

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 22, 2013

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Lynn Valcourt, Tammy Ducey, Jennifer O'Brien, Brian Davis
and Lorraine Nelson

Members Absent: Susan Dunnell
Alex Schley, Student Representative

Others present: Dr. Kevin M. Lyons, Superintendent

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

The meeting was called to order by Committee Secretary Lynn Valcourt.

II. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting – October 22, 2013: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. O'Brien. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

III. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Kevin Lyons

David J. Quinn Middle School Dedication: The David J. Quinn Middle School Dedication and Open House is scheduled for October 30th. Dr. Lyons noted that the Dedication Ceremony is an invitation only event, but invited the entire community to the Open House scheduled for 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. that evening. Quinn Middle School staff and district staff members will host tours of the new facility.

Dr. Lyons thanked Tammy Ducey, Frank Noyes and John Parent for their assistance in planning the event.

Farley Library Dedication, November 7th: The Farley School Library will be dedicated to James C. Boyd, former Principal of the C.A. Farley Elementary School on November 7th. Dr. Lyons invited all students, alumni, former staff and colleagues to attend.

The Home and School is hosting a book drive in Mr. Boyd's memory. Monetary donations will be used to purchase a reference set of Inspiring World Leaders of Our Time books which include biographies of Presidents, National Leaders, as well as influential people in Arts, Sciences and Sports.

Hudson High School Art Honor Society: The annual Hudson High School Art Honor Society Induction ceremony is scheduled for October 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Mini-Theater. Dr. Lyons invited all to attend and noted that previous speakers have been alumni now working as professional artists, designers and film makers.

Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Speaker: At the last meeting of the Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Committee, it was announced that on Monday, April 7th, 2014 Chris Herren, former Boston Celtic and NBA player, will speak to High School students about his struggles with and recovery from addiction. The event will also be held at 6:00 p.m. that evening for parents and the community to attend.

Third Annual Farley Fox Trot Run, November 2nd: The annual Farley Fox Trot Run will be held on Saturday, November 2nd. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the run begins at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Lyons invited all to attend.

IV. Special Reports and Presentations:

Secondary Literacy Initiatives: Todd Wallingford and Ana Pimental presented an overview of the literacy initiatives at the secondary level. The extension of literacy as a priority from the elementary grades into the upper grades is very exciting and teachers have been worked hard to address literacy in all grades and classes.

Committee members thanked Mr. Wallingford and Ms. Pimental for their continued efforts on increasing literacy in the District.

Substitute Handbook and Training: Karen Martin, Director of Elementary Education, presented on the training of substitute teachers and paraeducators which focused on District visions and goals and the responsibilities of substitutes.

Committee members thanked Ms. Martin for her work building our substitute pool.

V. Old Business

Ms. Valcourt announced that two vacancies remain on the School Committee and that Committee Chair Sue Dunnell is working with the Board of Selectmen to schedule a joint meeting.

VI. Community Comments

Mr. Roesch introduced himself to the Committee as a candidate for the School Committee vacancy and asked for an explanation of the process and when it will take place.

Committee members thanked Mr. Roesch for his interest in the vacancy and for attending the meeting and discussion ensued explaining the procedure for filing the vacancies.

A parent to three children in Hudson Public Schools, expressed his concern over the availability of teachers after school for extra help for students.

Ms. Valcourt thanked the parent for attending and bringing his concerns to their attention. Ms. Valcourt reported that she has received many emails regarding this and spoke about attempts made by the School Committee to reach agreement with the teachers.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Lyons generally agreed that negotiations were a difficult time for both the School Committee and the teachers, and noted that since the beginning of the school year after speaking and meeting with a number of parents, he recognized the fact that a change needed to be made, and noted changes would be made in the next several days. Dr. Lyons stated that he took personal responsibility for the way the contract language was implemented and that problems would be addressed.

VII. **New Business**

1. Approval of Hudson High School Trip to Portugal, UNESCO Conference January, 2014.

Mr. Peter Vacchina thanked the School Committee for their pre-approval of this trip last spring, and presented this trip for final approval.

Dr. Lyons recommended approval of the Hudson High School UNESCO Conference trip to Portugal in January, 2014.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School UNESCO Conference trip to Portugal in January, 2014 was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 4-1-0. with Mr. Davis opposing, the motion passed.

2. Report On and Discussion of Strategic Priorities Survey:

Dr. Lyons presented a slideshow with the results from the June Strategic Priorities survey which 620 parents, community members and staff participated in. The results strongly affirm agreement with the District's goals and initiatives and the perception indicates that progress is being made on these goals.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Dr. Lyons and noted that this information is very valuable.

3. Preschool Tuition for 2014-2015:

Dr. Lyons recommended approval of a \$25 increase in the annual Preschool tuition for a two-day program, \$35 increase in the three-day program, and a \$45 increase in the four-day program for the preschool tuition for 2014-15.

A motion to approve the preschool tuition for 2014-2015 increase, as amended, was made by Mrs. O'Brien and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 4-1-0, with Mr. Davis opposing, the motion passed.

4. Approval of Additional .5 School Nurse for Farley Elementary School:

Principal Sharon MacDonald, Jenny Gormley, Director of Health, Nursing and Safety, and parent, Mrs. Blake, presented data to the Committee indicating the need for an additional .5 school nurse for the Farley Elementary School.

Dr. Lyons recommended approval of an additional .5 school nurse for Farley Elementary School.

A motion to approve the additional .5 School Nurse for Farley Elementary School was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Ducey. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Committee members thanked Ms. Gormley for the quick assessment in the need for an additional nurse and thanked the nurses for all the work they do on a daily basis.

5. Discussion of Massachusetts Association of School Committee Annual Meeting Resolutions:

Discussion took place relative to the proposed resolutions to be voted on at the MASC/MASS 2013 Conference and recorded as follows:

Resolution 1 – Funding for K-12 Transient Student Success:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1 was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 4-0-1, with Mrs. Nelson abstaining, the motion passed.

Resolution 2 –Performance Assessment For Readiness For College And Career:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 2 was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 4-0-1, with Mr. Davis abstaining, the motion passed.

Resolution 3 –Teacher Evaluation:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 3 was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 4 –Evaluation of the Commissioner of Education:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 4 was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 5 –Confirming Actions From 2012 - Resolution No. 1: Establishment of a Special Commission of the Legislature for the Study of Mandated Reports and Data Submissions for School Districts:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 1 was made by Mrs. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Ducey. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 2 – Modification of the Circuit Breaker Formula:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 2 was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 3 – Health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Treatment in School:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 3, with the intent that a voting member or members may vote differently as they are persuaded by arguments on the floor was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 4-1-0, with Mrs. Nelson opposing, the motion passed.

Resolution 4 – Funding for Educator Evaluation System:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 4 was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 5 –Relative to an Adequate Study:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 5 was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Resolution 6 – Election of Governing Boards of Commonwealth Charter Schools:

A motion to approve Resolution No. 6 was made by Mrs. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. O'Brien. On a vote of 4-0-1 with Mrs. Nelson abstaining, the motion passed.

VIII. Reclassification of Funds

None.

IX. Subcommittee and Committee Liaison Reports

None.

X. Communications

Ms. Valcourt noted that communication was received from the MASC, emails were received from parents, and the Wellness Series notice was received for the event scheduled on October 23rd titled "Breaking Free From Depression" to be held at the High School.

XI. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 9:34 p.m., Ms. Valcourt noted there was a need for Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to, or in preparation for collective bargaining strategy with the Teachers 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. Ducey and seconded by Mrs. Nelson. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Committee Secretary Lynn Valcourt called the roll:

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

Ms. Valcourt 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 8, 2013	School Committee	Superintendent's Office
Superintendent's Report	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Quinn Middle School Dedication Program	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Quinn Middle School Public Open House Program	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
National Art Honor Society Flyer	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Flyer re: Basketball Junkie – An Evening with Chris Herron	Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition	Superintendent's Office
3 rd Annual Farley Fox Trot Fun Run	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Farley School Library Dedication for James C. Boyd	Farley Home and School	Superintendent's Office
Substitute Training Handbook	Karen Martin	Superintendent's Office
Memorandum re: UNESCO Trip	Brian K. Reagan	Superintendent's Office
Strategic Plan Survey Results and Analysis	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Preschool Tuition History FY04 through FY15	Patricia Lange	Superintendent's Office
Farley Health Office Staffing	Jenny Gormley	Superintendent's Office
Report of the Resolutions Committee	MASC	Superintendent's Office
Committee/Board of Interest Forms and Resumes re: School Committee Vacancies	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Fall 2013 Wellness Newsletter	Jenny Gormley	Superintendent's Office
Reclasses (none)		