

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: January 7, 2020

Location: 155 Aspley Street

Members present: Glenn Maston, Steven Smith, Adam Tracy, Nina Ryan, Matthew McDowell,
and Rebecca Weksner

Members absent: Michele Tousignant Dufour

Others present: Dr. Marco C. Rodrigues, Superintendent
Annamarie O'Donnell, Recording Secretary
Caitlin Reagan, Student Representative

I. Call the Meeting to Order: 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Glenn Maston.

Ni Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting: December 3, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2019 was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Ryan. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Public Participation:

Ms. Shanna Weston, parent of students at Quinn Middle School and Forest Avenue Elementary School, spoke to the Committee about the recent decision to serve ice cream at Quinn Middle School. She expressed her concerns about this decision being financially driven and does not think the concept of offering these snacks of little nutritional lifestyle promotes a healthy lifestyle for 10-13 year old students. She asked for samples and nutritional information. Additionally, she made the request that the schools have a full day professional development day when there is a presidential election.

Ms. Beth Langlois, parent of students at Quinn Middle School and Forest Avenue Elementary School, spoke to the committee of the following 3 items: 1.) She asked if it could be considered to move the public comment section of the agenda to later in the agenda to facilitate interaction. 2.) She expressed her concerns about the Galileo standardized test administered at QMS and the fact that students have not been taught all of the material on the test. 3.) She expressed her concern about serving ice cream at the middle school and made note that the nutritional values were not on the website.

Reports and Presentations

Report of the Superintendent: Metrowest Youth Risk Survey Results

Dr. Rodrigues presented a summary of the Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey results which was administered in middle school students in grades 6,7 and 9-12. He noted that participation is voluntary. Hudson has 91% participation in grades 6-8 and 85% in grades 9-12. He went on to say this report would focus on trends and key indicators in substance use, violence, bullying victimization, mental health, and physical activity and body weight.

Trends in Key Indicators 2016-2018

Substance Use

- Smoking has decreased and vaping has increased
- Alcohol and marijuana use has declined

Dr. Rodrigues highlighted that this research is based on data reported by students.

Violence

- Violence related to physical fights and carrying weapons had a decrease across the board.

Bullying victimization and cyber bullying

- Bullying decreased from 2008-2018 but increased from 2016-2018
- Cyberbullying decreased in Hudson while the Metrowest numbers increased

Mental Health

- Stress reported increased
- Depressive Symptoms had an increase reported in grades 7-8 but a decrease in other grades
- Self-injury had a decrease with high school students but an increase for middle school students
- Suicide: There has been an increase in reporting of considering suicide.

Physical Activity and Body Weight

Physical Activity (reported by students)

- Decrease in physical activity for middle school
- Increase in physical activity for high school

Body weight (BMI reported by the state)

- Increase in BMI for both middle and high school in Hudson

Metrowest Conclusions

Hudson continues to make progress in alcohol use, cigarette smoking and violence.

Increase in electronic vaping products and mental health issues are considered other areas of concern.

Dr. Weksner asked if we have been able to correlate the parent/student surveys administered with the information from the Metrowest Survey. Dr. Rodrigues said we have not done this yet but as we move forward we will be looking at multiple data sets to identify priorities and drive decisions.

Dr. Rodrigues went on to say that under the District Improvement Plan, there are two goals that directly affect what we do and how we look at this data. Most of the data resides under Strategic Goal #2: Educating the Whole Child and Strategic Goal #4: Climate and Culture.

Some of the actions in progress include:

- Developing an SEL plan for each school and the district through the S3 academy
- Utilizing the MTSS Framework Implementation tool to map assets and needs
- Creating new programs through the reallocation of resources
 - Therapeutic Stabilization Program Forest Ave (Grades K-2)
 - Social Emotional Program Farley (Grades 2-4)

- PACE at Quinn (Grades 5-7)
- Harbor Program at Hudson High School (Grades 8-12)
- Bridge Program- SEL Program at Hudson High (Grades 8-12)
- Partnered with Wayside MetroWest Community Services for clinical and counseling services
- SBIRT in grades 7 and 9 (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment)
- Partnered with Hudson Board of Health to identify resources for education and awareness for students, staff, and parents on the health risks of using e- cigarettes and vaping.
- Provided Cultural Competency Training for Administrators and Support Staff
- Developed a Climate Survey Action Plan to address issues identified by parents, staff, and students

Mr. Smith asked if it would be possible during the budget process to talk about the way we will change the programs based on the data. Discussion ensued about prioritizing programs based on need.

Dr. Weksner asked about the possibility being able to offer emotional regulation training for the vast majority of the student body. Discussion ensued about the work of the Multi- Tiered Systems of Support which is currently mapping our resources and determining where we need to put them.

Dr. Rodrigues introduced Ms.Kelli Calo, Director of Public Health for Hudson and Ms. Christie Vaillancourt, Chair of the Board of Health and Hudson Public Schools nurse.

Ms.Calo provided information of what the state is doing on vaping and tobacco. She reported that June 1, 2020, flavored tobaccos will not be available in stores statewide. They will only be available at smoking bars. The Town of Hudson does not have any smoking bars. She went on to say the Hudson Board of Health adopted a new regulation of a ban on flavored tobacco to adult only establishments effective March 16. The ban un-exempts the mint menthol products which were originally exempted.

Dr. Weksner asked what guidelines and or recommendations for prevention and education on the dangers of vaping we have. Ms. Calo stated the state is compiling resources. They are putting together information packets geared to school nurses. Discussion ensued about programs at the high school.

Discussion ensued about engaging parents on the misconceptions and realities of e-cigarettes. Dr. Rodrigues stated that there was a forum for parents. Ms. Kathy Provost informed the committee that we are in the process of scheduling Dr. Medina for a presentation to parents.

Mr. Tracy asked if we have been able to identify what percentage of risky behaviors are sliding away from traditional cigarettes and alcohol to e- cigarettes. Ms. Calo stated she does not know if we have this data but would look into seeing if we have any.

Subcommittee Reports

Budget Subcommittee

none

Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Smith stated that the next meeting has been moved to January 21, 2020.

Strategic Goals Subcommittee

Mr. Maston said this subcommittee is working on scheduling a meeting.

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

none

Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee

none

Student Report

Caitlin Reagan, Student Representative, gave the student report with the following highlights:

- Community Council sponsored 33 children during the most recent Holiday Coalition fundraiser
- There was a food Drive at Hudson High School
- The Homework Free vacation this past holiday break was very well received by students and teachers.
- There will be principal's coffees on January 8 and January 15

Concerns

She said there a lot of misinformation around ARC in the student body. She said students would really appreciate an update.

Dr. Rodrigues stated that ARC would be starting soon. There are some final things happening including purchasing the software

Matters for Discussion:

- a) Old Business
- b) New Business

1. Teacher Mini- Grant Celebration

Ms. Kathleen Provost reported on the teacher mini grants awarded last year through funding received from the Rail Trail and the Hudson Rotary Club. Twelve applications were received and nine mini grants were awarded. She went through the following grants individually:

- Discourse Boxes- Grade 1 Mulready: Angela Ryll
- Kindergarten Sensory Path- Grade K Farley: Kristin Charbonneau, Sam Burnes, Jillian Carignan
- Steam Drama Project- Grade 4 Farley: Sarah Worrest
- Creating Digital Portfolios (2)- Grade 4 Mulready: Katie Paoletta, Coleen Garofalo
- Drums Alive- Mulready Music: Ashley Steinhaus
- Absent No Problem- Gopro Quinn Middle School Science and Math: Rebecca Tkachuk
- Cultivate Care Farms-Hudson High School Maureen Principe
- Forest Ave Read and Ride- Mary Kate Liedal

Ms. Provost thanked the representative in attendance from the Rail Trail. She presented a certificate of appreciation and several thank

you notes from students.

