

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: May 26, 2015

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Jennifer O'Brien, George Luoto, Michele Tousignant Dufour,
Allyson Hay and Glenn Maston

Members absent: Brian Davis
Elizabeth Hallsworth

Others present: Dr. Jodi Fortuna, Superintendent
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:03 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – May 12, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 4-0-1, with Mr. Luoto abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

Mulready Principal Search Update

The Mulready Principal Screening Committee chaired by Brian Reagan has been appointed includes 19 members: 9 Mulready staff members, 5 administrators, and 5 parents.

The team held its first meeting on Wednesday, May 20th at the High School to identify two to three qualified individuals who will be a good match for this critical position.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna hopes to appoint the next Principal of Mulready Elementary on or about June 18th.

Finance and Operations

Budget

The Finance Department continues to put in a tremendous amount of time and effort actively working on budget forecasts. There continues to be shifts in special education costs, tuitions and contracted services that result in variations in the forecast. As the end of the year approaches, the forecasting of these costs continues to become more accurate resulting in a more reliable forecast.

Budget Forum:

Dr. Fortuna announced that the Friends of Hudson Public Schools meeting will be held on Monday, June 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the Hudson High School Mini-Theater, followed by a Community Budget Forum at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Chapter 70 revenue from the State, the most recent forecasts, and what cuts may need to be made.

Dr. Fortuna encouraged all to attend these meetings.

Curriculum and Instruction Update

Project Lead the Way Trade Show

The 2nd Annual PLTW Trade Show was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at Hudson High School. Students from all PLTW courses (Grades 5-12) presented projects showcasing material learned throughout the year.

Dr. Fortuna thanked the PLTW Steering Committee for their support during the 2014-2015 school year and PLTW teachers, Ryan Dailey, Rebekah Whitesel, Eric Ahearn and Kate Cellucci for all their hard work and effort in making the event such a success.

Superintendent's Items of Interest:

Journalism Awards

Dr. Fortuna announced that freshman Dakota Antelman and senior Alex Schley were chosen to attend the Carole Remick New England High School Journalism Collaborative. The students will spend one week in this free program working with other high school students from the area, as well as professionals from the Boston Globe, writing and publishing stories each day.

TAMY Award Nominations:

Dr. Fortuna congratulated the faculty and students who have been recognized for their extraordinary work, creativity and devotion to high school theatrical productions and announced the following nominees:

- Best Actress nominee- Kat Meyer (Into the Woods)
- Supporting Actress nominee- Nayiri Bekiarian (Into the Woods)
- Featured Actress nominee- Nayiri Bekiarian (Addams Family)
- Student Orchestra nominee- Into the Woods AND Addams Family
- Props and Set Dressing nominee- Into the Woods
- Hair and Make-Up nominee- Into the Woods AND Addams Family
- Rising Star Male Winner- Pat Fortuna (Addams Family)
- Not Your Average Chorus Member Winner- Alicia Sagastume (Into the Woods) and Mikenna Doherty (Addams Family)

Dr. Fortuna thanked Kathleen McKenzie for her hard work and dedication in making the Hudson High School Theatre Program as successful as it is and noted that this is an outstanding recognition by adjudicators that view high school productions across Central Massachusetts.

Superintendent's Parent Advisory Team:

The second Parent Advisory Team meeting was held on Tuesday, May 19th and were joined by Curriculum Director of Secondary English Language Arts and Social Studies, Todd Wallingford, and discussed summer reading in grades 9-12.

Amazon Night:

On Friday, May 22nd, students and teachers who traveled to the Amazon shared their stories and premiered the documentary filmed by Cameron Ciesluk. The documentary enables others to experience the trip and witness the amazing experiences that the students had.

School Visits:

Dr. Fortuna updated the Committee on her professional practice goal of spending one half day a week at each of the schools and this past week visited Farley Elementary School, Forest Avenue School and Quinn Middle School.

Enrollment:

As of this date, enrollments numbers are unofficial. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education collects enrollment data in October, March and June.

Subcommittee Reports:

None.

V. Matters for Discussion:

Meal Charge Policy and Food Service Request for Proposals Update – Patty Lange

Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, presented to Committee members an update on the Meal Charge Policy. Since implementation, there has been a significant reduction in the negative balances on student accounts, with an overall decrease of 41.96%, and a change of 47.37% in the total negative balance over the cap. Ms. Lange reported that she is very pleased with the results, and thanked Drew Lauer, Kelly Haley and the cafeteria staff who assist in implementing this policy on a daily basis.

Ms. Lange also updated the Committee on the project schedule for the Request for Proposals regarding the Food Service Department. The notice was posted in the Goods and Services Bulletin on April 6th, followed by a Bidder's Conference where three bidders participated: Whitsons, Aramark and Chartwells. Ms. Lange will evaluate each company for pricing and bring forward to the Budget Subcommittee the vendor selection, and then to the Committee for approval with the intent to award a contract, subject to contract negotiations, at a future School Committee meeting.

Discussion of Possible Summer School Committee Meeting Dates:

Dr. Fortuna expressed the need to hold two School Committee meetings during the summer to address financial matters, contracts and procurements that may arise.

Discussion ensued.

Upon agreement by School Committee members, two summer School Committee meeting dates have been added - July 7th and August 11th.

VI. Matters for Action:

1. **Reorganization of the School Committee**

Discussion ensued.

A motion to appoint Allyson Hay as Vice Chair was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

A motion to appoint Jennifer O'Brien as Committee Chair was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

A motion to appoint Michele Tousignant Dufour as Committee Secretary was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Approved

Ms. Hay also volunteered to join the Budget Subcommittee as a member.

2. Approval of the Project Funding Agreement for the J.L. Mulready Elementary School

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the Project Funding Agreement for the J.L. Mulready Elementary School.

A motion to approve the Project Funding Agreement for the J.L. Mulready Elementary School was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

VII. Reclassifications

None.

VIII. Items of Interest to the School Committee

Mrs. O'Brien noted that there seemed to be a lot of end-of-year expenses at Mulready School and asked if in the future, parents could be notified of these expenses in advance.

IX. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 7:35 p.m., Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, noted that Executive Session was needed to discuss strategy with respect to preparation for pending litigation, because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position, or legal position, of the Committee.

Ms. O'Brien called the roll:

Ms O'Brien – yes
Mr. Luoto - yes
Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes
Ms. Hay – yes
Mr. Maston - yes

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee