32	Susan had such a love for reading and learning that she fostered in her students, as well. Naming the library after her seems like a natural decision and honor to her.	HHS Staff Member
6/4/2019 13:43:32	No one was more passionate about reading (across all subjects) than Susan. I cannot think of a better person to name the library after.	
6/4/2019 13:44:43	I worked with Susan for all of my career until she retired last year. She was a passionate educator who loved literature, her students, and Hudson High. Beyond her love for literature, however, she loved learning; she could talk history, music, politics, and art as fluently as she could talk about books. She was an avid reader on every subject--she read books at a rate that puts most of us to shame, and passed on her knowledge and her books generously and enthusiastically. She was the model of a lifelong learner and critical thinker, an example for students and staff to aspire to. I can't think of a better tribute to her than to name the library after her, but moreover, I can't think of a person who embodies the spirit of a library better than Susan.	Amy Plackowski, English teacher
6/4/2019 13:46:06	Renaming the Learning Commons personalizes the space to help both students and staff to feel like they are connected to a unique and special community. Ms. Menanson had a lasting impact on her colleagues and students and it is important to recognize her legacy in this way.	Caitlin Murphy, colleague
6/4/2019 13:50:30	What an honor this would be for Susan! Her love of reading and writing was contagious and evident every day at HHS. She knew Shakespeare better than Shakespeare himself.	Sue Bowen, Colleague and parent of former student
6/4/2019 13:54:48	Susan was so devoted to her students at HHS. She truly instilled a love of reading and lifelong learning in so many Hudson children. She have HHS her all. A library named after Susan would be wonderful.	Nicki Ramshaw (former teacher)
6/4/2019 13:57:10	It would be a great way to honor a magnificent teacher who gave so much to the students of HHS through the world of Shakespeare and more! She unexpectedly touched the hearts of almost every student she had.	Diana Hatstat (colleague)
6/4/2019 13:59:11	I cannot think of a more fitting tribute that Hudson High School can bestow to Ms. Susan Menanson. As an unflappable champion of literature, her high expectations and direct approach provided a challenge to students to improve their reading, writing and analytical skills.	Faculty member

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6/4/2019 14:11:51	I believe the HHS library should be named after after Ms. Menanson. I am a HHS alum and had Ms. Menanson for 10th grade English and AP Literature. She was a phenomenal teacher, passionate about the subject matter and about her student's success. This would be a great way to honor her.	Lauren Costedio
6/4/2019 14:20:34	I had Ms. Menanson as a teacher for 10th grade English in 2010 and again for AP Literature in 2012. Though I wasn't a very good student at the time, I knew I would benefit from her AP course, and in the very least, enjoy a few good books with a great teacher. She gave my senior year spring so many laughs. At a time where "senioritis" was very real, she found a way to make learning literature first thing in the morning, enjoyable. One day, she sat me down and told me I was going to need to really reevaluate my writing skills before going to college. One of the most honest conversations I had ever had with an educator. Today, I am receiving my Doctorate, and continue to value the lessons she taught me, such as to "be concise" and in the spirit of this, I will end my proposal with this: to not name a library after her would be an insult.	Catherine Borella 10th grade English 2010 and AP Lit 2012.
6/4/2019 14:22:32	Ms. Menanson was consistently passionate about and dedicated to the development of all our students' literacy skills and knowledge. Throughout her storied career, this Hudson professional challenged and taught our community to read well, think critically, and write effectively.	Steve Sacco, colleague
6/4/2019 14:23:53	Sorting through books Susan Menanson donated to the HHS Learning Commons, I was intensely reminded what a great mind she had and how much Susan loved books. To name our library in honor of Susan Menanson would be a very appropriate move.	Christine Alexander, HHS Learning Commons, Assistant
6/4/2019 14:24:07	Ms. Susan Menanson was my English teacher my sophomore and senior years of high school. Her encouragement and dry humor kept me sane during those times. Ms. Menanson was a tough cookie sometimes, but she truly cared for her students and wanted us to succeed. She taught us about literature, cinema, travel, grammar. When I write a work email I still have a little Ms. Menanson on my shoulder saying, "more concise! Specificity!" I will never forget how much she laughed when we read The Importance of Being Earnest in class. When I heard she passed away I was devastated, although I was able to attend her wake. It was sweet to see how proud she was of her family, and they of her, and it reminded me how proud she was of her students. Ms. Menanson cared about three things in this world: Shakespeare, Australia, and her students. She was an adventurous, independent thinker and world traveler. She was an unwavering supporter of her students, colleagues, and loved ones. Renaming the library in honor of Susan Menanson would be the highest honor I can think for someone who dedicated years of her life to Hudson's students, especially when it comes to literacy and a love of learning.	Mark Terra-Salomão, HHS alumnus
6/4/2019 14:28:51	Shannon Hogan	
6/4/2019 14:29:29	.	Jessica Parks
6/4/2019 14:29:38	As a former HHS student, it'd be a really nice memorial to name the commons after a great teacher.	Katie Dunnell
6/4/2019 14:30:15	I support naming the HHS library after Ms. Menanson. I never had her as a teacher but I will never forget the cardboard cut out that she had in her classroom.	
6/4/2019 14:40:22	Susan was a valued colleague and leader in the English Department. She was quick to offer her expertise and resources to help support the students of Hudson High. She was so committed to the students she worked with, spending so much time working with them on their reading and writing skills. She's a Hudson High School institution, and has supported so many students on their educational journeys. By memorializing Susan in this way, we show a community commitment to language and literature, hard work and dedication, and our students.	Julie McMaster
6/4/2019 14:58:49	I support this proposal. Ms. Menanson loved books and helped her students love books as well.	Linette Davis, former student
6/4/2019 14:58:49	Yes, I would like name the learning commons after Mrs.Melanson due to her contribution to the Hudson Public Schools.	Lyndsey Kilduff (Daley)
6/4/2019 15:10:10	Ms. menanson was a great teacher and had a passion for reading and writing!	Past student
6/4/2019 15:22:44	Mary Aguirre.	I was a faculty member at HHS for three years and I respected her intelligence, compassion and sharp humor. She was an excellent teacher and created a dynamic at HHS of excellence as well.

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6/4/2019 15:28:34	Naming the school library after her is a beautiful and appropriate way to recognize Susan—an avid reader—and the many other readers, young and old, avid and less-than-avid, who make up a community like Hudson High School. Whenever I saw Susan, at the copy center, a faculty meeting, or leaving the building—I wanted to know what she was reading. It was such a pleasure to hear her talk of books. Once, she arrived at my classroom to lend me a biography of Victor Hugo. I was flattered but also amazed—other book lovers I know never lend their books; they're afraid they will not get them back. She was generous in her reading. What better way to honor the meaning of a library than to name it for someone who loved to read and lent books, too.	Anne Elliot
6/4/2019 16:36:59	I was a para and worked with Susan in many of her classes. I frequently requested to work with her because she loved Shakespeare (and taught me to love him) and she had the best sense of humor which could put me in stitches. She worked with those who loved English and those who, well, perhaps didn't like it as much. But she taught them all the same way. She was a true teacher.	Betty McMahon
6/4/2019 17:07:15	Ms. Menanson was an institution at Hudson High and had an incredibly positive effect on students through her time at our school. She held students to high expectations and supported them as they reached for them. She deserves to be memorialized at the high school by having the library named after her.	Kelly Albino
6/4/2019 20:06:01	This is such a wonderful idea. Susan loved books and reading so much, and she inspired so many students to do so as well. I had the pleasure of working with Susan for seven years, and always enjoyed our department meetings together!	Mary Beth Cashman - former colleague
6/4/2019 20:25:30	Heather Mullin	I was a student of Ms. Menanson and whenever I recall books that I read during high school, my most vivid memories relate to her class.
6/4/2019 21:28:31	I was a colleague of Susan's briefly. I remember her demanding excellence from her students and providing support. She was a great friend during the 3 years we worked together. I recommend you name the Learning Commons in honor of Susan Menanson.	
6/4/2019 21:58:49	I'm so sad to learn of Susan's passing. When I first started at HHS, honestly I was a little intimidated by her. Once I got to know her, I discovered what a thoughtful, compassionate, and funny person she was. The two things Susan loved most were her students and literature, especially Shakespeare and YA lit. She was demanding of her students but always out of her concern for helping them become the best readers, writers, and thinkers they could be, and her students knew this and worked hard to rise to her expectations. I can think of no tribute to Susan that would be more perfect than dedicating the library in her memory.	Ken High, former HHS Social Studies teacher and colleague of Susan
6/5/2019 1:28:54	As a new English teacher in the department it was invaluable having a veteran teacher like Susan to emulate. Her love of Shakespeare, her students, and all things literary make her the perfect person to name the learning commons after. She will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of her students and colleagues. Rest In Peace, Susan.	Andrea Hardy, Co-worker 2012/2013
6/5/2019 6:48:30	I was lucky enough to learn from Susan Menanson in her AP Literature course, and then as her colleague in the HHS English Department.  Ms. Menanson's class was a turning point for me. She taught with humor and honesty, and she was brilliant. She demanded answers and interpretations beyond our first thoughts, the easy ones that had always seemed to work well enough before. She was one of the first teachers I had who asked my classmates and me to arrange our desks in a circle and then pulled her desk in alongside us to examine words and ideas in thoughtful, extended discussions. Classes with Ms. Menanson were illuminating, and meetings with her about essay drafts were humbling. She pushed me to make my writing clearer, more precise. She required all of us to write draft after draft. She was demanding, and she was funny, and she knew more about literature and politics and the arts than I can ever hope to know. Her high standards and her humor, and of course her intelligence and sharp wit, are what I remember most about working with Susan Menanson as a fellow teacher. That, and her affection for her colleagues and students; that, and her love for books. Susan was always in the midst of several books. She read thick histories, she read about politics and education, she loved mysteries. She could remember everything she read and recommended what she'd finished to everyone who might appreciate it. Naming the HHS library after her would be such a fitting tribute. A library is a place to gather, to learn, to create, to discuss, and to most importantly, to read, to be surrounded by ideas and books. And I love to think that Susan's name and legacy will always be associated with those ideas and books at Hudson High School, housed in the Susan Menanson Memorial Library.	Jen Wallingford, student and colleague
6/5/2019 10:57:59	Ms. Menanson helped foster my love for the arts! She was a wonderful and passionate educator. I have very fond memories of my time in her classroom.	Stacey Davis- former HHS student

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6/5/2019 11:52:51	Yes, this is an appropriate honor for a woman who served the children of Hudson for so long and which such dedication.	Leah Vivirito, colleague
6/5/2019 13:27:24	I had the honor of working with Susan for the 7 years I proudly served as principal of HHS. Susan was special in many ways, including her passion for literature, the genuine care she showed for her students, and her intelligence and wit. I always walked away from discussions with Susan feeling like I learned something. Naming the library for her is an incredibly fitting tribute for such a special teacher who gave so much to so many during her tenure at Hudson High School.	Brian Reagan - Former HHS Principal
6/5/2019 13:38:29	<p>I had the privilege of working with Susan for 16 years, from 2001-2017. I both worked with her as a fellow teacher and later became her supervisor. Susan was one of the finest teachers I have worked with in my 19 years in public education and my 10 years in administration. Susan was well-loved by her students, many of whom would come back to see her once they were in college to thank her for providing them with the foundational skills for college success. They came to recognize that her high expectations and rigorous instruction were a real gift.</p> <p>In addition to being a wonderful instructor, Susan was a consummate bibliophile who spread her love of books to her students and colleagues, alike. She was the most voracious reader I have ever known or heard of and was well-versed on an incredible multitude of topics. Susan was a real intellectual, which was part of what made her such a wonderful teacher. She was constantly recommending and gifting books to her colleagues and students and engaged all of us in daily discussions about literature, culture, and politics.</p> <p>Naming the HHS library in honor of Susan would be a most fitting tribute to a teacher who made an incredibly positive impact on the community of Hudson over her many years of service. I am hopeful that the community will recognize her posthumously in a way that would certainly make her smile.</p>	Joshua Otlin, colleague and supervisor (2001-2017)
6/5/2019 14:12:31	Susan Menanson was an extraordinary teacher who shared her love of books with everyone she met. Naming the library in her honor is a fitting tribute to her dedication to this community. Libraries embody all of Susan's passions: books, ideas, engagement, vibrant discussion, artistic expression, and life-long inquiry. I can think of no one who is more deserving of the honor.	Heather Gearty (co-worker and friend)

