

Approved

Hudson School Committee Open Session Minutes

Meeting Date: April 8, 2014

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

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

Others present: Dr. Kevin M. Lyons, Superintendent
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary
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 –March 25, 2014: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. O'Brien. On a vote of 3-0-2, with Mr. Davis and Mr. Luoto abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Special Reports and Presentations:

Elementary Science Presentation with Mulready, Farley and Forest Avenue Students:

Farley students: Paul Melo, Nicolas Perez, Chris McDonald, Victoris Mier Dos-Santos, and Luke Anderson, Mulready students: Bruz Cruz, Alyssa Goulet and Deigo Faria, and Forest Avenue students: Gillian Harris and Abby Maston presented to the Committee their project on Technology in the Wetlands.

Forest Avenue Student Chorus:

Principal David Champigny and teacher Andrea Reagan presented a video of the Forest Avenue Chorus performance and highlighted the schedule that supports student programs.

Committee members thanked Mrs. Reagan for all her hard work in making the chorus program such a success.

IV. **Superintendent's Report – Dr. Kevin Lyons:**

1. Budget Update: Dr. Lyons reported that there was some optimism that the House Ways and Means Committee would move more money to education and local aid. Over \$400K has been promised to Hudson over and above the Governor's Budget by a joint House-Senate resolution.

While there is still a serious deficit for FY15, this is a bit of positive news.

Discussion ensued.

2. Athletic Director Search: Jessica Gould has been named the new Hudson High School Athletic Director and will replace Athletic Director Luis Macedo who will retire on June 30th. Ms. Gould will begin her position on July 1, 2014.

Dr. Lyons also announced that Luis Macedo received the 2014 John E. Young Distinguished Service Award at the MIAA Annual Meeting held on Friday, April 4th.

3. Quinn Principal Search: After a great deal of due diligence and hard work, the Screening Committee did not have a consensus that there was a strong enough group of applicants to move forward for consideration. A total of eight candidates of 35 applicants were interviewed. Therefore, the process remains ongoing. The Screening Committee will remain on stand-by as we seek a new group of applicants.

Discussion ensued.

4. Innovative School Fellowship Interview for HHS Science Teacher Kevin Hava: Kevin Hava applied for a fellowship grant from the Department of Education and Secretary of State that would release him for one year from his teaching duties at Hudson High School and allow him to research and build a plan for an Innovation School concept in our elementary schools. Mr. Hava was interviewed and we are hopeful about his selection as a fellow.

5. Farley STEM Night, Friday, April 4th: STEM night, hosted by Farley Home and School and Farley Team-Up for Education, was held on Friday, April 4th. It was an evening of fun and learning and was a huge success. Dr. Lyons thanked Principal Sharon MacDonald, staff, and the parent volunteers who made the event so successful.

6. Beauty and the Beast: Dr. Lyons thanked the students, staff and parent volunteers for all their hard work in putting on such a wonderful performance. Dr. Lyons was very impressed with the casts, costumes,

and the singing. Each performance was packed and over 100 people were turned away on Friday evening.

7. Chris Herren Event, HPS and HYSAPC, April 7th: The evening with Chris Herren held at Hudson High School was a huge success. Mr. Herren spoke before a crowd of 150-175 parents and adults on the depth of his addiction and the road to recovery.

Discussion ensued.

V. **Community Comments**

None.

VI. **Old Business**

Continued Discussion of Succession Plan for Superintendent: Dr. Jodi Fortuna read the following statement to School Committee members:

“ I am honored by the school committee’s belief that I am an exceptional candidate to lead the Hudson Public Schools into the future. I am humbled by the fact that this committee voted to appoint me as the next Superintendent of the Hudson Public Schools, after Dr. Lyons leaves, and I believe that I would do an outstanding job as Superintendent.

