

Approved

**Hudson School Committee
Open Session Minutes**

Meeting Date: October 9, 2018

Location: 155 Aspley Street

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

Members absent: George Luoto

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: September 25, 2018

A motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2018 was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 5-0-1, the motion passed.

III. Public Participation:

none

IV. Reports:

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Rodrigues reported on the 2018 MCAS Results and the Accountability and Assistance Levels with the following highlights:

The system continues to have two different types of components. These components are the normative component where we compare Hudson Public Schools to other districts and the criterion referenced component where we look at how we perform when we look at our own targets.

The new system discontinues the use of levels- 1,2,3,4,5, and districts are no longer classified on lowest performing school.

Accountability Indicators for Non High School

- Achievement indicators- scaled scores the students receive
- Student Growth Percentile
- English language proficiency
- Chronic absenteeism (any student with 18 or more absences)

Accountability Indicators for High Schools

- Achievement indicators- scaled scores the students receive
- Student Growth Percentile
- English language proficiency
- Chronic absenteeism (any student with 18 or more absences)
- High school completion
- Drop out rate
- % of 11th and 12th grade students completing advanced course work

Discussion ensued about how about absenteeism is coded. Dr. Rodrigues informed the committee that every absence is counted and that there have been conversations with DESE about this.

Dr. Rodrigues reported that within the normative component the State has classifications to group like schools together. Hudson’s Elementary Schools and Quinn Middle School fall into the non- high school- grades 3-8 category. Hudson High School falls into the Middle/ High K-12 category. Since Grade 8 is at Hudson High, the district does not have a school in the High School category.

Dr. Rodrigues stated that within the criterion referenced component, we look at the achievement gap. Every school receives targets from DESE. Each school has groups of students that are the lowest performing students. Targets are created for the students in those groups that have attended the same school for two consecutive years and are not first or second year English Language Learners.

Dr. Rodrigues presented a summary chart of areas where Hudson currently has targets. Schools are now categorized as meeting or partially meeting targets. In 2019, an additional category of not meeting targets will be added. Three years of data are needed to add the not meeting targets category.

Dr. Rodrigues reported where the District is today. As a District, all of our schools are not requiring assistance or intervention, and the district as a whole is not requiring assistance or intervention. Districts are not assigned an accountability percentile. This is the normative piece, which is used to compares schools that are similar.

Mulready Elementary School is categorized as meeting target.

Dr. Rodrigues referenced the data available on the DESE reporting website. The indicators are listed with possible amount earned, along with what was earned. This data is used to calculate percentiles at the district and school level.

Results

This year results for the 2018 Grade 3-8 are comprised of the new test with scaled scores while at the high school the scores are from the legacy test. In 2019, the high school will go to the new test with the scaled scores.

For all students, the district had similar results to 2017 with small improvements in ELA. In Mathematics the scores are very close to last year, still hovering at a 50/50 split. 50% of students are exceeding or meeting expectations, while 50% are partially meeting or not meeting expectations.

Dr. Rodrigues stated that scores look different for the students with disabilities group. There are fewer students meeting expectations. This is comparable to last year, and is also repeated with the English Language Learners group.

Dr. Rodrigues said the high needs group is defined as the English Language Learners, the students with disabilities, and the students who are economically disadvantaged. Dr. Rodrigues noted that that the District pays attention to where these subgroups are and what types of services are provided to them to make sure they continue to make progress academically. Results for the high needs group are similar to past year, but as in the past, this group that needs the greatest attention.

Discussion ensued as the committee members asked about whether there have been any determination of drivers.

Dr. Rodrigues stated that the Curriculum Directors are looking at the results and digging down to the student level. If there is particular group that did not do well, then an item analysis can be done to dig into the standards and items covered.

Discussion ensued about the 0% proficient or higher scores for the grades 5 and 8 English Language Learners in science and technology. Dr. Rodrigues stated that last year, if a student needed services they were pulled out of related arts for services due to the schedule and that this was one of the drivers for the schedule change at the middle school.

Dr. Rodrigues stated the science scores are our lowest scores. He stated that this needs to be weighed when looking at making decisions about what is needed. Dr. Rodrigues noted that this is not a Hudson problem. The state scores in science are the lowest of all the subjects, mostly due to the framing how time is distributed at the elementary levels. Dr. Rodrigues pointed out that Hudson Public Schools now has a Curriculum Director in place for science to support our teachers and create a culture of science starting at the elementary level.

Discussion ensued as the committee raised questions about how many students are getting pulled out of technology and engineering due to the fact these courses are in the related arts. Dr. Rodrigues stated that depending on the services needed, some students could be pulled

out for two periods per day. The challenge is to try to find a schedule most conducive for the student.

Dr. Rodrigues reported that there would be multiple conversations to look critically at the data. Different groups, including Delta, Curriculum Directors, and the Instructional Leadership Teams are looking at the data in different ways

Dr. Rodrigues reported on the Grade 10 Legacy Test. He noted the results are not too different from last year. He stated that one thing to keep in mind is that the high school also owns grade 8 so when looking at data, we have to segregate that out and look at it separately in the 3-8 component.

In addition, he also reported that there are variations in the data for the students with disabilities and the English Language Learners. He stated that the more you dissect the data, the more variations you find, and the closer you get to the classroom level.

Next, Dr. Rodrigues reported on the Student Growth percentile. This is another important measurement in MCAS. Student growth is measured for cohorts of students from year to year. The District is moving in the right direction as long as it continues to have good growth. If there is a mean of 50 or more in the Student Growth Percentile, the district is in good shape by the state calculations and expectations.

In summary, Dr. Rodrigues stated the need to look at the scaled scores, the aggregate, and the Student Growth Percentile. There are challenges, but as the data is analyzed, the district will see what changes are needed.

Dr. Rodrigues spoke about the Professional Development Day. One of the themes of the day was “What is the best way of looking at how students are learning?” The feedback on the sessions and the day has been very good.

Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming parent forum to discuss MCAS. A recommendation was made to change the date. This forum will be an opportunity for any parent to come in with specific questions or concerns regarding MCAS. It is meant to help parents understand the new accountability system.

Discussion ensued as the Committee asked about non-test score data. Dr. Rodrigues described the way the indicators are scored. A score of 0 is regression, a score of 1 is steady, and scores of 2, 3, or 4 show growth.

The Committee asked how many students take the alternate assessment and whether those scores are included. Dr. Rodrigues stated that the scoring is on the same idea as the scaled scores.

There was a discussion about whether DESE still looked at MCAS participation. Dr. Rodrigues stated that participation is an absolute and lower participation could drop a district to the needs assistance level.

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Further discussion ensued about how to look at the data. Dr. Rodrigues stated that DESE has a program called Edwin Analytics, which has 30 or 40 different standard reports. There is also a way to reclassify and get a report on any cohort specified. The new data specialist position will be able to look at the data for Hudson cohorts over time. This specialist can help identify trends and issues.

Dr. Rodrigues spoke to the DESE DART report. This report compares five or six districts that are similar to Hudson Public Schools. This report can be also be customized, although some of the more granular data is not available.

The Committee asked if MTSS has been rolled out.

Dr. Rodrigues stated that there has been discussion and as part of the District Improvement Plan there is an action step to do a self-assessment.

Subcommittee Reports

None

Student Report

None.

V. Matters for Discussion:

1. First Reading of Proposed Adoption of School Committee Policy BEDB-E

Mr. Smith said the Committee had talked about altering the agenda to include an official numbered line item for items of interest to the School Committee, and old and new business in the items for discussion and items for action. Additionally, the consent agenda is proposed.

A recommendation was made to start with old business and continue with new business. The consent agenda will be placed under items for action.

Mr. Smith gave a description of the Consent Agenda to audience.

2. Sub-Committees: Strategic Goals – Meeting Dates

The Strategic Goals Subcommittee will meet on October 15, 2018 and October 24, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

3. Parent Forum Feedback

The first parent forum was held on October 4th with approximately ~ 25 parents/guardians, family members, building principals, teachers and members of the School Committee in attendance. The topics discussed included the following:

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- 1) Quinn Middle School Schedule
 - a) World Language direct study
 - b) 6 day rotation
 - c) 5th grade in the middle school setting
 - d) Need for PE
 - e) Lunch schedule not consistent daily
 - f) 10 min break not enough time for middle schools

- 2) Hudson High School Schedule
 - a) ARC
 - b) Process to make changes

- 3) Communications
 - a) Parent should have a voice
 - b) STEM vs. PE at Quinn
 - c) Monitor implementation of new schedule
 - d) Alternate use of 28 min homeroom time
 - e) Parent teacher feedback
 - f) Role of Instructional Leadership Teams
 - g) Professional climate and culture
 - h) Focus of District Improvement Plan
 - i) Variety vs. rigor
 - j) Grading system across all content areas and grades
 - k) Chromebooks
 - l) Speech and Language services
 - m) Recess policy- clarified policy that recess will not be used as a punishment

Discussion ensued regarding the 28-minute homeroom at Quinn Middle School this year. Dr. Rodrigues stated that we can look at being creative with time as long as it meets contractual requirements.

Discussion ensued about of the roll out of the High School pilot. Dr. Rodrigues stated the logical mechanism for involving parents before the roll out is the school council. In response to concerns about the timeline, Dr. Rodrigues said the pilot is a way to gather information to inform future decisions.

VI. **Matters for Action:**

1. Second Reading and Approval of Proposed Description of Subcommittees and Other School Committee Responsibilities

Discussion ensued about policy for the formation of subcommittees and term.

A motion to approve the Proposed Description of Subcommittees and Other School Committee Responsibilities was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

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2. Approval of Hudson High School Drama Society Overnight Field Trip to New York City April 9-10, 2019

A motion to approve the Hudson High School Drama Society Overnight Field Trip to New York City April 9-10, 2019 was made by Mr. Maston and seconded by Mr. Smith. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

3. Approval of Grants Awarded

A motion to approve Grant FY19-312 Emergency Impact Aid for Displaced Students in the amount of \$26,235.00 was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Tracy. On a vote of 6-0, the motion passed.

4. Approval of Reclassifications of Funds (if needed)

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

5. Items of Interest to the School Committee

Ms. Ryan commented about her recent visits to Quinn Middle School and Farley Elementary School with Dr. Rodrigues. At Quinn, she said it was a joy to see the students. They visited every classroom and saw engaged students and teachers. She said that every core class had about 15-18 students and the same was true for the related arts, with the exception of one class that had about 25 students. She also stated that at Farley they had a very good visit with the teachers and students who were excited to have visitors. Many teachers introduced themselves and explained what they were doing.

VII. Executive Session/Adjournment

At 8:37 p.m., Committee Chair, Glenn Maston, noted that Executive Session was needed for the following reasons:

1. To discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with union personnel (Hudson School Secretarial Association) whereas discussion in an open session may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the Committee.
2. To discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel (Cathy Kilcoyne) whereas discussion in an open session may have a detrimental effect on the legal position of the Committee.

Vote by roll call:

Mr. Maston Yes

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Mr. Smith	Yes
Ms. Hallsworth	Yes
Mr. Tracy	Yes
Ms. Ryan	Yes
Mr. McDowell	Yes

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