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**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** May 23, 2017

**Location:** Administration Building  
155 Apsley Street

**Members present:** Michele Tousignant Dufour, Allyson Hay, George Luoto, Elizabeth Hallsworth, Steven Smith and Adam Tracy

**Members absent:** Glenn Maston  
Ben Carne, 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 Michele Tousignant Dufour.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting: March 28, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of March 28, 2017 was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Tracy abstaining, the motion passed.

Regular Meeting: March 30, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of March 30, 2017 was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Tracy abstaining, the motion passed.

**III. Public Participation:**

Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour reminded the audience that as a Committee, we want to hear your views and invite comments on matters which are important to all of us. The guiding rule is civility. We will not tolerate any personal attacks on anyone, whether staff member, speaker or School Committee member. Remarks will be made in a civil tone with no yelling or interrupting of persons while they are speaking.

Ms. Tousignant Dufour stated that it is her obligation and duty as the Chair to enforce all rules. The rule of two minutes per speaker will also be enforced.

Parent Laura Concannon thanked the Committee for their time and introduced her son, Keegan Concannon. Ms. Concannon, for the last several years, has tried to work with the Hudson Public

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Schools regarding her son's medical condition. Her son has missed significant time from school due to his immune issues.

Ms. Concannon has been provided access to an advanced state-of-the-art piece of equipment through an incredible foundation, free of charge, which is a robot for Keegan to use through graduation from high school. Ms. Concannon urged the School Committee to help her get this robot into her son's school so that he can feel, and for his social and emotional well-being, his personal connections to his teachers and continue his academic performance. Keegan has high goals, he wants to attend the University of Montana when he graduates.

This robot has been used all over the country, and the number one reason it is being used is for children with primary immune deficiencies, just like Keegan. Keegan is so rare that he is being studied internationally. Keegan loves to learn - - - -

Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour advised Ms. Concannon of the two-minute regulation.

In conclusion, Ms. Concannon stated that her son, Keegan, urges the School Committee to help, he wants this robot, he wants to be in his classroom every day to do his job and get an education, and stated that she is specifically here today because, as the District is getting ready for a new Superintendent, Ms. Concannon would like to have this reinstated, and that is not a personal attack, but a request that Dr. Fortuna have it reinstated so that it will go for the remainder of Keegan's education in the Hudson Public Schools. Ms. Concannon stated that she has brought many people with her tonight to help support that cause, as well as Keegan's football team who have made him feel so supported and part of the team.

Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour reminded the audience that the Committee has no jurisdiction over individual student educational needs, and it something that they defer to the Superintendent and staff. Any individual student information is considered a third party and the Committee is not privileged to the information, and that there is no vote that this Committee can take in open session regarding this matter.

Community member in attendance on behalf of Keegan Concannon shared that Keegan is a kid that wants to go to school, and she would like to see a child have the opportunity for an education and be with his peers, and asked that if it is not the Committee that makes this decision, then who does?

Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour responded that the decision rests with the administrators of the District and the Board of Special Education, and appeals can be handled through that channel.

Mr. Gary Bloomenthal, in attendance on behalf of the family, asked the Committee, in the supervisory role to the Superintendent, to intercede in this particular situation, and that there are Districts in Massachusetts and all over who would love to take advantage of this technology, and that this is an opportunity to put Hudson on the map, to assist families through this technology.

Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour applauded the passion of those in attendance and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Community member and aunt of Keegan Concannon spoke on his behalf, and stated that as she has watched him grow and miss a tremendous amount of school days, she has observed a shortcoming of his developmental ability in terms of his social and emotional support system which has not been provided. Mr. Concannon's aunt has also noticed that he does not have the same opportunities as all of the other children to collaborate with his peers, his class, and when they get to do group projects, Keegan does not have the opportunity to do that in a fully committed way, and she asks the Committee, who supervise what the Principals do, and encouraged them to be a participant, be an active collaborator with Keegan and the community to bring this technology into the school which will enable Keegan to be an active participant with all his peers who are here to support him as they want him in the classroom, and asks that the District work collaboratively and thanked the Committee for their time.

Community member in attendance spoke on behalf of Ms. Concannon and asked the Committee for their support to assist Keegan, both academically and socially, and honor their request for this robot technology.

Parent Jorge Teixeira spoke on behalf of the Concannon family and shared that one of the reasons why they are upset is because of the lack of cooperation from the administration and the School Committee, and shared that Ms. Concannon has tried for several years to work out these issues and has run into roadblocks, like many other parents, as they try to get an education in this community which is something that should not be that difficult. Mr. Teixeira shared that the District website and emails claim not to discriminate, retaliate, and so on, and suggested that the District listen to what they write and stand by those words and educate this community. Mr. Teixeira stated that part of that education is that all children are treated equally, whether they are on IEP or 504's or regular children and that we are a community that should be standing up for the rights of these children and educate them to the best possible way, which means that if a child is not able to go to class, and we have the means to give that capability with a robot, it should take place.

