

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: February 21, 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 – January 24, 2017: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. O'Brien. On a vote of 6-1-0, with Mr. Luoto abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report:

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna:

Meetings

On January 26th, the Administrator Council Team met and discussed the following:

- Budget discussion
- Review School Committee presentation schedule

On January 27th, the Assabet Valley Collaborative Board Meeting discussed the Annual report.

On January 27th, Dr. Fortuna and Ms. Kilcoyne met with Senator Eldridge and State Representative Hogan to discuss the special education identification and appeal process and the District methods for determining assistive technology needs for students.

On January 30th, the Principals' Meeting discussed the following:

- Project plan for transition of student information system.

On January 30th, Dr. Fortuna met with Dr. Joe Connors, the head of the Central Massachusetts DSAC. Dr. Connors shared that with the proposed changes in the State accountability system, he anticipates that the District would no longer receive DSAC assistance. The State is proposing focusing comprehensive support on the lowest performing 5% of schools and high schools with four-year graduation rates below 67%. The State will provide targeted support to schools not identified for comprehensive support that have subgroups performing among the lowest in the State. The table below shows the overall percentile ranking of each Hudson School based on the previous accountability system.

School	Percentile
Hudson High School	38th
Quinn Middle School	57th
Mulready Elementary School	53rd
Forest Ave. Elementary School	43rd
Farley Elementary School	28th

Highlights of Proposed Changes to the Massachusetts Accountability

System

- On January 24, 2017, Commissioner Mitchell Chester and a team from DESE presented the proposed changes to the accountability system for schools and districts in Massachusetts;
- These proposed changes are a result of the reauthorization of the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA);
- ESSA is the most recent federal reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965;
- Performance level designations do not depend solely on the performance of other schools:
 - DESE will set annual performance targets for all districts, schools, and subgroups
 - Schools can move up in performance level by meeting or exceeding school and subgroup targets

- Schools can move down in performance level by having a low performing subgroup or not meeting participation requirements
- District performance levels are dependent on the performance of all students in the District, not individual schools;
- Identification needs to follow the 2017-2018 school year;
- DESE is proposing to reset the baseline for grades 3-8 accountability in 2016-2017:
 - Assessment transition provides opportunity
 - Common assessment baseline for new accountability system
 - 2017 Next Generation MCAS results reported
 - High School accountability would remain unchanged
 - Requires a regulatory change
- Accountability reset is dependent on assessment participation in 2016-2017:
 - Schools not meeting participation requirement would be placed in level 3
 - Level 1-3 schools meeting the participation requirement would not be leveled or receive an accountability percentile
- 2016-2017 performance results would become the new baseline;
- 2017-2018 participation rates for accountability would be based on two years of data (2016-2017 & 2017-2018);
- Final review of this proposal will occur with BOE in March; and
- Once approved, it will be submitted to the US Department of Education in April.

Criteria for Success	Proposed Measures	Grade Span
All students perform well against challenging grade-level expectations	Next-generation MCAS results for English language arts, math, science Student growth in ELA & math	All
All ELs make progress towards English proficiency	ACCESS Results	All
All students graduate from high school	4-year cohort graduation rate 5-year graduation plus still enrolled rate Annual dropout rate	High School
All students attend school regularly	Chronic Absenteeism	All
All students experience a broad & challenging curriculum	Access to the arts Access to a well-rounded curriculum Passing all grade 9 courses	All High School High School

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	Access to advanced coursework	High School
Schools support all students in attaining these goals	School climate survey (pilot in grades 5, 8 and 10 in FY17)	All

Televised Budget Discussion

- Dr. Fortuna is working with Hudson High School students and HUDTV to produce a live television broadcast to discuss the FY18 budget and is excited about this project because it allows for real world application of civics lessons.
- The show will be advertised using HUDTV and social media channels.
- The show will be broadcast live Thursday, February 16th at 6:00 p.m.
- On Wednesday, February 8th, 2017, all Hudson Families will receive a link via email to submit questions to the host of the event, Dakota Antelman.
- Dakota will also be reaching out to students to submit questions, as well as accepting questions via a live Twitter feed and possibly also stream the show via Facebook live.
- A recording of the live event will be shown multiple times on cable access.
- Given the poor attendance at previous budget presentations where the community has been invited to attend, Dr. Fortuna would like to discuss at Tuesday’s meeting if the Committee feels the District should proceed with face-to-face forums.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members shared what a great and informative presentation Mr. Antelman did and thanked Dr. Fortuna and Ms. Lange for a job well done.

Last Day for Kindergarten Students

- The last day of Kindergarten will be Friday, June 9th without any additional snow days.
- This date will change accordingly if there are any unanticipated weather closings. For example, if there is one snow day, the last day for Kindergarten will be Monday, June 12th. If there are two snow days, the last day will move to Tuesday, June 13th, and so forth.
- Kindergarten is ending earlier than grades 1-12 so that we can provide thorough screenings for incoming Kindergarten students.
- In the past, kindergarten teachers conducted these screenings while their students were under the supervision of substitute teachers resulting in disruption to the learning and routine of our outgoing Kindergarten students.
- Changing this past practice will result in students having a successful closure to their Kindergarten year because they will end the year well-prepared for first grade, following the familiar routine and with the teacher that has helped them learn and grow throughout the school year.

Discussion ensued.

Follow up to Committee's Inquiries

Committee Inquiry:

During the Committee meeting when MCAS results were reviewed, a recommendation was made that the school level scores should be reviewed with parents. I'd like to get confirmation that this was done. If it hasn't been done, I'd like to get a schedule for each school showing when these sessions will take place and how the scheduled sessions will be communicated to parents.

Superintendent's Response: School level MCAS presentations did not happen. The leadership team heard the Committee member's recommendation to hold a parent meeting. The Principals and Dr. Fortuna met after that request was made at the School Committee meeting to discuss the suggestion. Each Principal reported that no parents had brought a concern to his/her and these nights were poorly attended in the past. The team monitored if any concerns were raised after that meeting, none were, so the decision was made not to hold a separate meeting given that no one had raised the issue at the school level. The MCAS score report, received by parents, and the subsequent accountability letters that were mailed at the end of December (sample included in this packet) also details the school's standing and the child's standing. We will not be holding a meeting to discuss 2016 MCAS data now as the District is preparing to begin the testing cycle again in March and the test will be a different test than what was administered before. Dr. Fortuna encouraged the Committee to have concerned individuals reach out to the building Principals. A point of learning this year is that parents are much more likely to attend a presentation on parenting such a Screenagers, drug abuse, etc. than they are about something that they perceive as having a less direct impact on his/her student.

Committee Inquiry: The Committee had worked with Jodi to put together a District Communication Plan and when we last reviewed it, she mentioned that it was going to be tested before officially sharing it with parents and the broader community. I haven't seen or heard any follow up on this topic, but think it makes sense to continue moving this forward. I'd like to understand whether the test plan is working and the timeline for sharing it publicly.

Superintendent's Response: While the District is following the communication plan Dr. Fortuna presented at the beginning of the year because it is best practice, Dr. Fortuna has no plans to move it forward publically. Dr. Fortuna believes that it would be best for the next Superintendent to take it and make it his/her own rather than have the departing Superintendent present something mid-year that will be essentially meaningless as Dr. Fortuna's successor crafts his/her own plan for communicating with stakeholders.

Discussion ensued.

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. I will provide you with monthly enrollment numbers so that you can be aware of the amount of fluctuation that may or may not be occurring on a monthly basis.

	5/20/16	12/2/16	12/16/16	1/20/17	2/3/17
HHS	968	939	936	933	931
QMS	649	635	631	632	633
Farley	498	487	487	486	485
Forest Avenue	340	330	329	330	333
Mulready	260	252	250	251	252
District Total	2,715	2,643	2,633	2,632	2,634

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. O'Brien reported that the Policy Subcommittee scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th was cancelled due to weather and will be rescheduled at a later date.

V. Matters for Discussion:

1. Discussion of Preliminary 2017-2018 School Calendar:

Dr. Fortuna presented to the Committee the proposed draft school calendar for 2017-2018.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Fortuna noted that approval of the 2017-2018 school calendar will be tabled for vote at the next scheduled School Committee meeting on February 28th, 2017.

2. Discussion of 2017-2018 School Committee Meeting Schedule

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the School Committee meeting calendar for 2017-2018.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Fortuna noted that approval of the 2017-2018 School Committee meeting schedule will be tabled for vote at the next scheduled School Committee meeting on February 28th, 2017.

3. Budget Forums

Dr. Fortuna and Committee members discussed the possibility of scheduling a community Budget Forum.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Fortuna noted that discussion of potential dates will be tabled to the next scheduled School Committee on Tuesday, February 28th, 2017.

Mr. Luoto encouraged all community members to attend the budget meeting and hear the budget news for next year.

4. Update on the Superintendent Search

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared the following announcement and appointment of the following members:

“The Hudson School Committee is pleased to announce the following people have been selected to serve on the Superintendent Screening Committee. We were very pleased to have so many responses and inquiries from across our community. We have put together a strong committee that will represent the needs and concerns of our District and Town. The members selected bring a depth of knowledge and experience to the Screening Committee that will help us select the best possible candidate as our next leader.

Approved

Janet Cellucci - Community-at-Large
Gina Downing - Secondary Parent
Daniel Hannon -Municipal Official
Andrew Hermann - Elementary Parent
Catherine Kilcoyne - Special Education Staff
Cheryl Langill - SEPAC Representative
Laura Mullen - Elementary Teacher
Denise Reid - Central Office Administrative Staff
Ellen Schuck - Curriculum Director
Duane Searles - Community-at-Large
Steve Smith -School Committee
Michele Tousignant Dufour - School Committee
Laura Walker - Para-Educator
Jason Webster - Principal
Margaret Woodcome - HEA Representative/Secondary Teacher

To the many people who offered to serve on the Screening Committee, please accept the School Committee's appreciation and gratitude for your willingness to give your time and talents to be a part of this process.”

The search is now closed and 40 applications were received, 13 of which will be interviewed from February 27th to March 2nd. The Committee will then narrow it down to 3-5 finalists to present to the School Committee.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Tousignant Dufour will continue to update the Committee with new information.

VI. Matters for Action:

1. Approval of May Town Warrant

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the May 2017 Town Warrant which reads as follows:

“The Town will vote to establish and authorize the use of a revolving fund account, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E ½, for the purpose of applying those fees received for Professional Development Activities to support the development of additional Professional Development Programs within the HPS. The Superintendent may expend funds deposited to this account to hire instructors, purchase instructional materials, reimburse travel and lodging costs, and other expenses as incurred in the development and operation of these programs. The sum of said funds to be expended shall not exceed Twenty-Thousand Dollars; or take any action relative thereto.”

A motion to approve the May 2017 Town Warrant was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Approved

2. Approval of School Choice for 2017-2018

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of school choice for the 2017-2018 school year with ten seats per grade in grades 5-7 at the Quinn Middle School and unlimited seats at Hudson High School grades 8-11.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve school choice for the 2017-2018 school year with ten seats per grade in grades 5-7 at the Quinn Middle School and unlimited seats in grades 8-11 at Hudson High School was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

3. Approval of Contract with Educational Electronics in the Amount of \$16,513.28 for Graphing Calculators:

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the contract with Educational Electronics in the amount of \$16,513.28 for graphing calculators.

A motion to approve the contract with Educational Electronics in the amount of \$16,513.28 for graphing calculators was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. O'Brien. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Discussion ensued.

Reclassifications:

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Luoto. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

Mr. Luoto requested a presentation by Denise Reid, Communication and Development Coordinator, to update the Committee on current happenings.

Dr. Fortuna informed the Committee that Ms. Reid is scheduled to speak at the School Committee meeting on March 28th.

Mr. Luoto encouraged members to attend the MASC Chapter 74 Funding event being held in Marlborough on Thursday, March 9th.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Smith congratulated the Mulready Elementary School for raising \$21,000.00 for the Booster-Thon Fun Run, The event was a huge success and he thanked all those who participated.

Approved

VII. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:28 p.m., Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that Executive Session was needed for the following reasons:

1. To discuss strategy in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Executive Director of Finance and Operations and Director of English Language Learning) 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 Ms. Hallsworth.

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