## Information for the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee Meeting on July 16, 2019

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- 1) A bio of Susan Menanson

**Carol Hobbs will have this at the meeting.**

- 2) The specific name you are looking to use for the library

**The Susan Menanson Memorial Library**

- 3) What, if any, signage will be required and how will costs for signage will be covered

**We will replace the Learning Commons sign (presumably with the same material - corrugated plastic) at the top of the high school stairs. We also plan to include a plaque in the library. (The Class of 2018 has already had one made to honor Susan, and presented it to the staff at our last faculty meeting in 2019.) We estimate signage will cost \$200-\$300 dollars, and if the school does not cover the costs, we will fundraise. Several private donors have already expressed interest in covering the expense.**

- 4) Your thoughts on a dedication ceremony

**Presumably, we'd have a dedication ceremony in the library on a fall evening. Attendees would include members of Susan's family, as well as alumni and current staff and students. Any related costs could be covered with donations from individuals or perhaps the high school Home and School Association.**

- 5) evidence of student support for this request - and it would be great to see that support across multiple classes from past and present (which I know she already has)

**The evidence we've already provided shows student and staff support. I have others to send along (pasted here and attached to this email), and I imagine that interested alumni and community members who are in attendance may also have supportive statements to contribute.**

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Ms Menanson's love of literature was evident to every student in her English classes, including myself, as a sophomore in 2000/2001. Her passion and creative teaching techniques helped translate the outmoded language of *Othello*, interpret the cultural nuances in *Things Fall Apart* and opened my eyes to the world of modern literature with *Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant*. Her firm, no-nonsense approach to shaping students into better readers and writers

supported me through not only taking the MCAS, but also effected my decision to choose English as my major as an undergraduate.

Recent psychological research confirms what Ms Menanson taught well, that reading novels improves emotional intelligence and allows you to understand the world of human experiences and depth that exists outside your own background and upbringing; something I've used throughout my career in both social services and human resources. Her passion for literature and the class I took with her continues to influence my reading choices well after I've left high school behind. Almost two decades after taking her class, I read the novel she once mentioned was one of her favorites, *Middlemarch*, by George Eliot. The final quotation from the book serves as a good reminder of the important work she undertook as a dedicated educator, "the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is owing to the number who lived faithfully."

Beth Melillo

Hudson High School '03

**Beth Melillo, PHR, MS**  
Organizational Development Professional  
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## Susan Menanson Biography



Susan Menanson, a much beloved teacher at Hudson High School, passed away in April 2019. She had retired just tenth months earlier from a long and dedicated career in teaching English. We mourn her passing as we seek to memorialize her life and work.

Susan, who was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, graduated from Burncoat Senior High and Our Lady of the Elms College in Chicopee. She later earned a master's degree in education at Clark University and began an adventurous career teaching in Belen, New Mexico. She soon travelled to Australia to teach in Kerang, Victoria for 15 years. Susan later returned to Massachusetts and taught initially at Greater Lawrence Technical High School for four years, and then at Hudson High School for 25 years.

Susan shared her love of literature with all she met. When we who knew Susan speak of her, we always recall the books she recommended for us. She was a voracious reader in all subjects and loved above all the works of Shakespeare. She travelled to Shakespearian festivals in England and Oregon and was always quick with a well-suited Shakespearian quote for any and all occasions.

