

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2016
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nylen called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. Attending were J. Bauman, B. Hopping, S. Player, C. Whitten, and H. O'Flynn.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for negotiation with nonunion personnel. IN FAVOR- Bauman, Player, Nylen, Hopping, Whitten, O'Flynn.

II. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nylen called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Attending were S. Player, J. Bauman, B. Hopping, C. Whitten, and H. O'Flynn. Also present were Dr. Hart, Superintendent, and Reed Dolan, Student Representative.

Mr. Nylen announced that Feruza Krason was absent because of surgery but also because she has recused herself according to State law because she is an immediate abutter to the Winthrop School.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Reed Dolan read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- October 10 – Columbus Day Holiday, no school
- October 11 – Professional Development Day, no school
- October 13 - Budget Subcommittee meeting, 7 p.m., Payne School
- “ “ College Fair, lower gym, M/HS
- October 18 – Policy Subcommittee meeting, 7 p.m., Payne School
- October 20 – School Committee meeting, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room
- October 25 – Fall Town Meeting, 7 p.m., PAC

CITIZENS COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed reported that, one month into the school year, sports successes abound especially with field hockey's 8/1 win/loss and seniors increasingly busy with college applications, many before November 1.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart presented to the Board results from MCAS testing comparing the last three years in Positive Achievement Trends in Combined Proficient and Advanced

categories in ELA8, Math8, Math5, and Sci5; Positive Achievement Trends in Advance in Math10, Math8, Math5; and Positive Trends in Needs Improvement and Failing in Sci10, Math8, Math5, and Science5; but Negative Achievement Trends with ELA 7. The Winthrop School regained their Level 1 status this year, reflecting an enormous amount of work by the Winthrop staff and student body.

The Compass team had a full-day workshop on September 30 in preparation for the full-day Professional Development Day on October 11 with a focus on that day of helping create a common understanding of thinking culture concepts district wide.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) has distributed the results of a self-study survey. He was impressed with the positive responses from school stakeholders in several key areas and presented examples.

Mr. Hopping asked to see the results of the 8th grade tests and Dr. O'Flynn wants to see growth results. Mr. Hopping referred to Principal Dalton's remarks that the rise in achievement is systemic. A meeting will take place on portfolio assessments and understanding "measures."

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

B. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

Mr. Nylen introduced the discussion by thanking the audience present, and the ones who have labored in the project including the School Building Committee and the other working groups who did the body of work. He expressed appreciation for the respectful conversations over the past two years and hoped tonight to honor and maintain that respect. This being the third time the SC has voted, two for the 775-student configuration, the Board realized that not everyone will be happy but is hopeful that everyone will come together to get this improvement for the elementary system. He called for public comments first, SC comments and recommendations, the Superintendent and Student Rep comments, and finally a round of motions, discussions, and votes.

Pepper White (audience member) questioned the Saturday workshop and was told it was an Open Session on the only available day with 8 Town citizens attending. He also questioned the abutter conflict and was told it is a legal matter from the State Ethics Commission. He also questioned the debt burden of the elderly in regard to taxes.

Elizabeth Dorman (audience) advocated for equity at the Doyon site, saying that Winthrop acreage is too small, and displacement of the children during the building phasing is questionable.

Dr. O'Flynn referred to the success of the combination of the Middle and High schools, and the current challenges with resources, grey areas, sub-economic levels, and declining population which led the School Committee to want to combine two schools to one bringing curriculum, brighter lives, and equity education. He preferred a single at Bialek, likes Doyon design, but would support Winthrop.

Mr. Whitten repeated Mr. Hopping's statement that the interest of students come first and he feels that the interests are best served with a new 775-school on the Winthrop site. Doyon's repair is too expensive in the same old substandard building, and there is a loss of the cross collateral of what teachers/students cherish. SC and teachers' top priority is K-5. Winthrop has walkability and a lot of people move to Ipswich because of the central location. It would eliminate the grey areas. Sustainability practices are more and more important every day. Community and recreation spaces are available in the center of town. Logistics allow for a new school to be built while students remain in the old school. Parking for 40-60 cars offsite and alternate transportation promotion are possible.

