

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: April 11, 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 – 7:02 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – February 21, 2017: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Mr. Luoto abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report:

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna:

District meetings included the following:

April 4, 2017 - District Leadership Team

Food Service Survey

The Food Service Survey was sent to the District regarding the lunches and breakfasts offered in the school cafeterias. Dr. Fortuna noted that the survey will close on Thursday, April 13th.

Kindergarten Information Night

Dr. Fortuna shared that parents of students registered to attend Hudson Public Schools Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year were invited to attend a Parent Information Night held on Monday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. at Hudson High School.

Parents had the opportunity to:

- ➔ Meet the elementary school principals
- ➔ Learn about the Hudson Public schools Health, Nursing and Safety Department
- ➔ Learn about the school lunch program
- ➔ Learn about the Kindergarten Curriculum
- ➔ Ask questions

MCAS Computerized Testing

The District completed the first day of online MCAS testing with Grade 8. Director of Technology, Ellen Schuck reported that there were a few minor glitches, but overall, the day was a success.

Dr. Fortuna thanked the technology staff for making this work, and noted that this has been an intensive planning and execution process for the technology team and administrators.

Dr. Fortuna also thanked the Hudson High School staff and administration for the “all hands on-deck” attitude and commitment to making it work during testing.

Dr. Fortuna also gave a special shout out to Josh Otlín for the coordination effort he put in at Hudson High School and that Hudson is the great District it is because of the people here.

Contract Extensions

Dr. Fortuna announced that contract extensions were approved for Hudson High School Principal Brian Reagan and Mulready Elementary School Principal Kelly Sardella.

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.

	1/20/17	2/3/17	3/9/17	3/23/17	4/11/17
HHS	933	931	930	932	929
QMS	632	633	636	636	637
Farley	486	485	489	489	490
Forest Avenue	330	333	333	333	332
Mulready	251	252	251	250	251
District Total	2,632	2,634	2,639	2,640	2,639

Subcommittee Reports

None.

V. Matters for Discussion:

1. Discussion of Hudson High School Senior's Earned Privileges – Brian Reagan:

Hudson High School Principal, Brian Reagan, presented to the Committee the Hudson High School Senior X-Block Proposal and shared that the program would provide students much-needed relief from a rigorous course load and promote academic rigor, excellence and responsibility.

The proposed criteria highlighted the following:

Schedule - students must be enrolled in a minimum number of honors and/or advanced placement courses

Attendance – Students must have a minimum average daily attendance rate of 95%

Grade Point Average – Students must have a minimum cumulative weighted GPA of 3.5

Good Citizenship – Students must have no disciplinary offenses on file

Permission – Students must have written permission from parents/guardians

The scheduling and credit impact highlighted the following:

- Students may leave campus
- Students may meet with teachers, guidance counselors or use the library
- All students have the opportunity to earn a maximum of 28 credits per year (grades 9-12)
- Total possible credits = 112
- Total number of credits required for diplomat = 96
- X-Block is not credit-bearing
- Seniors electing an X-block option for one semester would earn 26 credits during senior year (110 total)
- Seniors electing an X-block option for a full year would earn 24 credits during senior year (108 total)
- Distribution requirements do not change
- The X-block would not appear on transcript

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Luoto requested that Mr. Reagan confer with counsel relative to the permission slip.

Dr. Fortuna noted that this item will be tabled to a future School Committee meeting for vote.

2. Discussion of Internship Opportunities and Update on Future Steps – Jessica Spencer

Director of Guidance and Counseling, Angie Flynn, introduced Career Counselor, Jessica Spencer to Committee members. Ms. Spencer’s presentation on career counseling initiatives at Hudson High School highlighted an overview of the Senior Internship Program, objectives and goals, policies on eligibility and grading, student requirements, internship portfolios, and the benefits of the internship program at Hudson High School.

Ms. Spencer also updated the Committee on the Community Service Learning “3,000 Hour Challenge” and the goals for grades 9-12, goals for individual students, the Dual Enrollment Program with Quinsigamond Community College, as well as the new Core Pathways Program beginning with the 2017-2018 cohort.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Spencer invited all members to the Reality Fair being held on Thursday, April 13th at Hudson High School from 8:00-11:00 a.m.

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

3. Dr. Fortuna noted that there would be an additional item for discussion:

Members reviewed a copy of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System Questionnaire from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and a copy of correspondence from the Massachusetts Teachers Association dated April 5, 2017 regarding the update on DESE issues (a) Student Survey; (b) MCAS Non-Disclosure Agreement and (c) Opting-out of MCAS.

Dr. Fortuna noted that Hudson participates in the MetroWest Health Survey, and that the MCAS survey would duplicate that information and that the MetroWest Survey provides much more valuable information and recommended that Hudson opt out of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education MCAS survey.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve opting out of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education MCAS survey, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

4. Budget Forecast Presentation – Patty Lange

Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, presented the April 11th projection to the budget and shared the good news that most expenses continue to trend downward. Comparing the February projection with the April projection, expenses are down \$533,066.

Approved

Personnel is down \$213,889, which reflects savings due in part to a decrease in school professional development requiring substitutes, coaches and custodians are down, and a savings due to personnel leaves.

General expenses are down \$288,903 due to a savings in tuitions from the February forecast, as well as a decrease in instructional expenses, athletics and legal expenses based upon this year's lower spending.

Special education transportation is reported down \$30,000 from the last forecast.

Ms. Lange reported that the impact to the FY18 budget is that the District has an additional \$537,006 to carry forward in school choice to FY18 from FY17. The FY18 deficit is reduced to \$224,312 from the February projected deficit of \$761,318. The projected deficits include the previous cuts of \$602,146.

Ms. Lange continues to actively look at the FY18 budget and discuss possible expense changes needed based upon events that have taken place this year.

Discussion ensued.

VI. Matters for Action:

Reclassifications:

None.

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

None.

VII. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:18 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 (Superintendent of Schools) 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

Ms. O'Brien – yes

Mr. Luoto – yes

Mr. Maston – yes

Ms. Hallsworth – yes

Mr. Smith – 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