

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 25, 2016

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 – October 11, 2016: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Mr. Luoto abstaining, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

None.

IV. Reports:

Student Representative Report:

Ben Carme, Student Representative, shared with the Committee events going on at Hudson High School, including Sprit Week, America Day, Twin Day, and Penny Wars fundraisers with all proceeds to be donated to the Hudson Food Pantry.

Mr. Carme also invited all to attend the Hudson High School Homecoming game taking place on Saturday, October 29th at Morgan Bowl.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna:

Budget

The District Leadership Team continues to prepare their budgets. The FY18 per pupil amount provided to each responsibility center was the same as it was in FY17 and reflected the changing enrollments across schools and grade levels.

Dr. Fortuna and Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Patty Lange, have met with each individual member of the District Leadership Team to understand their budget requests and the entire team met together to hear the additional requests made by their colleagues and to understand why those additional requests were made.

Administrator budget packets will be presented to the School Committee for the Committee's final decision making over the course of the next month.

Clinical Psychologist

On Thursday, October 20, 2016, the candidate for the District-wide clinical psychologist position visited the District. Each building Principal chose key stakeholders in their buildings regarding mental health support for students.

The candidate visited each school and met with stakeholder groups with the goal of allowing a large group of stakeholders to meet the candidate, in their school settings, to determine if the candidate was a good fit to provide mental health assessment, diagnosis, treatment and crisis intervention services for children and adolescents with a broad range of mental health issues, as well as determine if the candidate has the skill set to collaborate and consult with school-based teams and outside providers to plan and direct each client's in-school treatment program.

The outcome of a successful visit will be the hiring of a clinician to move the mental health support options available to students to the next level. If the visit is unsuccessful, this position will remain unfilled until the 2017-2018 school year due to a lack of viable candidates this year.

Curriculum Review Task Force

The District held the first full-day training of the curriculum review task force thanks to the leadership of Karen Martin, Todd Wallingford and Leslie Knight with the tremendous support of all of the District's curriculum leaders. The team of twenty-two educators committed to doing the work of taking a good curriculum and making it great. The members of the task force were highly engaged and the room was filled with productive conversation. Dr. Fortuna had the opportunity to speak with several educators during the break who were excited about the work and beginning the next phase of curriculum work.

Superintendent’s Items of Interest

Dr. Fortuna reported that due to the heavy rain storm this past week, the new roof at Mulready Elementary School began to leak. Capeway Roofing Company has made all necessary repairs.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Fortuna announced that Hudson High School has been cleared from the waitlist for the UNESCO trip scheduled for January, 2017. Principal Brian Reagan will attend a future meeting to discuss this trip with School Committee members.

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.

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

Subcommittee Reports:

None.

V. Matters for Discussion:

1. Discussion of MCAS Results and Accountability – District Leadership Team

Elementary School Principals, Melissa Provost, David Champigny, Kelly Whitmore, and Director of Elementary Education, Karen Martin, presented an overview of MCAS performance and growth, grade level performance, annual comparison and growth performance versus State data.

Discussion ensued.

Quinn Middle School Principal, Jason Webster, Hudson High School Principal Brian Reagan, Curriculum Director for Secondary English Language Arts and Social Studies, Todd Wallingford, and Curriculum Director for Secondary Math and Science, Leslie Knight, highlighted some of the action steps that the District continues to take to improve growth and performance levels for all students.

Discussion ensued.

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

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, thanked the team for their efforts and to keep up the good work and the District will continue to see positive changes.

2. Discussion of District Assessment System – Curriculum Directors

Director of Elementary Education, Karen Martin, Curriculum Director - Secondary English Language Arts and Social Studies, Todd Wallingford, and Curriculum Director, Secondary Math and Science, Leslie Knight, presented to the Committee an update on the District elementary assessment plans and balanced system of assessments for secondary math and science and secondary humanities.

The presentation highlighted the high quality curriculum, instruction, key action steps, assessment, continuous improvement using data and high expectations teachings happening in the District.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked the team for their presentation and look forward to future updates.

3. Discussion of Student Information Systems Update – Ellen Schuck

Directory of Technology, Ellen Schuck, presented to the Committee the process undertaken to find a new District student information system.

In March of 2016, Ms. Schuck and Betsy Russell interviewed five companies as potential companies: IMG/Harris, PowerSchool, MMS, Follett Aspen X2 and School Brains.

Based on all information gathered, DESE Reporting/SIF process, program modules, data extraction process, their presence in public school districts in Massachusetts and support, three companies were recommended to the Dr. Fortuna – PowerSchool, Aspen X2, and School Brains.

These three companies then presented to the subcommittee, which included administrators, secretaries, teachers, guidance, parents and School Committee members. The final choice was Follett Aspen X2.

Ms. Schuck presented the following timeline:

Implementation Timeline	Description
October 24, 2016	Implementation Webex with Follett Aspen
October 25, 2016	Receive the School Committee approval to move forwarded
October/November 2016	Enter into final contract negotiations; prepare procurement/purchase order/contract
January 2017 -June 2017	Server setup, data conversion, data scrubbing (4), and staff training
July 1, 2017 -August 1, 2017	Go live with Follett Aspen X2
August 2017	Train-the-Trainer teacher training by teacher core group
September 2017	Parent training

Committee members thanked Ms. Schuck for a great presentation and for all her effort in this important work and in bringing a new student information system to Hudson.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the contract with Follett Aspen X2 in the amount of \$100,500.00, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

VI. Matters for Action:

1. Approval of Hudson High School Ice Hockey Field Trip to Lake Placid, New York on December 8-11, 2016

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the Hudson High School Ice Hockey field trip to Lake Placid, New York on December 8-11, 2016.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School Ice Hockey field trip to Lake Placid, New York on December 8-11, 2016 was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

2. Approval of Change of Date for the Hudson High School Overnight Field Trip to Sao Tome and Principe, West Africa to April, 2017

Hudson High School Principal, Brian Reagan, updated the Committee on the change of dates for the previously approved trip being run by Anibal Serra to Sao Tome and Principe, West Africa to April, 2017, as well as a change in the chaperone due to the arrival of their first child.

(This item was for informational purposes only and no vote was taken.)

3. Approval of Letter and Contract Negotiations for Dr. Fortuna:

Dr. Fortuna read the following letter to Committee members:

“Dear Chairperson Tousignant Dufour and members of the Hudson School Committee,

I will not be seeking an extension of my current contract. My last date of employment in the Hudson Public Schools will be June 30, 2017. I have cherished, both personally professionally, the nine years that I have spent in the District. I extend my sincere appreciation to the community for the support that is provided to the Hudson Public Schools. I have enjoyed my time here and I look forward to continuing the important work that we have planned for the remainder of this school year.”0

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, thanked Dr. Fortuna for her many years and contributions to Hudson Public Schools and wished her well.

A motion to approve Dr. Fortuna’s notice of intent to not seek an extension to her contract, as presented, was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0-1, with Mr. Maston abstaining, the motion passed.

Reclassifications:

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

Approved

Items of Interest to the School Committee:

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, announced the Farley Fox Trot is scheduled for Saturday, November 5th at 10 a.m. and encouraged all to attend.

VII. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 9:37 p.m., Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that there was no need for Executive Session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary
Hudson School Committee