

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 8, 2019

Location: 155 Aspley Street

Members present: Glenn Maston, Steven Smith, Adam Tracy, Nina Ryan, Matthew McDowell,
and Michele Tousignant Dufour,

Members absent: Rebecca Weksner

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

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

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting: September 24, 2019

A motion to approve the revised minutes of September 24, 2019 was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

none

IV. Reports and Presentations

Report of the Superintendent: District Accountability, Data Report & MCAS Results

Dr. Rodrigues described the new accountability system, now in its second year. He stated that it was important to remember that the achievement results reflect a new cohort of students. This was the first year of computer based testing in Grade 3. This was the first year of the next generation test for Grade 10 ELA and Math, therefore comparisons may not be made to last year's results. There is a new categorization of schools and districts, previously there were two categories and now there are four categories each having a band of 25 percentage points. The performance toward target is calculated on two years of data (2018 and 2019). The District and each of our schools have been classified as "Not Requiring Assistance or Intervention".

Dr. Rodrigues presented the results with the following highlights:

District Accountability Report

Accountability Results for 2018 and 2019 were presented. The cumulative of the two years based on the formula was 47%. This is a broad overview and uses indicators such as

attendance, Advanced Placement courses taken, and high school completion rates. In each area if there is a decline, a score of 0 is given, no change a score of 1, improvement a score of 2, meeting target a score of 3, and exceeding target a score of 4.

Discussion ensued about the extended engagement rate and 4 and 5 year cohort graduation rates. Mr. Tracy asked if there has been clarification from the state on how absenteeism is tracked. Dr. Rodrigues stated that we only provide excused and unexcused. He went on to say that anything over 10% (18 days) is characterized as chronic. The district has a significant number of students with 18+absences. We are working through SIMS to ensure that the state gets the correct data.

Transitions Threshold

We have examined students close to moving from one level of achievement to the next. There were 205 students in ELA, 217 students in Math, and 23 students in Science that scored in the range of 461-469. This falls into the not meeting expectations range. With just a few more points, these scores would have been bumped into the partially meeting expectations range. Dr. Rodrigues stated that these are pockets that need to be looked at to find the main reasons these students did not achieve the next level.

Mr. Smith asked if we look at groups low in the range to make sure they are not sliding back. Dr. Rodrigues stated that the state prepares a report for us on the bottom quartile. We will be using this to digest the data properly so we know who these students are and what their needs are.

2019 MCAS Results Grades 3-8

Dr. Rodrigues presented bar graphs comparing three years of data for grades 3-8. He reported that there were marginal changes in ELA and Math.

Subgroups Analysis

For students with disabilities, there was a slight improvement in ELA, but a decline in Mathematics.

For English Language Learners, there was some forward movement in ELA, and decline in Mathematics for English Language Learners.

For the High Needs group, which consists of English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and low-income students combined, there was some forward movement in both ELA and Mathematics.

2019 MCAS results grade 10

Dr. Rodrigues stated that this year cannot be compared to last year because these are results for two different tests. He went on to say there were consistent levels of achievement.

For students with disabilities and the high needs subgroup the results were similar. English Learner results were not reported because there were less than 20 students.

This was the first year of implementation of the next generation test in Science for Grades 5-8, so comparisons cannot be made between 2018 and 2019.

Grade 10 science is still using the legacy test and results are comparable to last year.

For students with disabilities there was a decline in science particularly in Grade 10. For the high needs group there was decline in science scores in Grade 10.

Mr. Tracy asked how much the data tells us about the program versus the students when you have different cohorts of students moving through. Dr. Rodrigues stated that our approach is to identify the gaps in the standards. If there is a pattern of standards that are areas of difficulty, we need to dissect and understand the reasons why.

Discussion ensued about the difficulty of digesting the data because we do not have the history since it is a new test. Dr. Rodrigues stated that dissecting last year's data allows us to inform this year's practices.

Mr. Smith asked if we use other districts' data to inform changes we may make. Dr. Rodrigues stated that we do not go looking for this and that each district has its own makeup. For us, we look internally at our practices and curriculum model. He went on to say that our Curriculum Directors do network with their colleagues in other districts.

Grade 3-8 Highlights

- 51% of students met or exceeded expectations in ELA with grades 3 and 4 having highest proportion of meeting and exceeding expectations, 57% and 53% respectively
- Grade 3 experienced an 11 percentage point increase in the average scaled scores since 2017
- In Mathematics, students in grades 3, 4, and 7 had the highest proportion of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

Elementary Highlights

- At Farley, there was the following highlight:
 - 53% of students in grade 4 met or exceeded expectations, a 7% increase from 2018
- At Forest Ave, there were the following highlights:
 - 74% of students in grade 3 met or exceeded expectations in ELA (16% increase from 2018)
 - 56% of students in grade 4 met or exceeded expectations in ELA (10% increase from 2018)
 - 72% of students in grade 3 met or exceeded expectations in Mathematics (6% increase from 2018)
- At Mulready Elementary, there were the following highlights:
 - 54% of students in grade 3 met or exceeded expectations in ELA (7% increase from 2018)
 - 65% of students in grade 3 met or exceeded expectations in Mathematics (5% increase from 2018)

Discussion ensued about tracking cohorts from grade to grade.

Secondary Highlights

- At Quinn Middle School there were the following highlights:
 - 49% of student in Grade 5 met or exceeded expectations in ELA (2% increase from 2018)
 - Students in grades 5-7, demonstrated as a cohort, an increase in meeting or exceeding expectations in Mathematics from 36% to 54%
 - 50% of students in grade 5 met or exceeded expectations in Science. Additionally, they superseded the State.

