

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: January 22, 2019

Location: 155 Aspley Street

Members present: Glenn Maston, Steven Smith, George Luoto, Elizabeth Hallsworth, Adam Tracy, and Nina Ryan

Members absent: Matthew McDowell

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

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

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

Chairman Maston recognized Mr. Luoto for his 34 years of service on various School Committees. He was praised as a mentor and advocate for all students.

II. Approval of Minutes:

None

III. Public Participation:

Public Participation:

Beth Langlois gave positive feedback about the Quinn Middle School task force and focus group. She requested information on how the priorities will be addressed with the budget process.

Shanna Weston thanked Mr. Luoto for his service. Regarding the Quinn Middle School task force and focus group, she remarked that teacher and parent voices appeared to reinforce each other. She asked if there was room in the timeline to examine other middle schools' models. She also raised some concern about the communication during this process.

Ms. Kelly Mazza had positive comments about the task force results, but stated she was disappointed that there was not a focus group of parents. She also commented on the ARC program and asked about the possibility of expanding it to Quinn Middle School.

Mr. Andrew Hermann expressed his concerns about the Quinn Middle School rotating class schedule. He also expressed numerous bus concerns including lateness, speeding issues and missed services.

IV. **Reports and Presentations:**

Report of the Superintendent

a) Report of the Superintendent:

Dr. Rodrigues gave the following updates to the committee:

Bussing

He stated that the recent bus delays were due to some busses not starting due to the very cold weather. The School Department did not hear from our transportation provider until 6:48 a.m., which is much too late. Our current contract does not have specific accountability language. We can explore doing this for the next contract. We do have GPS to track speed and if there are specific days, times and locations, we can check them.

High School Principal Search

The Hudson High School principal search continues to be on time. The posting closes this Friday and there are currently about 20 candidates.

MCAS Science calendar change

There has been a slight change to school calendar. The MCAS science test for the 8th grade is now May 20 and is posted on the website.

Quinn Middle School

Dr. Rodrigues responded to the earlier public comments regarding Quinn Middle School.

Scheduling choices and timeline

- Sessions were held with teachers to prioritize the areas we should be looking at. They have been characterized in Tiers 1,2,3,4,5
- As a result of those sessions, Matt Gaffny has produced 4 options for scheduling which match as many of the priorities as possible.
- The Task force will meet again to review the four options and look at which elements of these options or combinations make the most sense. They will narrow down to one or two options and look at whether most of the priorities are covered.
- Matt Gaffny will do another iteration of the schedules after the task force meets.
- Timeline is as soon as is feasible. Meetings continue to happen.
- As far as comparing what other districts are doing, there are few districts in the Commonwealth that have grades 5-7. Both Jason Webster and Matt Gaffny bring resources around best practices in scheduling.

ARC Pilot

The session with parents was fulfilling and the staff was able to answer many parent questions.

Hudson High School Grades

The grades at Hudson High School will now go home electronically. This has been communicated to parents. Anyone who would like a paper copy will be able to get one.

Discussion ensued about the ability of the district to track opens. Ms. Ellen Schuck, Director of Technology stated that the grades are posted in the parent account, but there is no way to track whether parents have opened it.

Teacher Mini Grant opportunity

Dr. Rodrigues reported that the district has been able to secure \$4000.00 through corporate partnerships from our donors. Teachers will be able to apply for mini grants of \$500.00 each

Substitute Teachers

Dr. Rodrigues reported that we are still experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers. Even though we have about 50 people in our pool of candidates, we have on average of 30 substitutes daily, which is still not enough. The district is launching a pilot to contract two fulltime day-to-day substitutes in each of our schools. A cost benefit will be done, and the district will see if this program provides relief to principals.

Discussion ensued about pay scale, benefits, other districts, and the possibility of pooling resources.

b) Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Hallsworth reported that the next Strategic Goals Subcommittee is scheduled for January 29.

Mr. Smith reported that there will be another Policy Subcommittee meeting prior to the next School Committee meeting.

Mr. Smith reported that the Hudson School Secretarial Negotiation Team continues with HSSA negotiations.

c) Student Presentation

None

v. **Matters for Discussion:**

a) Old Business

b) New Business

1. First Reading of Proposed Adoptions and Revisions of School Committee Policies – J Section

Mr. Smith explained that the policy subcommittee has started working on the J section of the policies. Many of these policies in the first section are legally based.

