

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** March 28, 2017

**Location:** Administration Building  
155 Apsley Street

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

Members absent: George Luoto

Others present: Ben Carme, Student Representative  
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.

Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour began the meeting with a moment of silence to remember Hudson High School teacher Kathy Bigelow.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

None.

**III. Public Participation:**

None.

**IV. Reports:**

**Student Representative Report:**

Student Representative, Ben Carme, updated the Committee on events taking place at Hudson High School, including the past week when the sophomore class took the English MCAS and a survey which indicated that it was similar to past MCAS tests with a bit more writing. The Spirit Committee has organized another spirit week, including a field day event which is scheduled for the first week in April. At this time, the Massachusetts Student Advisory nominations are being held. Any student can run to represent Hudson High School on the Advisory Council, with all students being elected by fellow students. Community Council has been busy surveying students and organizing various activities and meetings, and assisted in the approval of a new microwave for the school cafeteria.

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

District meetings included the following:

March 15, 2017 - Quarterly meeting with Tom Moses and Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, for continued budget discussions.

March 21, 2017 – The District Leadership Team meeting was cancelled due to candidate visits.

March 21, 2017 – The Elementary Leadership Team updated the MCAS schedule

March 24, 2017 - Assabet Valley Collaborative Board Meeting

**Kindergarten Registration**

The requested deadline for 2017-2018 kindergarten registration is March 30<sup>th</sup>. As of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the numbers were as follows:

**Farley**

Census indicates 85 students should enroll, 41 students are currently registered, 5 families with outstanding documents - 46 Total

**Forest**

Census indicates 53 students should enroll, 44 students are currently registered, 6 families with outstanding documents - 50 Total

**Mulready**

Census indicates 31 students should enroll, 21 students are currently registered, 2 families with outstanding documents - 23 total

**District**

The Town Census indicates the total number of students for the year should be 169, and the District has heard from 119 families. The biggest discrepancy between the census and the actual enrollment is at Farley Elementary.

The District will re-publicize after the March 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Stem Family Night**

The Family STEM Night held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Farley was a big success. This was the first time the English Learner Education Department joined forces with the Elementary Department to provide all families with an opportunity to learn and have fun together. An estimated 200 parents and students attended.

STEM Night Highlights:

- The Blanding Turtle room was a big hit. There was a reception line to meet Bubble and Skittles. Over \$150 was donated to purchase a tracker for the turtles when they were released into the wild.
- Save the Bees! Parents and students learned about the importance of saving the bees.
- Our ESL teachers delivered a presentation to parents of English learners about what STEM is and why it is important. All English learners went home with new science tools and science books to reinforce learning at home. Our interpreters were available to parents as needed throughout the evening.
- Every room was filled to capacity with parents and students learning code, building towers, designing structures, observing nature, playing math games, learning about waves, and making electrical circuits.

Dr. Fortuna gave a big thank you to Anna Gallo Knight, Lindsay Sousa, Kimmarie Calvanese, Kellie Horne, Wendy Anderson, Michelle Keith, and Kelly Sardella for welcoming all of our families, providing extra support for families who needed it, and planning two great stations for students, and to Lisa Leger, Laura Mullen, Katie Rivela, Michelle Farley, Cassia Freitas, Lisette Zinner, and Meghan Gasek for planning “hands and minds on” stations for students and parents.

Dr. Fortuna also thanked Kevin Hava for bringing a station on ocean currents and wind turbines and having two high school student helpers to model for younger children their love of science.

**News from DESE**

Dr. Fortuna shared that Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Chester will hold his third town hall meeting of the school year on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at Nipmuc Regional High School in Upton.

The Commissioner will discuss the successes and challenges of the State's K–12 school system, how the State and Districts work together, and the roles of learning standards and assessments in supporting teaching and learning.

**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.

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	<b>12/16/16</b>	<b>1/20/17</b>	<b>2/3/17</b>	<b>3/9/17</b>	<b>3/23/17</b>
<b>HHS</b>	936	933	931	930	932
<b>QMS</b>	631	632	633	636	636
<b>Farley</b>	487	486	485	489	489
<b>Forest Avenue</b>	329	330	333	333	333
<b>Mulready</b>	250	251	252	251	250
<b>District Total</b>	2,633	2,632	2,634	2,639	2,640

**Subcommittee Reports**

None.

**V. Matters for Discussion:**

1. Brief Budget Update:

Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, shared with the Committee the most recent updates from the budget forecast which the Committee received on February 28<sup>th</sup> and noted that transportation remains down, tuitions continue to trend down, Buildings and Grounds is slightly up, but the overall forecast looks more promising than the previous one.

Discussion ensued.

2. Discussion on Contents of Annual Report to Town – Denise Reid

Committee member, Liz Hallsworth and Communication and Development Coordinator, Denise Reid, presented the School Committee and Superintendent Joint Annual Town Report which highlighted the District budget, student achievement, curriculum and instruction, student awards and retirees.

Ms. Reid continues to work with the administrators and staff, as well as community business leaders and civic leaders, to reach the community to increase awareness and support for Hudson Public Schools.

The Committee thanked Ms. Reid for her presentation.

3. Discussion of Operational Streamlining Through Technology – Patty Lange, Len Belli, Ellen Schuck and Cindy Fensin

Dr. Fortuna shared that this presentation was at the request of a Committee member who inquired what the District is presently doing to streamline the operational procedures so that the District can focus more on the core mission of educating students and introduced Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, Director of Technology, Ellen Schuck, Director of Facilities, Len Belli and Director of Human Resource, Cindy Fensin, who comprise the leaders of the District's operations.

The presentation highlighted the technology centered around the District Improvement Plan, and how it is utilized in the Facilities Department through the computerized maintenance management system, security systems, work order systems, DDC direct digital controls, lighting software and watt stopper lighting control.

Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange and Director of Human Resource, Cindy Fensin, highlighted the many uses of technology in their departments focusing on employee maintenance, automated streamlined compliance training, substitute/absence management system, SchoolSpring, as well as athletics and food services, Nutrikids and online payment systems.

Director of Technology, Ellen Schuck, presented to Committee members an overview of the Technology Department and how it has grown, and continues to grow, to serve the District technology needs since 1997 to the technology infrastructure in place today which includes bandwidth in all schools, deployment of additional WAPS, upgrade to the Sonicwall devices at the high school and elementary schools, as well as virtualization of the main servers.

Ms. Schuck also updated the Committee on the Follett Aspen Student Information Services that goes live in the District on August 7, 2017 which has been a major project for the Technology Department.

Ms. Schuck shared the importance of a strong infrastructure in place to support the teaching and learning environment, and the need to continually improve and maintain that infrastructure.

Discussion ensued.

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4. Discussion of Technology Curriculum – Ellen Schuck

Director of Technology, Ellen Schuck, presented to Committee members an overview of the Technology/Business/Library Media Curriculum for the elementary schools, middle school and the high school which focused on the department pathways for Business/Finance, Computer Applications, Engineering, Graphic Arts and Design, Programming, Video Production and Library/Media and Project Lead the Way.

Ms. Schuck noted that the elementary level Science/Engineering curriculum must be integrated into the regular classroom curriculum, including the Project Lead the Way Launch Program. The middle school level related arts course for Grades 6 and 7 students to include computer applications and programming, and the high school implementation of Grade 8/9 Introduction to Programming course and year-long AP computer Science course.

5. Update on Superintendent Search

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared that all site visits have taken place, with the last one scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>, and noted that one candidate, Jamal Mosely, withdrew his name from consideration. Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, stated that the feedback form will be online until Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. and encouraged all to fill out the form for feedback.

The final meeting for deliberations is scheduled for Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of Substitute Nurse Pay Increase

Ms. Lange shared some updated information with Committee members relative to area Districts and their daily rate/hourly rate of pay for substitute nurses and teacher's scale.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the substitute nurse pay to \$161.00 per day with an hourly rate of \$23.00 was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

2. Approval of Hudson High School Ultimate Frisbee Club

Dr. Fortuna shared with Committee members the interest at the high school for the addition of an Ultimate Frisbee Club. Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the Hudson High School Ultimate Frisbee Club.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the Ultimate Frisbee Club at Hudson High School was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

*Approved*

**Reclassifications:**

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

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

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, thanked the students for the new art work on display in the School Committee room.

**VII. Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 9:55 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. Maston.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary  
Hudson School Committee  
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