- At Hudson High School there were the following highlights:
 - 51% of students in Grade 8 met or exceeded expectations in ELA
 - 64% of students in Grade 10 met or exceeded expectations in ELA
 - 60% of students in Grade 10 met or exceeded expectations in Math
 - Average scaled scores in Grade 10 superseded State averages in both ELA and Math

Dr. Rodrigues reported that there is a discrepancy in most of the graphs of one percentage point. After interacting with the state, we were informed the discrepancy it is due to rounding. This will be fixed over time.

There is also a discrepancy in the Student Growth Percentile (SGP) graphs. When the data is downloaded to an excel spreadsheet the data changes.

Dr. Rodrigues presented Student Growth Percentile (SGP) charts for English Language Arts and Mathematics. The Student Growth Percentiles look at how students are growing over time. This looks at cohorts of students of the same profile who achieve particular scaled scores at different times. Dr. Rodrigues reported that we continue to see a variation of high growth the low growth. In mathematics, students in grades 5 and 8 had the greatest proportion of students with very low growth. We will be exploring why these grades are in the low range of growth percentile.

Mr. Maston asked if there was something significant about Grade 8.

Discussion ensued about transition years, whether there are other districts with a similar grade setup, and if this is a factor.

Discussion ensued about the next steps for the data dive, and how the Committee will get visibility to the output.

Subcommittee Reports

Budget Subcommittee

none

Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Smith stated that the Policy Subcommittee would meet in 2 weeks.

Strategic Goals Subcommittee

none

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

None

Mr. Maston noted that there is a Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee scheduled for the end of the month to start the conversation about what to do about the Apsley St. building.

Student Report Caitlin Reagan

Caitlin Reagan, student representative, gave the student report with the following highlights:

- Colorcycle Program: The community council will be working with the principals at the other schools to try to implement this program across the other schools in the district.
- Activities bulletin board: Space has been found in the cafeteria. Community council would like to alter the Educator of the Month program. In November, they would like to use the board for students to write notes of Thanksgiving on turkeys to teachers. The community council would review all notes before they are posted. This could also be a fundraiser. Repeating this in May for teacher appreciation has also been discussed.
- This week is Spirit week at Hudson High School.
 - Each day has a different team.
 - Penny Wars is going on during spirit week again this year. The goal is to build community and proceeds raised would go to another water fountain in G pod.
 - The Homecoming Rally is this Thursday.
- Homecoming dance is now scheduled for Nov 16.
- The Junior and Senior classes now have class advisors.
- The Junior Prom is scheduled for May 15, 2020.
- The Community Council would like to get a new electronic marquis for outside the High School.
- Math center is starting after school on Tuesdays 2-3 p.m. This is open to any student who needs help in any math class.
- There will be a Principal's Coffee Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the library.
- There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive at Hudson High on October 15.
- The yearbook committee has begun work on the class of 2020's yearbook.
- ARC is still a concern of the student body. They are happy that negotiations are ongoing and are hopeful that ARC will happen.

V.

Matters for Discussion:

a) Old Business

b) New Business

1. **Discussion of 2019 MASC Resolutions**

Mr. Maston stated that we would be presenting the resolutions this week and vote on them at the next meeting.

Mr. Maston asked Mr. Smith if he was comfortable with the revisions to the Transportation Resolution. Mr. Smith stated the

only addition was a reference to Massachusetts General Law. He went on to say he did not have any major concerns.

Discussion ensued about the general nature of the resolutions.

Discussion ensued about Resolution 2, eliminating the MTEL exam. Dr. Rodrigues stated that MTEL has been an issue in getting dedicated, qualified people. He went on to say it could be modified and have a different slant of expectations, with more emphasis on teaching and learning.

Discussion ensued about the test and the discrepancies on what is tested on for different licenses.

Mr. Smith asked if there is data on diversity. Dr. Rodrigues said that data does exist. Discussion ensued about bias on standardized tests. Dr. Rodrigues stated that currently this is not a problem for Hudson but could potentially be one next year when we start to hire for the Dual Language Program.

VI. Matters for Action:

a) Old Business

1. Approval of FY20 Budget Stabilization Plan

Dr. Rodrigues stated that there had been two different scenarios provided for how to utilize the balance. Scenario A would split the overage between FY21 and FY22 equally. Scenario B would frontload FY21 to take care of the carry over and the balance would go to FY22.

Dr. Rodrigues recommended Scenario A. Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the FY20 Budget Stabilization Plan Scenario A was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

b) New Business

Approval of Quinn Home and School Gift to the Hudson SEPAC/ Best Buddies Program in the amount of \$2000.00

Dr. Rodrigues recognized Ms. Cheryl Langill for her hard work in making this happen. Mr. Smith commended everyone working together to support the students.

A motion to approve the Quinn Home and School Gift to the Hudson SEPAC/ Best Buddies Program was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

VII. Items of Interest to the School Committee

Approved

Ms. Ryan stated that the Mulready fun run was held last Thursday. The original goal was \$20,000. She reported that \$35,000 was raised. She expressed a big thanks to everyone involved.

Mr. Tracy asked if we can dive in on the absenteeism issue. He asked specifically about how to clarify chronic absences versus students that are traveling and/or sick. He asked if there could be an opportunity to earn time back. Discussion ensued about the intent of the DESE absenteeism. Dr. Rodrigues stated that we are reviewing the attendance policy, procedures, and guidelines associated with it. He also stated that we are paying very close attention to how absences are coded.

Mr. Smith asked if the Parent Forum scheduled for October 15 is still on. Dr. Rodrigues confirmed that it was and that there would be a quick presentation on student discipline.

VIII. Executive Session

At 8:28 p.m., Committee Chair Glenn Maston, noted that Executive session was not needed.

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Ryan. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee