

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: April 9, 2019

Location: 155 Aspley Street

Members present: Glenn Maston, Steven Smith, Elizabeth Hallsworth, Adam Tracy, Nina Ryan, Matthew McDowell, and Michele Tousignant Dufour

Members absent: Ben Carne, Student Representative

Others present: Dr. Marco C. Rodrigues, Superintendent
Annamarie O'Donnell, Recording Secretary

I. Call the Meeting to Order: 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Glenn Maston.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting: March 26, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes of March 26, 2019 was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Ryan. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

none

IV. Reports and Presentations

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Rodrigues gave the following updates to the Committee:

1. Hudson Public Schools Awards for Excellence
Dr. Rodrigues stated that we have created the Hudson Public Schools Awards for Excellence. There will be an evening to celebrate our staff, teachers, retirees, and longevity. There will be nominations accepted in the following categories:
Administrator
Teacher
Instructional Staff

Nurse
Custodian
Secretary
Support staff

Additionally, the Hudson Hero Award has been added and can be given to anyone who does not work for the district. Any school can nominate anyone who does not work for us. This could include community members, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, crossing guards etc. The awards presentation will be held June 6.

2. Mini-Grants for Teachers
Dr. Rodrigues reported that the District had received \$4000.00 in private donations, to fund mini grants for teachers. Eleven applications from teachers were received and we were able to award grants to eight. There was a rubric for teachers to describe the project for the committee. Dr. Rodrigues went on to say that we will continue to seek private donations for this purpose.
3. Kindergarten Open House- Class of 2032
Preparation is ongoing for this event. The date is set for May 1.
4. Jason Medeiros- New Hudson High School Principal
Dr. Rodrigues introduced Mr. Jason Medeiros as the new principal of Hudson High School. Mr. Medeiros stated that he is excited about this opportunity. He made note of how welcome he was made to feel through the hiring process and how much he enjoyed hearing the students earlier that evening. Mr. Medeiros is looking forward to partnering with all and getting to work.

Subcommittee Reports

Budget Subcommittee

Mr. Maston reported that the Selectmen had voted in favor of the FY20 budget.

Policy Subcommittee

Mr. Smith reported that the Policy Subcommittee has not met and will meet again next month.

Strategic Goals Subcommittee

Mr. Maston reported that the Strategic Goals Subcommittee had not met but the School Committee newsletter had launched in April.

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

None

Other:

Mr. Smith reported that the Secretaries negotiations has closed out.

Student Report

Ben Carme reported that Council has not held session. He asked Dr. Rodrigues if there has been any consideration to honor cafeteria staff in the awards for excellence.

Dr. Rodrigues stated that Chartwells has their own way of honoring the cafeteria workers. He also said that the cafeteria workers can also be nominated under the Hudson Heroes award.

V. Matters for Discussion:

- a) Old Business
- b) New Business

1. German Exchange Trip Presentation from Students

Ms. Gretchen Houseman and Ms. Whitney Nielsen took fifteen students to Helmstedt Germany. The other part of the exchange is that German students came to Hudson in September.

The students presented on the following destinations and experiences:

- How it was to stay with their host family. The host families usually take the student to meaningful places to them.
- Hamburg was the first city they visited. This was where there hostel was and they spent a few days there. Here, they visited the Emigration museum and attended the Choir of the World concert.
- Visit to Neuengamme Concentration Camp and Memorial
- Visit to Braunschweig- a very old city with preserved architecture. This city is also known for American Football.
- The students visited Berlin and the Reichstag Building(their government building). The students got to learn about the German government and the differences from American government. Here they also visited Brandenburg Gate, a site of many American foreign policy speeches.
- Visit to Checkpoint/ Alpha and a part of the wall, which has been preserved. They learned about the Cold War and the Berlin wall.
- Visit to the city of Leipzig and learned about its musical and cultural History. They saw the houses of some famous musicians and memorials to some favorite composers.
- Experienced food and culture such as Schweinshaxe, Ice Cream Spaghetti, and a Turkish wedding.
- The students went to school with their exchange students. They learned some of the major differences between school in Germany and their school in Hudson.

- Travel Experiences- planes and trains and buses
- Independent Free time allowed them to learn responsibility.
- Immersion in an unfamiliar language

2. **First Reading of Proposed School Committee Policy: Section J: School Choice**

Mr. Smith stated that this removes one policy around children of employees. It proposes to accept the MASC policy.

Dr. Rodrigues stated that we are proposing to accept school choice students at the elementary level, where we can accommodate them. He stated that it is exciting that we are able to add a few slots at the elementary level.

Mr. Tracy asked if the data showed that students who enter at an early age are more likely to stay until graduation.

Mr. Maston stated that these will be posted on the website and available for feedback. There will be a vote at the next meeting.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

Old Business

1. **Second Reading and Approval of Proposed School Committee Policies: Section G**

Mr. Smith stated that there had been no feedback and that most of these policies are covered in contracts.

A motion to approve the proposed School Committee Policies Section G was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

New Business

1. **Approval of 2019-2020 School Committee Meeting Dates**

Mr. Maston made note that there was slight correction of the year for the April- June meetings. A motion to approve the 2019-2020 School Committee dates with the correction was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

2. **Approval of the Out of State Field Trip to High Meadow Resort in Granby, Ct on May 28, 2019 for the Senior Class Trip**

A motion to approve the Out of State Field trip to High Meadow Resort in Granby, Ct on May 28, 2019 for the Senior Class Trip was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

3. **Approval of Contract in the amount of \$11,407.00 with National Geographic Learning/ Cengage Learning for Reach Fiction Books**

Mr. Tracy asked if Cengage was the only bidder. Dr. Rodrigues stated that this a sole source because we have already used the Reach books for the ELLs and we are augmenting.

A motion to approve the contract in the amount of \$11,407.00 with National Geographic Learning/ Cengage Learning for Reach Fiction Books was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

4. Approval of FY19-327 Empowering Educators through Autonomy Planning Grant in the amount of \$29,600.00

Mr. Maston made note of the change in the amount from \$29,000.00 to \$29,600.00. A motion to approve the FY19-327 Empowering Educators through Autonomy Planning Grant in the amount of \$29,600.00 was made by Ms. Hallsworth and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

5. Approval of FY20-391 SPED Inclusive Preschool Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00

A motion to approve the FY20-391 SPED Inclusive Preschool Grant in the amount of \$30,000.00 was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

6. Approval of MA DESE: Improving Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services Grant in the amount of \$110,000.00 over two years

Dr. Rodrigues stated that this grant will support a partnership with Wayside to support mental health services in all our schools. He stated that this was a very competitive grant. Discussion ensued about the benefits to the district. Ms. Hallsworth asked if this is something we need to renew in the future or do we need to be thinking about putting this in our budget. Dr. Rodrigues stated that our direction is to be self sufficient.

Mr. Tracy asked about the appropriation for this year and next year.

A motion to approve the MA DESE: Improving Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services Grant in the amount of \$110,000.00 over two years was made by Ms. Tousignant Dufour and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

7. Approval of gift from The Rail Trail Flatbread Company in the amount of \$1000.00 for the Teacher Mini Grant Program

A motion to approve the gift from the Rail Trail Flatbread company in the amount of \$1000.00 for the Teacher Mini Grant Program was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Ryan. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed.

Mr. Tracy asked if we are giving private donors any conditional criteria so they can identify where their funds go. Dr. Rodrigues responded that there have been areas identified that private donors can specify their funds go to.

Approved

8. Approval of Reclassification of Funds

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

VII. Items of Interest to the School Committee

Ms. Hallsworth stated that there is a concern that cafeteria snacks are not healthy enough and parents are unhappy. Discussion ensued about the mechanism of blocking accounts at the My School Bucks level. Chartwells will be in on April 23, 2019 to give and update.

VIII. Executive Session

Not Needed

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Hallsworth and seconded by Ms. Tousignant Dufour. On a vote of 7-0, the motion passed. At 7:48 p.m. Committee Chair, Glenn Maston, adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary
Hudson School Committee