

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: April 28, 2015

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

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

Members absent: Brian Davis

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

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:04 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – April 14, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, presented School Committee member, Lynn Valcourt, an engraved box in appreciation for her 12 years of service and dedication to the Town of Hudson.

Ms. Valcourt expressed that it was an honor to serve the extraordinary Hudson community and Hudson Public Schools and thanked her fellow Committee members for their work.

Public Participation:

None.

Reports:

Student Representative Report

Student representative, Alex Schley, updated Committee members on the following:

- Recycle bins have been placed in the cafeteria and on all sports fields;
- Hudson High School students raised \$200.00 for Andrews Helping Hands; and
- Hudson High School senior class were the winners of an ice cream social from points earned from the Pennies are Positive Program

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Ms. Schley is also working on a documentary on heroin which will be presented to Committee members at a future meeting.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

District Leadership Team Update:

The District Leadership Team met on Tuesday, April 28th. The team continues to design action plans for each strategic initiative in the District Improvement Plan and development of a common format for the School Improvement Plans.

Finance and Operations

Budget Subcommittee Meeting Scheduled:

The Committee has scheduled a Budget Subcommittee meeting for Wednesday, April 29th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the most recent forecast and identify an approach for potential areas where cuts will need to be made.

Discussion ensued.

Innovation School Decision

Dr. Fortuna announced that after careful and thoughtful deliberation, the District has decided not to pursue an Innovation School at this time. The decision was made by an evaluation team comprised of the School Committee Chair, Union Co-President and the Superintendent. While the proposal put forth by Mr. Hava and his team outlined a vision for elementary education that would benefit all students in Hudson, the main factor was timing, and with the new District Improvement Plan, the concern identified was that the District would be doing “different” work and pursuing a different path, and weakening the structure the District strives to build.

Dr. Fortuna and Committee members thanked Mr. Hava and his team for their hard work and effort on the Innovation School prospectus.

Dr. Fortuna noted that Mr. Hava will assist in the development of the integrated elementary curriculum so that it truly reflects the level of integration and focus on inquiry that was at the center of the proposal.

Elementary Curriculum Progress:

Dr. Fortuna was pleased to report to Committee members that she met with Director of Elementary Education, Karen Martin, and the elementary curriculum is on target to be completed as outlined in the comprehensive plan.

Dr. Fortuna thanked Mrs. Provost and Mrs. Fisher for their leadership in the development of the curriculum.

Superintendent's Items of Interest:

Hudson High School Students Explore the World

Dr. Fortuna shared with Committee members the various Hudson High School sponsored trips which took place during the month of April and noted that each of these trips resulted in the student's broadening their horizons and cultural understanding:

- Hudson High School Drama Society went to New York City and attended two Broadway shows, including 2014 Tony Award Winning Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder. The group also participated in a stage fighting workshop and had an opportunity to learn from a Broadway actor.
- Hudson High School students also visited Helmstedt, Germany. The students visited the site of a WWII Concentration Camp, Checkpoint Charlie, and many other local attractions, and blogged about how the trip brought the lessons that they learned in History class to life. Students also attended classes with their German host students and blogged about the differences between the German and American education system.
- Hudson High School students also visited the Peruvian Amazon and bonded with local villagers by playing soccer, Simon Says and canoe races. The students danced and made books with Peruvian children, met Shamans and walked the Rainforest Canopy.

On each of these trips, the students could share their adventures with their friends and family back home through pictures, blogs and social media. Dr. Fortuna enjoyed watching the experiences and appreciation of the cultural diversity as it unfolded over the week and noted that these types of trips continue to set Hudson apart from other Districts. The students are not simply tourists, they are immersed in the local culture and obtain a deeper understanding of the global society we live in.

Living Biography Presentation-Emerald Team

Dr. Fortuna attended the Emerald Team's Living Biography Presentation at Quinn Middle School. The performance and knowledge of these 5th grade students was immense. Dr. Fortuna spoke with Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs, Amelia Earhart, Merriweather Lewis, Sacajawea, and Walt Disney, and learned something new about the individuals who shaped the history of our world.

Habitat Presentation-Farley First Grade

Dr. Fortuna visited the First Grade Habitat presentation at Farley Elementary where students researched animals that inhabit different regions of the world. Dr. Fortuna was very impressed with the research that these young students had done to prepare for their poster presentations, and noted that some day, these first graders might walk the canopy to see the same animals of the Amazon with their Hudson High School peers as they visit Peru.

Hudson Elementary Schools Serve as a model for others

Director of Elementary Education, Karen Martin, colleagues and fifteen educators from Mendon-Upton, Westborough, and Fitchburg will visit the Hudson Elementary Schools to understand how to promote a growth mindset in their Districts. They will be visiting the Farley Elementary School on Wednesday, April 29th to see the work being done across our District.

Hudson High School Hosts Senator Eldridge's Annual Senior Conference

Continuing the long tradition of civic responsibility that extends beyond the obligation of educating students at Hudson Public Schools, for the second year in a row, the District has played host to Senator Eldridge's Senior Conference.

On Thursday, April 23rd, hundreds of seniors met at Hudson High School and spent the day learning and socializing together. Dr. Fortuna thanked Executive Assistant, Julia Pisegna, the Facilities Department, Technology Department and Whitsons for the manner in which they went above and beyond to make Hudson Public Schools shine, literally and figuratively.

School Visits:

School vacation week.

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:

Committee member, Ms. Valcourt, reported that the Budget Subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, April 29th to continue budget discussions.

Mrs. O'Brien reported that the Policy Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Monday, May 11th to continue the current policy initiatives.

Mrs. Tousignant Dufour shared that the Paraeducators Interest-Based Bargaining team had met and the team is off to a great start.

Matters for Discussion:

Assabet Valley Collaborative Programs and Relationship with Hudson: Cathy Cummins

Executive Director, Dr. Cathy Cummins, presentation to the Committee highlighted the commitment of the collaborative in bringing communities together to provide high quality services to children, families and the region through the Job-Alikes Program, transportation, family success partnerships, cooperative purchasing, and professional development.

Committee members thanked Dr. Cummins for the wonderful work of the Collaborative and their continued support to Hudson.

Discussion ensued.

Matters for Action:

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee Chair, Allison Hay, shared with Committee members the process they will undertake to evaluate the Superintendent. The presentation focused on:

Progress Towards Goals:

Goal 1: Professional Practice Goals –

By January 2016, Dr. Fortuna will provide 9 examples of reflective practice that has been enhanced by participation in the New Superintendent Induction Program.

Goal 2: Student Learning Goals –

By January 2016, the District Leadership Team will meet at least 3 times to review formative and summative data for the purposes of identifying short and long-term instructional improvement goals.

Goal 3: District Improvement Goals –

By January 2016, 85% of curriculum will be developed to the unit level in all grade levels and subject areas. Each grade level and subject area will have at least one completed common assessment and another common assessment in development; and

By January, 2016, 50% of Professional Status Teachers and 100% of Non-Professional Status Teachers will have professional practice goals aligned to District and School Improvement Plans.

Performance on Standards:

Standard 1: Instructional Leadership

Standard 2: Management and Operations

Standard 3: Family and Community Engagement

Standard 4: Professional Culture

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Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the adoption of the End-of-Cycle Evaluation Report forms and the Superintendent's Goals was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Reclassifications

None.

Items of Interest

Ms. Valcourt thanked the teachers for their hard work in putting together these amazing trips for the students.

Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:10 p.m., Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, noted that there was no need for an Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee