

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: January 24, 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: Dr. Jodi Fortuna, Superintendent
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary
Ben Carme, Student Representative

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:01 p.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – January 10, 2017: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Ms. O'Brien. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report:

Student Representative, Ben Carme, reported to the Committee that Hudson High School exams have ended and students are excited about the upcoming Snow Coming Dance scheduled for Saturday, January 28th. Community Council has met with cafeteria staff to discuss how to get more students to have school lunch at the cafeteria. Another committee has stopped looking into the possibility of installing solar panels due to the cost, but is now researching roof mounted turbines to produce electricity that are much cheaper and easier to maintain.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna:

Meetings

On January 17th, the District Leadership Team met and discussed the following:

- Preliminary calendar development for 2017-2018 school year
- Review of the most recent budget information prepared for the School Committee budget meeting originally scheduled for evening of Tuesday, January 17th.

Budget

- The Budget Narrative was completed. Following Mrs. Tousignant-Dufour's direction, the copy has the total FTE and dollar amount for proposed cuts for the Committee's vote.
- The District delivered the completed Budget Narrative to the Selectmen on January 18, 2017
- Dr. Fortuna, Mrs. Tousignant-Dufour, Mrs. Lange presented the budget to the Board of Selectmen on Monday, January 23rd, 2017.

English Learning Education

- Three of the District's ESL teachers and two classroom teachers will be presenting at MATSOL in June. Wendy Anderson, Anna Gallo-Knight, Christine Lange, and Kim Gaffny are presenting their collaborative ESL/SS/Sci. model of instruction. Emily Smyth, Hudson High School ESL, is presenting about academic conversations at the secondary level.
- Mrs. Goldstein nominated Carlene Ryan to participate in a DESE ESL Model Curriculum Unit video project.
- Dr. Fortuna noted that the District has built an outstanding ESL team, and it is wonderful to be able to celebrate their accomplishments.

Outreach to ESL Families for Kindergarten Registration

At the last School Committee meeting, Mr. Luoto asked about how the District was reaching out to families whose first language is not English. Mrs. Goldstein and Mrs. Graca have had on going conversations about reaching out to families whose first language is not English.

- Mrs. Goldstein is asking the ESL teachers at Hudson High School to ask their students where they attend church and/or social events so that the District can provide kindergarten registration flyers to those venues.
- There are ESL family nights on March 22nd and May 31st, Mrs. Goldstein plans on taking flyers and setting them up on a table. These events are fairly well attended.
- Mrs. Goldstein will be asking Mr. Baldrate about putting flyers out at his evening classes.

Dr. Fortuna noted that while people attending these events might not have age-appropriate children for kindergarten, they might have friends that do. The theory of action is if we get people talking about registration, then the word will spread to those families that need to hear it.

Next Generation MCAS

- The Standard Setting Policy Committee, convened by ESE in September, has recommended four new achievement levels for the next-generation MCAS tests: Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, and Not Yet Meeting Expectations. The full text of the [recommended achievement levels and performance descriptions](#) can be viewed online. The Department is seeking [public feedback](#) on the Committee's recommendations until January 27, 2017.
- In December and January, Commissioner Chester will present six policy recommendations for high school testing to the Boards of Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education. The recommendations were created with input from the High School Testing workgroup and the public.
 - In addition to keeping the current MCAS as the graduation requirement through the class of 2020, which was approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in October, the recommendations include:
 - keeping the high school Competency Determination (CD) for ELA and Mathematics at grade 10 for the near future;
 - adding a History and Social Science test to the CD;
 - eliminating the high school Chemistry and Technology/Engineering tests due to low participation and high development costs; and
 - adding an Introductory Physics re-testing opportunity in February.
- The Commissioner will also recommend convening a stakeholder workgroup to identify and recommend options for a grade 11/grade 12 assessment program to gauge students' readiness for success after high school.
- The PARCC consortium has [released test items](#) from the 2015–16 ELA and Mathematics assessments for grades 3–8. The release represents approximately one full test per grade level. It is designed to help students, teachers, and parents better understand which competencies were measured, and uses student work samples to show what kinds of answers earned various scores.

Screenagers

The District hosted a screening of the documentary “Screenagers” followed by rich discussions with parents. Dr. Fortuna reported that this was one of the best attended parent outreach events that the District has held with approximately 190 reservations for this event.

Dr. Fortuna thanked Mrs. Schuck for bringing the idea forward and the teamwork that she, Dr. Reagan, and Mr. Webster demonstrated to work with the respective Home and School associations to present this worthwhile event to District families.

Dr. Fortuna also thanked the administrators that donated their time to facilitate conversations with parents after the screening. Many parents commented about the key messages of balance and the fact that, as adults, we must also be aware of the amount of “screen time” we are participating in. Parents that attended the event also received many useful resources such as, “A Parents’ Guide from Screenagers”, HPS Protocol for 1:1 Devices, hints on making a screen time family contract and sample contracts for each grade level.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared that the feedback from the event was very positive and thanked the community for their involvement.

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. Dr. Fortuna will provide monthly enrollment numbers so that the Committee 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		
HHS	968	939	936	933		
QMS	649	635	631	632		
Farley	498	487	487	486		
Forest Avenue	340	330	329	330		
Mulready	260	252	250	251		
District Total	2,715	2,643	2,633	2,632		

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. O'Brien reported that the Policy Subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 18th, and that the next meeting scheduled is for Tuesday, February 7th where the subcommittee will continue to reprioritize the policy initiatives.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, reported that the Superintendent Search Committee's Screening Committee members will be announced after January 24th.

V. Matters for Discussion:

1. Presentation of the 2016-2017 Superintendent's Academic Achievement Award

Dr. Fortuna congratulated Eva Tipps as the recipient of the 2016-2017 Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence. The award is sponsored by the Massachusetts Superintendent's Association. Dr. Fortuna shared that Eva is intellectually curious, diligent in her studies, and is mature and conscientious.

Eva also loves the theater, Jazz band, she is an excellent musician and talented artist, as well as a fine swimmer.

Eva cares about her school community through her participation in student government as an elected grade-level representative of the school's Community Council.

Eva wants to find a job that balances her love of science and research and her love of art. She wants to be the next Jane Goodall! Eva also overcame some significant medical issues and her transcript is proof of her dedication to her academics.

Eva's favorite quote is:

"We are the music-makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams,
wandering by lone sea-breakers and sitting by desolate streams;
World losers and world forsakers,
on whom the pale moon gleams; Yet we are the movers and shakers of the world for ever, it seems"

-Arthur O'Shaughnessy

Eva and her parents were in attendance to receive this award.

2. Discussion of Elementary Data at the Mid-Year – Elementary Directors and Coaches

District Literacy Coaches, Kathy Provost and Heather Fisher, and District Math Coach, Julie Basler, presented to the Committee an update on the work being done in the District and highlighted the high quality curriculum and assessments, the continuous improvement using data, and the high expectations teaching which align with the District Improvement Plan.

They shared that coaching is the universal language of change and learning, and their position is focused on professional development, data meetings and assessment review, sharing best practices, and in-class planning and coaching with individual teachers.

The coaches also shared an example of some of the impacts of their work shown through increased student engagement, increase in student stamina, risk-taking with both students and teachers, and the positive collaboration between teams and building across the District. The coaching connections also go beyond the classroom involving parents by hosting Family Math and Literacy Nights, World Math Day, Camp Read-a-Lot, as well as hosting visiting districts.

Discussion ensued.

Approved

Committee members thanked the group for all the hard work being done in the District and look forward to continued updates.

3. Update on the FY17 Budget

Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, updated the Committee with the most recent budget forecast, which includes updated information from November and December reflecting savings and expenses, personnel changes, and noted that the forecast looks a bit more promising than the previous one.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, requested that notes be added to future forecasts for members that highlighted significant items.

4. Update on the Superintendent Search

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, updated the Committee that the Superintendent's Search Subcommittee had met previous to the School Committee meeting and finalized the Search Committee members. An email will be sent to all individuals who submitted a Letter of Interest in serving and then notice will be posted by January 31st of all participants.

Ms. Tousignant Dufour noted that some meeting dates need to be changed due to a previously scheduled Finance Committee meeting and School Committee meeting.

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

VI. Matters for Action:

1. Approval of FY18 Budget Cuts – Dr. Fortuna

Dr. Fortuna noted that while the budget forecast is hopeful, this updated budget includes reductions in the amount of \$604,000, and there remains a \$1.2 million gap after this \$604,000 in reductions. After the subcommittee work and work with the administrators recommendations, some decisions need to be made.

Dr. Fortuna noted that while budget information continues to be updated, the Committee could move ahead with these cuts and wait until March to notify those involved. Legally, the District has until May 15th to notify the employees affected.

Dr. Fortuna noted that her personal feeling was that May 15th was late in the process. The Committee could vote to do it now and let employees know that this might potentially affect their position. There is a lot of anxiety as people have heard the budget news.

Dr. Fortuna also noted that she is very proud of the thoughtful work that the administrative team and the Committee has done to create this proposal and feels confident that the February 28th projections will be even more favorable.

Approved

Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, tabled this item to a future date.

Reclassifications:

None.

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that the Quinn Middle School play, *Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy God Mother*, will be held on Thursday and Friday evening, January 26th and 27th.

VII. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:48 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 Ms. Hallsworth.

Vote by roll call:

Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes

Ms. Hay - yes

Ms. O'Brien – 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