

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2017
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

I. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylén called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Attending were members J. Bauman, S. Player, C. Whitten, F. Krason; J. Cuff, Finance Director, and R. Dolan, Student Representative.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Reed Dolan read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- January 10 - Budget Subcommittee meeting, 7 p.m., Payne School
- 11 Athletics Subcommittee meeting, 6 p.m., MS/HS Guidance
- 11 STEAM Family Night, Doyon School, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 12 Firehouse Rising Stars-HS Chamber Orchestra, 7-9 p.m.,
Firehouse Center for the Arts, Newburyport
- 16 NO School, Martin Luther King Day
- 17 Policy Subcommittee meeting, 7 p.m., Payne School
- 24 Special Town Meeting, 7 p.m., Dolan Performing Arts Center
- 19 School Committee meeting, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Nylén requested a moment of silence in memory of William E. Hart, father of the Superintendent, who passed recently.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Reed reported students happily returned to school. "Poetry Out Loud", in full swing, and winter sports, especially the undefeated wrestling team, are going strong.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. ONE COMMUNITY SCHOOL PROJECT: REPORTS, TRANSPORTATION STUDY, SCHEDULE

The preferred design and associated site elements has been sent to MSBA. Mr. Nylén brought up questions about transportation to which the School Building Committee needs answers. Mr. Whitten mentioned the staff numbers who will be working at the new elementary school and the parking spaces which will be needed as a result.

The SBC question of parking spaces for staff: Mr. Nylén, referring to numbers studied, said that 10% of the current staff due to attrition, overlap, and lowering enrollments, might be the result in the new combined school. Ms. Cuff

asked for discussion with the SC on pragmatic decisions so as to be on the same page. A small working group consisting of an elementary principal, Dr. Hart, Ms. Cuff, Mr. Nysten, and Mr. Whitten (who volunteered to help with the parking lot search for 50-72 cars) will schedule a meeting after the 20th of January.

Busing: policy relating to fees, minimum and maximum given spaces in front of the building re parking spaces. Mr. Whitten and Mr. Nysten have mentioned that the back of the school property is not under perusal and they suggested a parking plan with the design team. Various off-site parking areas were mentioned including the Hammett Street parking lot, the Green Street property (Town Hall), MS/HS parking lot and Bialek Park parking lot as well as on-street parking. Mr. Nysten expressed the need for thought on how staff gets to the Winthrop School from an off-site lot.

Ms. Player had busing questions: eliminating bus fee, transporting all students in ten buses. After discussion, the members worked it out at \$55,000/bus (current for elementary) totaling \$133,000 (worst-case scenario) for bus expenses. Ms. Cuff advocated developing three different scenarios: (1)additional bus costs, (2)take into account the walkability of nearby students, and (3)working it out to nine buses rather than ten. Ms. Cuff will contact the architect and Salter (bus transporter) to work on walking distance, route designations, and every student bused at individual stops or satellite pickups.

Willie Whitmore (audience) suggested expanding the parent dropoff time window beyond the current ten minutes. Mr. Nysten asked for confirmation with principals re this idea. No further discussion has taken place re asking parents to pay a fee when transporting their own children.

Dr. O’Flynn joined the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

C. TRI-BOARD MEETING REVIEW

Mr. Nysten referred to the digital copy of the documents presented at the meeting. Ms. Player remarked on the thorough presentation at the Tri Board Meeting. OPEB revenue and Stabilization accounts will increase in the FY18 budget.

D. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – WARRANT REVIEW AND ASSIGNMENTS

ARTICLE ONE – APPROPRIATE FROM OPEN SPACE BOND FOR PONY EXPRESS FARM PROPERTY

Dr. O’Flynn spoke of the Athletic Subcommittee support of the Article as an incredibly valuable ready-made field with ready-made parking lot for the youth groups of the Town. Maintenance of the fields will cost the schools \$40,000 the first year (65% of the cost) and the municipal will absorb it following that first year.

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to support Warrant Article 1. After discussion re the Town Manager’s comment that more information will be forthcoming, vote was UNANIMOUS, contingent on that information. Dr. O’Flynn will speak to the article.

ARTICLE TWO – CITIZENS PETITION: ADVICE TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to oppose Article 2. UNANIMOUS. Mrs. Krason wished to emphasize that the SC is not opposing discussion. Members discussed areas for speakers to explain to the townspeople the needs for Ipswich elementary education by slides and studies. Mr. Murphy, Moderator, distributed information re free babysitting for parents if they register by Friday, January, 20, for the January 24 Special Town Meeting.

E. FEOFFEE GRANT DISCUSSION

Mr. Nylen, having had a conversation with Feoffee Chair George Markos, stated that the Feoffees are interested in having the SC attend a future meeting, it now being four years since the transition to the “new” Feoffees, to discuss enhancements which have resulted from monies provided by the Feoffees and to discuss their eagerness to increase bequests to the fund by advertising the real benefits of these grants to education.

