

Approved

**Hudson School Committee  
Open Session Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** July 19, 2016

**Location:** Administration Building  
155 Apsley Street

Members present: Michele Tousignant Dufour, Jennifer O'Brien, George Luoto,  
Glenn Maston, Elizabeth Hallsworth and Steven Smith

Members absent: Allyson Hay

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 – June 28, 2016: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Luoto 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:**

None.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

Committee Chair, Michele Tousignant Dufour, noted that there will be need for an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss the tentative agreement regarding Custodial Negotiations and to discuss the potential salary increase for Dr. Fortuna.

**V. Matters for Discussion:**

1. Discussion of the Impact of Elimination of the Grade 8 Team Structure:

Hudson High School Principal Brian Reagan updated Committee members on the impact of the elimination of the grade 8 team at Hudson High School. The grade 8 team was eliminated for three primary reasons:

- 1) To eliminate unnecessary conflicts within the master schedule that arise because one grade is teamed while the other four grades are not teamed;
- 2) To help ensure that the grade 8 experience better mirrors the 9-12 experience, minimizing the transition between grades 8 and 9; and
- 3) To allow 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to be clustered by discipline in an effort to improve consistency in instruction, assessments and expectations.

Dr. Reagan reported that informal feedback from teachers and administration, as well as specific data points, indicated that the elimination of the grade 8 team model had a positive impact overall with teachers and administration noting that the Class of 2020 adjusted more quickly to the high school environment than previous classes, class schedules contained less conflicts, and that academic achievement and student discipline data supported the same.

Discussion ensued.

Dr. Reagan will continue to monitor data points relative to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade model over the course of the next three years.

2. Discussion of the Future Plans for the Class of 2016:

Hudson High School Principal Brian Reagan shared with Committee members information on the post-graduate plans for the members of the Class of 2016, which graduated 180 students, 90 male and 90 female. A total of 178 students received traditional diplomas and two received certificates of attainment.

All student data was taken from exit surveys completed by each student through Naviance just prior to graduation and reports the post-secondary plans as follows:

- 34% of students enrolled in a 4-year private college;
- 36% of students enrolled in a 4-year public college;
- 17% of students enrolled in a 2-year public college;
- 7% of students entered the work force; and
- 3% of students entered the military.

Discussion ensued.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

1. Approval of Changes to the 2016-2017 Hudson High School Handbook:

Hudson High School Principal Brian Reagan presented the changes to the 2016-2017 Hudson High School Handbook relative to the Grade Point Average and Rank in Class and Summer School sections.

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the changes to the 2016-2017 Hudson High School Handbook.

A motion to approve the changes to the 2016-2017 Hudson High School Handbook, as presented, was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

2. Approval of Proposed Amendment to School Committee Policy ADDA – Background Checks

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the proposed amendment to School Committee Policy ADDA - *Background Checks* and noted that the Policy had been posted on the District website and no public comments had been received.

A motion to approve the proposed amendment to School Committee Policy ADDA – *Background Checks* was made by Ms. O’Brien and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

3. Approval of Proposed Amendment to School Committee Policy JKAA – Physical Restraint of Students

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the proposed amendment to School Committee Policy JKAA – *Physical Restraint of Students* and noted that the policy had been posted on the District website and no public comments had been received.

A motion to approve the proposed amendment to School Committee Policy JKAA – *Physical Restraint of Students* was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Maston. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

4. Approval of Proposed School Committee Policy GCCD - Domestic Violence Leave Policy

Dr. Fortuna recommended approval of the proposed School Committee Policy GCCD – *Domestic Violence Leave Policy* and noted that the policy had been posted on the District website and no public comments had been received.

A motion to approve the proposed School Committee Policy GCCD – *Domestic Violence Leave Policy* was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

*Approved*

**Reclassifications:**

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

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

Dr. Fortuna updated Committee members on the status of the Early Bird Special for the MASS/MASC Joint Conference scheduled for November 2-5 in Hyannis.

**VII. Executive Session/Adjournment**

At 7:38 p.m., Committee Chair Michele Tousignant Dufour noted that Executive Session was needed to discuss:

- 1) the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual;
- 2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel; and
- 3) to conduct contract negotiation with non-union personnel because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the legal position, of the Committee.

Vote by roll call:

Ms. Tousignant Dufour – yes

Ms. O'Brien – yes

Mr. Luoto - 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