The past two weeks have been busy ones for me. I have talked with colleagues and parents of our students. Through these conversations two consistent themes have emerged. Sadness and regret that Dr. Lyons will be leaving us in June 2015 and distress that the voices of all stakeholders in our school community were not heard prior to the decision of my appointment (pending successful contract negotiations) was made.

In service to our core belief that schools, families, and the community working together provides the best opportunity for our students to be academically successful, contributing citizens, I would like to respectfully ask the committee to consider conducting an enhanced process to allow the voices of all stakeholders to be heard. Perhaps, as a community, reaching out to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees for guidance could be an option. An outside partner would help to insure the process is as open and transparent as possible. I will be privileged to be a candidate in any process that the school committee designs. I believe that the Hudson Public Schools are poised to do amazing things and that the next leader of this district will be fortunate.”

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell thanked Dr. Fortuna for her statement and for caring so much about the District.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell and Committee members agreed that Chair Susan Dunnell would invite Glenn Koocher, Executive Director of M.A.S.C. to attend a future School Committee meeting for further discussion and guidance.

VII. New Business

Approval of Contract with N & T Mechanical Contractors, Inc.: Dr. Lyons recommended approval of the Contract with N& T Mechanical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$28,750 for hydronic system chemical flush at Hudson High School.

A motion to approve the contract with N & T Mechanical Contractors, Inc. in the amount \$28,750 for hydronic system chemical flush at Hudson High school was made by Mrs. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed. (Ms. Valcourt was not present for this vote.)

Approval of Capital Reserve Fund of \$722,500 and Initial Funding of \$35,000 (AVC): The Assabet Valley Collaborative proposes the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund and its initial funding.

A motion to approve the Capital Reserve Fund of \$722,500 and Initial Funding of \$35,000 (AVC) was made by Mrs. Dunnell and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a motion of 5-0, the motion passed.

VIII. Reclassification of Funds

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

IX. Subcommittee and Committee Liaison Reports

Ms. Valcourt reported that the Budget Subcommittee met with Home and School officers. The discussion on fundraising efforts will be ongoing with a potential fall event being planned. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30th at 6:30 p.m.

Approved

X. **Communications**

Ms. Valcourt reported that the Hudson Food Pantry sent a letter thanking Hudson Public Schools for donations received as a result of the contributions made at the Annual Cook-Off.

Ms. Valcourt announced the upcoming Day on the Hill event is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29th.

XI.

Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:45 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 March 25, 2014	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Superintendent's Report	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Email correspondence dated April 3, 2014 from Dr. Lyons re: Budget Update	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Memorandum re: Recommended Funding to the House and Senate for Fiscal 2015	MASS	Superintendent's Office
Press Release dated March 26, 2014 re: Appointment of Jessica Gould, Hudson High School Athletic Director	Brian K. Reagan	Superintendent's Office
Flyer – Farley STEM Night	Sharon MacDonald	Superintendent's Office
Beauty and the Beast Program	Brian Daniels	Superintendent's Office
Flyer – Chris Herren Event (2)	Hudson YSAP Coalition	Superintendent's Office
PowerPoint – Technology in the Wetlands	Karen Martin	Superintendent's Office
Flyer – News from the Math Lab	David Champigny	Superintendent's Office
Statement – Dr. Jodi Fortuna	Dr. Jodi Fortuna	Superintendent's Office
Contract with N & T Mechanical Contractors, Inc.	Leonard Belli	Superintendent's Office
Correspondence dated March 31, 2014 from Hudson Food Pantry	Cynthia Stoll	Superintendent's Office
MASC Bulletin, March 2014	MASC	Superintendent's Office
Article – Detective Chad Grogan to Hudson Kids: 'Call Me Officer Chad' dated April 3, 2014	Community Advocate	Superintendent's Office
Twitter Article dated April 1, 2014 – Secretary of Education Matt Malone	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Press Release dated March 31, 2014 re: Hudson High School Receives National Certification as Provider of Leading Engineering Program	Ellen Shuck	Superintendent's Office
Reclasses (1)	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office