Mr. Hopping joined the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Mr. Nylen distributed a copy of his thoughts of the history, the completed projects and their outcomes/impacts, the summary of finances, improvement process, and areas for fund-raising emphasis. Dr. O’Flynn suggested a pie chart to show areas where the money has been used. Mr. Hopping suggested mentioning the Manning Fund and identifying the term “enrichment.” The meeting could take place in February.

F. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE CONTRACT

Mr. Nylen brought up the approval vote of the Executive Session on 12/29/16 and commended Joanne Cuff on her great job as Director of Finance and Operations for the schools. Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve the six-year employment agreement made between the Ipswich School Committee and Ms. Cuff covering the period of 7/1/16 through 6/30/2022 at the base salary of \$125,000, signed by the Chair and executed on January 5, 2017. UNANIMOUS.

G. SUPERINTENDENT FY17 COMPENSATION

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to approve the adjustment to the salary of the Superintendent for the current school year with an increase of base salary at \$168,635 for FY16-17, retroactive to July 1, 2016. Because Mr. Hopping was absent on 12/15/16 when Executive Session discussion and vote was taken, he recused himself from voting. Vote IN FAVOR – Bauman, Nylen, Whitten, Krason, O’Flynn; OPPOSED – Player; ABSTAINING – Hopping.

H. SCHOOL COMMITTEE COUNSEL RATE INCREASE

In reference to a request letter dated 12/6/16, Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to approve the rate increase effective 1/1/17, for the firm of Deutsch/Williams, School Committee counsel, from the current \$220/hr. to \$225/hr. UNANIMOUS.

I. OPEN MEETING COMPLAINT

Mr. Nylen has received a complaint from a citizen re the joint SBC/SC December 29 meeting on which the preferred design for the elementary schools was voted by the School Committee. The complaint was that the 48-hour posting requirement wasn't followed and any action taken at that meeting is invalid. On the week prior to the Thursday evening meeting, the Town Hall had closed on the day (12/27) following the extra holiday (12/26) so that posting was not possible to meet the limitation. SC Counsel was consulted, and the SC was told that the meeting could be held. Mr. Hopping declared that the vote taken has no consequences because the School Building Committee's decision is the one sent to MSBA.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to delegate to SC counsel the responsibility for responding to the complaint filed about the December 29, 2016, School Committee meeting. Mrs. Bauman exclaimed that the taxpayers must pay to fight this frivolous complaint. The meeting was open to the public and televised. Mr. Nylen verified that this action is necessary; also, that the complainant is aware of the contact made by SC and SC counsel. UNANIMOUS.

J. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Mr. Nylen informed everyone that the current high school principal has indicated interest in candidacy for the next Ipswich Superintendent position. He would like to go through the interview process, but if the SC found it necessary to expand to an open search, he would not be interested in taking part at that time.

The Board discussed the principal's long service and dedication as an educator in Ipswich and the predictability of his following in the footsteps of the current Superintendent to continue his 21st Century strides. Mr. Hopping and Ms. Player both felt that, as the most important role of the School Committee, an open search with outside applicants is needed to do it right and thoroughly and they owe the Town that. Dr. O'Flynn, Mr. Whitten, Mrs. Bauman, and Mrs. Krason felt that the internal candidate would do an excellent job and the process would be simplified and much less expensive than going with a search committee and the ensuing time frame for interviewing.

After discussion, Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to conduct an open search for a new Superintendent of Schools to include the internal candidate. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Nylen declared that the Operations Committee will move the process along with a rubric and naming of a search committee. After discussion, Ms. Cuff was asked to check clerical staff interest in working at \$23/hr and Mr. Nylen, to work on a possible outside search consultant. No decision was made re hiring a search firm at this time.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to name Mr. Nylen as Chair of the interviewing process for a Search Committee. UNANIMOUS.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS AND BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE – meeting on Jan 11
2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – meeting on Jan 10
3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Mrs. Bauman reported working on the Feoffee presentation and the website (new School Committee section) with Mr. Nylen.
4. GRANT COMMITTEES - Mrs. Bauman reported meeting and discussing dates and application deadlines. Info sessions have been held with both grant committees moving up the process time by about a week.
5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – meet next week
6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE –Mr. Hopping reported a postponement until January 17 to meet with M. Gilbert. Grant Committees have attended Policy meetings revisiting the forms to be more user friendly
7. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
8. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE
9. NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Hopping is currently a judge for the poetry semi-finals which begin on January 6.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of December 15, 2016
 - Acceptance of check for \$741.50 from General Mills for the Winthrop School's Boxtops program, to be deposited in their Gift Account
 - Acceptance of a check for \$1,500 from the YMCA of the NorthShore for the Winthrop School's portion of the \$3,000 raised from the Run for the Pies YMCA fundraiser, to be deposited in their Gift Account
 - Acceptance of a check for \$606.20 from General Mills for the Middle School Boxtops program, to be deposited in their Gift account
 - Acceptance of a check for \$1,500 from the YMCA of the NorthShore for the Doyon School's portion of the \$3,000 raised from the Run for the Pies YMCA fundraiser, to be deposited in their Gift Account
- UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to adjourn at 11:07 p.m. UNANIMOUS.

