

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: April 14, 2015

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

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

Members absent: None

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

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

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – March 24, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation

Parent Tammy Mildish asked how parents could get more involved with the schools, discussed the March vacation option, Safe Routes to School sidewalks, and the technology at Quinn Middle School.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair Jennifer O'Brien shared that notices regarding Parent Council elections will be going out in a few weeks.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

Events:

The MetroWest Special Olympics will be held on Friday, April 17th at Bowditch Field, Framingham State University. Dr. Fortuna invited all to attend this wonderful event.

The Annual Day on the Hill event will be held on Wednesday, April 29th for all School Committee members interested in attending.

District Improvement Plan:

Dr. Fortuna noted that the District Leadership Team has begun working in subcommittees to design action plans for each strategic initiative in the District Improvement Plan and development of a common format for the School Improvement Plans.

Director of Nursing

Dr. Fortuna was pleased to announce the appointment of Lee Waingortin as the District's new Director of Nursing. Ms. Waingortin has been an employee of the Hudson Public Schools for the past ten years.

Finance and Operations

Fundraising for Universal Full-Day Kindergarten:

Dr. Fortuna held the first meeting of community members interested in raising the \$600,000 necessary to offer free full-day kindergarten to every child in Hudson. The Team decided to establish a 501 C-3 non-profit named "Friends of Hudson Public Schools". The organization will choose large scale projects to fund so that there is a single, highly visible focus of the organization's efforts. The first focus will be full-day kindergarten. After that, there was some discussion about funding the creation of science labs at the High School. The next meeting is scheduled for May 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building.

Discussion ensued.

District Stationary and Business Cards

The Communications Subcommittee has begun developing the District brand. In addition to the District website, the District will soon have uniform stationary for the District and each of the schools. Every administrator will have uniform business cards that depict the energy and forward direction of the District. All of this has been accomplished through volunteer collaboration. Dr. Fortuna thanked Ellen Schuck and Denise Reid for being the leaders in taking the vision for a brand and making it a reality.

Curriculum and Instruction Update:

Parent Presentation – Dr. Andrew Chen

On Wednesday, April 1st, Dr. Chen gave a presentation titled “Seeing the Whole Elephant” to District parents. Dr. Chen was an engaging presenter and used humor to help parents see the major shifts that are occurring in math education as a result of the new standards Massachusetts adopted in 2011.

Parent Presentation – Leslie Knight and Jason Webster

On Wednesday, April 8th, Ms. Knight and Mr. Webster presented families with an update regarding the changes to our Middle School instructional structure for mathematics.

Superintendent’s Items of Interest:

New Superintendent Induction Program

Dr. Fortuna attended the New Superintendent Induction Program on Wednesday, March 25th and was introduced to protocols that will be very helpful in the District moving forward.

Career Pathways Reality Fair

On Friday, April 10th, Dr. Fortuna attended the Career Pathways Reality Fair at Hudson High School which was an excellent partnership between local businesses and the Hudson Public Schools. Dr. Fortuna was very impressed by the level of engagement and thoughtful decision making from our students.

Dr. Fortuna thanked Mr. Scott Darlington for spearheading this event.

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, Mulready 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:

Committee Chair Allison Hay reported that the Superintendent’s Evaluation Subcommittee met and created frameworks for the process. Ms. Hay will be putting together documents and forms for submission by Committee members.

Ms. O’Brien reported that the Public Relations Subcommittee met and thanked Denise Reid and Ellen Shuck for all the wonderful work that has been done.

Matters for Discussion:

IV.

Hudson High School teacher, Peter Vacchina and students Josh Teixeira, Kyle Fontes and Jeffrey Terra Salomao discussed their trip to the UNESCO Conference in Portugal and their experiences of preparing for and presenting at the Conference and shared that it has been an incredible and life-changing experience.

Discussion ensued.

Matters for Action:

V.

Dr. Fortuna noted that students from Hudson High School have had the opportunity to experience this conference since 2010 and recommended pre-approval for their trip in January, 2016.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School UNESCO Conference trip to Portugal in January, 2016 was made by Mrs. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Matters for Discussion (continued):

VI.

Parent Math Night Presentation – Jason Webster and Leslie Knight

Quinn Middle School Principal Jason Webster and Leslie Knight, Curriculum Director of Secondary Math and Science shared with Committee members the presentation which was given to parents at Math Night which highlighted the transition to MA Common Core frameworks, standards for mathematical practices, the District’s plans to move forward, support for teachers, and the District benchmark assessments and measures for success.

Discussion ensued.

Reclassifications

VII.

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Valcourt. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Approved

VIII. Items of Interest

Mr. Luoto inquired about the November conference attendance and the School Committee's budget.

Discussion ensued.

IX. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:27 p.m., Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, noted that there was need for an Executive Session 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.

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Hay.

Vote by roll call:

Mrs. O'Brien – yes
Ms. Valcourt - yes
Mr. Davis – yes
Mrs. Tousignant Dufour – yes
Mrs. Hay – yes
Mr. Maston - yes

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee