

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 19, 2017  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair C. Nylén called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m. Attending were B. Hopping, J. Bauman, S. Player, C. Whitten, Finance Director J. Cuff, and Superintendent W. Hart.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security personnel, devices, or strategies with response thereto. Roll Call IN FAVOR- Hopping, Bauman, Player, Whitten, Nylén.

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**II. OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nylén called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Attending were S. Player, J. Bauman, H. O'Flynn, C. Whitten, and B. Hopping. Also present were Dr. Hart, Superintendent, Financial Director J. Cuff, and R. Dolan, Student Representative.

**READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

Reed Dolan read the Mission Statement.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

January 24 – Special Town Meeting, Dolan PAC, 7 p.m.

February 1 – Budget presentations to School Committee) 7 p.m.

2 - Budget presentations to School Committee) Ensemble Rm.

2 - College Admission Presentation by MEFA for Juniors and Parents, 6 – 7:30, Dolan PAC

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Reed spoke of Ipswich High students participating in the MLK assemblies with poetry and speeches and long discussion about racial equality. Poetry Out Loud continues with 12-14 student finalists next Monday in the Dolan PAC.

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Hart reported that goals focus has been the major discussion with administration, with faculty, and with alignment throughout the district. He has met with each administrator around their established goals. In addition, each administrator has turned in a full budget and gone through it with Ms. Cuff and Dr.

Hart. Some difficult choices are still to be made, especially in meeting the needs of some of the most-needy students, but it is keeping a promise.

The highlight of his month was meeting with students--Doyon students this time—where 7-8 of them were spot on about education--engaged, challenged, and in an environment that is safe.

### **III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

#### **B. SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

Dr. Hart announced with pleasure the Massachusetts Superintendent's Award Certificate for Scholarship Excellence to Leah Harmon, citing her multiple achievements which include a grade-point average of 4.5125 and courses in AP calculus and English literature, virtual high school in European history, Honors Spanish 5, Honors biology and chemistry, orchestra (violin) with NE Youth Symphony and NE Senior Districts, School Council, Interact, sophomore class president, elementary school mentor, tennis and track participant, volunteer as tutor and at Wellspring House in Gloucester, Merit Scholarship semi-finalist, poetry contest finalist, and National Honor Society member. Leah said she plans a future in neuro biology/chemistry and will continue playing the violin.

#### **C. IPSWICH SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION PRESENTATION**

Amy Borgman, ISE volunteer, began the presentation by introducing a large group of children from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades who are members. The Middle School Green Team spoke individually about the proposal to relocate the Sustainable Education garden from behind the athletic fields and neighboring woods to the barren island at the High School dropoff area. Seventh- and eighth-graders propose a partnership with older adults (Generation Growers) who will learn from each other about gardening practices in raised beds on this island, creating a stake in the community between the younger and older generation.

Nicole Whitten came forward to discuss the location and the creative process being undertaken with STEAM connections with the help of Rob Clocker, architect and volunteer. Sheila Taylor, Council on Aging, came forward to speak about the program; three older adults spoke in support of the initiative.

Mr. Hopping questioned the busy area with the parking lot proximities and encouraged signage. Dr. O'Flynn questioned the management of the garden in the summer, drought issues, and disappearing people at that time. The volunteers of the Green Team spoke of commitment between younger and older members to take care of these problems. Stella (student volunteer) spoke of the addition of rain barrels at strategic points to provide water.

To Mrs. Bauman's question of finances, Mrs. Whitten, referring to past grants and asking for a blessing from the School Committee to move forward, said they will go on the road to local businesses and to the Council on Aging. Dr. Hart finds this plan impressive with culture, student success, and the application of knowledge. The School Committee gave its blessing of support with a formal vote to come at a later meeting.

**D. FINANCE UPDATE**

Ms. Cuff, referring to revolving and gift account quarterly reporting, singled out the two with negative balances, explaining that the PAC fund will be increasing with a deposit and the Athletic Complex is showing a deficit because the cost for secretarial hours in scheduling of the facility has exceeded the income for the new complex. Warrant Articles for May 2017, have been prepared, one for the school budget and the second as a placeholder for transfer to the Educational Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Hopping asked if any serious sense had been taken to spread Stabilization out to deserving areas. She acknowledged that available Circuit Breaker can be addressed immediately and the other Stabilization fund exists. Dr. Hart encouraged the SC to speak with FinCom and BOS about taking “free cash” and putting it into stabilization as unbudgeted and unexpected expenditures are pretty common and the Town should be supportive.

There was question of the use of the Manning Fund. Mr. Nylen asked Dr. Hart to have the AD report at the February 16 meeting on the marketing plan for the Complex.

**E. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DISCUSSION AND PREPARATION**

Mr. Nylen did a brief review of the upcoming January 24 Special Town Meeting. The BOS and FinCom held warrant hearings on the two articles: Article 1 – FinCom 4/3 and BOS 4/1 in support; Article 2 – FinCom 6/1 and BOS 4/0 opposed. School Committee is 6/0 in support of 1 and opposition of 2. Mr. Whitten will replace Dr. O’Flynn as the SC speaker on Article 1 if needed.

**F. SECURITY PLAN NEXT STEPS – FUNDING**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve Phase II of the security system improvement plan at \$102,390 from Choice funding unless Operating Budget funds become available by the end of FY17 which could offset in part or in full. UNANIMOUS.

**G. SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE**

Mr. Nylen announced that two responses (MASC and NESDEC) had come in for a consultant. Operations Subcommittee held interviews on January 13 with Ms. Cuff, made reference calls, and after discussion, made recommendations to engage NESDEC. The overarching reason is the volume studies and presentations seem tighter and would get the process done in a faster fashion, there being no financial differences (about \$15,000), and a need to make the new Superintendent appointment by May 1 when some SC members will be departing. Kenneth Benedictus of NESDEC is ready to start immediately. Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the recommendation of the Operations Subcommittee to hire the NESDEC agent as the consultant for the Superintendent search. UNANIMOUS.

**IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. VOUCHERS AND BILLS**

**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE – to be rescheduled  
2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – meeting scheduled at 9 p.m.  
3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Mrs. Bauman is putting together the STEAM showcase for April 11, 5-7 p.m., lower gym and working on the new school website with a request for SC pictures.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES - meeting in February  
5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – meeting next week  
6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE –Mr. Hopping reported a meeting with M. Gilbert on sections E and F (support services and developmental goals) in streamlining the policy manual. Also, having meal-charge policy talks to try to recoup delinquent accounts with a goal to implement after April vacation.

7. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

8. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE – Dr. Hart reported holding off on final payment until Quirk makes satisfactory analysis of “pilling” on the track. Also, moisture is causing concern with outside electrical fixtures.

9. NEW BUSINESS

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of January 5, 2017

Acceptance of Open Session joint School Committee/Operations Subcommittee Minutes of 1/13/17

Acceptance of \$700 from Museum of Science for field trip funded by Google and representing allotted amount for transportation to be deposited in the Winthrop School Student Activity Account

Acceptance of \$1,000 from UNH for participation in the UNH High School Relationship Abuse Prevention Study to be deposited in the High School Gift Account. UNANIMOUS.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to adjourn at 9 p.m. UNANIMOUS.