Mr. Teixeira asked that the Committee consider their thoughts, forget about certain things, and know what you are here for, to oversee what goes on in this District, you are responsible for the Superintendent's raises and everything, stick by it, read your policies.

Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour thanked Mr. Teixeira and all of those in attendance for coming this evening and that the Committee wants all children to achieve and succeed to the highest of their abilities. The Committee feels your love, your passion and your pain, but it is not something the Committee will be making a decision on or making any statements about this tonight.

IV. **Reports:**

**Student Report**

None.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Meeting Highlights**

Due to the administration of MCAS and the Principals need to be in their buildings, there have been no leadership meetings scheduled since May 9<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Fortuna has been meeting with individual administrators regarding their evaluations.

### **Staff Movement**

All staff that have been impacted by the reductions in staff related to enrollment and resultant changes in assignment have been notified of their status. This process was completed within the last week. Dr. Fortuna would like to thank everyone impacted for their patience and understanding as we enacted these difficult decisions.

### **Retirement Party**

The Hudson Education Association held their annual gathering to honor retirees on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dr. Fortuna was honored to be in attendance for the celebration of those that have dedicated a significant part of their lives to serving the Town of Hudson and educating all learners. This year's retirees from the HEA are:

- Paul D'Alessandro                      33 Years of Service
- Joseph Mishley                         30 Years of Service
- Laurie Curley                            23 Years of Service
- Leslie Williams                         21 Years of Service
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Our retirees, in all associations, have been invited to attend the Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting so that the Committee can personally thank them for their dedication and service to our community.

### **Enrollment**

All enrollment numbers are up to date as of the writing of this report. They are unofficial numbers. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education collects snapshots of enrollment data three times per year October, March, and June.

	9/9/16	4/11/17	5/5/17	5/23/17	
<b>HHS</b>	941	929	925	924	
<b>QMS</b>	648	637	637	637	
<b>Farley</b>	485	490	492	493	
<b>Forest Avenue</b>	325	332	334	334	
<b>Mulready</b>	248	251	253	253	
<b>District Total</b>	2,647	2,639	2,641	2,641	

V. **Matters for Discussion:**

1. Discussion of German Exchange Trip – Brian Reagan and Students

Hudson High School Principal Brian Reagan and students who traveled to Germany shared stories and highlights of their trip. The student’s highlighted visits to concentration camps, Braunschweig, Berlin, Helmstedt, Celle, Bergen-Belsen and Wernigerode Castle.

Discussion ensued.

2. Discussion of San Tome Trip – Anibal Serra and Students

Hudson High School teacher, Anibal Serra, and students who traveled to San Tome shared stories and highlights of their trip. The student’s highlighted visits to island, the food, their work with children and their love of San Tome.

Discussion ensued.

3. Introduction of Cheryl Langill, Special Education Parent Advisory Council Officer

Ms. Langill introduced herself to Committee members as the new Special Education Parent Advisory Council Officer and looks forward to the new challenge of rebuilding the SEPAC. Ms.

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Langill is working with Cathy Kilcoyne and others to schedule meetings, membership drive and plans for the group and looks forward to presenting to the Committee at a future meeting.

Discussion ensued.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of Procurement for 1:1 Device

Director of Technology, Ellen Schuck, Ms. Schuck presented to Committee members the 1:1 Program proposal next steps which included meeting with administrators and staff, as well as continued work on the roll out process.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Ms. Schuck for her presentation.

A motion to approve the procurement for 1:1 device was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

2. Approval of Lease Agreement with Ricoh USA, Inc. for Ricoh Copiers in the Amount of \$57,321.00 for Three Years of Service and Supplies.

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the lease agreement with Ricoh USA, Inc. for Ricoh copiers in the amount of \$57,321.00 for three years of service and supplies.

A motion to approve of the Lease Agreement with Ricoh USA, Inc. for Ricoh copiers in the amount of \$57,321.00 for three years of service and supplies was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

3. Closing of the Business Professional Student Activities Account – Balance to be Rolled Into a Scholarship

Principal Brian Reagan recommended approval of the closing of the Business Professional Student Activities account with a balance to be rolled into a scholarship in the amount less than \$1,300.00.

A motion to approve the closing of the Business Professional Student Activities account with the balance to be rolled into a scholarship was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**Items of Interest to the School Committee:**

None.

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**VII. Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 8:56 p.m., Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that Executive Session was needed for the following reason:

1. To discuss strategy to preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Executive Director of Finance and Operations) because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the Committee.

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Luoto.

Vote by roll call:

Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes  
Ms. Hay - yes  
Mr. Luoto – yes  
Mr. Smith – yes  
Ms. Hallsworth - yes  
Mr. Tracy – yes

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to public session.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary  
Hudson School Committee