Discussion ensued about retention and the assignment of grades and promotion on page 6 of the document.

Dr. Rodrigues stated that these policies will be posted on the website for review and feedback.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

- a) Old Business
- b) New Business

1. Approval of Hudson High School Program of Studies

Dr. Rodrigues informed the committee that a presentation had been prepared regarding the high school program of studies for 2019-2020. He introduced the topic, speaking about the student enrollment analysis done in the beginning of the year. This included variations in class sizes at Hudson High School from fewer than 5 students to as many as 29 or 30 students.

Ms. Kathy Provost, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Jonathan Bourn, Interim Principal of Hudson High School, and Ms. Angie Flynn, Director of School Counseling outlined the process used to create the program of studies. She reported that several Master Schedule meetings had been held and looked at parameters including student enrollment and class size to create a more balanced schedule. The group created a timeline for the creation of a program of studies with an enrollment minimum of 13 students and enrollment maximum of 25 students. The group looked at current courses and identified those courses, which were under enrolled or similar in nature. They also considered factors that affect elective enrollment such as past course requests, courses for pathways and teacher feedback. All departments were asked for input. The group also looked at the connection between ARC and X block and how students applying to Assabet affect elective choices.

The group did some research on the number of electives offered in other districts and found that Hudson High School offers many more electives at each grade level.

After the analysis was complete, there were different categories of changes recommended in the offerings for the 2019-2020 school year: New Courses, Deleted Courses, and Courses that will now be offered every other year. There were also some courses that had name changes.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bourn and Ms. Flynn described the course selection process for the 2019-2020 school year.

Discussion ensued about the connection of classes to pathways and/or post-secondary education and how this information will be presented to students and families.

A motion to approve the 2019-2020 Hudson High School program of studies was made by Mr. Luoto, and seconded by Ms. Hallsworth. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

2. **Approval of Hudson High School Varsity Baseball Overnight Spring Trip to Plymouth, Falmouth, and Marion on 3/29/2019 - 3/31/2019**

Varsity Baseball coach Tim Reinhardt and captain Matt Girard talked about the benefits of the trip including time on turf fields in early spring when our fields are historically not ready for play, and team bonding.

A motion to approve the Hudson High School Varsity Baseball Overnight Spring Trip to Plymouth, Falmouth, and Marion on 3.29/2019-3/31/2019 was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Ms. Ryan. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

3. **Approval of Hudson High School World Language Department Trip to Costa Rica on 2/13/2020 - 2/22/2020 (tentative dates)**

A motion to approve the Hudson High School World Language Department Trip to Costa Rica on 2/13/2020 - 2/22/2020 (tentative dates) was made by Mr. Tracy and seconded by Ms. Ryan. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

4. **Approval of the establishment of a Student Activity Account for the Math League**

Dr. Rodrigues stated that there was a need to have a line item in the Student Activity Account to collect dues for the Hudson High School Math League.

A motion to approve the establishment of a student activity account for the Hudson High School Math League was made by Mr. Luoto and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

VII. **Items of Interest to the School Committee**

Ms. Hallsworth expressed concerns about snow removal and the paths to the schools not being cleared adequately during inclement weather.

Ms. Hallsworth talked about the Washington D.C. trip. The cancellation date to have money refunded is February 18, 2019. She asked how this works with the

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government shutdown and whether we need to look at our options with the tour company.

Ms. Ryan will be visiting schools with Dr. Rodrigues on Friday, February 1. They will be visiting Forest, Mulready, and Hubert.

Mr. Smith and Dr. Rodrigues toured Quinn Middle School and Farley Elementary School.

VIII. **Executive Session**

At 8:43 p.m., Committee Chair, Glenn Maston, noted that Executive Session was needed for the following reason:

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation with union personnel (Hudson School Secretarial Association) because an open session may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the Committee.

Vote by roll call:

Mr. Maston	Yes
Mr. Smith	Yes
Mr. Luoto	Yes
Ms. Hallsworth	Yes
Mr. Tracy	Yes
Ms. Ryan	Yes

IX. **Adjournment**

At 8:43 p.m., Committee Chair, Glenn Maston, announced that the Committee would enter Executive Session and not return to Public Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Hallsworth, Secretary
Hudson School Committee