Mrs. Bauman's two issues were size and location. While she considered K-3 at Winthrop and 4-5 at Doyon, the two-year window at Doyon does not provide the best education. Traffic and parking at Winthrop must be addressed and mitigated. She prefers the 775 at Winthrop.

Mr. Hopping, thanking the residents of the town, spoke of one school, one community, of equity, resources, personnel, and whatever it takes to address those needs for teachers to give the best opportunity for teaching and learning for each child's success. Currently, the two building configurations are woefully short, crowded, and teachers don't have equal access to resources. The architect and the FinCom say the 775 school is the best option and to think of anything but keeping all the kids together is detrimental. Not convinced about Doyon, he offered details for parking at Winthrop and had suggestions re bussing. He prefers the 775 at Winthrop.

Ms. Player's priority is to put the best possible site forward with the K-5 configuration, allowing for maximum flexibility of spaces, and allowing for sociability. Her preference for site continues to be Doyon because of the outdoor learning experience, open play spaces, minimized phasing of construction, less impact on travel and parking. Additionally, it opens up a site for Public Safety. Her priority is 775 at Doyon.

Dr. Hart reiterated the negative effect of K-3 and 4-5 transitions and said it makes no sense economically. The 775 school option is wonderful and the most objective "citizen" is the State which said Ipswich really needs to look at the two buildings and should invest in taking care of both schools. The impact made for the schools because of the Town's passage of the override is phenomenal and cited examples with real-world experiences with whales (at High School robotics) and eagles (at Winthrop second grade) and sustainability that is unique, all of which make Ipswich a model for the State and beyond. The 775-building is an economic no-brainer with a \$25 million difference and a \$100 difference for the average taxpayer. People are nervous about that many students in one building, but the great educational minds in Ipswich can create powerful environments in the new school.

The 775 school gets his enthusiastic support.

Reed Dolan, who originally supported two schools, said his opinion has evolved, and he now supports one school to serve equal opportunities. Logistically,

Doyon is the best site with Willowdale and Mile Lane, less traffic, but he feared for lack of support by the community and, therefore, wants one school at Winthrop.

Mr. Nylén reviewed the educational process in configuration, values of educational facilities, design, and sites. A single community school makes sense and he supports it. He is convinced that a building can be designed that will work with equal opportunity and access, flexibility and adaptability that will be here 50 years and more, and that will allow education to move into the future. Financially, the cost of the building, while more expensive now will amount to thanks by the townspeople later. He spoke of the operational budget and making good decisions to avoid future overrides. With a single building, there is a real opportunity to think about the standards. With savings of about \$500,000, that would do a lot to mitigate the structural deficit. The Doyon site has more flexibility than Winthrop, but many people feel that maintaining a school presence in the center of town is better. With study and control, there could be more bussing; parking is solvable. The architect says it will work; Mr. Nylén supports 775 at Winthrop.

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, that the SC build a 775-student elementary school at the Doyon site. Mr. Champion (audience member) recommended that the vote be separated, but Mr. Nylén reaffirmed that the Board has already voted twice on the 775 issue. Dr. O'Flynn asked if a Winthrop traffic study would force a change. Bialek is lost, Doyon is a great site, and there is a lack of full review of Doyon. However, he will support either site. Mr. Hopping and Mr. Whitten support Winthrop for downtown access and the economically disadvantaged population. Vote: IN FAVOR – Player; OPPOSED – Hopping, Bauman, Nylén, O'Flynn, Whitten.

Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to build a 775-student elementary school at the Winthrop site. Mr. Hopping urged the group to make this work, and Ms. Player, realizing that the sentiment of the Committee is supporting Winthrop, commented that at the end of the day the Committee wants to build a school with a priority for 775 students. Both sites have limitations and different benefits. Mr. Nylén commented that, at some level, all of this requires a leap of faith that the SC can work together to settle the issues. Vote: IN FAVOR- UNANIMOUS.

Kevin Murphy, SBC Chair, commented that, having missed the scheduled deadline (Sept. 28), the 775 elementary school will now come up for a vote at the fall Town Meeting of 2017. The PDP has not changed; next comes the preferred schematic plan. Conversation covered the preferred phasing to 2; that is, building the academic wings in two areas out front with enough classrooms and then building the cafeteria and gym areas in the back. Traffic study and parking analysis come next. Mr. Nylén spoke of additional funding needs at the FTM'16; Mr. Hopping urged funding within the school budget. (See TM Article 18, p. 6)

Ms. Conley and Mrs. McAdams thanked the Committee and commented that they are ready for the challenge, everyone needs to be on board to continue this

project, and asked for timelines to be able to share with the community. Mr. Hopping confirmed his faith in the leadership and the decisions to come.

C. FTM WARRANT HEARING AND SPEAKER ASSIGNMENTS

The Committee reviewed the Town Meeting Warrant Articles as follows:

Article 2 – Legal Settlement Appropriation to School Department

Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to support Article 2. UNAN.

Mrs. Bauman will speak to the article.

Article 3 – Emergency Repairs to Fire Station

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support Article 3. UNAN.

Mr. Hopping will speak to the article.

Article 5 – Amend School Budget (State Aid)

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to support Article 5. UNAN.

Mr. Nylen will speak to the article.

Article 6 – School VOIP & Communications System

Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to support Article 6. UNAN.

Mr. Whitten will speak to the article.

Article 7 – Education Stabilization Fund

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to support Article 7. UNAN.

Ms. Player will speak to the article.

Article 8 – Reduce Appropriation to Essex Tech

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to support Article 8. UNAN.

Mrs. Krason will speak if needed.

Article 9 - OPEB

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to support Article 9. UNAN.

No speaker

Article 10 – Raise and Appropriate \$133,000 for Capital Stabilization Fund

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to support Article 10. UNAN.

No speaker

Article 11 – Amend the FY17 Capital Plan

Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support Article 11. UNAN.

Dr. O’Flynn will speak to the article.

Article 12 – Green Crab Trapping Funding

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to support Article 12. UNAN.

Mr. Whitten will speak to the article.

Article 13 – Create Stabilization Fund for Whittier Regional VoTech

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to support Article 13. UNAN.

Mr. Bardsley will speak to the article.

Ms. Player will speak if needed.

Article 14 – No position

Article 15 - No position

Article 16 - No position - Discussion later on Bylaw Revision

Article 17 - No position

Article 18 – Amend School Feasibility Appropriation

Dr. Hart was directed to confirm with Kevin Murphy the consensus of the School Committee that, if the figure is in the \$20-25,000 range, it be taken from (1)contingency fund, (2)operating budget, or (3)Choice rather than to ask the Town to appropriate more money. Article 18 to be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

Article 19 – Add Parcels to Open Space

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to support Article 19. UNAN.

Dr. O’Flynn will speak to the article.

Article 20 – Appropriate from Open Space Bond

The Committee consensus was to put a vote on Article 20 on hold until answers to who will oversee maintenance, restroom facilities, and scheduling of the athletic playing fields is known.

IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. VOUCHERS AND BILLS
- B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 4. GRANT COMMITTEES

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Nylen reported a focus on the Superintendent hiring process – reviewing contract used previously, scope of work, timeline - and he will share the info. Also, proposed concurrently is the formation of a steering committee and hiring a consultant.

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Hopping reported that Mike Gilbert will meet with them on the 18th and it will go on the Oct. 20 agenda. The Feoffee district policy will be discussed with leaders of Payne and MiniGrant Committees. The School Improvement Plan policy is supposed to be linked in some fashion with the school budget.

7. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

8. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE – J. Frash will be present at the Oct. 20 meeting.

9. TURF FIELD

10. NEW BUSINESS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve the following Consent Agenda items: Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of September 22, 2016

Acceptance of donation of \$2,000 from an anonymous donor to support the Grade 5 Plimoth Plantation Field Trip.

Acceptance of a donation of \$4,000 from Action for Winthrop Preschool Tuitions for families in need. UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to adjourn at 10:12 p.m. UNANIMOUS.