

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: February 12, 2013

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Susan Dunnell, Lynn Valcourt, Tammy Ducey, George Calnan,
Jennifer O'Brien and Brian Davis

Members absent: Lorraine Nelson

Student Representative: Alex Schley

Others present: Dr. Kevin M. Lyons, Superintendent
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:02 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Dunnell.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting – January 26, 2013: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Calnan and seconded by Mrs. Ducey. On a vote of 4-0-1, with Mrs. O'Brien abstaining, the motion passed.

(Ms. Valcourt entered the meeting at 7:23 p.m.)

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell thanked Dr. Lyons for his efforts regarding the snow and the decision to keep schools open while the Department of Public Works continues its efforts on snow removal.

III. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Kevin Lyons

Snow: Dr. Lyons thanked the Department of Public Works for working around the clock to handle the removal of snow on the streets and sidewalks and noted that the process will take many days to complete and that conditions will continue to improve daily. Dr. Lyons asked that parents exercise judgment and thanked them for their cooperation. Dr. Lyons also thanked Director of Facilities Len Belli and the Buildings and Grounds staff for a terrific job in getting all buildings ready for the arrival of students and staff.

Budget Update: The Budget Hearing with the Board of Selectman was held on February 11th. Dr. Lyons noted that it was an engaging meeting. The presentation focused on the projected FY14 budget gap and questions centered on how the schools hope to close the gap. The Board of Selectmen

approved the Town appropriation for the schools in the amount of \$33,470,280, reflecting a 2.5% increase in the Town appropriation over FY13 and a \$100,000 allotment for security measures.

Hudson Hosting VHS Collaborative Meeting on Virtual Schools: Dr. Lyons reported that the VHS Collaborative meeting scheduled for February 11th was postponed. Dr. Lyons will update the Committee when a new meeting date has been scheduled.

W.P.I. Annual Teacher Conference Invite: Dr. Lyons announced that Hudson High School teacher Ryan Dailey has been invited by Martha Cyr, Executive Director of the WPI STEM Education Center, to share the Hudson High School Project Lead the Way Program at the WPI Annual Teacher Conference on March 5th.

Kindergarten Transition Update: Dr. Lyons reported that the kindergarten transition continues to progress. Mailings were sent to eligible families, the kindergarten website went live and we continue to receive very positive feedback from families. Online registration has been very successful with over 121 registration appointments scheduled. Dr. Mary McCarthy, Karen Martin, Kimmarie Calvenese, Margarida Bairos, Kim Colbert and Doris Monteiro taped a television show on the kindergarten curriculum and highlighted some of the key differences between full-day and half-day programs. The program aired on public access cable. The live family forum question and answer session was held on February 5th with panelists Dave Champigny, Charlene Cook, Sharon MacDonald, Dr. Mary McCarthy, Karen Martin, Jenny Gormley, Dr. Jodi Fortuna and Dr. Lyons.

Dr. Lyons thanked Scott Darlington, Lynda Chilton and Cam Ciesluk for their assistance in filming, editing and airing these presentations.

IV. **Special Reports and Presentations:**

Superintendent's 2012-2013 Award for Academic Excellence:

Dr. Lyons announced that the recipient of the 2012-2013 Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence is Laura Hydro. The award is sponsored by the Massachusetts Superintendent's Association. Dr. Lyons, Principal Brian Reagan and Ms. Hydro attended a luncheon at Clark University on January 10th where she was honored. Laura is ranked #2 in the Class of 2013. She received the Harvard Book Award in 2012, she is a member of the National Honor Society, and she will successfully complete six advanced placement courses during her Hudson High School career. She is a four-year participant in Volleyball and a four-year participant in Softball. Laura was a Service Learning Intern at Hudson High School and helped design the current ninth-grade Service Learning Program. She volunteers with the Cor Unum Meals Center and Andrew's Helping Hands. She will

pursue a career in nursing. Laura and her parents were in attendance to receive this award.

Dr. Lyons also congratulated nominees Michael Santos and Jenna Billings.

Hudson High School Writing Center: Todd Wallingford, teachers Carol Hobbs, Andrea Hardy, Kate Chatellier and Jeff Kelley, along with students Emily Collins and Sara Billings, highlighted the work of the Hudson High School Writing Center. The program, which began in November, matches trained student tutors with high school students to assist with writing papers, assignments and other writing tasks.

Committee members thanked the teachers and students for bringing such a wonderful and positive program to Hudson High School.

SBIRT Screening: Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment:

Jenny Gormley, Director of Health, Nursing and Safety, and J.F.K. Counselor Laurie Curley presented their work on a new pilot screening process to support students' healthy choices and to get assistance for students at risk for substance abuse. The brief screening, for which parental permission is required, is conducted by a team of two school counselors and the school nurse. This pilot program will begin in March. This screening process is supported by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition.

Dr. Lyons and Committee members thanked Ms. Gormley and Ms. Curley for their efforts with substance abuse in Hudson.

V. **Old Business**

1. School Safety and Security Update: Dr. Lyons reported that the School Health and Safety Advisory Council met on January 25th in a special meeting on school safety and security. The Council, which includes representatives from the schools, public safety, parents, students, and public health were updated on school safety and security direction following the Newtown tragedy.

Len Belli Director of Facilities reported that plans are moving forward and work on school perimeter security will begin soon.

Dr. Lyons showed the new identification badges that all staff will now be required to wear.

2. Approval of Proposed Policy *GCF Professional Hiring*:

Mr. Calnan read the proposed policy *CGF Professional Hiring* into the record:

“Through its employment policies, the district will strive to attract, secure, and retain the highest qualified personnel for all professional positions.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, and of persons to whom he or she delegates this responsibility, to determine the personnel needs of the school system and to locate suitable candidates. No position may be created without the approval of the school committee. The district’s goal is to employ and retain personnel who are motivated, will strive always to do their best, and are committed to providing the best educational environment for the children.

It will be the duty of the superintendent to see that persons considered for employment in the schools meet all certification requirements and the requirements of the committee for the type of position for which the nomination is made.

The following guidelines will be used in the selection of personnel:

1. There will be no discrimination in the hiring process due to age, sex, creed, race, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or place of residence.
2. The quality of instruction is enhanced by a staff with a wide variation in background, educational preparation, and previous experience.
3. The administrator responsible for the hiring of a staff member, (for district-wide positions and the position of principal it is the superintendent) (for building-based personnel it is the principal), is directed to establish a representative screening committee. In the case of district-wide administrative positions and the position of principal, the superintendent will inform the school committee that a screening committee is being established and invite their representation. The administrator has the final say in determining who will be hired. Exceptions exist to this per M.G.L. Chp. 71, Sec. 59 when the School Committee is the appointing authority, but it is expected that the screening committee’s input will be a factor in the decision.”

A motion to approve the proposed policy *GCF Professional Hiring* was made by Mr. Calnan and seconded by Mrs. Dunnell. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

3. Approval to Rescind Policy GCFB Screening Committee: A motion to rescind Policy *GCFB Screening Committee*, being replaced by the new *GCG Professional Hiring*, was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. O'Brien. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

VI. **Community Comments**

Mr. John McAuliffe read a letter to Committee members regarding concerns about the District's special education services. SEPAC President Jorge Teixeira and Vice President Noah Budiansky asked the Committee to listen to their concerns.

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell thanked them for their comments and shared that Committee members were interested in continuing to meet with them and that all parents were welcome to attend.

VII. **New Business**

1. Approval of School Choice Grades 5-12 for 2013-2014: Dr. Lyons recommended approval of school choice for grades 5-12 for the 2013-2014 school year with eight seats per grade open in grades 5-7. A motion to approve school choice for grades 5-12 for the 2013-2014 school year with eight seats per grade open in grades 5-7 was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Calnan. On a vote of 5-1-0, with Mr. Davis opposing, the motion passed.

2. Approval of Statement of Interest with MSBA – Mulready Roof: Dr. Lyons recommended approval for the submission of the Statement of Interest with MSBA for replacement of the Mulready Elementary School roof.

A motion to approve the submission of the Statement of Interest with MSBA for the replacement of the Mulready Elementary School roof was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell read a Resolution into the record:

“ Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on February 12, 2013, the School Committee of Hudson, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated February 8, 2013 for the J. L. Mulready Elementary School located at 306 Cox Street which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the

future in accordance with MSBA's priorities as *Priority #5, Replacement, renovation or modernization of a school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility.*

The Mulready School, servicing the educational needs of the District since 1963, has a failed roofing system. Hudson Public School District is seeking MSBA assistance under Priority #5 to replace this roof. The roof at this location is a 1988 EPDM installation over original 4 ply built up roofing. This roof has been in a "failed" condition in reports dating back to 1999 and has been diligently repaired by in-house staff annually. A major roof failure could be the impetus for a major asbestos clean-up event if water causes the pipe insulation to break down and ceilings to collapse. This SOI seeks MSBA assistance to replace the failed roof system; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority."

A motion to approve the Resolution as pertaining to the submission of the Statement of Interest with MSBA for the replacement of the Mulready roof was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Ducey. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

VIII. Reclassifications

A motion to approve the reclassifications was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mr. Calnan. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

IX. Subcommittee and Building Committee Liaison Reports

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell reported that the Budget Subcommittee met with Whitsons and discussed the food services account deficit in great detail. Ms. Dunnell also reported that we are not alone, other districts are going through the same thing due to new regulations, portion sizes, and negative media reports. She stated that Whitsons and the District are working to improve the bottom line of food service operations.

Student representative Alex Schley shared that discussions continue at the high school regarding the no-cut policy. She will continue to update the Committee.

X. **Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 9:05 p.m., Mrs. Dunnell noted that there was a need for Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining strategy with the Cafeteria Workers' Association, the Hudson Education Association and pending litigation.

A motion to enter Executive Session was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Dr. Lyons called the roll:

Mrs. Dunnell: Yes
Ms. Valcourt: Yes
Mrs. Ducey: Yes
Mr. Calnan: Yes
Mrs. O'Brien: Yes
Mr. Davis: Yes

Mrs. Dunnell announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Valcourt, Secretary
Hudson School Committee

List of Documents Source and Location

DOC NAME	SOURCE	LOCATION
School Committee Minutes of January 22, 2013	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Superintendent's Report	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
VHS Collaborative correspondence dated January 24, 2013	VHS Collaborative	Superintendent's Office
SBIRT Screening: Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment	Jenny Gormley, Director of Health, Nursing and Safety	Superintendent's Office
School Committee Policy GCF – Professional Hiring	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
School Committee Rescind Policy GCFB – Screening Committee	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Statement of Interest – Mulready Elementary School Roof	Len Belli, Director of Facilities	Superintendent's Office
Resolution related to the Statement of Interest	Len Belli, Director of Facilities	Superintendent's Office
Reclassification (1)	Finance Department	Superintendent's Office