

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** May 9, 2017

**Location:** Administration Building  
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Michele Tousignant Dufour, Allyson Hay, George Luoto, Glenn Maston, Steven Smith and Adam Tracy

Members absent: Elizabeth Hallsworth  
Ben Carne, Student Representative

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

**I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:02 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour. Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, welcomed new member, Adam Tracy, to the Committee and thanked him for his service.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting: March 14, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of March 14, 2017, was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Tracy abstaining, the motion passed.

**III. Public Participation:**

None.

**IV. Reports:**

**Student Representative Report:**

None.

**Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna:**

Due to vacation week, there was no formal Superintendent's Report, however, Dr. Fortuna shared a few items with the Committee:

Dr. Fortuna clarified two things from the Town meeting regarding the budget for the viewing public and those that read the report:

*Approved*

The overall appropriation from the Town, what is voted at Town meeting, only increased 2%. The general expense line item looked as if it increased significantly because of the way the new Town accountant is asking the District to apply school choice funds.

The District is now applying more school choice funds to personnel and less to general expenses. This accounts for the reduction in the Town appropriation for personnel that Mr. Lucy noted and the corresponding increase in general expenses.

### **Teacher Appreciation Week**

Dr. Fortuna shared an email that was sent to the District:

“I am struggling to find just the right words to express my appreciation for all that you do for students, and each other, every day. I have spent the last decade learning from you, celebrating with you, and all too often, mourning with you. I have watched your babies develop into our current students. I have seen you grow, learn, and take risks in order to provide a better education for our students. I have become angry alongside you when students are reduced to scores, and yet another mandate is pushed upon us. With you, I have experienced the decreasing respect for the work of the public school educator and rallied against it both privately and publically. I appreciate how much a part of my life you have been.

Today is a day to focus on the beauty of the work we do. I believe that each of you is an artist in your own right, creating a masterpiece as you sculpt a better future for your students. You work in the most precious medium there is - the human mind. I have been fortunate to have had a front row seat to watch you create a better tomorrow. I have listened to you as you advocated for your students and the many needs that they have, both inside and outside the walls of your classroom. I have heard your students say that you are their person, the one they can go to when they need an adult. I have witnessed you make learning joyful and messy as students willingly engage in the struggle of learning because you made that struggle engaging. You are an artist, a dream maker, a magician, a miracle worker. You are appreciated.”

### **MCAS Testing**

Dr. Fortuna reported that the District completed the first round of online MCAS testing with grades 4 and 8. This was a herculean effort by the technology staff and administrators, and it was quite successful.

Dr. Fortuna thanked Ellen Schuck and her team, Principals and Assistant Principals for all of their hard work and efforts in getting the hundreds of tests distributed, counted, repacked, and arranging of the logistics for proctoring and monitoring the testing environment.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted the next Budget Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**V. Matters for Discussion:**

1. Discussion of Changes in Practice in Regards to Lesson Structured Based on Classroom Observations - Principals:

Dr. Fortuna invited Principals to share the impact of the District's investment into Research for Better Teaching courses, Analyzing Teaching for Better Results which all the administrators participated in, and the Studying Skillful Teaching course which 37 teacher participated in. The Principals updated the Committee on how that course changed their practice.

Forrest Avenue Elementary School Principal, Dave Champigny, and Quinn Middle School Principal, Jason Webster, shared with the Committee their experience and how much they enjoyed the class.

The presentation highlighted what it takes to be an instructional leader, high student achievement, and the positive impact of reshaping the means by which teacher observations were completed with the focus shifted to the claim, evidence and impact model.

The team found that this approach allowed them to give staff a more targeted feedback during the visits which has a greater impact on teaching and learning, and provided a more solid foundation across grade levels for teaching and learning in all subject areas.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked the Principals for their presentation.

**VI. Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of Hudson High School Senior's Earned Privileges

Hudson High School Principal, Brian Reagan, shared with the Committee the letter to parents, a senior X-block permission slip and the Senior X-block informational sheet.

Mr. Reagan also shared that he had consulted with legal counsel regarding the permission slip, recognizing that no permission slip is iron clad.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Luoto agreed that while this was a wonderful senior privilege, he did express his concerns in terms of students leaving campus relating to an incident in Sudbury many years ago and the liability of the District.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School Senior's Earned Privileges, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Luoto abstaining, the motion passed.

*Approved*

2. Nomination and Voting of Board Roles

The nomination and voting of Committee Members were recorded as follows:

A motion to appoint Michele Tousignant Dufour as Committee Chair was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Tracy abstaining, the motion passed.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to appoint Allyson Hay as Vice Chair was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Tracy abstaining, the motion passed.

A motion to appoint Elizabeth Hallsworth as Committee Secretary was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0-1, with Mr. Tracy abstaining, the motion passed.

**Reclassifications:**

None.

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

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared that the movie event was a big hit and thanked Len Belli and the Facilities Department for all of their hard work.

Ms. Hay noted that it would be a good idea to add a budget summary page for the Town Meeting next year.

Mr. Luoto agreed that a summary page would be very helpful.

**VII. Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 7:41 p.m., Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that Executive Session was needed for the following reasons:

1. To discuss strategy with respect to preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel 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. Maston.

*Approved*

Vote by roll call:

Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes

Ms. Hay - yes

Mr. Luoto – yes

Mr. Maston – yes

Mr. Smith – 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