

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** May 12, 2015

**Location:** Administration Building  
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Jennifer O'Brien, Brian Davis, Michele Tousignant Dufour, Allyson Hay, Glenn Maston and Elizabeth Hallsworth

Members absent: George Luoto

Others present: Dr. Jodi Fortuna, Superintendent  
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary  
Alex Schley, Student Representative

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

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

Committee Chair welcomed Elizabeth Hallsworth as the newest member of the Committee and thanked Ms. Hallsworth for her service to the Hudson Public Schools.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – April 28, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Davis abstaining, the motion passed.

**III. Public Participation:**

None.

**IV. Reports:**

**Student Representative Report**

Student representative, Alex Schley, shared with Committee members that she had met with Principal Reagan to discuss the bubblers and the possibility of installing a system to fill water bottles at the high school, as well as the possibility of dogs coming in to relieve stress for students during finals.

Ms. Schley also thanked Committee members for allowing her to serve on the Committee for the past three years.

Approved

HHS Germany Exchange Trip: Scott Darlington and students, Jack Snow, Alex Dalton, Sam Serio, Brianna Serio, Monica Anderson, Alyson Haley, Maia Klingenberger and Natalie Crowley-Poirier, who traveled to Germany shared stories and highlights of their trip. The student's highlighted visits to concentration camps, Hannover, Berlin, Hamburg, Bergen-Belsen, Wolfenbuttel and Falkenstein Castle.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked them for sharing their stories and pictures of their trip.

### **Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna**

#### **District Leadership Team Update:**

The District Leadership Team continues work on outlining the use of professional development and meeting time to meet the benchmarks identified in the District Improvement Plan.

#### **Dr. Mary McCarthy**

Dr. McCarthy has announced that she will be leaving the District to pursue future leadership positions. Principal Brian Reagan has been appointed as Chair of the Screening Committee for the next Mulready Elementary School Principal. The Committee will include parents, community members, staff members, administrators and School Committee members.

Dr. Fortuna plans to name the Principal-elect on or before June 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Finance and Operations**

#### **Friends of Hudson Public Schools:**

On May 4, 2015, Dr. Fortuna held the second meeting of the Friends of Hudson Public Schools.

The core group of parents are committed to help fund the infrastructure for strategic priorities that the District budget does not allow. Dr. Fortuna shared their mission statement as follows:

*The purpose of Friends of Hudson Public Schools is to create an independent, community-based non-profit to enhance the quality of education in the public schools of Hudson, Massachusetts. The non-profit is not intended to reduce or eliminate the Town's responsibility to support its public schools, but rather to strategically supplement and enhance existing school programs and activities and to make possible new programs and activities.*

*Approved*

Dr. Fortuna noted that the group will be an excellent partner to the educational community as the District addresses the Town's capacity to provide the highest level of services to the students of Hudson.

### **Budget**

The latest forecast continues to show that the District has approximately a \$1.1 million gap between the anticipated revenue and expenses for FY16. Communication has been sent to all staff and Dr. Fortuna announced that the District will host a Budget Forum on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hudson High School Mini-Theater and encouraged all to attend.

### **Annual Town Meeting:**

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The voters continued to demonstrate their support of the Hudson Public Schools and passed the Town appropriation of \$35,372,147, approved a new roof, asbestos removal, replacement of the intercom and fire alarm, the patching and sealcoating of the parking lot at Mulready, as well as the repair to the stucco and coping stones at Hudson High School.

Dr. Fortuna shared how happy she was to be both a resident of Hudson and the Superintendent of Hudson Public Schools.

### **Curriculum and Instruction Update**

#### **Norming of Expectations for Curriculum**

Dr. Fortuna met with the curriculum directors and discussed the plan for peer reviews at the administrative level for unit plans which begins the first step towards the District's Strategic Initiative of Creating a District level task force of educators to establish a Curriculum Review System of protocols and criteria to ensure the continual evaluation of curriculum units for quality and rigor.

The group will continue to meet and review samples of unit plans across departments and identify exemplary elements in each to ensure the District Values consistency and accountability in our curriculum work across grades and departments.

### **Superintendent's Items of Interest:**

#### **Massachusetts Educational Partnership Conference**

Dr. Fortuna attended the Massachusetts Educational Partnership Conference with Hudson Education Association Co-President Leslie Williams and Maggie Woodcome. The conference was an entire day of panel discussions on building teacher leadership opportunities in District and a wonderful opportunity to build relationships with the HEA.

### **Marlborough Chamber of Commerce**

Dr. Fortuna was guest speaker at the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce School-Business Partnership meeting and spoke on the topic of standardized testing PARCC vs. MCAS. The event was well-attended and included development coordinators from Marlborough Public Schools, AMSA, Immaculate Conception and Assabet Valley RVT High School.

### **Special Olympics:**

After the original Special Olympics Games at Framingham State University scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> were cancelled due to rain, Nancy Hudson and volunteers put together an event at Morgan Bowl. It was a wonderful day for Hudson athletes to shine!

Dr. Fortuna thanked Ms. Hudson and her volunteers for making such a wonderful day possible for the children.

### **Hudson High School Art Show:**

On Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, the Hudson High School Art Show was held and the displays were spectacular. Dr. Fortuna announced the following winners:

- Superintendent's Award to Senior Sophia Francolini and Junior Sara Ellis
- Principal's Award to Seniors Rachel MacMunn and Sarah Mikula
- Art Director's Awards to Senior Jessica Shaunessy and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Elizabeth DiLaura

Dr. Fortuna thanked the teachers and students for a wonderful event.

### **Advanced Theater Studies Presentation of the "Book Thief":**

The Advanced Theater Studies created an original production of the book, *Book Thief*. This production was completely student developed, produced and performed, and portrayed the themes of grief, growth and survival portrayed by student actors in grades 10-12.

### **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 Hudson High 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:**

Ms. Tousignant Dufour noted that Policy Subcommittee was scheduled for Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. There was not a full quorum, but items were discussed to prepare for future meetings.

**V. Matters for Discussion:**

**MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey Results – Lee Waingortin**

Lee Waingortin, Director of Nursing, presented the preliminary data from the most recent MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey administered to High School and Middle School students.

Ms. Waingortin highlighted key behavioral indicators surveyed, including substance abuse, cigarette and alcohol use, violence, bullying, mental health, physical activity, and sexual behavior with comparisons to Hudson and the region.

Jeanne Graffeo, Health and Wellness Coordinator, also joined Ms. Waingortin and highlighted the Health and Wellness curriculums being taught in the District and ongoing school and community efforts to address these key indicators.

Ms. Waingortin and Ms. Graffeo will continue to update the Committee on further survey updates.

Student Representative, Alex Schley, shared with the Committee details on the documentary she is developing on heroin addiction.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Ms. Waingortin and Ms. Graffeo for their presentation and thanked the school nurses for all their hard work and dedication

**VI. Matters for Action:**

**Reclassifications**

A motion to approve the reclassification of funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**VII. Items of Interest to the School Committee**

None.

*Approved*

**IX. Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 8:25 p.m., Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, noted that Executive Session was needed to discuss strategy with respect to preparation for bargaining with union personnel, 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. Davis - yes  
Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes  
Ms. Hay – yes  
Mr. Maston - yes  
Ms. Hallsworth – yes

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting and enter into Executive Session was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary  
Hudson School Committee