

Approved

Hudson School Committee Open Session Minutes

Meeting Date: November 12, 2013

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Susan Dunnell, Lynn Valcourt, Jennifer O'Brien, Lorraine Nelson and Brian Davis

Members Absent: Alex Schley, Student Representative

Others present: Dr. Kevin M. Lyons, Superintendent

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:05 p.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting – October 22, 2013: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 4-0-1, with Mrs. Dunnell abstaining, the motion passed.

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell announced that the Agenda would be taken out of order.

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell presented former School Committee member, Tammy Ducey, a plaque in appreciation for her years of service and dedication to the Town of Hudson.

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell held a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Figueiredo, a former Hudson principal and college professor very involved with education in the community.

III. Special Reports and Presentations:

Elementary Students Mathematical Practices - Karen Martin, Director of Elementary Education, Math Specialist, Maria Ricciuti, and Forest Avenue students: Ajax Benander, Lily Hillis, Allison Davis, Mulready Elementary students: Alex McCullough, Dalton Burkhart and Elyse Frechette and Farley Elementary students: Isabella Campbell and Gabbie Cellucci demonstrated elementary math practices showing off their hard work as they focus on increasing their math skills.

Committee members thanked the children for their attendance and for sharing their excitement in math with them.

Hudson High School Pathways Program Introduction:

Dr. Lyons shared with the Committee that the Career Pathways Program at Hudson High School is new this year. The position of the Career Pathways Specialist was proposed by the administration and conceptually supported by the School Committee. Last year, however, due to the reduction of the proposed budget before submission to the School Committee, this position was dropped from the proposal because it did not meet our criteria of necessary to maintain the current programming. It was a creative step-up proposal that could not be afforded.

Mr. Reagan and Mrs. Schuck then proposed the restructure of the HUD TV budget to create a second teaching position within the TV budget and reallocated other duties within the studio and created the role.

Dr. Lyons also noted that he had recently attended a Career Fair in which Hudson was very well represented and he was very impressed.

Scott Darlington, Career Pathways and Media Specialist, presented the exciting work being done at Hudson High School in increasing student opportunities in career education and programs that support post-secondary success in school and work force.

Committee members thanked Mr. Darlington for his efforts and look forward to further updates on the program.

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

David J. Quinn Middle School Dedication and Open House – Dr. Lyons presented a video highlighting the new school and the gratitude felt towards the community for its support, before describing the dedication ceremony on October 30th which included speakers MSBA Executive Director, Jack McCarthy, Senator Eldridge, Representative Hogan, JFK Building Committee member Tammy Ducey, Principal Brian Daniels, Architect Leigh Sherwood of OMR and Quinn Middle School 7th graders Jordyn Yates and Bryce Miranda.

Open House that evening drew hundreds of residents. Approximately 15 QMS teachers, District staff and Building Committee members served as guides. Teachers shared technology features of the classrooms and the impact the new school is having on teaching and learning.

Farley Library Dedication, November 7th – The Farley School Library was dedicated to James C. Boyd, former Principal of the C.A. Farley Elementary School on November 7, 2013. The Farley Elementary School Library was packed with family, friends, former students, and colleagues. It was a wonderful and fitting ceremony for a beloved educator and Principal who is remembered so fondly by a large number of residents and staff.

Luis Macedo Retiring/Search for Successor Athletic Director – Mr. Macedo has submitted his intent to retire from the Hudson Public Schools after 17 years. This vacancy will be advertised nationally later this month with an application due date of December 31st. Mr. Reagan will convene a screening committee to review the applications, select interviewees, and recommend finalist to him. The screening and interview process could be complete by the end of January.

Dr. Lyons noted that any School Committee member interested in participating on the screening committee should inform the Chair by mid-December.

PARCC Field Testing and Impact on Hudson Students – The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of 18 states plus the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers. In preparation for the first operational administration of PARCC assessments in the 2014-2015 school year, a PARCC Field Test will be administered in the spring of 2014 to more than one million students across all PARCC states. Participating students in grades 3-10 will be assessed in English Language Arts/Literacy or Mathematics.

Dr. Lyons described the decision districts will make to request or not request exemption from MCAS testing for those students scheduled to take the PARCC field test performance-based assessments.

Special Education Coordinated Program Review and Level III Technical Assistance – Hudson has been notified by DESE that the Coordinated Program Review done by the Department of Program Quality Assurance will take place during the 2014-2015 school year. Staff will be training on procedures beginning in December.

The District was also notified that concurrent with being identified as a Level III District, there is a special education determination of Needs Technical Assistance (NTA).

Dr. Lyons will continue to update the Committee.

AVC Quarterly Report – In compliance with the new laws and regulations concerning education collaborative, members received the FY14 Quarterly Report No. 1 with updates on collaborative law implementation, AVC highlights and program information.

Project Leads the Way Conference and MassCUE – On Thursday, October 24th, seven staff members attended the annual PLTW Conference at WPI in Worcester. The conference provided a variety of workshops to help expand our PTLW Program. The staff members who attended were: Ellen Schuck, Ryan Dailey, Rebekah Whitesel, Karen Bothcheller, Leslie Knight, Eric Ahearn and Heidi Brown.

Also on Thursday, October 24th, six staff members attended the annual MassCUE Conference in Foxborough. The theme for this year was Digital Learning, Global Connection. The staff members who attended the conference were: Linsey Colarullo, Meghan Gasek, Mary Kate Leidal, Dorothy Kramer, Rolf Wasserman and Deirdre D’Urso.

Lions Club EyeMobile – The Hudson Public School nurses and parent volunteers teamed up with 14 trained Stow Lions Club volunteers and family members to bring the EyeMobile to Hudson to provide vision and hearing screenings for 1,105 students in grades K-5, 7 and 9. This is the third year that the Stow Lions Club has partnered with our nurses and allowed nurses to spend significantly more time with students who are ill or who have needs, and, more time to get into classrooms to deliver health instruction. Dr. Lyons thanked the Stow Lions Club for their continued partnership with Hudson.

Home and School Meetings – There have been two Home and School meetings held. Dr. Lyons noted that it is a wonderful group of officers this year and that the meetings have been very production and focused on curriculum and instruction.

Futures topics of discussion include: Middle School transition, safety and security, parents helping students with homework, PARCC and MCAS, summer reading, technology and the Common Core.

School Council Training, November 13th – The School Council Training is scheduled for November 13th at 6:30 p.m. at Hudson High School - Room F101. Glenn Koocher of MASC will facilitate.

FY15 School Budget Development Update – The administration is scheduled to propose its “Needs Budget” to the School Committee Budget Subcommittee on November 14th, 19th, 21st and December 3rd. The School Committee Budget Workshop will be scheduled prior to the Budget Hearing set for January 21, 2014.

Dr. Lyons met with Representative Hogan recently to discuss the budget concerns going into FY15 and her support for legislative action that will benefit Hudson.

Dr. Lyons and Patty Lange, Finance Director, will meet with Chris Sandini to get Town projections and the anticipated appropriation to support the schools.

Early Warning Indicator System Pilot and Training – On October 28th, our EWIS District Team participated in mid-project training. EWIS focuses on a central database of statistics about each student in the state, and a prediction model that identifies students who are at risk for not meeting certain benchmarks, such as reading by the end of third grade, middle school ready, high school ready, and high school graduation.

Massachusetts Breakfast Challenge – Hudson Public Schools was a winner in the Massachusetts School Breakfast Challenge. The challenge was to raise student participation in the breakfast challenge by at least 35%. On October 30th, Drew Lauer, School Dining Manager for Whitson's, received the award at a celebration of winners at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Increased Applications for and Participation in Free and Reduced Lunch Program – Applications for Free and Reduced Lunch were up 620% this year, which resulted in 81 students or an increase of 12.33%. The increase in Free Lunch qualifications was up 18.7%. The number positively impacts our School Lunch program, Title 1 funding and our Chapter 70 calculations.

Dr. Lyons thanked Finance Director Patty Lange for developing the lottery incentive and secretary Kelly Haley for her diligent work in the application processing and outreach to parents.

Children's Author Inspires Forest Avenue Students – On November 6th, Dr. Lyons joined the Forest Avenue students for a presentation by famous children's author Maryann Cocca-Lefler who has illustrated, written and published more than 50 books. Ms. Cocca-Lefler took students through the process of coming up with ideas, developing a story, and illustrating the books. Her presentation was very well received by the students.

Dr. Lyons thanked kindergarten teacher Doris Monteiro for writing the HEF grant proposal that funded three presentations at Forest Avenue.

NESDEC Enrollment Projections – The New England School Development Council has provided us with their annual Enrollment Projections Report. The report factors into account real estate turnover and new construction, migration in and out of the system, drop-outs and transfers, births to residents and grade retentions.

Farley Fox Trot – The 3rd Annual Farley Fox Trot was held on Saturday, November 2nd. The weather was perfect for the event and over 220 people, including past, present and future students participated.

Dr. Lyons thanked the sponsors and Jerry DeZutter and Brian Quinn for their organization and planning.

Marlborough Regional Annual Educational Showcase – Dr. Lyons attended the event on November 7th where area schools provided displays and interaction with business representatives around programs and career preparation. Hudson Public School was represented in an outstanding manner by students Sam Sousa, Kayla Penniman and Mr. Scott Darlington.

V. **Old Business**

1. 5C Discussion –The School Committee and Superintendent discussed changes in how the 5C teacher contract language was implemented. It was recognized that communication is important for issues affecting students and that we need to improve communications.

VI. **Community Comments**

None.

VII. **New Business**

1. Strategic Priorities Focus Group Summaries:

Dr. Lyons presented highlights of the K12 Insight summary of the focus groups held last month on the subject of strategic priorities and the Hudson Public Schools District goals.

Committee members thanked Dr. Lyons for the very good information which will prove to be very helpful and members were very pleased with K12 Insight.

VIII. **Reclassification of Funds**

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

IX. **Subcommittee and Committee Liaison Reports**

Mrs. O'Brien noted that the Policy Subcommittee had recently met and the next meeting is scheduled for November 25th.

Approved

Student representative, Alex Schley, reported that the students participating in the trip to Peru presented at their last meeting and they are very excited and looking forward to their trip.

X. Communications

Ms. Valcourt noted she was ill and did not attend the MASC Annual Conference and does not have an update as to the resolution vote.

XI. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 9:30 p.m., Committee Chair Susan Dunnell noted there was a need for Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to, or in preparation for, collective bargaining strategy with the Hudson Education Association, because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.

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

Committee Chair Susan Dunnell called the roll:

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

Committee Chair Susan 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 October 22, 2013	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Superintendent's Report	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Quinn Middle School Dedication Ceremony Program	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Correspondence dated September 3, 2013 re: PARCC	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Correspondence from DESE dated October 4, 2013	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Correspondence from DESE dated October 15, 2013	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
DESE Early Warning Indicators System dated October 28, 2013	DESE	Superintendent's Office
Correspondence from DESE dated October 21, 2013	Kathleen Millett	Superintendent's Office
Assabet Valley Collaborative FY 14 Quarterly Reports	Assabet Valley Collaborative	Superintendent's Office
Stow Lions Club (3)	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
FY15 Budget Schedule	Finance Director Patty Lange	Superintendent's Office
NESDEC 2012-2013 Enrollment Projections Report	Donald G. Kennedy, Demographic Specialist	Superintendent's Office
Summary of Focus Group Discussions – October 2013	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Reclasses (10)	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office