

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: November 15, 2016

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
Ben Carne, Student Representative

Others present: Dr. Jodi Fortuna, Superintendent
Julia M. Pisegna, Recording Secretary

I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:40 p.m.

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

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting – October 25, 2016: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report:

None.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna:

Budget

- The Town informed the District that they can expect a 2% increase over the District's funding of last year, and that the remainder of Town departments will be operating with a 1.77% request.

Elections

- Dr. Fortuna thanked the custodial and maintenance staff who prepared the voting precincts in four out of the District's five schools. Educators adjusted their parking patterns so that plenty of parking was available to voters across all sites.
- Dr. Fortuna thanked all educators for the professional way in which they handled the important discussions with students who experienced a wide-range of emotions following the election.
- Dr. Fortuna sent the following email to the District:

“Dear Colleagues:

With the election behind us, today may be proving to be an even more challenging day in our schools than we might have imagined. Great polarity in political views exists in our nation and in our schools. You likely have your own strong feelings about the outcome of this election - I know I do.

What I would also highlight is that this past presidential campaign has shown more than ever that we need to come together for the good of the entire country. There has been so much fear and hate in this campaign, that I ask you today to let our students know that we care about them and we will continue to care for, support, and keep them safe while we also open the doors of opportunity that are here for them in this great country. We will marginalize none.

I write this morning to remind you, our educators and role model for students, to encourage students to be respectful of the opinions others. I know you will exercise good judgment and care when it comes to sharing your own political views.

Today, I would reassure our students and their families that in Hudson we hold the standard high for civility and respect. As a community both inside our schools and outside our schools we value collaboration, cooperation, and active citizenship.

Finally, as you transition back to the normalcy and comfort of your daily routine, know our students find great safety and security in knowing that life goes on as they know it. If any student is exhibiting additional anxiety surrounding the election, please reach out to the student support staff, in your school, for guidance and support.”

Clinical Psychologist

- At the School Committee meeting held on Tuesday, October 25th, Dr. Fortuna informed the Committee of the process in hiring the key position of a clinical psychologist for the District;
- On Monday, October 31st, Dr. Fortuna met with the Principals and Cathy Kilcoyne to debrief the visit and determined that the candidate is a good fit;
- Ms. Kilcoyne is in the process of vetting the candidate through references, and pending a satisfactory reference check, the District will be offering the position to Dr. Kristen

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Aberle, with the hope to have Dr. Aberle begin in the Hudson Public Schools after December break.

Curriculum Review Task Force

- The curriculum task force members provided outstanding professional development on the curriculum review process to their colleagues during the November 8th professional learning day.
- Dr. Fortuna thanked the task force for their hard work and energy that they bring to this project as she observed the process at the elementary level and was very impressed with how in-sync the presentations were at each grade level.
- Dr. Fortuna noted that this work will continue to have tremendous value to the District in years to come and that the team of curriculum directors have done an outstanding job organizing this work.

District Leadership Team

- The District Administrator Council have been taking a key role in planning the District Leadership Team meetings so that the important work that all educators in the District do is sustainable and that the District at all levels will be well-positioned for a new leader next year.
- Dr. Fortuna will continue to update Committee members on the work of the Leadership Team by including a copy of their meeting agenda which highlights the work that is occurring when the administrators meet.

Superintendent's Items of Interest

None.

Enrollment

All enrollment numbers are up to date as of the writing of this report. These 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.

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	5/20/16	9/9/16	9/22/16	10/7/16	10/19/16	11/10/16
HHS	968	941	943	946	945	948
QMS	649	648	642	636	636	637
Farley	498	485	488	487	488	485
Forest Avenue	340	325	325	324	324	327
Mulready	260	248	249	250	250	250
District Total	2,715	2,647	2,647	2,643	2,643	2,647

Subcommittee Reports:

V.

None.

Matters for Discussion:

1. Discussion of Completed Curriculum Review Toolkit – Curriculum Directors

The District Curriculum Directors, Karen Martin, Leslie Knight and Todd Wallingford presented to Committee members the curriculum review toolkit highlighting the UbD curriculum cycle, the curriculum review 6-year plan, design standards, and the work of the curriculum review task force.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked the Curriculum Directors for all their efforts and the great work being done in the District.

Dr. Fortuna noted that the team will continue to update and report back to the School Committee during the school year.

2. Discussion of FY18 Budget

Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, presented to the Committee the FY17 budget projections and a summary of the FY18 budget revenue assumptions and FY18 budget expense assumptions and highlighted the school choice, circuit breaker and the Town appropriation of 2 percent which leaves the District with a deficit of \$2,254,943.24.

Discussion ensued.

(Ms. O'Brien departed the meeting at 9:25 p.m.)

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, thanked Ms. Lange for this updated information and stated the numbers are not encouraging and that the Committee will continue to work on the budget, and that even though this is a projection, the District faces a \$2 million deficit.

3. Discussion of Plans for a New Superintendent Search

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared with Committee members information, proposals and a comparison guide regarding the Superintendent search process and focused on the following questions:

- Is the Committee interested in an interim Superintendent or a permanent replacement?

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve moving ahead to appoint a permanent replacement Superintendent, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

- Will the search be conducted in-house or should the District hire a search firm?

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the hiring a search firm for the next Superintendent, as presented, was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

- Which search firm is the Committee interested in hiring?

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, presented Committee members with three proposals from Superintendent search firms: Massachusetts Association of School Committees, NESDEC and Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates.

Discussion regarding each search firm presented ensued.

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A motion to approve utilizing the services of Massachusetts Association of School Committee as the search firm for the next Superintendent, as presented, was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Discussion ensued.

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared that a subcommittee team would be formed and asked which Committee members would be interested.

All members present expressed an interest in being part of the subcommittee. Ms. Tousignant Dufour would also check with Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Luoto for their interest.

VI.

Discussion ensued.

Matters for Action:

1. Approval of Hudson High School Field Trip to the UNESCO Conference for Young Scientists in Santarem, Portugal in January, 2017

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the Hudson High School trip to the UNESCO Conference for Young Scientists in Santarem, Portugal in January, 2017.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School trip to the UNESCO Conference for Young Scientists in Santarem, Portugal in January, 2017, as presented, was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

2. Approval to Exercise the One-Year Renewal Option for the Student Transportation Contract with North Reading Transportation

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the one-year renewal option for the student transportation contract with North Reading Transportation.

A motion to approve the one-year renewal option for the student transportation contract with North Reading Transportation Company, as presented, was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

3. Approval of Student Activities Accounts:

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the student activities accounts for Quinn Middle School and Hudson High School.

A motion to approve the student activities accounts for Quinn Middle School, as presented, was made by Ms. Hallsworth and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

A motion to approve the student activities accounts for Hudson High School, as presented, was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

4. Approval of the HUD-TV Budget Reorganization:

Director of Technology, Ellen Schuck, updated the Committee on the status of replacing the position held by Scott Darlington and the budget reorganization of HUD-TV.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the HUD-TV budget reorganization.

A motion to approve the HUD-TV budget reorganization, as presented, was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Reclassifications:

None.

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

- VII. Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, shared that she and Ms. Hallsworth attended the MASC Conference and both members felt it was a good experience, and specifically the breakout sessions and the information obtained regarding the Superintendent search was very helpful.

Executive Session/Adjournment

At 9:11 p.m., Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that there was no need for Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 5-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary
Hudson School Committee