Susan planned on returning to visit with friends in Australia during her retirement, but her illness progressed too quickly to allow this. Even during grueling medical treatments, Susan was reading and recommending books for us. During our last visit, she spoke of how difficult it was to have her vision compromised by illness as she was finding it more and more challenging to read. We spoke of getting a Kindle so she could control font size, and the smaller weight would be easier to lift. Books were Susan's passion, a passion that filled and made full her entire life.

Susan Menanson's contribution to education, fostering a life-long love of books in students and colleagues, would be well memorialized in the naming of an important library in her storied career. We hope to encourage the love of reading in our students when we bring them to the Susan Menanson Memorial Library.

Carol Hobbs  
English Teacher  
Hudson High School

Hudson School Committee  
**Building and Grounds Subcommittee Minutes**

**Date:** July 16, 2019  
**Location:** 155 Apsley Street

The Buildings and Grounds subcommittee of the Hudson School Committee was called to order by Glenn Maston 7:01 p.m.

The following Committee members were present (list all members)

- ✓ Glenn Maston
- ✓ Steve Smith
- \_\_\_ Adam Tracy
- \_\_\_ Nina Ryan
- \_\_\_ Matthew McDowell
- \_\_\_ Michele Tousignant Dufour
- ✓ Rebecca Weksner

The following Committee member(s) were participating remotely ( remote participation cannot be used to create a quorum ):

\_\_\_\_\_

The following Committee member(s) were absent:

\_\_\_\_\_

Others present: ✓Marco Rodrigues  
                  ✓Annamarie O'Donnell

Minutes:

No Minutes to approve

\_\_\_ members having voted in the affirmative  
\_\_\_ members having voted in the negative  
\_\_\_ members having abstained

The motion                    \_\_\_passed  
                                     \_\_\_failed

Topics discussed and Motions (all votes must be by roll call), if any:

Mr. Maston explained that this meeting and subcommittee was in response to a petition received by the Hudson School Committee to rename the Hudson High School Library in memory of teacher Susan Menanson. He said the subcommittee would hear the petition and supporting information and make a recommendation to the full School Committee.

The subcommittee then heard public participation including the following:

- Carol Hobbs read a biography of Susan Menanson
- Amy Plackowski, a teaching partner of Susan's, read a statement about Susan's teaching philosophy.
- Betty McMahan, a paraprofessional at Hudson High with Susan, spoke of the various genres she and other students were exposed to with Susan.
- A former student spoke of the improvement in her writing and Susan's teaching style and how she engaged students.
- Parents of former students spoke of Susan's positive influence on their children.
- Pam Porter, teacher and former student, remarked that Susan believed everyone would eventually love reading. She also spoke of Susan's generous rewrite policy (students were able to rewrite essays as many times as they wanted to).
- Emily Smyth, HHS teacher spoke of Susan's guidance and openness to other teachers' ideas.
- Jen Wallingford spoke to Susan's involvement in the wider community and about Susan's ability to find the right books for everyone.

The committee thanked all for coming and talked about the positive generational impact. Discussion ensued about the precedent for naming spaces. In particular, there was conversation about the Farley library needing permission from the Recreation Department.

ACTION: Mr. Maston stated he would get clarification on this.

Discussion ensued about the plaque and book donations received for the Hudson High School Library.

The subcommittee outlined the following process for moving this ahead:

The subcommittee would like a more specific proposal to make it a cleaner presentation to the full committee.

Discussion ensued about the signage in particular location, material and costs. Dr. Rodrigues suggested research be done to have an accurate understanding of what would be needed and costs. Dr. Rodrigues suggested working with the facilities director to explore the options.

Discussion ensued.

ACTION: Dr. Rodrigues to work with Hudson Public Schools facilities group to get options for a large sign to the right of the door to the library. Additionally, the plaque would be placed inside the library. Dr. Rodrigues will get back to Jennifer Wallingford after speaking with facilities

Discussion ensued about the need to have a good process for any future requests.

Motion to Adjourn

Move to adjourn the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee.

The motion was made by Dr. Weksner

The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith

3 members having voted in the affirmative  
     members having voted in the negative  
     members having abstained

The motion                     passed  
                                      failed

The                         Hudson School Committee

     Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee of the Hudson School Committee

Adjourned its executive session at 7:42 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenn Maston

Hudson School Committee  
**Building and Grounds Subcommittee Minutes**

**Date:** August 5, 2019  
**Location:** 155 Apsley Street

The Buildings and Grounds subcommittee of the Hudson School Committee was called to order by Glenn Maston 6:34 p.m.

The following Committee members were present (list all members)

- ✓ Glenn Maston
- ✓ Steve Smith
- \_\_\_ Adam Tracy
- \_\_\_ Nina Ryan
- \_\_\_ Matthew McDowell
- \_\_\_ Michele Tousignant Dufour
- ✓ Rebecca Weksner

The following Committee member(s) were participating remotely ( remote participation cannot be used to create a quorum ):

\_\_\_\_\_

The following Committee member(s) were absent:

\_\_\_\_\_

Others present: ✓Marco Rodrigues  
✓Annamarie O'Donnell

Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the Building and Grounds Subcommittee was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Dr. Weksner.

  3   members having voted in the affirmative  
   members having voted in the negative  
   members having abstained

The motion   ✓  passed  
  failed

Topics discussed and Motions (all votes must be by roll call), if any:

1.) Follow up on Susan Menanson petition

Mr. Maston stated that the first item for discussion was the follow up on the Susan Menason petition. He asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak.

Former colleagues, students, and parents of former students spoke about the progressive nature of her teaching, her way of understanding literature through performance, and how she inspired students to try things they didn't think they could do. It was also noted that she has left a book collection in her will to the library.

Discussion ensued about the lettering and installation costs. Dr. Rodrigues stated that the quotes received included installation but the district facilities' department could take care of the installation. Len Belli, HPS Facilities Director, will be checking with the town to see if any specific approval or clearance is needed.

Dr. Weksner asked about the process moving forward for additional requests. Discussion ensued.

2.) New petition for naming the Hudson High School Auditorium in honor of Paul "Skip" Johnson

Mr. Maston stated that the committee had received the petition and would begin hearing testimony.

Many individuals, including colleagues, students, community members, parents, and former school committee members spoke and highlighted the following:

- Skip treated everyone as a person of importance and gave them confidence to try.
- He made it a point to include everyone and made time for all to have the opportunity to participate.
- Skip changed the performing arts in Hudson for the better and took Project Bright from Grades 2-7.
- He layed the groundwork for an amazing theatre program at Hudson High School and Quinn Middle School and cultivated the expectation that theatre was just as important as any other program.
- He was involved in many other arts program regionally.
- He introduced many students to the arts.
- He created a family that went beyond the education learned. He built a community of people and connections.
- He was described as consistent and loving and would stand up for kids.
- He was a very respected teacher and staff member.
- His wife Lynne Johnson said that not every kid was a theatre kid but he worked with kids that may have been troubled and not theatre kids and he got those kids to perform He managed to get every student what they needed. He volunteered at the Senior Center and taught PreK.

Mr. Maston thanked all for coming. Dr. Weksner stated that it was nice to get a sense of the person and how he used theatre as a vehicle to generate community. Mr. Smith thanked all and stated that the petition showed a far-reaching impact.

Mr. Maston outlined the process and stated that if the subcommittee supports the petition, it will go to the full school committee meeting for a vote. It will be presented to the full committee twice, the first meeting will be the presentation and the second meeting will be a vote.

He went on to say that the issue of merit has been covered and the logistics will need to be finalized. We will want to make sure the lettering fits with other lettering in the building. Discussion ensued about what the name would be.

Ms. Julianne Santos stated that there has been interest in accepting donations and wanted to know if they could start accepting. Ms. Lynne Johnson asked if there could also be a quote. Discussion ensued about an additional plaque in the auditorium. Mr. Smith asked if there would be a ceremony. Discussion ensued about the type of ceremony and the funding for the ceremony. Mr. Maston stated that there are no rules for the ceremony and it could be structured by the group.

Discussion ensued about moving forward to get a process for future requests. This includes policy revisions. The policy subcommittee will review the policy, make any modifications needed, and bring the revised policy to the full committee for a vote.

Discussion ensued on a vote to move both petitions to the full school committee, pending the answer to the clarification question with the town. The first read would be at the August 20, 2019 full committee meeting and the vote would be at the September 10, 2019 meeting.

A motion to move the petition to name the Hudson High School Auditorium in honor of Paul "Skip" Johnson, pending answer to the clarification from town, was made by Dr. Weksner and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

A motion to move the petition to name the Hudson High School Library in honor of Susan Menanson pending answer to the clarification from town, was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Dr. Weksner. On a vote of 3-0, the motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn

Move to adjourn the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee. 7:34

The motion was made Dr. Weksner

The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith

  3   members having voted in the affirmative  
     members having voted in the negative  
     members having abstained

The motion                     passed  
                                   failed

The                                 Hudson School Committee

Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee of the Hudson School Committee

Adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Glenn Maston



Report of the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee to the  
Hudson School committee  
For meeting [on August 20, 2019](#)

The Buildings and Grounds subcommittee was convened to review the petitions received to rename the library at Hudson High School for former English teacher Susan Menanson, and to rename the auditorium at Hudson High School for former music and drama teacher Paul Johnson. The two petitions were supported by a combined total of over 2,500 signatures, collected both online and in person. The subcommittee members are Rebecca Weksner, Steve Smith, and Glenn Maston. The subcommittee held two public meetings, on July 16 and August 5. These meetings were well attended, with a total of 25 people coming to provide personal testimony on behalf of the honorees at the two meetings.

For Susan Menanson, the provided Biographic statement described her professional career that led to her teaching at Hudson High school for 25 years. The personal testimony provided much more detailed description of Ms. Menanson's love of reading, and especially Shakespeare, and of her ability to inspire a love of books in all her students and colleagues. She supported the performing arts and worked closely with Paul Johnson to support the HHS theater program. It was described how she served as a class advisor and attended sporting events and earned a 'superfan' award. In summary, all the evidence provided indicates that Susan Menanson was a teacher who had a broad and enduring impact on the Hudson High school community. The subcommittee discussed logistics with the petition supporters, and it was made clear that they would be able to provide funding for the requested lettering. The proposal is to have lettering on the outside of the library next to the entrance that reads "Susan Menanson Memorial Library", and a plaque with photograph and statement will be placed inside the library as well.

For Paul Johnson, the provided Biographic statement described his many professional activities, including his 32 years of teaching in the Hudson school district, as well as his involvement in numerous community music and theater productions. The personal testimony provided much more detailed description of Mr. Johnson's positive demeanor, indicated by his inclusiveness of all students, his ability to bring out the best in his students, and his ability to bring a group together and make them feel like a family. He gave countless hours to support music and theater programs which have set the foundation for one of the defining features of our high school today. In summary, all the evidence provided indicates that Paul Johnson was a teacher who had a broad and enduring impact on the Hudson High school community. The subcommittee discussed logistics with the petition supporters, and it was made clear that they would be able to provide funding for the requested lettering. The proposal is to have lettering on the outside of the Auditorium that says "Paul 'Skip' Johnson Auditorium", and a plaque with photograph and statement will be placed inside the auditorium as well.

A local business, Sign Logic, has been contacted, and they would be able to manufacture the required lettering in a style that will match the existing room labels throughout the building.

Upon consideration of all the evidence received, the subcommittee voted unanimously to bring both petitions forward to the full committee for review and vote.

Submitted by:  
Glenn Maston  
On behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee