

Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes

Date: December 13, 2011

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Susan Dunnell, Lynn Valcourt, David Baran, George Calnan,
Lorraine Nelson and Jennifer O'Brien

Absent: Tammy Ducey
Ricky Gelin, Student Representative

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

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Susan Dunnell.

II. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting –November 29, 2011: Motion to approve minutes was made by Mr. Calnan and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 4-1-0, the motion passed with Mr. Baran abstaining. Ms. Valcourt arrived after this vote was taken.

III. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Kevin Lyons reported on the following:

- Strategic Planning Design: Dr. Lyons shared with the Committee the Vision and Strategic Plan work which began last spring with staff meetings and continues to evolve into a District Vision. Hudson will be one of the first districts to utilize the new ESE and Massachusetts Planning and Implementation Framework. Workshops will begin in January to prepare for the use of the planning framework and self-assessment process that will be the foundation of this Strategic Plan.
- Elementary Transition Committee: The Elementary Transition Committee, co-chaired by George Calnan and Jodi Fortuna, will begin to hold meetings organizing the Committee into five task forces. These task forces will focus on the changes and logistical challenges that will arise from the opening of the Kennedy Middle School. This Committee will provide a preliminary report of its findings and recommendations to the School Committee in June. Dr. Lyons has asked any School Committee member interested in working on this Transition Committee to please notify Sue Dunnell.

- Wellness Policy and Practices Review: Dr. Lyons reported on the formation of the Wellness Policy Advisory Committee chaired by Jenny Gormley which has begun work on reviewing the District practices regarding the Wellness Policy. The Committee will focus on nutrition, physical activity and other school-based activities and develop a set of findings and recommendations to present to the School Committee Subcommittee and School Committee for potential policy action.
- Lions Club EyeMobile: Dr. Lyons thanked the Lions Club for their work bringing the EyeMobile to Hudson Public Schools. 1,200 students were screened in hearing and vision in ten days, and allowed our nurses to continue to focus on immediate student care.
- Kennedy Middle School Technology Planning: Dr. Lyons announced of the Parent and Community Forums on the future of 1:1 computing at JFK and the Kennedy Middle School dates which are scheduled for December 20th, January 10th, January 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the HHHS Mini-Theater, as well as a morning session scheduled for January 12th at 9:00 a.m. at JFK. All are invited to attend.

IV. **Special Reports & Presentations**

Farley School-Wide Positive Behavior Program – Principal Sharon MacDonald and the Farley PBIS team provided the Committee with an overview of the new school-wide positive behavior program which focuses on improving student behavior and school culture. The program is also proven to increase student achievement. The first year of implementation has been very successful so far. The PBIS team was trained by the May Institute and will continue to participate in higher level training.

V.

Student Presentations

None.

VI.

Community Comments

None.

VII.

Old Business

None.

VIII. **New Business**

1. Approval of MSBA Statement of Interest: Mulready School Asbestos Abatement and Roof Replacement:

Dr. Lyons recommended approval of MSBA Statement of Interest: Mulready School Asbestos Abatement and Roof Replacement. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Calnan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Baran. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Mr. Calnan read the following Resolution into the record:

“Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on December 13, 2011, 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 January 6, 2012 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 #1, Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children and; 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.*”

2. First Reading of Proposed School Committee Policy Revision: Assignment:

Mr. Calnan read the following proposed JCAA revision for Assignment to Grades into the record:

“In the Hudson Public Schools it is expected that most students will progress from grade to grade, kindergarten through grade 12. There may be instances where promotion from one grade to the next is not in the child’s best interest.

Student grade assignment will reflect a careful analysis of all factors involved for consideration for promotion/non-promotion (academic, social, emotional, and physical development), and will always result in what the school considers to be a decision in the best interest of the child.

If retention is considered by the parents/guardian or by the school, the Principal will confer with the parents/guardians, special education staff and other appropriate personnel before making a determination. A student should not be retained in Grades K-8 more than once.

The decision of the Principal is final. Any student not promoted, if not on an Individual Education Plan (IEP), will be referred for special education evaluation.”

3. First Reading of Proposed School Committee Policy: Homeless Students/McKinney-Vento Act.

Mrs. O’Brien provided background on the development of this new policy that is required by law.

Mrs. Dunnell stated that the full policy will be posted on the District website and distributed to staff for feedback.

Reclassification of Funds

Motion to approve reclassification of funds as presented was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Calnan. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed unanimously.

Subcommittee and Building Committee Liaison Reports

None.

IX. **Communications**

Ms. Valcourt reported to the Committee that communications were received from the Hudson Paraeducators Association and the Hudson Cafeteria Workers Association requesting to enter into bargaining for contract negotiations.

Mrs. Dunnell shared with the Committee that the next conference for the MASS Annual Conference will be held in April in Boston.

X. **Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 8:46 p.m., Committee Chair, Mrs. Dunnell, noted that there was need for an Executive Session for unit and non-unit bargaining strategy discussions with the Hudson Teachers Association.

Approved

Ms. Valcourt made a motion to enter Executive Session.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dunnell. Vote by roll call:

Mrs. Dunnell – yes
Ms. Valcourt - yes
Mr. Baran – yes
Mr. Calnan – yes
Mrs. Nelson – yes
Mrs. O'Brien - yes

The motion passed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Valcourt. Motion was seconded by Mr. Baran.
On a vote 6-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Valcourt, Secretary
Hudson School Committee

Approved

List of Documents Source and Location

DOC NAME	SOURCE	LOCATION
School Committee Minutes of December 13, 2011	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Superintendent's Report	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Superintendent's Power Point Presentation	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Reclassification of Funds	Director of Finance	Superintendent's Office
The Massachusetts Planning and Implementation Framework	Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	Superintendent's Office
District Transition Study Committee - Planning	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Farley Elementary School Positive Behavior Support Plan	Sharon MacDonald	Superintendent's Office
Resolution to Approve SOI	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Assignment to Grades	Policy Subcommittee	Superintendent's Office
Homeless Students McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act	Policy Subcommittee	Superintendent's Office