

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: March 10, 2015

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

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

Members absent: Lynn Valcourt
Brian Davis
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.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – February 24, 2015: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

III. Reports:

Student Representative Report

Dr. Fortuna congratulated Student Representative, Alex Schley, for being named the 2015 Massachusetts Journalist of the Year. The finals will be held on April 19th in Denver, Colorado. Dr. Fortuna noted that Ms. Schley's resume has been posted on the High School's website for review.

1. Student Representative Report: Alex Schley updated the Committee on the proposal that any student with an average of 89.5 can be excused from taking the class final exam. Preliminary survey results indicate that there is strong support by the teachers for this proposal applying only to seniors. The students voted for it applying to all students.

The plan is to have this new procedure in place for the 2015-2016 school year.

Ms. Schley will follow up with Principal Reagan and continue to update the Committee on this matter.

2. Innovation School Update – Kevin Hava presented to the Committee the Innovation School Prospectus and shared some of the particulars:

The proposed name would be Hudson Arts and Science Academy, located in the C.A. Farley Elementary School, and tentatively scheduled to open in 2016-2017.

The mission of the Academy will be to establish a teaching and learning environment that fosters curious, creative problem-solvers with an engaging and meaningful school experience. The Academy’s approach to teaching and learning will increase the quantity and quality of arts and science education at the elementary level by building and implementing an individualized, project-based STEAM curriculum aiming to develop students’ creativity, integrate the arts into their school experience, and provide time and space to practice the scientific and design processes.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair Jennifer O’Brien thanked Mr. Hava for all his hard work in putting the prospectus together and suggested that the Committee hold a meeting to discuss their questions.

Superintendent’s Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

District Improvement Plan:

Dr. Fortuna shared with the Committee that the District Improvement Plan is complete and will be sent to Committee members in advance of the next scheduled meeting on March 24th for their review and comments.

Finance and Operations

Dr. Fortuna reported that the Governor released his version of the Budget this week. The news was primarily positive in the preliminary part of the budgeting process. The Chapter 70 Aid that is targeted for Hudson this year is 3.81% higher than it was last year:

	FY 15	FY 16	Increase	% Inc.
Chapter 70 aid	10,859,647	11,273,235	413,588	3.81%

When the District develops its budget parameters to make a balanced budget, the Town assumes level funding of Chapter 70. Any increases in Chapter 70 will be split between the Town and the schools at the November Town meeting at the 60%-40% level.

Dr. Fortuna also reported that some of the State grants received in Hudson in the past have been eliminated: the full-day kindergarten expansion grant which provided \$52,560 funding this year was reduced by \$11,920 with mid-year 9c cuts. This grant has been totally eliminated in the Governor's FY 16 budget meaning a loss of \$52,560 in anticipated revenue to the District; Hudson also received \$9,800 to provide academic support for students who struggled on MCAS and \$14,760 for Literacy Professional Partnerships in FY 15, as well as the Innovation School Fellow grant. These three grants have been consolidated under the Partnership Schools Network-Targeted Intervention line in the Governor's budget.

School Nurse Leader

On Wednesday, February 25th, Dr. Fortuna met with Sam Wong and Tom Moses to further discuss the plan to share the school nurse leader position. Mr. Moses concluded that the Town would not be able to fund the full portion of the .4 salary at a level viable with Hudson salary scale.

Dr. Fortuna, Sam Wong and Mr. Moses developed a new idea where the District would fund a 10-month school nurse leader position and the Town would use grant money to fund the summer months at a rate that would amount to a competitive salary.

Dr. Fortuna expressed her appreciation to Dr. Wong for his willingness to be a thought partner and collaborate on an exciting new model, and she looks forward to working with him more closely in the future.

Discussion ensued.

Transportation

On Thursday, February 26, 2015, Dr. Fortuna met with Janie Hynson from MetroWest Moves and Melissa Green, the Safe Routes to School Liaison from the Department of Transportation. They shared some terrific data from a survey completed in the fall. Participation was limited, but the information provided was very helpful.

It was decided that the District would target the intervention to increase the number of students walking and where there was the greatest amount of traffic congestion, Quinn and Farley.

The survey will be done again at Quinn and Farley to get a greater response rate. Surveys will be available in paper form at the parent-teacher conferences and by link for an electronic version.

Dr. Fortuna encouraged all to participate.

Community and Instruction Update:

Elementary Math Core Resource-Engage NY

Dr. Fortuna reported that recently EdReports.org, an independent nonprofit, provided reviews of mathematic instructional materials focused on alignment to the Common Core, the set of math standards required to teach.

They released reviews of nine commercially available math programs. Eureka Math (the commercial name of EngageNY) was the only reviewed elementary math program that was found to be completely aligned with meeting the standards.

Discussion ensued.

Math Leadership Council:

On Friday, February 27th, Dr. Fortuna visited the Math Leadership Council, the leadership team that makes decisions regarding elementary math instruction and professional learning, and thanked them for all the hard work taking place in regards to implementing the District's new program. The team completed the following:

- Determined strengths and weaknesses as identified on mid-year assessments and shared findings with group;
- Reviewed math maps and to change dates as needed to work around recent snow days;
- Reviewed report cards to determine which concepts will be grade on the second trimester report cards; and
- Determined which topics to address with the math consultant during her consultation time with each group.

Discussion ensued.

School Visits:

Dr. Fortuna updated the Committee on her professional practice goals of spending one half day a week at each of the schools and this past week visited Mulready Elementary School, Hudson High School and Forest Avenue School where she participated in their Leaves of Citizenship assembly which focused on the character trait of empathy. The entire Forest Avenue Community was a wonderful audience, and Dr. Fortuna shared that it was the highlight of her week.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna announced that the Hudson High School production of the Addams Family is scheduled for March 12th to March 15th. All are invited to attend.

The MetroWest Special Olympics are scheduled for Friday, April 17th at Framingham State University.

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.

Discussion ensued.

IV. **Public Participation:**

Parent Stella Lortie expressed concern over the wording in the District's Entry Report and parking issues at Farley Elementary and Quinn Middle School.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair Jennifer O'Brien thanked Ms. Lortie for her attendance and for reaching out to the Committee with her concerns.

Parent Christine Matthews inquired about the Governor's Budget and the effect it would have on full-day kindergarten.

Dr. Fortuna further explained the implications of the State budget cuts.

Discussion ensued.

V. **Subcommittee Reports:**

Committee Chair Jennifer O'Brien noted that the Community and Business Partnership Subcommittee met and will follow up in a few weeks to discuss a community-based fall event at the High School.

Policy Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on March 23rd.

Public Relations Subcommittee is scheduled to meet March 31st.

The Interest-Based Bargaining Team Training Session met on March 11th, and the next meeting is scheduled for March 18th.

VI. Matters for Discussion:

1. Update on the Chapter 70 Hearing – Michele Tousignant Dufour and Allison Hay

Ms. Tousignant Dufour reported that on Saturday, February 28th, she and Ms. Hay attended the public hearing regarding the Foundation Budget, which is the budget process established in 1993 on how the State provides aid to local cities and towns.

Ms. Tousignant Dufour stated that Representative Kate Hogan and Senator Jamie Eldridge were in attendance and many area towns were represented. Each speaker shared the same concerns that Hudson and other towns are: high cost of health care, PARCC testing costs, as well as SPED and mental issues not being adequately funded.

This group listened and took all concerns expressed under advisement and will bring their recommendations to the Governor.

VII. Matters for Action:

1. Approval of School Calendar for 2015-2016:

Dr. Fortuna shared feedback received on the preliminary School Calendar and recommended that the Committee approve the School Calendar for 2015-2016.

Parent Stella Lortie expressed her concerns over the change in the 2014-2015 School Calendar May 20th and 27th dates.

Dr. Fortuna explained the reasoning for the change in dates was due to the change in the State MCAS testing.

A motion to approve the School Calendar for 2015-2016 was made by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mrs. Hay. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

2. Approval of Proposed School Committee Policy EFDA – Meal Charge

Dr. Fortuna recommended that the Committee approve the proposed School Committee Policy EFDA – *Meal Charge*.

Parent Stella Lortie shared her experience with an error that occurred in charging a meal and her concerns over how errors like this would be addressed in the future.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the proposed School Committee Policy EFDA – *Meal Charge* was made by Mrs. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

3. Approval for Overnight Travel for the Hudson High School Baseball Team to Attend the Spring Mashpee Baseball Scrimmages in Falmouth, MA March 27th to March 29th

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval for the overnight travel for the Hudson High School Baseball Team to attend the Spring Mashpee Baseball Scrimmages in Falmouth, MA March 27th to March 29th.

A motion to approve the overnight travel for the Hudson High School Baseball Team to attend the Spring Mashpee Baseball Scrimmages in Falmouth, MA March 27th to March 29th was made by Mrs. Hay and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

4. Approval for Overnight Travel for Four Hudson High School Students to Attend the All-State Music Festival in Boston, MA March 19th to March 21st

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval for the overnight travel for four Hudson High Students to attend the All-State Music Festival in Boston, MA March 19th to March 21st.

A motion to approve the overnight travel for four Hudson High School students to attend the All-State Music Festival in Boston, MA March 19th to March 21st was made by Mrs. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Dr. Fortuna congratulated the students and wished them luck at the All-State Music Festival.

5. Approval of Contract with Tyler Technologies in the Amount of \$23,584.70 for Annual License and Maintenance Contract to Fund Accounting Software

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the contract with Tyler Technologies in the amount of \$23,584.70 for annual license and maintenance contract to fund accounting software.

A motion to approve the contract with Tyler Technologies in the amount of \$23,584.70 for annual license and maintenance contract to fund accounting software was made by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

VIII. Reclassifications

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Mrs. Hay and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

IX. Items of Interest

Mrs. Tousignant Dufour reported that the Annual Town Report will be filed as a joint report with the Committee and Dr. Fortuna. Committee members will receive a copy of the Annual Town Report for review before submission to the Town.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna invited all to attend the “Seeing the Whole Elephant” presentation by Dr. Andrew Chen scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1st at the Quinn Middle School.

Parent Stella Lortie commented on some of the issues she was experiencing with her bus stop and Bus No. 3.

Discussion ensued.

X. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., Committee Chair Jennifer O’Brien noted that there was no need for Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 4-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee