

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018
7:00 P.M.
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

Minutes

I.	OPEN SESSION	7:00 P.M.
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CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Player, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:07pm with the following members present: Mr. Nylen, Ms. Zito, Mr. Hopping, Ms. Kneeder, and Mr. Whitten. Dr. O'Flynn joined the meeting at 8:30pm. Also present were Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Blake and Ms. Cuff, Director of Finance and Operations.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Hopping read the District Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Player read the following announcements:

1. Bean Counting will take place on Saturday, April 7th at 9:00am in the Performing Arts Center at the High School.
2. Kindergarten Information Night for all incoming Kindergarten families will be on Monday, April 9th at the Winthrop School from 7-8pm.
3. The 2nd Annual STEAM Showcase is on Tuesday, April 10th from 5-7pm in the Lower Gym at the High School. The showcase will feature over 50 hands-on exhibitor/demonstrations featuring PreK-Grade 12 students, teachers and local STEAM businesses.
4. The next School Committee meeting will be on Thursday, April 12th at 7:00pm in the MS/HS Ensemble Room.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were several citizen's queries regarding the school building project and concerns about whether the teachers have been asked to not speak on the subject of the new building. Dr. Blake and members of the School Committee reassured citizens that teachers have been active participants in the planning process through focus groups and discussions and at no point have been told they cannot comment on the project as a citizen of the community.

A citizen wanted to follow-up to an email that he had sent Dr. Blake with regard to the requirements of the Ipswich General By-law, Chapter 15, Article II, Sec. 15-3, requiring the findings relative to the Town's Community Development Plan.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Bergner was not present at the meeting, but did supply the Committee with the following statement by email:

Since we last met there has been a lot going on in the school. Ava Warren and Kate Phyphers organized and executed a school wide walk out in memory of the 17 Marjory Stoneman Douglas students lost . The walkout was 17 minutes long. At the top of each minute one of the 17's names were read allowed. The walkout was followed by a well attended assembly in the pack. This year has been extremely hard and painful for high schoolers across the country, but its events like this which show unity and love that let us move forward.

Local scholarships were due today at 2:15. So I and the other seniors were up late working on the related essays. The bridge students including myself will be leaving their classes for good. We are all very excite to start our 2 month internship as working americans.

Spring sports are picking up this week. Our Girls Lax team won their first victory against North Andover, one of the hardest teams that they will play all year. Our Boys Lax lost a close game to Grafton. Both teams have games today. Boys are versing Gloucester while the girls take on Danvers.

Overall the school is in high spirits. Spring is on the way and the last quarter will be starting on monday.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Blake did not present a report at this meeting.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

7:20 PM

FIELD TRIP REQUEST-LONDON

Mr. Gerry Dolan made a presentation for a field trip open to the High School Music Department to England. The field trip, organized through Encore Tours, is scheduled for Friday, April 12- Friday, April 19, 2019 and the students will only miss one day of school because the majority of this trip will take place during next year's April vacation. The trip takes place every four years in the hopes that students will have an opportunity to experience it once in their high school career. The cost to students is \$3,200 and Mr. Dolan did state that fundraising would be available to help support the cost of the trip. Additional costs to the students will be instrument rentals and the coach bus that provided transportation to and from the airport. Breakfast and dinner is provided, but the cost of lunch falls on the students. Teacher chaperones will be accompanying the students on the trip, as well as a school nurse, police officer and all conductors. Mr. Dolan specified that the insurance options provided will cover the trip, any cancellations or health emergencies. In the event of a world event that may prevent the trip from happening, Encore Tours will try to reschedule the trip for a later date or different location. Dates for this trip should be secured in May. An informational meeting will be held to see how many students are interested.

There was a discussion about the cost to chaperones and if it fell in line with our current policy. It was decided that as the policy reads at this time, the chaperone cost was appropriate.

Mr. Whitten moved to approve the field trip to England, seconded by Mr. Nysten. 5-in favor, 1-abstained.

SNOW DAY DISCUSSION

Dr. Blake explained that at the time of the meeting, there were seven missed days of school due to inclement weather, power outages, flooding, etc. Those days will bring the last day of school to Tuesday, June 26th. He received a letter from the Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education acknowledging “this winter’s extreme weather and associated power outages have created challenges for some districts in scheduling make-up days.” He went on to say in the letter that he would consider requests from districts that wish to add instructional time to previously scheduled school days in lieu of scheduling additional days. After speaking with the leadership team and the union, suggestions were made that included:

1. Adding an additional hour to each Thursday left in the school year
2. Attending school on Saturday
3. Extend days other than Thursday
4. Leave it alone and go until June 26th

Dr. Blake was asking the School Committee for their feedback. He said that most Admin and Union members were in favor of extending Thursdays. He spoke with Maureen Carter at Salter who said there would not be a problem with transportation. It was also determined that extracurricular activities would not be impacted drastically if the additional time were to be added to the days. It was also asked if professional development would be pushed back an hour on Thursdays for staff, to which Dr. Blake said that he was going to need to work that out. School Committee members agreed that the quality of education is far greater on an extended day now than during the last two days of school. Brian was looking for a motion from the Committee to continue to work on an alternative plan for snow days.

Mr. Whitten moved to extend Thursdays contingent upon approval by the union and state, seconded by Mr. Nylan. UNANIMOUS.

SCHOOL CHOICE NUMBERS

Ms. Player presented the Committee with the Choice recommendations put forth by the building administrators for the 2018-2019 School Year. At the March 1, 2018 meeting, the School Committee voted to accept Choice students for the next school year and it was the Committee’s determination of how many students and at what grade level they would accept. The administrative team as a whole recommended that the School Committee not accept Choice application after January 1st, 2019.

Doyon:

Principal Halloran did not recommend any Choice openings because the class sizes are already large or at capacity. *Ms. Zito moved to support Ms. Halloran’s recommendation of zero students for the 2018-2019 school year, seconded by Ms. Kneedler. 5-in support, 1-abstained.*

Winthrop:

Principal McAdams recommended that the Committee opens 5 spots in Grade 2 and 3 spots in Grade 4 for the 2018-2019 school year. *Ms. Zito moved to support the recommendation of opening 5 Choice spots in Grade 2, seconded by Mr. Nylan. 4-in support, 1-no, 1-abstained.*

Middle School:

Principal Fabrizio recommended that the Committee open 17 spots in Grade 6, 6 spots in Grade 7 and 12 spots in Grade 8. If filled, this would give the middle school 147 students in each grade, which is an average of 21 students per class in 6th and 7th grade and 18 in 8th grade. Several members of the Committee expressed concern over the numbers presented and that this was the third option presented to the Committee. A discussion developed over the middle school model, right-sizing, and “unrealistic numbers”. It was decided that before members could vote, they needed further information and a more detailed explanation of the thought process behind the numbers presented. *The vote for middle school Choice spots was tabled until next meeting and the Committee requested that Mr. Fabrizio be present at that meeting to answer questions members have on the current recommendations.*

High School:

Principal Dalton recommended that the School Committee open 2-3 spots in each of the following grades: Grade 9, Grade 10 and Grade 11. He recommended that the School Committee not open any Choice spots in Grade 12. These recommendations were made based on 11 Choice students graduating from the high school this year. A citizen expressed concern about the number of students in the high school left with holes in their schedules who are given only the options of taking an online class or working in the Tiger Tot program. She then asked the Committee to hold off on their decision to accept Choice students until Mr. Dalton could make a commitment that the acceptance of Choice students would not negatively impact current students' courses of study. The Committee agreed that someone would speak with Mr. Dalton about the impact of Choice students on current students' courses of study to insure they were not negatively impacted. *Mr. Whitten moved to support the recommendation of opening 3 Choice spots in Grade 9, seconded by Mr. Nylén. 4- in support, 1-no, 1- abstained.*

Ms. Zito suggested there be some confirmation from Mr. Dalton that these Choice slots are filling holes and not negatively impacting students' programs of study. It was decided that with the vote for 10th and 11th grade, the Committee would include in their motion a statement “pending confirmation from Mr. Dalton”. They felt that it was unnecessary to add to or change the motion for 9th grade.

Ms. Zito moved to support the recommendation of 3 spots in the 10th grade pending a conversation with Mr. Dalton to confirm that this does not negatively impact students' course of study, seconded by Mr. Nylén. 4-in favor, 1-no, 1-abstained.

Ms. Zito moved to support the recommendation of 3 spots in the 11th grade pending a conversation with Mr. Dalton to confirm that this does not negatively impact students' course of study, seconded by Mr. Nylén. 4-in favor, 1-no, 1-abstained.

Mr. Nylén moved to support the recommendation of 0 spots in the 12th grade, seconded by Ms. Whitten. 5- in favor, 1 abstained.

SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

Dr. Blake spoke about the Scope and Budget meeting that took place with MSBA and the architects. At that meeting, the architects were provided with feedback from their schematic design submission and ultimately, the MSBA gave permission to move on to the next stage. On Tuesday, April 11th, Dr. Blake will go to Boston to get final approval for the final scope and budget from the MSBA.

Dr. Blake also informed the Committee that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved the special education plans which included room layouts. They stated in their letter received March 29th that they were satisfied with the floor plans and they believed the plan will serve the kids well.

Ms. Player also indicated the the School Building Committee would be holding a meeting on April 11th pending a quorum.

Dr. Blake then spoke about transportation for the new schools and the need for more bus routes. In 2016, when the proposed school site was at Winthrop, the cost estimate for a new route was \$60,000. At this current time, the average bus route to Winthrop school is 33 minutes and would be an additional 10 minutes to Doyon. Dr. Blake stated that although routes cannot be fully designed until the end of the project when there is a better understanding of transportation needs and students, it is important to understand that there will be a need for new routes. It is estimated that it will cost \$59,000 per additional bus and they anticipate need 3 to 4 new buses. The intent of additional buses and new routes is to limit children's time on the bus to 30 minutes. Bus companies have the best technology to ensure route optimization, but it cannot be done until closer to project completion.

Dr. Blake then spoke on the fees for transportation and noted that the School Committee had voted to drop bus fees for all students for the new school. They are anticipating that with a community focus on sustainability, no fees and a shorter ride that parents who may typically drive their kids to school would opt for the bus.

Bus stops were also discussed and it was explained that this is also another decision that cannot be finalized until closer to completion.

Ultimately, there will need to be a healthy conversation surrounding transportation as we approach the completion of the new schools. Ms. Cuff did remind the Committee that although you can price quote now, the transportation contracts will be up for negotiation around the time of the new school opening and they may not be with the same company.

Next, Ms. Player addressed the growing concerns that the school building project did not address the Community Develop Plan (CDP). She read a statement provided by the PLanning Board that views the decision of the new school outside the scope of the CDP. Ms. Player also spoke with counsel who agrees. She further explained that the CDP speaks of the town broadly, but does not address educational goals. The Planning Board limits their scope and asks that committees do thorough research, which Ms. Player reminded everyone they did do. It is ultimately the Town's citizens that decide if the project falls within the CDP by their vote at Town

Meeting. Ms. Player said that decisions have been made with the spirit of the CDP and all topics within the CDP with relevance to the building project have been discussed at great length and said that the feasibility study takes these things into consideration as well. Lastly, Ms. Player stated that the CDP is meant to be a guiding document, not a final solution and she feels the School Committee and School Building Committee have done exactly what the CDP asks.

WARRANT VOTE

Ms. Player presented the warrant articles for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting on May 8th and asked the School Committee to vote on their position. The results of that discussion are below:

Article 1: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 2: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 3: Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Mr. Nylen. 7-0 in support

Article 4: Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Mr. Whitten. 7-0 in support

Article 5: Dr. O'Flynn moved to support, seconded by Mr. Nylen. 6 in support, 1 opposed

Article 6: Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn. 7-0 in support

Article 7: Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Mr. Hopping. 7-0 in support

Article 8: Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Ms. Kneedler. 7-0 in support

Article 9: Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Mr. Whitten. 7-0 in support

Article 10: Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Ms. Kneedler. 7-0 in support

Article 11: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 12: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 13: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 14: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 15: Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Mr. Nylen. 7-0 in support

Article 16: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 17: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 18: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 19: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 20: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 21: NO POSITION TAKEN

Article 22: Mr. Hopping moved to oppose, Dr. O'Flynn seconded. 5 in opposition, 2 abstained:

POLICY SECTION G

Dr. Blake presented policy section G, *Personnel* for School Committee approval. These policies were first brought to the administrative team for feedback and then brought to the Policy Subcommittee for review and possible revision. Dr. Blake reminded the Committee that the final copy, approved by the Policy Subcommittee, is then presented to the full School Committee for final approval. It is the understanding that at the time the policies are presented to the School Committee, they have been fully edited and vetted.

It was noted that three policies were pulled for further discussion. Those policies were GBEB: Staff Conduct, GCO: Evaluation of Professional Staff, and GDO: Evaluation of Support Staff.

Mr. Nylen moved to approved policy section G with the revisions presented, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn. UNANIMOUS.

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS- Done**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE-** None to report
2. **BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE-** None to report
3. **GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES-** An informational meeting was held for teachers that afternoon. Mr. Whitten informed the Committee that the meeting was well-attended.
 - a. **Payne Grant Subcommittee**
 - b. **Instructional Mini-Grant Subcommittee**
4. **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE-** None to report
5. **POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE-** The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 17th at 7:00pm in the MS/HS Guidance Conference Room.
6. **TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE-** None to report
7. **SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE-** Discussed in an earlier presentation
8. **NEW BUSINESS*-** Mr. Hopping asked the Committee to have discuss taking a position on gun violence in light of the recent school shootings. He stated that to do nothing sends a bad message and expressed the importance of opening the dialogue and creating a unified message. The Committee agreed and suggest the topic be put on a future agenda.

Mr. Nysten spoke about the Day on the Hill on April 25th and suggested that there be representation from the Ipswich School Committee because one of the topics on the agenda was Chapter 70 funding. Ms. Kneedler offered to attend the event.

IV. CONSENT**CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Player moved to accept the following consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Kneedler.
UNANIMOUS.

1. Move the Ipswich School Committee to accept the minutes of the January 30, 2018 Tri-Board Meeting.
2. Move the Ipswich School Committee to accept a \$500.00 donation to support to support the upcoming Fine Arts field trip organized by Gail Pepe, to be deposited into the High School Student Activity Field Trip Account.
3. Move the Ipswich School Committee to accept a check for \$3,440 from The Institution for Savings to cover costs for Grade 5 field trips at the Winthrop School, to be deposited in the Winthrop School Student Activity Account.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Zito to adjourn the meeting at 10:20pm. UNANIMOUS.