

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: January 13, 2015

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

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

Members absent: Lynn Valcourt
Brian Davis

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

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 –December 9, 2014: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 4-0-1, with Mr. Maston abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Reports:

Student Representative Report

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

Progress Towards Goals and Superintendent's Professional Growth:

New Superintendent Induction Program

This session of the program focused on the root cause analysis to uncover underlying sources of problems and on the construction of the report of entry findings.

Interest Based Bargaining Training

Dr. Fortuna attended an 8-hour session on Interest Based Bargaining conducted by the Massachusetts Education Partnership. It was an outstanding opportunity to explore new approaches to contract negotiations and learn together with the School Committee Negotiations Team members Mr. Luoto, Mr. Maston, Mrs. Hay and Mrs. O'Brien, the

Hudson Paraeducator Team and the Hudson Education Association. Dr. Fortuna thanked all those who attended.

Secondary Math Professional Development

Our secondary math teachers attended a full-day professional learning opportunity with Dr. Andrew Chen, President and founder of EduTron Corporation. While sharing content and learning progressions with the teachers, Dr. Chen practiced subtle pedagogical skills that our teachers were able to bring back to their students while encouraging participants to reflect on their own mathematical learning process. Dr. Fortuna found the portion she attended to be engaging and rich in discussion around the teaching and learning of mathematics.

Dr. Chen will host a parent presentation on the major shifts in the common core and the standards of mathematical practice on Wednesday, April 1st from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Quinn Middle School.

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 Hudson High School, Forest Avenue and Mulready Elementary schools.

Finance and Operations and Facilities:

Plumbing and Heating

Dr. Fortuna shared some major maintenance repairs done by the Facilities Department and thanked Len Belli and his crew for always doing such a great job:

- A 750-gallon hot water heater at the high school failed and was replaced with an energy efficient gas-fired condensing boiler and side storage tank. Domestic hot water supply was never lost during school hours.
- One of the 10 horsepower circulators on the heating system at the high school failed and started leaking. It was removed, sent out to be rebuilt, was reinstalled and heat was never lost.
- At Farley Elementary School, both 15 horsepower circulators on the heating system started leaking within three days of each other. Our Facilities Department lowered the working pressure of the system to reduce the leak, removed the one that was leaking the worst and sent it out as a rush job to be rebuilt. We diverted the other leaking pump into a floor drain to keep it going. When we received the first one back, we removed the 2nd pump and installed the rebuilt unit in its place. We never lost heat in the building.
- At Quinn Middle School, there were situations that resulted in a domino effect. It was discovered that the plumbing contractors had inadvertently missed installing isolating valves on the 4” cold and 2” hot domestic water mains in the boiler room. When they came over the December vacation to install them, they had to shut

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down the water main to the building. This caused the 4” backflow preventer on the water main to fail. The Facilities Department worked with the Water Department and heat was never lost in the building.

Elementary Morning Drop Off

On Tuesday, January 2nd, the drop off time at our elementary schools changed from 8:00 to 8:15. This has resulted in greater than usual traffic at all elementary schools with a longer wait to drop off students.

Dr. Fortuna encouraged families to carpool or, if possible, walk to school with their children that are not eligible for a bus.

District Website

Dr. Fortuna encouraged all to take a look at the changing face of our District website. Ellen Schuck has been working diligently with Denise Reid to update the look and feel of our website. This is an exciting outcome of our new Communications Subcommittee.

Parent and Community Groups:

Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce Women’s Business Network

Dr. Fortuna was guest speaker at the December 12th Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce Women’s Business Network where she shared her journey as a woman in a leadership position.

Senator Eldridge

Dr. Fortuna and Executive Assistant Julia Pisegna met with Senator Eldridge to discuss the possibility of our hosting his annual conference for the elders in his district. Hudson hosted this event last April and it was quite successful. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our high school with the elders in the community.

Rotary Club

On December 16th, Dr. Fortuna was guest speaker at the Hudson Rotary Club meeting on the topic of “Hudson Public Schools: Who Are We?” The event was a wonderful opportunity to highlight some of the great work being done in Hudson to offer a comprehensive, world class education to our students.

School Health and Safety Advisory Committee

On December 12th, Dr. Fortuna attended the School Health and Safety Advisory Committee meeting where the group reviewed the District’s Wellness Policy to check for areas of compliance with State and Federal mandates.

Personnel and Celebrations:

Outstanding Teaching

A fifth grade math teacher immediately applied new learning that she had gained at the session with Dr. Chen to her personal practice. The teacher provided her students with a complex problem with multiple solutions and incorporated some of the advanced strategies that Dr. Chen used in his presentation.

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:

Mr. Luoto reported that the Budget Subcommittee continues to meet and work thru all budget requests.

Ms. O'Brien reported that the Community and Business Partnership is scheduled to meet on January 26th and Policy Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on February 2nd.

IV. Public Participation:

None.

V. Matters for Discussion:

1. **Career Pathways**

Scott Darlington presented to Committee members an update on the career development work that is going on at Hudson High School and highlighted the new initiatives of the program:

- Construction / Carpentry Curriculum with New England Carpenters
- After School Medical Club
- Early Childhood Education Proposal
- College and Career Readiness Workshop
- SPARK Club for At-Risk Students
- Early College Grant Proposal

The Career Pathways Program at Hudson High strives to help all student's transition successfully to a viable post-secondary career or learning opportunity.

Mr. Darlington announced that the Reality Fair will be held at Hudson High School on Friday, April 10th from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

2. District Entry Report:

Dr. Fortuna shared her Entry Findings Report to Committee Members and the experiences of her first few months as Superintendent in Hudson. Dr. Fortuna began by highlighting the strengths of the District in their leadership, and continued to where Hudson students stand in the ACT, SAT, and MCAS tests.

Dr. Fortuna has found families and fellow Town departments very welcoming and she looks forward to continue building solid working relationships with them.

In conclusion, Dr. Fortuna noted that Hudson Public Schools is poised to take off and move forward to the next level. The opportunities and potential that the District have vast. The collaborative crafting of a strategic, focused District Improvement Plan will allow the direction to be set and provide a foundation for cohesive growth and development moving forward.

Dr. Fortuna's next steps as superintendent are to:

- Develop a focused District Improvement Plan that is strategic and will allow for greater consistency across all District functions.
- Work with District Leaders to identify strategic priorities for the District to focus its limited resources of time, money and manpower on.
- Work with District Leaders to provide a framework for the purposeful conversation and collaboration needed to move the main work of the District forward, advancing student learning so that our graduates can successfully access the full range of options available to them after high school.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of Hudson High School 2015-2016 Program of Studies:

Principal Brian Reagan presented an outline focusing on the additional courses and proposed changes for the 2015-2016 school year that reflect course selection trends, program development, fiscal resources, current data on colleges, and career readiness. The changes strengthen the High School's overall program by increasing academic rigor and expectations for all students.

Mr. Reagan highlighted the new course offerings in the English Department, Social Studies Department, Mathematics Department, Science Department, Technology and Business Department, World Language Department, the Performing Arts Department, and the Visual Arts Department.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Mr. Reagan for his presentation and for the innovative course selection and opportunities available for students at the High School.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the Hudson High School 2015-2016 Program of Studies.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School 2015-2016 Program of Studies, as presented, was made by Mrs. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

2. Second Reading of Proposed School Committee Policy JIBAA – High School Student Governance

Dr. Fortuna noted that the proposed School Committee Policy JIBAA – *High School Student Governance* would remain posted on the District website and will be tabled for vote at the January 27th School Committee meeting.

3. Second Reading of Proposed School Committee Policy JHBB – High School Course Attendance Requirements

Dr. Fortuna noted that the proposed School Committee Policy JHBB – *High School Course Attendance Requirements* would remain posted on the District website and will be tabled for vote at the January 27th School Committee meeting.

4. Second Reading of Proposed School Committee Policy IHCA – Summer School Policy

Dr. Fortuna noted that the proposed School Committee Policy IHCA – *Summer School Policy* would remain posted on the District website and will be tabled for vote at the January 27th School Committee meeting.

VII.

Reclassifications

A motion to approve the reclassification of funds, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

VIII.

Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:50 p.m., Committee Chair Jennifer O'Brien noted that there was need for Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to preparation for arbitration 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 adjourn was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna called the roll:

Mrs. O'Brien: Yes
Mr. Luoto: Yes
Mrs. Tousignant Dufour: Yes
Mr. Maston: Yes

Mrs. O'Brien announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee