

Ipswich School Committee 2023-24 Goals

1. Communications and Engagement

Create greater engagement with students, parents, guardians, and the entire town. Increase access to and frequency of information about Ipswich Public Schools.

- Increase the frequency of the School Committee to monthly **newsletters**.
- Broaden the School Committee's messaging by utilizing **social media**.
- Foster a **respectful environment** for citizens to raise topics to the school committee.
- Foster unity and promote **diversity, equity and inclusion**.

2. Facilities

Ensure building upgrades, maintenance, and environment initiatives are in good standing.

- Support the **development of a solution** to address the aging elementary school buildings.
- **Build consensus** within the town for a cost-effective and equitable solution for the aging elementary buildings.
- Ensure necessary **safety upgrades and repairs** are completed to increase the safety and security of Ipswich Public School students, teachers, administrators, and staff.
- See through the completion of indoor and outdoor learning **facilities enhancements**, including those funded through Paine Grants.
- See through the completion of approved and funded **maintenance projects**.

3. Budget

Responsibly manage the fiscal year '24 budget, and develop a budget and strategy for the upcoming years.

- Pass a **budget for fiscal year '25 at town meeting**, that meets educational priorities, financial constraints, and accounts for expiring Esser funds.
- Review and approve a **budget review process and schedule** by Oct 5 that includes regular and transparent communication with the School Committee, Administration, Select Board, and Finance Committee, with a focus on earlier and frequent updates and feedback.
- Explore **State, Federal, and private grant** opportunities to increase funding for critical projects and initiatives by May 1, resulting in an increase in grant revenue.
- Create a **long-range budget strategy** for the district by March 4. Incorporate strategies to extend the usability of override funds through FY27, fair and competitive compensation, and anticipated capital expenditures.

4. Feoffee Policy Review

Update the district policy DDA: Principle Elements for Future Feoffees' Distributions, by January 31, 2024, in order to assure there is guidance to cover all grant requests, and the mission of the trust is being best fulfilled.

Included in these updates will be specific direction on:

- the specific direction of eligible grant types,
- allocation of the annual distribution,

- what constitutes a “qualifying request”,
- usage of previously returned funds,
- and adopts a standardized approach for grant recipients to report out the impact the Trust is having on students.

5. Policy

Improve the policy review cycle.

- By June 2024, policy review will be up to date, including completing the Year 3 and Year 1 Review Cycles.
- By December, the Subcommittee will update the full School Committee and the public regarding the shift to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees Policy Manual service.