2. Chartwells Update

Ms. Patty, Lange, Hudson Public Schools Executive Director of Finance and operations. Mr. Chris Callahan, Chartwell's District Manager, and Mr. Shane Riordan, Chartwell's Food Service Director, presented the following updates.

Accomplishments

- New kitchen equipment
 - Forest Ave – Double stacked ovens , Warmers
 - Hudson High School- Warmers at Hudson High School
- Chartwells in the Community
 - Health Holiday sampling- cranberry overnight oats
 - Smoothie samplings at Mulready
 - Student Choice Hudson High School

Students sampled 2 menu items and live vote. The votes were totaled and the winning concept was put on the menu for a week. About 450 samples were done. The winner of this student choice was the Nashville Chicken Sandwich so the concept of roost was on the menu for the week.

Financial results

- Reimbursable Meal Participation increased by 2%
- Meal counts up by 15,000
- Total Revenues up 20% YTD
- Total Program Costs managed better by 9% YTD
- Program Profit of \$3360 through November
- Breakfast participation YTD is up in general, compared to last year. They spoke about the increase at Farley due to the introduction of the new breakfast cart.
- Lunch participation YTD is up at every school compared to last year.

Mr. Tracy asked if the participation numbers include the entire student body, Mr. Riordan confirmed that it was based on average daily attendance.

- Financial results Month to Date through November

Mr. Tracy asked about the jump in discount. Mr. Callahan said this was managing our costs through a number of things including items that give higher discounts. He went on to say rebates go up with purchases and because our participation and purchase are up so are the rebates.

- Financial Year to Date through November

Last year we had a loss of \$23,472 and this year we have a profit of \$3360. We are currently ahead of what we projected.

What's ahead

- Senior breakfast
- Fuel up to Play 60 grant has been processed- purchase of 2 immersion blenders
- Winter Nutritional samplings
- Student choice round 2

Mr. Tracy asked about the point of sale software and if we are looking at updating anytime soon. The software is owned by the district. Ms. Lange said we could look at updating but she was planning to wait until there was some money in the Food Service account. Discussion ensued about concern of parents, especially at the elementary level for unrestricted access. Mr. Tracy pointed out that currently the ownership is on the staff to read the alerts in the system. Mr. Callahan said there is new software that might have these features and level of control.

Ms. Ryan asked about the control of getting information on the Nutrislice app. Mr. Callahan stated that the directors have access to enter all the menus and communication widgets. Discussion ensued. Ms. Ryan said it would be nice to use this to keep parents aware of things going on. Mr. Callahan said there could have a widget for things happening as well as a monthly promotions calendar.

Ms. Ryan asked about the placement of juices under the fruit category. Mr. Riordan responded that that state considers juice a fruit. This is important for reimbursements.

Mr. Maston asked for comment on the decision to add ice cream at the middle school. Mr. Callahan stated that a la carte items are important to programs. He went on to say that most secondary schools have the option of ice cream as part of the a la carte program. Items include smaller items that are formulated for schools that meet the standards for the USDA guidelines. He stated that they had brought samples and nutrition facts for the committee.

Dr. Weksner asked how much communication and collaboration there is with the registered dietician and the wellness staff. She also asked if there is education to help students make healthy choices. The dietician assigned to Hudson is in district every other week for two days. The registered dietician goes into the classrooms each month and speaks with students, does samplings, and works with sports teams.

Discussion ensued about communication and possibly a periodic newsletter. Discussion ensued about getting the nutrition

information for the ice cream on the website.

Ms. Ryan asked if anyone has tracked the nutritional value for items for a child who ate everything .Mr. Callahan says the program tracks the nutritional data for each meal but this has not been done. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Tracy asked about the free and reduced participation year over year. Discussion ensued about outreach to families.

