

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** April 25, 2017

**Location:** Administration Building  
155 Apsley Street

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

Members absent: Ben Carme, 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: February 28, 2017  
March 7, 2017

A motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2017, was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the minutes of March 7, 2017, was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Mr. Luoto abstaining, the motion passed.

**III. Public Participation:**

None.

**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:

The Hudson High School Art Show is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. and Dr. Fortuna encouraged all to attend.

*Approved*

Dr. Fortuna thanked Ellen Schuck and the Elementary Principals for a successful first day of computer testing.

Director of Technology, Ellen Schuck, also thanked the Facilities Department for doing such a great job in helping with the setup and that the success was a huge team effort.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

None.

Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared that this is the last School Committee meeting for Jennifer O'Brien.

Ms. O'Brien has served on the Committee for two terms. In that time, she has seen many changes in the District, worked with three Superintendents and saw the opening of the Quinn Middle School. She has served on many subcommittees, including Policy, Budget, and was the District SEPAC representative. Ms. O'Brien has also participated on the negotiating teams for the teachers and secretarial, as well as served on the Mulready and Forest Avenue School councils.

Ms. O'Brien has done all this while working as a program manager and raising her two sons, Christopher and Jackson, with her husband, Ken.

Ms. O'Brien has been an enthusiastic fan of her kids sporting activities and a loyal Hawk fan.

The Committee thanked Ms. O'Brien for her years of service and presented to her a Hawk chair as a token of appreciation and thanks for her many years of service.

Dr. Fortuna also thanked Ms. O'Brien for her many years of service.

Ms. O'Brien shared that it was an honor to be a part of the Hudson Public Schools.

#### **IV. Matters for Discussion:**

##### **1. Discussion of Progress Towards Special Education Improvement Goals – Cathy Kilcoyne:**

Director of Student Services, Cathy Kilcoyne, presented to the Committee a brief update on the Special Education Department and the progress since her presentation to the Committee in March.

After many meetings, a dedicated group of parents have formed the Special Education Parent Advisory Council of Hudson. Elections were held on April 11<sup>th</sup> and Cheryl Langill was named as Chairperson of the Committee, Carey Napoleone appointed as secretary, and Jackie Connelly appointed as treasurer. The SEPAC of Hudson will attend the School Committee meeting on May 23, 2017 to introduce themselves.

*Approved*

Working with SEPAC officers, Ms. Kilcoyne organized a presentation of the Special Education Department Improvement Plan for May 24<sup>th</sup> and invited School Committee members to attend.

The next SEPAC Hudson meeting is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at Hudson High School. SEPAC of Hudson has a Facebook page and twitter account. Meetings are posted on the Student Services page, along with the by-laws.

The survey for special education providers will go out during the first week of May, as well as connecting with Quinn Middle School staff about co-teaching mentors. Ms. Kilcoyne has also been working with Donna Simone, the consultant for co-teaching, setting up meetings with the elementary school principals.

Ms. Kilcoyne is also waiting to hear from The Bridge Training Institute regarding a grant from MetroWest Health Foundation to provide DBT(Dialectical Behavior Therapy) training for the District's health staff. The Bridge is a non-profit, mental health organization that provides services and evidence based training for schools and agencies. If The Bridge receives this grant, it will include training for the entire District in DBT.

DBT includes four sets of behavioral skills:

- ***Mindfulness***: the practice of being fully aware and present in this one moment
- ***Distress Tolerance***: how to tolerate pain in difficult situations, not change it
- ***Interpersonal Effectiveness***: how to ask for what you want and say no while maintaining self-respect and relationships with others
- ***Emotion Regulation***: how to change emotions that you want to change

Ms. Kilcoyne and Principal Melissa Provost continue to work to repurpose a special education position to create a language-based program for students in grades 1-4 to meet the needs of students in the District. As the Walker Report indicated, the District needs to be responsive to the needs of students who are currently in the District. We have some students who require a language-based program.

This language-based program will include a special education teacher and two paraprofessionals. The District will no longer use the Walker Partnership behavioral specialist and will instead use this money to fund the paraprofessionals. This funding will come from the contracted service budget line. The creation of this program will provide students with language-based disabilities the opportunity to remain in the public school setting and be part of their school community.

Also, The District will have the Mid-Cycle Review for the CPR in the 2017-2018 school year,

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Ms. Kilcoyne for her presentation and look forward to future updates.

*Approved*

2. Discussion of Use of Technology in Learning – Ellen Schuck

Dr. Fortuna noted that she is very excited to share Ms. Schuck’s presentation and idea with the Committee and feels it is the direction that every school district in Massachusetts will eventually need to move to as far as technology integration goes and thanked Ms. Schuck for all her work on this presentation.

Director of Technology, Ellen Schuck, presented to Committee members an overview of the use of technology in the learning environment and highlighted the levels of technology integration, characteristics of the learning environment, the District’s technology practices currently in place and what is missing.

Ms. Schuck presented to Committee members the 1:1 Program proposal which included distribution of Chromebooks, ongoing technology focus professional learning for all staff members, student help desk independent study, as well as the roll out process.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Ms. Schuck for her presentation.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour noted that this item will be tabled for a vote at the next scheduled School Committee meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

3. Update on Superintendent Search

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared that due to vacation schedules, there was not a vote to ratify the contract for Dr. Marco Rodrigues. The Committee will schedule a meeting for Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> to vote on the contract for Dr. Marco Rodrigues.

Dr. Rodrigues will also schedule dates in May and June to be in District to begin the transition process.

**V. Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of Student Activities Procedures Manual

Dr. Fortuna shared with the Committee that during a recent audit, it was brought to the District’s attention that the Student Activities Funds Guidelines Manual needed to be approved by the School Committee acknowledging that this manual does exist, and that any future edits to the manual would be brought before the Committee for separate approval.

A motion to approve the Student Activities Procedure Manual, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

*Approved*

**Reclassifications:**

None.

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

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, announced that Jose Luz is retiring after 20 years with the Hudson Public Schools and thanked him for his service to the teachers and students of Mulready Elementary School.

In honor of Administrative Professional Day, the School Committee would like to publically thank those in administrative positions of the Hudson Public Schools for all the work they do for our staff and our students every day.

**VI. Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 8:45 p.m., Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that there was no need for an Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Luoto.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary  
Hudson School Committee