

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: April 29, 2014

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Susan Dunnell, Lynn Valcourt, Jennifer O'Brien,
George Luoto and Benjamin Hoell

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

Absent: Alex Schley, Student Representative

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:10 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Susan Dunnell.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting – April 8, 2014: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 4-0-1, with Mr. Hoell abstaining, the motion passed.

(Mr. Davis entered the meeting at 7:38 p.m.)

III. Old Business

Continued Discussion of Succession Plan for Superintendent: Mr. Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees spoke to Committee members regarding the succession plan for the transition of the next superintendent. Mr. Koocher highlighted the type of assistance that the school committee might require, timetable, screening process, level of public participation, internal candidates, and provided Committee members with a sampling of interview questions. Mr. Koocher stressed the lack of qualified candidates in recent searches conducted by MASC.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Mr. Koocher for his presentation and will follow up with him to discuss a possible date for scheduling focus groups in the District to identify desired qualities of a new superintendent.

IV. Special Reports and Presentations

Farley Elementary School Team Up For Education:

Principal Sharon MacDonald presented the Team Up For Education program at Farley Elementary School. Mrs. MacDonald noted that the program was developed to increase communication and involvement between administration, teachers and parents to promote and improve student achievement. The projects and activities included Math and Science Game Night, Farley Challenge – Screen Free Week, Farley family partnerships, Farley reading volunteer corps, curriculum night and success days.

Committee members thanked Mrs. MacDonald for the great events going on at Farley.

V. Community Comments

None.

VI. Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Kevin Lyons:

1. Budget Update: Dr. Lyons reported that Town revenues exceed the original projections by approximately \$495,000. There is still a wait for the funding level of Circuit Breaker and the Foundation Budget with a lobby push to increase foundation by \$25.00 per student. Finance Director Patty Lange and her staff continue to work on the next FY14 expense projections.
2. Quinn Principal Search: The Quinn Middle School Principal Search has been officially reopened and applications are being accepted through the New England School Development Council. NESDEC is direct mailing New England Middle School Principals and Superintendents and advertising through a number of on-line resources and through several professional associations. Applications will be accepted through May 15th.
3. Transportation Bid: Hudson’s transportation bid was issued on April 10, 2014. The bid was sent to a total of eight companies, including the current vendor, North Reading Transportation. A bidder’s conference was held on April 15th and one company, North Reading Transportation, attended. The bidding will remain open until April 30th.
4. Chapter 222, Change in Student Discipline Law and Regulations: Dr. Lyons reported that significant changes are taking place in student discipline, suspensions, and provisions of educational services to students who are suspended from school.

Dr. Lyons will continue to update Committee members on any new developments.

5. Germany Trip Update: Hudson High School students departed for Germany on Sunday, April 20th and will return on Wednesday, April 30th. There will be a special presentation by the group at the next School Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 13th.
6. Special Olympics, May 2nd: The Fourth Metrowest Special Olympics will be hosted by Framingham State University on Friday, May 2nd from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Dr. Lyons invited all to attend and cheer on the kids from Hudson and surrounding schools as they compete in different games, including track, relays, softball throw, shot put and long jump.
7. Town Hall Meeting: Underage Drinking, May 21st: Dr. Lyons invited all to attend the “Community Conversations: A Town Hall Meeting on Underage Drinking” to be held at 7:00 p.m. on May 21st in the Hudson Town Hall Auditorium.
8. Up the Down Staircase: The Advanced Theatre Studies class play, *Up the Down Staircase*, will be presented on May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. and May 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Lyons invited all to attend.
9. TELL Massachusetts Survey Results: Dr. Lyons and Dr. Fortuna presented some preliminary highlights of the District summary comparison results of TELL Massachusetts survey which focused on the use of time in schools, facilities and resources, community support and involvement, student conduct, teacher and school leadership, professional development and instructional practices and support.

The results will be released on April 29th.

10. Hudson High School Competitive Play Drama Event: The Annual Hudson High School Competitive Plays will be presented on Saturday, May 10th at noon. This event is grades 8-12 presenting ½ hour shows and groups compete for different awards, including Best Play, Best Ensemble and Best Actor/Actress. Dr. Lyons invited all to attend.

11. Hudson High School Art Show: The Annual Hudson High School Art Show is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7th at 6:00 p.m. Dr. Lyons invited all to attend.

VII. New Business

Continued Discussion of Succession Plan for Superintendent:

Referring back to Mr. Koocher's presentation, the School Committee continued its discussion of the succession plan for the Superintendent.

Discussion ensued.

Expanded Payment Options – On-line Payment for Parents:

Finance Director, Patty Lange, updated Committee members on the plans for the pilot program which was presented to the Committee at an earlier meeting. Due to a problem with the bank account, we will now pilot our program with the fall athletic season. We anticipate the vendor software to be updated in January, 2015 which will allow us to add additional bank accounts.

Mrs. Lange will continue to update Committee members on the process.

School Improvement Plans, Recommendation to Change Cycle:

Dr. Lyons recommended a change in the cycle of School Improvement Plans to the second meeting in October in order to incorporate the District Review recommendations and to better align with our budget cycle. Dr. Lyons shared that he has asked Principals to discuss having spring elections with their School Councils.

A motion to approve the change in the cycle of School Improvement Plans to the second meeting in October was made by Mrs. Dunnell and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a motion of 5-1, with Mr. Davis opposing, the motion passed.

Approval of Contract with The Garland Co.:

Dr. Lyons recommended approval of the contract with The Garland Co. in the amount of \$109,000 for roof maintenance materials for Forest Avenue Elementary School and noted that the contract is funded by a warrant article.

A motion to approve the contract with The Garland Co. in the amount of \$109,000 for roof maintenance materials for Forest Avenue Elementary

Approved

School was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a motion of 6-0, the motion passed.

VIII. **Reclassification of Funds**

None.

IX. **Subcommittee and Committee Liaison Reports**

None.

X. **Communications**

None.

XI. **Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 10:05 p.m., Committee Chair Susan Dunnell noted that there was no need for Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. O'Brien. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Valcourt, Secretary
Hudson School Committee

List of Documents Source and Location

DOC NAME	SOURCE	LOCATION
School Committee Minutes of April 29 , 2014	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Superintendent's Report	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
'A Vacancy in the Superintendency' Succession Planning for the School Committee Planning for Transition	MASC	Superintendent's Office
C.A. Farley School – Team Up For Education PowerPoint Presentation	Sharon MacDonald, Principal	Superintendent's Office
FY2015 Local Aid Assessments	Patty Lange, Finance Director	Superintendent's Office
Announcement – Principal Quinn Middle School Search	NESDEC	Superintendent's Office
Application of MA Student Discipline Statutes to Student Offenses (4)	DESE	Superintendent's Office
Assabet Valley Collaborative School Law 2014	Assabet Valley Collaborative	Superintendent's Office
Tweet – Hudson High School Students depart for Germany dated April 20, 2014	Brian Reagan, Principal	Superintendent's Office
Tweet – Hudson Special Olympics dated April 9, 2014	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Up the Down Staircase Flyer	Brian Reagan, Principal	Superintendent's Office
TELL Massachusetts Results 2014	DESE	Superintendent's Office
School Committee Policy KBCD – School Improvement Plan	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
School Committee Policy KBCB – School Councils	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
School Committee Policy KBCC – School Council Selection Procedures	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Tweet – Students at Mulready Playground	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Contract – The Garland Co.	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Reclasses – none	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office