

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** September 13, 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

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

**I. Call the Meeting to Order – 7:03 p.m.**

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

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

Regular Meeting – August 23, 2016: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 5-1, with Ms. Hallsworth abstaining, the motion passed.

**III. Public Participation:**

None.

**IV. Reports:**

**Student Representative Report:**

None.

**Superintendent's Report – Dr. Jodi Fortuna:**

**District Leadership Team Meeting**

The first meeting of the District Leadership Team is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> where the team will address a broad range of topics including the structure of meetings moving forward, roles and responsibilities in decision making, the FY18 budget schedule, and subcommittees to move the work of the District Improvement Plan forward.

## **Finance and Operations**

### **Quinn Traffic Flow**

The traffic pattern at Quinn was revamped this year with two goals: increasing the safety of students and substantially reducing and/or removing the back log of traffic on Manning Street. Dr. Fortuna was on site for drop-off and dismissal on the first three days of school. The first day was not a resounding success. However, by day three, the vast majority of issues had been resolved and the objectives in implementing the changes had been met.

Dr. Fortuna thanked the Quinn team for the work that everyone put in at drop-off and dismissal in order to facilitate the new traffic pattern so that the children are moving in and out of the building quickly and safely.

Dr. Fortuna also reminded all parents to please reinforce to their children that the sooner they are seated on the bus, the sooner the bus will get them home.

### **Transportation**

Dr. Fortuna shared that the District has experienced the typical beginning of the year hiccups with student transportation. Executive Director of Finance and Operation, Patty Lange, and Renee Graca have worked diligently to resolve issues as they arise.

Dr. Fortuna noted a few notable exceptions:

On the first day of school, there was a very minor bus accident at Quinn during the morning drop off. The event was, nor attributed to, the new traffic pattern and involved a non-parent commuter trying to get to work and a bus trying to get into the parking lot. There were no injuries to anyone involved.

Dr. Fortuna extended her appreciation to the Hudson Police Department for their response and the school health office for their professionalism in evaluating all 52 students on the bus for any potential injuries.

On the first day of school, there was also a bus that was overloaded at Quinn Middle School. Several students were removed from the afternoon run so that the bus could safely depart. NRT quickly sent a backup bus to transport these students. This bus was also scheduled to do a Forest Avenue run, which in turn caused it to be quite delayed in arriving at Forest.

In addition, there was also a new bus driver on bus 7 for Quinn and Mulready. The newness of the bus driver resulted in the routes being completed more slowly than the expected standard, which had a domino effect on each run it made. NRT is working with the District to resolve this issue and the driver began to start his runs earlier.

## **Curriculum and Instruction Update**

### **“Sweep” Teams**

At the elementary level, teams of reading coaches, specialists and math counterparts continue to work with classrooms to gather baseline data on students’ achievement levels so that the teachers can be able to plan target instruction, maximize growth and measure that growth.

## **Superintendent’s Items of Interest**

### **Opening Day for Staff**

Dr. Fortuna reported that for the first time since becoming Superintendent, the District held a large opening of school gathering for all staff. The theme for the day was the power of a teacher, the importance of relationships and greatness is a choice.

Dr. Fortuna provided first-hand examples of the power that teachers wield when it comes to their ability to affect the world while honoring the impact that teachers had on her and her own choices. The three teachers that impacted her the most attended and shared lessons that they had learned over their careers.

Dr. Fortuna knew at least one thing from these speakers would resonate with everyone. The staff response was wonderful with teachers sharing stories of the teachers that impacted them and some inspired to seek out the teacher that impacted them.

Each of the three individuals that shared their wisdom with the staff remarked on the amazing culture that is in Hudson. The fact that teachers came up and thanked these veteran teachers for coming and sharing and having genuine conversations with “the Superintendent” was something that these teachers had not experienced as a District culture when they were teaching full time, and the fact that it is the District culture in Hudson, is something that Dr. Fortuna shared she is immensely proud of and hopes each educator shares that pride.

Dr. Fortuna also shared that during one of the elementary Open Houses, a parent shared a picture of a white board with the words “Greatness is a Choice” and that it is something that resonates with all teachers and families.

### **Opening Day for Students**

Dr. Fortuna reported that the first day of school went smoothly. Teachers were ready to welcome children back for a new year of learning and growth. On the Monday before staff were due back, Dr. Fortuna visited each building with the intention of seeing if the physical plant was ready to open for teachers the next day, and shared that she encountered 80% of teachers working and planning together and the only compensation they were receiving was the satisfaction of a job well-done, and that other teachers had already been in their classrooms over the summer and were prepared for their new students.

Dr. Fortuna noted that such level of professionalism of the District educators should be celebrated and applauded.

### **Friday Night Football**

Dr. Fortuna reported that there have been many rumors circulating in the community about events occurring at Friday night's football game versus Assabet. Both Dr. Fortuna and Dr. Reagan were both present for the entire game.

Dr. Reagan provided a written summary of the facts and rumors regarding the events that occurred.

“On Friday, September 9, Hudson High School hosted Assabet Regional Technical High School for the football season opener at Morgan Bowl. We welcomed a large crowd supporting both teams. Several events transpired at the game and subsequently, several rumors began to spread throughout the community. Here are the facts:

- We had a larger than anticipated crowd.
- There was little to no administrative supervision from Assabet. The athletic director was present, but was not standing near the Assabet students gathered in the stands.
- There were fewer Hudson High School administrators present than usual due to uncontrollable circumstances. Dr. Reagan and I were in attendance
- The “Red Sea” (our student fan group) was present in large numbers. While most of their activities were appropriate and modeled good sportsmanship, they did occasionally use chants that were negative. They also orchestrated the distribution of talcum powder throughout the group which they then tossed in the air simultaneously to create the illusion of a large smoke cloud as the team entered the field after half-time. This act apparently mirrors something that students have seen fans do at college sporting events. Mrs. Winders and Dr. Reagan will speak to the student leaders of the “Red Sea” before the next game about the importance of keeping their chants positive.
- There was one physical altercation in the parking lot that was addressed by the Hudson Police. The altercation ended quickly, but unfortunately, the Hudson Police did not provide the High School administration with the names of the students involved. On Monday morning, an administrator from Assabet contacted us and gave us the names of two students who may have been involved. We are following up with those two students now.
- There were two police officers hired as duty officers for the game. After the physical altercation 2 additional police officers stayed at Morgan Bowl until the conclusion of the game and the majority of fans had exited.

- An Assabet student was taken from the game in an ambulance because she was suffering from a panic attack. This incident was unrelated to the physical altercation.
- The Assabet team bus was parked in the incorrect location after the game, which caused the parking lot to appear somewhat chaotic as fans were leaving Morgan Bowl. The bus was parked directly outside of the main gate so Assabet fans began to surround the bus to cheer on their team as Hudson fans were attempting to leave. There were no altercations at this time and the Hudson Police worked to redirect traffic so the bus could exit the parking lot directly onto Chapin Road.
- A Hudson High School student was hit by a car on Brigham Street just east of the High School while walking home after the game. The student was walking on the sidewalk when a dog ran up to him from the property he was walking in front of. The student was frightened by the dog's sudden appearance and jumped into the street and was struck by an oncoming car. The dog's owner was in the yard at the time and confirmed this with the Hudson Police who were on the scene within minutes along with the Hudson Fire Department and local EMS. The driver of the car was a parent of Hudson High School students. The student who was struck by the car was transported to the hospital via ambulance with a leg injury. The student was released from the hospital on Saturday.

The following information has been spread (mostly through social media) and is untrue:

- There were multiple physical altercations on campus during the game. *The only physical altercation that we are aware of is the one mentioned above. If there were other physical altercations, they were not reported to the administration or to the police.*
- There was a knife fight. *There was no knife in the physical altercation mentioned above and no other reports of knives being wielded in any way.*
- There was a gun "pulled" on a student. *We are unclear if this rumor refers to a police officer pulling a gun or a civilian holding a gun. Either way, the rumor is untrue.*
- The student sent to the hospital in the ambulance was injured in the physical altercation. *This is untrue. The student transported to the hospital from the game was an Assabet student having a panic attack.*
- A glass bottle was broken over the head of a student. *We have no evidence of this taking place and believe this to be completely untrue.*
- Several students were visibly under the influence of alcohol or drugs. *After spending the evening walking around the entire venue, I can confirm that this is simply not true. Dr. Reagan and I did, however, come across adults (some of them parents) who were visibly intoxicated or smelled of alcohol."*

**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.

	<b>5/20/16</b>	<b>9/9/16</b>				
<b>HHS</b>	968	941				
<b>QMS</b>	649	648				
<b>Farley</b>	498	485				
<b>Forest Avenue</b>	340	325				
<b>Mulready</b>	260	248				
<b>District Total</b>	2,715	2,647				

**By the Numbers: August 28 –September 12, 2016**

- 53 email conversations (at least 3 exchanges in conversation)
- 105 email exchanges (no more than 2 exchanges in each interaction)
- 5 tweets to 847 Followers
- 7 meetings with individual staff members
- 3 meetings with group of Administrators
- 2 new hire interviews
- 2 School Committee member meetings
- 2 school visits
- 1 parent meeting
- 1 para association meeting
- 1 labor management meeting

**Subcommittee Reports:**

None.

**V. Matters for Discussion:**

1. Discussion of Summer Work – District Leadership Team:

All District Principals shared with Committee members the hiring process which took place over the summer on hiring, activities of interest that they undertook, and the impact that the work done at their summer retreat had on their practices and the importance of "getting the right people on the bus".

Principals also shared their summer work of "moving the flywheel" and highlighted the elementary work on the master schedule and review of the science frameworks and units of study; Quinn Middle School work focused on the PATH transition program and student advisory; and the High School summer work focused on the advisory program and grading policies and expectations.

Discussion ensued.

Committee members thanked the Principals for all their hard work and effort and look forward to a great school year.

Approved

Dr. Fortuna introduced the following new staff to the District and presented them with a book, *Flight School*, by Lita Judge:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>
Kelly Albino	English Teacher	QMS
Kristina Ansara-Stachowski	Guidance Counselor	HHS
Carrie Attaway	Special Education Teacher	QMS
Sytske Campbell	Grade 4 Teacher	FOR
Jessica Caron	Library Media Specialist	HHS
Kaeleigh Chartrand	Grade 3 Teacher- 1 year appointment	FOR
Elaine Cyr	Special Education Teacher	FOR
Laura Heideman	School Psychologist	HHS
Kellie Horne	ELL Teacher	FOR
Mark Krans	Math Teacher	HHS
Alcidia Lopes	Portuguese Teacher	HHS
Audra Maria	School Nurse	FAR
Sydney Markley	Math Teacher	QMS
Pamela McDonald	Chemistry Teacher	HHS
Erika Melanson	Special Education Teacher	FAR
Amanda Pezzote	Special Education Pre-K Teacher	HUBERT
Ashley Power	English Teacher- 1 year appointment	QMS
John Jairo Ruiz Pineda	Spanish Teacher	HHS
Jessica Sabino	Grade 1 Teacher	FOR
Arianna Silva	Technology Teacher - 1 year appointment	HHS
Jessica A. Spencer	Career Counselor	HHS
Julie Walters	Special Education Teacher	QMS
Kerry Wanamaker	Kindergarten Teacher	FAR
James Brosnihan	Clinical Coordinator	QMS

School Committee members welcomed the new staff to the Hudson.

2. Discussion of Complete Assessment System Inventory – Curriculum Directors:

The District curriculum directors, Karen Martin, Leslie Knight and Todd Wallingford presented their findings on the baseline survey of the balanced assessments system highlighting the purpose of the assessment, differences between formative vs. summative assessments, performance based assessments and the District plan moving forward for secondary English, secondary social studies and secondary math.

Discussion ensued.

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

3. Discussion of Summer Work Projects – Len Belli

Director of Facilities, Len Belli, reported on the work of the Buildings & Grounds Department and highlighted a sampling of the accomplishments of his team during the summer and the cost savings estimation of \$150,000/year for gas and electricity due to the work done in-house:

Mulready Elementary School:

- ◆ Roof replacement
- ◆ Asbestos abatement
- ◆ Cafeteria floor replaced
- ◆ New corridor flooring and pipe insulation
- ◆ New ceiling and LED lighting installation
- ◆ New skylights
- ◆ Relocated summer program furniture to Quinn Middle School
- ◆ Relocated seven classrooms for curriculum needs

Other District Work:

Hudson High School

- ◆ Converted two “D” pods pre-L rooms to classrooms
- ◆ Replaced hear elements in café and created seating bench
- ◆ Painted classrooms and office areas
- ◆ Relocated 20 classrooms for curriculum needs

Hubert School:

- ◆ Updated bathroom sinks and faucets
- ◆ Painted three classrooms

Dr. Fortuna and Committee members thanked Mr. Belli and his staff for the tremendous work, dedication and all they do for the District.

**VI. Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Hudson Cafeteria Workers Association:

Committee member, Jennifer O'Brien, updated the Committee on changes to the Memorandum of Agreement.

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Hudson Cafeteria Workers Association.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Hudson Cafeteria Workers Association, as presented, was made by Ms. O'Brien and seconded by Ms. Hay. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

2. Approval of Contract with Research for Better Teaching, Inc. in the Amount of \$41,125.00 for Professional Development.

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the contract with Research for Better Teaching, Inc. in the Amount of \$41,125.00 for Professional Development.

Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the contract with Research for Better Teaching, Inc. in the amount of \$41,125.00 for Professional Development, as presented, was made by Ms. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

3. Scheduling of Budget Meetings

Dr. Fortuna shared the following schedule of Budget meetings with Committee members:

Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

*Approved*

Discussion ensued.

**Reclassifications:**

A motion to approve the reclassifications of funds, as presented, was made by Ms. Hay and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

**Items of Interest to the School Committee:**

None.

**VII. 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. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary  
Hudson School Committee