

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: January 10, 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: None.

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 – December 6, 2016: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Regular Meeting – December 20, 2016: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report:

Student Representative, Ben Carme, reported to the Committee that Hudson High School students are busy preparing for upcoming mid-terms. Class officers are planning a school-wide dance called Snow Coming. Community Council has been busy setting up new fundraisers and committees, with one committee focusing on maintenance around the school and looking into the possibility of longer lasting hand dryers. Another of the committees has begun looking into installing solar panels on the top of the high school to reduce energy bills and to help the environment. Mr. Carme asked Committee members if they felt it was something worth pursuing.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, suggested Director of Facilities, Len Belli, would be the appropriate person to address that question to.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna will speak to Mr. Belli regarding this request.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna:

None.

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. O'Brien reported that the Policy Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 18th.

V. Matters for Discussion:

1. Discussion of Budget Narrative – Dr. Fortuna

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, discussed with Committee members the Budget Narrative which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen on Monday, January 23rd.

Dr. Fortuna noted that the Budget Narrative includes comments for the first time on the positions added to the FY16 budget reporting with intended outcome and the actual outcome and successes derived from the new positions of the Elementary Math Coach, Secondary Math Coach and Communications and Development Coordinator.

Discussion ensued.

The Committee scheduled a Budget Subcommittee meeting for Tuesday, January 17th to further discuss the budget and Budget Narrative.

Discussion ensued relative to suggestions/edits.

Dr. Fortuna will make the narrative layout suggestions and edits as discussed.

2. Discussion of Eureka Math Roll Out – Leslie Knight

Curriculum Director of Secondary Math and Science, Leslie Knight, presented to Committee members an update on the roll-out of the Eureka Math Program which began in the 2014-2015 school year. The Eureka math network has grown to 26 districts, with two of the District's math coaches named as Eureka Fellows.

The program focuses on writing high quality common assessments where students are held to common expectations with a program that establishes a baseline for progress monitoring. The program also includes support for teachers of common planning time at the high school and middle school level, as well as professional development.

The District also reached out to parents and held two parent math nights, and shared additional resources with parents from a variety of websites, including Homework Helpers, Parent Tip Sheets, Khan Academy and IXL.

Approved

As the District moves forward with the Eureka Math Program, it will create a sequence of materials for Grade 7A and Grade 8 Algebra 1, revisions of assessments, pacing guides and formative assessments.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked Ms. Knight for all the hard work being done in the District and looks forward to continued updates.

3. Discussion of College Board and ACT Data – Brian Reagan and Angela Flynn

Principal Brian Reagan and Director of Guidance Angie Flynn presented a report on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the ACT College Readiness Assessment tests. Their presentation highlighted the tests results for critical reading, math and writing overall and 5-year trends, individual student participation rate, class participation rate and score comparisons between Hudson High School students for previous years, as well as local districts comparisons.

Principal Brian Reagan and Director of Guidance Angie Flynn continued their presentation for the ACT College Readiness Assessment, a curriculum and standards-based educational and career planning tool that assesses students' academic readiness for college and consists of English, math, reading and writing. The presentation highlighted an SAT to ACT score conversion, advanced placement program, individual student participation rate, class participation rate and score comparisons between Hudson High School students and State and national test results

4. Discussion of Hudson High School Program of Studies – Brian Reagan and Angela Flynn

Principal Brian Reagan and Director of Guidance Angie Flynn presented an outline focusing on the proposed changes to the 2017-2018 Program of Studies.

Mr. Reagan and Ms. Flynn highlighted the new course offerings, deleted courses and substantive changes proposed for 2017-2018 aimed to strengthen the school's overall program by increasing academic rigor and expectations for all students.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School 2017-2018 Program of Studies, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

5. Discussion of Changes to Kindergarten Registration – Dr. Jodi Fortuna

Dr. Fortuna updated the Committee on changes to the registration process for Kindergarten students for the fall of 2017 to include:

- Registration through the District website at www.hudson.k12.ma.us under "Kindergarten Registration"; and
- Enrollment packets available at the Administration Building or mailed to families; and
- Kindergarten Information Night is scheduled to be held on Monday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the Hudson High School Mini-Theater.

Approved

Mr. Luoto expressed how important it will be to get this information out to non-English speaking families.

Discussion ensued.

6. Assabet Valley Collaborative Application for Mortgage (Pending Successful AVC Board Vote on January 6, 2017)

The Board of Directors of the Assabet Valley Collaborative authorized the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with the City of Marlborough regarding mortgage approval pursuant to MGL Chapter 40 Section 4E and in accordance with AVC's Approved Collaborative Agreement.

Dr. Fortuna hereby provided notice to the Hudson School Committee:

At its meeting on January 6, 2017, the Assabet Valley Collaborative Board of Directors voted to approve the terms of a mortgage for the purchase of two business condominium units (Suite 125 and Suite 130) at 28 Lord Road in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

This action and notification are to comply with the section of Chapter 43, excerpted below:

“The Board of Directors of an education collaborative may borrow money, enter into long-term or short-term a loan agreements or mortgages and apply for state, federal or corporate grants or contracts to obtain funds necessary to carry out the purpose for which such collaborative is established; provided, however, that the board of directors has determined that any borrowing, loan or mortgage is cost-effective and in the best interest of the collaborative and its member cities or towns and charter schools. The borrowing, loans, or mortgages shall be consistent with the written agreement and articles of incorporation of the education collaborative and shall be consistent with standard lending practices.

The Board of Directors of an education collaborative shall notify each member school committee and charter school board within 30 calendar days of applying for real estate mortgages.”

Discussion ensued.

7. Update on the Superintendent Search

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, updated the Committee that the ad has been placed, brochures went to print, and the next step is for solicitation for letters of intent for members of the Screening Committee.

Ms. Tousignant Dufour provided members will copies of informational material that will be distributed in Town regarding the search.

Discussion ensued.

Approved

VI. Matters for Action:

None.

Reclassifications:

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

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

Mr. Luoto inquired about the Hudson Public Schools Scholarship Fund from the Estate of Thomas Hamilton.

Dr. Fortuna shared that the information received in their packet was for informational purposes as it involves a legal matter with the Town, Park Commission and the Hudson Public Schools.

Mr. Luoto encouraged all to participate in the budget meetings due to the very important decisions being made.

Ms. Tousignant Dufour shared that *Screenagers* will be held on Wednesday, January 11th at 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Hudson High School Auditorium.

VII. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:55 p.m., Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that Executive Session was needed for the following reasons:

1. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; and
2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (administrator).

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hay.

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

Approved

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