

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** October 23, 2012

**Location:** Hudson High School  
69 Brigham Street

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

**Members absent:** Lorraine Nelson

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

**I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:04 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Dunnell.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

1. Regular Meeting – October 9, 2012: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Calnan and seconded by Mrs. Ducey. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

*(Ms. Valcourt entered the meeting at 7:09 p.m.)*

**III. New Business**

1. Approval of Out-of-State Trip for Julianna Bahosh, Director of Pupil Services: Dr. Lyons recommended approval of out-of-state travel for Julianna Bahosh, Director of Pupil Services. Motion to approve the out-of-state travel for Julianna Bahosh, Director of Pupil Services was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mr. Calnan. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

2. Elementary Transition

◆ Full-Day Kindergarten Tuition 2013-2014 Discussion: Dr. Lyons introduced the first discussion of tuition for full-day kindergarten in 2013-2014. The Elementary Transition Committee provided data on tuition from 18 surrounding communities, and found that \$3,500 was a meaningful price-point in terms of how parents responded to the choices for the highest tuition willing to be paid.

Dr. Lyons and Committee Chair Susan Dunnell shared information on the cost of running a full-time kindergarten program, salaries, supplies, etc.

During public comment, questions were asked about curriculum and the pros and cons of half-day versus full day kindergarten programs.

Kindergarten teachers who were present provided explanation about how half-day and full-day curriculum differs.

Dr. Lyons added that Hudson is in the minority of districts who do not offer full-day kindergarten (10%).

Other questions raised included how a lottery would work, the number of full-day seats that would be offered, what deposit would be required at the time of signup, and how would the financial aid process work?

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell thanked the public for its interest, input, and concerns and has set up a Facebook page, Hudson Elementary Transition Discussion Group. She encouraged all to sign on to share their thoughts and concerns.

◆ Disposition of Hubert in 2013-2014 Discussion:

The second transition issue was a continued discussion regarding the disposition of Hubert Kindergarten.

◆ The Elementary Transition Committee recommendations were presented as follows:

Option 1: Vacant Building. Leave the building vacant while evaluating its highest and best use in the district. There are no negative zoning implications to holding the building use in abeyance if ultimately it is reopened as a school. If it is occupied for any use other than a school, it is considered a "change of use" from a zoning standpoint and would require new permitting to return its use to a school. This could be a very costly option because the building would then have to meet the current edition of the Massachusetts Building Code and ADA. The committee has verified this with the Building Inspector, Town of Hudson.

Option 2: One CHAPS Classroom. Move only the CHAPS classroom from Forest to Hubert. Use of the rest of the building would be up to the discretion of the superintendent.

Option 3: CHAPS Expansion. Move the current CHAPS program into Hubert, using three of the six rooms and allowing them to absorb their current wait list into the other three rooms. Hubert would thus become a CHAPS facility. Four of the classrooms could be used under the normal fee structure including the PACCS function and the remaining two rooms could be used to offer 100% free tuition or some pro rated fee to benefit approximately 20 to 30 families. The families would need to qualify

financially for these two classrooms. This program would benefit the growing need of free or reduced programs in our community.

Option 4: Preschool from High School. Move only the current Pre-K program from the high school. This option would require the use of four classrooms. The program could then expand into the rest of the space.

Option 5: CHAPS and Preschool from High School Shared Use. Have CHAPS and the existing Pre-K program share Hubert, using three rooms each and making some accommodations to share the common multi-purpose room. This is an option that would have to be analyzed and addressed by the Director of the Special Education Program.

Option 6: Preschools from High School and Mulready. Move the current Pre-K programs from the high school (4 classrooms) and Mulready (2 classrooms). The CHAPS program could then move to the space in Mulready vacated by the preschool-aged child development program.

Option 7: Division of Preschool from High School. Leave one Pre-K classroom at the high school and move the remainder to Hubert. This allows some early childhood class availability, but also allows other high school programs to expand.

Dr. Lyons updated the Committee with a summary of the last meeting's discussion.

Mr. Reagan shared his space concerns and the various classes and programs that continue to expand at the High School and how space is utilized. Mr. Reagan recognized the valuable role of the Early Childhood Program to the High School.

Steve Freitas, Director of CHAPS, presented his thoughts on behalf of CHAPS. He feels the option of CHAPS sharing Hubert with the Hudson High School preschool is the best and most viable option for CHAPS.

During public comment, concern was expressed about the lack of space at the High School and why this is occurring in a ten-year old building.

Mrs. Ducey announced that the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee will tour Hubert in November and that the public is invited to attend. Date to be announced.

◆ Elementary Transition: Transportation Plan 2013-2014 Discussion:  
The third transition issue was a continued discussion regarding the transportation plan for 2013-2014 which will provide direction to the Policy Subcommittee on the development of a revised Student Transportation Policy.

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell shared her concerns about student transportation and safety issues due to lack of sidewalks, crosswalks and

crossing lights in Hudson.

Dr. Lyons showed the various options for the public to review and noted that these are the three options that were presented to the Committee earlier and that nothing had changed in these options.

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell opened the discussion for public comment.

Some concerns brought up were installation of speed bumps and weather issues, such as snow and ice removal. Mrs. Dunnell again thanked the public for its input and asked for its continued discussion regarding these issues.

#### IV. **Special Reports & Presentations**

##### 2012 MCAS Report – Instructional Leadership Team

Dr. Fortuna, Karen Martin, Todd Wallingford and Principals presented highlights of the MCAS results and accountability data, including district performance overview, grade level performance, growth performance, and individual school data. Their presentation was very well received by Committee members who thanked them for their efforts.

#### V. **Superintendent's Report - Dr. Lyons reported:**

1. Quarterly Report on Assabet Valley Collaborative: The Assabet Valley Collaborative continues to negotiate with the City of Marlborough for a lease on their current location. Dr. Lyons highlighted the growing membership and student enrollment and the collaborative remains financially strong. Dr. Lyons will continue to update the Committee on this matter.
2. Open Houses: Open Houses have been completed. JFK Grade 6 and Grade 7 Open Houses were the last ones to be held. Dr. Lyons noted that both were very well attended with high energy and enthusiasm, and thanked the teachers for their hard work in making the event a valuable experience for parents.
3. Mosquito-Borne Illness Threat, Hard Frost Last Weekend: Due to the frost in Hudson on Friday/Saturday October 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Sam Wong concluded that the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses should be virtually eliminated. We have returned to usual practices in regard to outdoor activities.

3. Project Lead the Way Conference: Hudson High School students Edward Andrews, Andrew Nugent and Diana Contreras, along with teachers Ryan Dailey and Rebekah Whitesel presented at the annual Project Lead the Way Conference held on October 15<sup>th</sup> at WPI. Their presentation highlighted the Hudson High School Project Lead the Way Program. Ellen Schuck, Brian Daniels, Brian Blake, Heidi Bowen and Melissa DiFonzo represented our staff at the conference.

4. Stow Lions Club Eyemobile Service to Hudson Public Schools: The Stow Lions Club again provided us with their great service for vision testing which is a wonderful help to our nurses who can focus on other important nursing tasks. Dr. Lyons thanked them for their continued community service. Ten Lions members and their spouses tested 1,147 students and the nurses truly appreciate their assistance.

5. Hudson High School Drama Society: The Hudson High School Drama Society kicks off its season with the Tony Award winning performance of "The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" which will be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and October 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Hudson High School Mini-Theatre. Tickets are now available.

6. School Council Training: School Council training is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Hudson High School Room F101. Glen Koocher from MASC will be the facilitator.

7. Home and School Meeting: The first Home and School Officers meeting of the year with the Superintendent was held on October 17<sup>th</sup>. There are 25 officers this year. It was a great meeting and topics of interest discussed included transition, nutrition, and curriculum. The group looks forward to getting to work over the next year and continues to remain very active in fund-raising and collaborating more each year.

8. Publications Noted: Dr. Lyons noted that there were two publications in your packet which are new this year: *Hudson High School Profile* and *College Bound*. Both are excellent publications and a wonderful resource for students and parents

VI. **Community Comments**

None.

VII. **Old Business**

Discussion took place relative to the proposed resolutions to be voted on at the MASC/MASS 2012 Conference.

Motion to support all five resolutions, with the intent that a voting member

or members may vote differently as they are persuaded by arguments on the floor, was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Ducey. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed unanimously.

**New Business (continued)**

Reclassification of Funds: A motion to reclassify funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Ducey. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Subcommittee and Building Committee Liaison Reports

Mrs. Dunnell discussed with Committee members the Open Meeting Law and remote access and informed the Committee that the Board of Selectman was seeking the opinion of members.

Mrs. Ducey shared that the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee held an onsite meeting at JFK. Mrs. Ducey reported that the amount of progress is exciting, and the space is spectacular.

Mrs. O'Brien reported that the Policy Subcommittee met and will be bringing five non-discrimination policies to the Committee for revision due to new state laws and regulations regarding gender identity.

VIII.

**Communications**

None.

IX.

**Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 10:43 p.m., Mrs. Dunnell noted that there was no need for Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Ducey. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Valcourt, Secretary  
Hudson School Committee

List of Documents Source and Location

<b>DOC NAME</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
School Committee Minutes of October 23, 2012	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Superintendent's Report	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Out-of-State Travel Memorandum	Julianna Bahosh, Director of Pupil Services	Superintendent's Office
Elementary Transition Decisions 2012-2013	Elementary Transition Committee	Superintendent's Office
Disposition of Hubert	Elementary Transition Committee	Superintendent's Office
Options for Transportation	Elementary Transition Committee	Superintendent's Office
Selections from MCAS and Accountability Data 2012 MCAS Report PowerPoint	Dr. Jodi Fortuna	Superintendent's Office
Assabet Valley Collaborative FY13 Quarterly Report to Member School Committees	Assabet Valley Collaborative	Superintendent's Office
Report of the Resolution Committee	MASC	Superintendent's Office
Reclassifications (5)	Finance Department	Superintendent's Office