

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 7, 2014

Location: Administration Building
155 Apsley Street

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

Members absent: Alex Schley, Student Representative

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

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 – June 24, 2014: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mrs. Hay. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Maston abstaining, the motion passed.

Regular Meeting – September 23, 2014: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mrs. Hay. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Luoto abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Matters for Action

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, moved the item for the consideration to approve the renaming of the Forest Avenue Elementary School the Mary J. O'Malley Elementary School up on the agenda.

(Ms. Valcourt entered the meeting at 7:08 p.m.)

Mr. Robert O'Malley brought before the Committee the proposal to rename the Forest Avenue Elementary School the Mary J. O'Malley Elementary School and invited speakers, Laurie Curley, Michael Dubrule, Marianne Fitzgerald and Nancy Hudson to speak on behalf of his proposal.

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, thanked Mr. O'Malley and the public who attended the meeting for the presentation and advised them that the matter would be forwarded to the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee for consideration.

IV. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

Progress Toward Goals and Superintendent's Professional Growth:

The third meeting of the New Superintendent's Induction Program Content Day was held on Wednesday, October 1st. The primary area of focus were identifying and developing District strategy and evaluating principals. Dr. Fortuna noted that the discussion caused her to re-examine the strategy work that has been undertaken with the District Leadership Team.

Dr. Fortuna updated the Committee on her professional practice goals of spending one half day a week at each of the schools. Dr. Fortuna continues to find this observation essential time with both Principals and educators.

Transportation:

The transportation team continues to investigate one outstanding issue. Our transportation provider, North Reading Transportation, has completed a safety study and we await the final written report.

Secondary School Enhanced Lockdown Drills:

Hudson High School and Quinn Middle School held school safety drills on Friday, October 3rd.

Dr. Fortuna thanked Mr. Reagan and Mr. Webster for the notifications sent to families.

Parent and Community Groups:

School Health and Safety Advisory Council

The first School Health and Safety Advisory Council meeting was held on Friday, September 26th. There was great discussion and goals identified for this year which include:

1. Present recommended updates for Wellness Policy to School Health and Safety Advisory Council on December 12, 2014. After these recommendations are fully vetted by the full council they will be ready for presentation to the School Committee Policy Subcommittee.
2. Provide draft crisis guidelines to Superintendent for review. These will be presented to the council at the March 20, 2015 meeting.
3. Continue sharing of health and safety issues impacting learning through discussion and quarterly district-wide newsletter, e.g. healthy eating, physical activity, stress/depression/anxiety, substance abuse.

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Dr. Fortuna thanked Tammy Murphy and Lee Waingortin for volunteering to co-lead the crisis guidelines subcommittee, Ellen Capstick for leading the Wellness Policy Recommendation subcommittee, and Jenny Gormley, Director of Health, Nursing and Safety, for an outstanding job chairing this group.

Middlesex County School Safety Summit:

Dr. Fortuna, Mr. Reagan and Mr. Webster attended the Middlesex County School Safety Summit on Thursday, October 2nd. This is an annual program put on by Middlesex County DA Marian Ryan.

Personnel and Celebrations

Special Education Community Outreach and Integration

There have been two well-attended community wide special education events. The first was the new fall integrated sport, Bocce Ball. There is now an integrated sport for each season that our students with special needs can participate in.

On Saturday, September 26th, the first sensory-friendly movie morning was held with approximately 50 attendees at the High School to watch the movie Frozen.

Dr. Fortuna thanked Ms. Kilcoyne for her hard work in putting these events together.

District Events:

October 8	District Elementary Math Night	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Farley
October 11	A Midsummer Night's Dream	7:00 p.m.	HHS
October 12	A Midsummer Night's Dream	2:00 p.m.	HHS
October 13	No School Columbus Day		
October 15/16	Elementary Half Days		PreK-4Conferences
October 22	District Half Day		Professional Day
October 23	HHS Evening Conferences		

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.

Subcommittee Reports

Mrs. O'Brien shared that the first Community and Business Partnership Subcommittee met on Monday, September 29th and discussed the 2014-2015 subcommittee initiatives. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 27th.

Approved

The Public Relations Subcommittee met on Thursday, October 9th at 6:00 p.m. and discussed the subcommittee mission and next steps.

V. **Matters for Action**

Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, moved the action item for the final approval of the Hudson High School overnight field trip to Portugal in January, 2015 up on the agenda.

1. Final Approval of Hudson High School Overnight Field Trip to Portugal in January, 2015:

Mr. Peter Vacchina thanked the School Committee for their pre-approval of this trip last spring, and presented this trip for final approval.

Discussion ensued.

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

VI. **Matters for Discussion**

MCAS and Accountability:

Dr. Fortuna presented the MCAS and accountability data for the 2013-2014 school year and reported that the data was flat and does not show the improvements that were expected given the efforts underway. While there was some growth and achievement gains for certain grades and cohorts, overall the scores were not at acceptable levels despite the good teaching happening in the classrooms.

Discussion ensued.

CDSA Report:

Dr. Fortuna shared the initial CDSA review findings from their visit in March.

Discussion ensued.

School Improvement Plans:

Dr. Fortuna requested that the Committee approve the delay of the School Improvement Plan presentations until September of 2015 and stated that the reason for was due to a matter of timing and to allow the District to make a strong and stable foundation.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna will present her entry findings to the Committee in January. School Principals will present their School Improvement Plans at the first School Committee meeting in September to outline the work of each schools for the year.

Discussion ensued.

VII. Public Participation

None.

VIII. Matters for Action (continued)

Town Warrants

Dr. Fortuna recommended that the Committee approve the sponsoring of the four Town warrant articles that pertain to the District.

A motion to approve the sponsoring of four Town warrant articles, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

IX. Reclassifications

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

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

Mr. Luoto recommended that Hudson get involved in the Chamber of Commerce STEM meeting and science fair being held next month.

Mrs. Tousignant Dufour requested more information regarding the Homework Club at the Quinn Middle School.

X. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 9:25 p.m., Committee Chair, Jennifer O'Brien, noted that there was need for an Executive Session to discuss a salary increase for non-union personnel and 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 enter into Executive Session was made by Ms. Valcourt and seconded by Mrs. Tousignant Dufour.

Approved

Vote by roll call:

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

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 June 24, 2014	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
Minutes of September 23, 2014	Superintendent	Superintendent's Office
District Achievement Distribution by Year English Language Arts	DESE	Superintendent's Office
MCAS & Accountability 2013-2014	DESE	Superintendent's Office
Massachusetts School and District Profiles – Hudson 2014 Accountability Data	DESE	Superintendent's Office
2014 MCAS Student Growth Report – Hudson	DESE	
District Review Report	Center for District and School Accountability	Superintendent's Office
Memorandum dated September 24, 2014 from Brian Reagan re: Overnight Field Trip -UNESCO Conference in Portugal – January, 2015	Brian K. Reagan	Superintendent's Office
Reclassifications (2)	Finance Department	Superintendent's Office