

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: November 18, 2014

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

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:35 p.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting – November 4, 2014: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation

None.

IV. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

Progress Towards Goals and Superintendent's Professional Growth:

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 Forest Avenue, Farley Elementary and Hudson High School. The focus at the elementary schools was writing instruction, where the schools are in the second year of the Lucy Calkins units. The students writing has increased dramatically and students are now writing multiple pages and using their writer's toolboxes.

The visit to the high school focused on the new teachers, specifically technology, where the students were actively engaged in a lesson on typography.

Dr. Fortuna continues to find this observation essential time with both Principals and educators.

Meeting with Entire Faculty

The first full-day of professional learning was held on Monday, November 10th. Dr. Fortuna met with all the educators in the District and focused on individual educational purposes answering the question why we are here as educators. The staff also watched video clips about changing our perspective, thinking differently and trying something new.

Finance and Operations and Facilities:

Budget Development

Dr. Fortuna has held many budget meetings with individual administrators and the District Leadership Team with a different approach to budget development this year with focus on the efficacy in the use of the resources that we already have, taking a different perspective and thinking differently about how to deploy or repurpose all resources to make them more effective. The District Leadership Team remains committed to evaluating any additions to the level service budget.

Interest Based Bargaining

Dr. Fortuna was pleased to announce that the Hudson Paraeducator's Association and the Hudson Education Association have agreed to attend the initial 8-hour training session to explore the possibility of pursuing Interest-Based Bargaining, which is an example of the partnership that the associations are engaging in with the School Committee and the administrators to benefit the District.

Discussion ensued.

Parent and Community Groups:

Assabet Valley – Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Fortuna met with Sarah Cressy and shared ideas about increasing the relationship between local Hudson businesses and the Hudson Public Schools. Ms. Cressy highlighted the Chamber's interest in seeing representation from the District on their committees and clearer communication from the District about our needs.

Early College and Career Grant Application

Scott Darlington is in the process of developing the grant application for the Early College Program. Hudson is the lead applicant in this partnership. Dr. Fortuna thanked Mr. Darlington for his hard work and initiative in organizing this grant and will continue to update the Committee with any new developments.

Personnel and Celebrations:

Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers in Providence

On Thursday, November 13th, Leslie Knight and Karen Martin co-presented at the Massachusetts Association of Science Teachers meeting to a group of teachers, administrators and curriculum coordinators. Their presentation was “Building the Next Generation of Scientists” and explained the graduate course Ms. Knight and Ms. Martin taught this summer to elementary teachers to develop a deeper understanding of science practices and the new science standards. Their presentation was very well received.

Also, Ms. Martin and Ms. Knight have collaborated with other Districts in forming an EngageNY support group. Their collaboration will be on-going and their next group meeting will be held in January.

London International Conference on Education

Dr. Mary McCarthy and her colleague, JoAnn Kilpatrick Campbell, principal of Acton-Boxborough High school, had their paper “Bridging the Educational Divide: The Role of School Leaders in Providing Equitable Access for All Students” accepted for presentation at the London International Conference on Education. Ms. Campbell presented the paper at the conference, which will also be published in one of the journals associated with the conference.

Outstanding Teaching

Dr. Fortuna’s weekly highlight of an excellent teaching practice was observed while on her school visit to Farley while attending a 4th grade teacher meeting that included the math consultant, Sue Looney. Teachers shared successes they had with math instruction and one teacher who divided her class into groups, two larger groups and one smaller group, and conducted the main instruction in small groups to meet the needs of her students. The teacher was applying her new learning from professional development related to the math workshop model. This was a demonstration on growth mindset, thinking differently and trying something new.

District Events:

Into the Woods

Dr. Fortuna attended several performances of *Into the Woods* over the weekend and was so impressed with the performance, the exceptionally talented cast, and thanked all those involved in putting together such a wonderful production.

Follow-up to School Committee Items of Interest:

Math Lesson Videos

To address parent concerns from our last meeting, Dr. Fortuna uploaded several videos to the District website which depict teaching directly tied to many EngageNY modules and lessons.

Enrollment

As of this date, enrollments numbers are unofficial. The official numbers from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will be out in October.

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, moved the following Matter for Action item up on the Agenda.

IV. Matters for Action

1. Approval for the Hudson High School Students Overnight Field Trip to New York City:

Dr. Fortuna recommended that the Committee approve the Hudson High School students overnight field trip to New York City in April, 2015.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School students overnight field trip to New York City in April, 2015 was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Mr. Davis abstaining, the motion passed.

VI. Matters for Discussion

Mrs. O'Brien attended the MASS/MASC Joint Conference held in Hyannis last week and updated the Committee on the Resolutions. Mrs. Tousignant Dufour and Mrs. Hay shared their thoughts on the conference.

Discussion ensued.

VII. Subcommittee Reports

Mr. Davis shared that the Building and Grounds Subcommittee met on Wednesday, November 12th and discussed the renaming of the Forest Avenue Elementary School the Mary J. O'Malley Elementary School. Their next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 4th and Mr. Davis will continue to update the Committee on this matter.

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Mrs. O'Brien shared that the Public Relations Subcommittee met on Monday, November 10th and had a productive meeting and noted that Denise Reid will present at the next School Committee meeting.

Mrs. O'Brien also noted that the Policy Subcommittee met and that a numbers of items will be presented to the Committee for vote at the next School Committee meeting.

Ms. Valcourt noted that the Budget Subcommittee continues to meet to discuss the budget and their next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25th.

Discussion ensued.

IX. Matters for Action (continued):

2. Approval of Contract with Andrew Chen, Edutron Corporation, in the Amount of \$11,000 for Standards for Mathematical Practice Professional Development:

Dr. Fortuna recommended that the Committee approve the contract with Andrew Chen, Edutron Corporation, in the amount of \$11,000 for standards for mathematical practice professional development.

A motion to approve the contract with Andrew Chen, Edutron Corporation, in the amount of \$11,000 for standards for mathematical practice professional development was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

X. Reclassifications

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

XI. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:45 p.m., Committee Chair Jennifer O'Brien noted that there was no need for Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Tousignant Dufour, Secretary
Hudson School Committee

Approved

List of Documents Source and Location

DOC NAME	SOURCE	LOCATION
Superintendent's Report	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Minutes of October 7, 2014	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Memorandum of Agreement Between the Hudson Education Association, Inc. and the Hudson School Committee	School Committee/Hudson Education Association, Inc.	Superintendent's Office
Elementary Math Transition PowerPoint	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Parent Feedback on Elementary Math Program	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Contract for Project Management Services	Len Belli	Superintendent's Office
Copy of Letter to Families dated November 1, 2014	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Community Conversations: Raising Healthy Teens Flyer	Hudson Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition	Superintendent's Office
Reclassifications (1)	Finance Department	Superintendent's Office