Mr. Smith stated that the accounting view looks great and asked how cash flow looked. Discussion ensued about inventory as an asset and how that affects cash flow.

Dr. Rodrigues commended Chartwells on the food quality and taste. He said this and the inventory management has had a big impact on the financial difference in the Food Service Program.

3. First Reading of Proposed Adoptions and Revisions of School Committee Policies J Sections

Mr. Smith stated that these policies cover some sections that have not been addressed. He went on to say some of these changes are based on input from legal counsel.

Mr. Maston encouraged feedback and stated that these would be posted on the website.

4. Dual Language Task Force

Dr. Rodrigues gave an update on the Dual Language program. He reported that since La Siembra,, there has been the first meeting of the task force. This task force will meet 2-3 times between now and June. There is also a project management team, which is a smaller group,, that meets more frequently. Within the task force, there are the following four subgroups which have been assigned specific tasks:

- Communication and Parent Outreach
- Recruitment and Professional Learning
- Curriculum Development and Assessment
- Schedule and Resources

Mr. Tracy made note of the tremendous amount of work to be done in a finite period. He asked if we have in view the critical dates and milestones in order to know we are on track to have the program ready for September. Dr. Rodrigues stated that there are. The application has been submitted and approved. The goal is to post the position and get the new teacher on board well before July 1 so they can be part of the process. Next week there will be a meeting with MABE and Language Allocation mapping will begin to happen. This is important as it will dictate what we need to purchase for materials.

Ms. Ryan asked about reaching out to neighboring preschools, and when Kindergarten Registration would start. Dr. Rodrigues said that this work would be done through the communication and parent outreach group. We will start the registration process at the end of January or beginning of February after everything is in place.

Matters for Action:

a) Old Business

1. **To request the Board of Selectmen work with the School Committee in identifying a solution for housing the school administration due to structural condition and lack of functionality of the current building**

Mr. Tracy made note that the envelope study is posted on the website.

A motion to request the Board of Selectmen work with the School Committee in identifying a solution for housing the school administration due to structural condition and lack of functionality of the current building was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. McDowell. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

2. **To support the initial space and building requirements defined in the Buildings and Grounds presentation shared with the School Committee on December 3, 2019**

A motion to support the initial space and building requirements defined in the Buildings and Grounds presentation shared with the School Committee on December 3, 2019 was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Dr. Weksner. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

b) New Business

Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of FY20 Financial Education Innovation Grant in the amount of \$2000.00**
2. **Approval of FY20 Mass Cultural Grant in the amount of \$750.00**
3. **Approval of the Community foundation of North Central MA Shine Initiative SWAT Grant in the amount of \$1500.00**

A motion to approve these three grants by consent agenda was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Items of Interest to the School Committee

Mr. Tracy asked if there is a criteria / definition for teachers to request funds for things they want to do. Discussion ensued about the paths to get funds. Dr. Rodrigues stated that teachers should speak with their principal. He went on to say that the curriculum directors might be able to support small ventures in the classroom.

Approved

Dr. Weksner asked if it would be possible to have a presentation on the Special Education resources across the district, including communication and how parents can get support. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Maston reminded committee members that the NEASC accreditation visit at Hudson High School has been scheduled for May 3-6. He stated there would be a kickoff on May 3 and asked members to try and keep their schedule open to attend.

Executive Session

At 9:12 p.m., Committee Chair Glenn Maston noted that Executive session was needed for the following reasons:

To discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Patricia Lange) whereas discussion in an open session may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the committee.

To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with union personnel (Hudson Education Association) because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the Committee.

Vote by roll call:

Dr. Weksner	yes
Mr. McDowell	yes
Ms. Ryan	yes
Mr. Tracy	yes
Mr. Smith	yes
Mr. Maston	yes

Adjournment

At 9:13 p.m., Committee Chair Glenn Maston announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee