

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 19, 2016
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylén called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: F. Krason, S. Player, H. O'Flynn, and C. Whitten. Also present were Superintendent Hart and Student Rep R. Dolan.

MISSION STATEMENT

Reed read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylén read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and to discuss deployment of security personnel, devices, or strategies with response thereto after which the meeting will adjourn.

May 23: IHS Bridge Presentations in the Dolan PAC, starting at 7:50 and throughout the day

May 25: Memorial Day Assemblies throughout the district

May 26: IHS Senior Prom, Castle Hill, Promenade starting at 6 p.m.

May 30: Memorial Day – No School

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Beth Gelandér, who grew up in Ipswich, lives in the "grey" area, and currently has two children under the age of 2, commented that the opportunity that the State has given us to fix both schools at the same time is unique. As a kid, she knew what was equal, and every student should go through a great new school. Mr. Nylén urged her to share her comments with the other Boards.

Nicole Whitten spoke of her progress in support of the school project. Since the vote for the combined school and site process, she has changed her mind because of the risk of failure town-wide and losing the chance of having half of the children getting what they really need.

Jacob Wardman spoke of the perilous position, people thinking they can't hear anything new, parents/teachers opposed, the eleventh hour, and thinks the lower risk should be chosen.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart spoke of the first Celebration with Tracy Wagner in small groups sharing 21st Century Skill vertical alignment, determining what students will learn holistically; i.e., Head (intellectually), Heart (social-emotionally), Hands (skills), Eyes (perspective) and Feet (foundationally). He thanked all of those who participated and Tracy for their fine work.

Mr. Nylen held a moment of silence in recognition of Barry Hopping's sister who had passed.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed spoke of recent AP exams at the college level to assist kids' development in AP courses. Secondly, five girl students from the Sustainability class got a plastic-ban by-law passed in the Town. They worked very hard. Thirdly, Mr. Patch conducted his final IHS choral concert and everybody thanked him upon his retirement, for his positive attitude, his dry humor, and his competence dealing with a large group of kids.

Mr. Nylen commented on the excellent performance of "Fiddler on the Roof." Dr. Hart called Mr. Patch's retirement a huge loss.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart attended another meeting with Chris Bevilaqua, YMCA Director, on before- and after-school activities. The Birth to Three program is working to obtain downtown space to ensure walkability. The summer administrative retreat is being planned to include 2015-16 successes and continued challenges, will identify a district-wide theme for next year, and, finally, an Expectations Document for teachers, administrators, and the Central Office for FY17. The turf field construction project officially launched on May 13. The architect and construction team met with administration.

Mr. Nylen asked Ms. McAdams to come back and talk about Birth to Three.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. IEF CHECK PRESENTATION

Mr. Nylen introduced Kevin Murphy and Sean Cayer, of the IEF (athletics) who presented a check for \$16,437.50 for purchases of spring, summer, and fall sports: football uniforms for varsity home and away games, golf bags and uniforms, and fall uniforms for soccer. Later they will be dedicating the Tim Collins Weight Room (he was the original donor of the weight room equipment.) October 17 will be seeing the new golf tournament. IEF is trying to find a way to touch all students in sports, but it is hard to donate to hockey, swim, etc. The two tournaments have grossed \$120,000. Mr. Nylen thanked the two men and Dr. Hart did as well, speaking of the big impact on all the athletics.

Mr. Murphy spoke of the changes from the original video scoreboard to a portable scoreboard and the installation of one on a high wall inside. Signage on the turf field will be a graphic for the Institution for Savings.

C. FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PLAN

Mr. Nylen initiated review of the facilities as requested by Mr. Hodge, Building Facilities Director, in his third year (FY17), both in upcoming budgets (FY17-FY20) and with capital planning. He would like to see an additional \$30,000 for the FY17 budget. Dr. Hart, Mr. Hodge, Ms. Crosbie [™], Mr. Murphy (FC), and Mr.

Mootafian (BOS) met following Bean Counting when there was a claim made that the schools weren't doing enough about maintaining their facilities. Mr. Hodge produced a facilities maintenance plan, and a history (FY14- present) of maintenance of facilities, and the follow-up resulted in a plan to meet in the near future to set up a maintenance plan tied with the capital plan. Dr. Hart remarked that the silver lining is a comprehensive plan now in existence for maintenance and capital including additional funds to be added to the FY 17 budget. Dr. Hart feels the expenses should be made and that the money would be spent wisely; however, last year it was agreed that the SC would live within a 4.25% budget increase and already we have a 9% increase. He said he would support the \$30,000 extra request given the size of the district and its facilities/challenges. Dr. Hart might recommend using Choice money, but in the agreement to right-size the budget, it would go into the operating budget.

Mrs. Krason questioned support salaries; Mr. Nylén said NESDEC recommended more custodial services, and Mr. Hodge has requested a full-time custodian to split between maintaining the turf field (Hodge has had experience with turf fields) and part-time custodian duties. Dr. Hart will attend the weekly turf field construction meetings and observe whether Hodge needs to be present or at least work out the maintenance plan for a custodian.

Dr. O'Flynn commented that the Dolan PAC upgrade for \$75,000 should have been on the capital plan but is being requested in a Payne Grant. Dr. Hart agreed saying there should be standardization of practice and a light shown on this situation in addition to technology maintenance needs so that the district has state-of-the-art equipment. Dr. O'Flynn continued by noting his time served on the Long-Range Planning Committee (2006-on) where the full-day K came into existence, spaces were crowded, and NESDEC projections were spot on: elementary predictions that the schools were out of date, undersized, and considerations needed for new elementaries at both sites. Winthrop was recommended for adding four classrooms in the gym and building a new cafeteria and gym, and new doors, windows, and boilers, etc. were made, but within 2-3 years all those investments fell by the wayside. The override in '09 went nowhere and there were no capital investments. His concern now is that in capital, we have a history of other Boards and Committees promising things that do not get done in the future. The recommendations are positively current—the need for the schools, 21st Century classrooms, and SPED needs.

D. ELEMENTARY COMMON ASSESSMENT

Dr. Hart thanked both principals for their leadership and teamwork in an exceptional job of assessing the elementary schools over the past two years. Dr. O'Flynn congratulated them on their outstanding Payne Grant applications (48 mini grants and 18 Payne grants have been submitted).

Ms. Conley described the social-emotional program developed for Grades 1 and 3, now being expanded to Grades 2 and 4. Students work every other week on

“how to get along”, etc. Then they assess how the progress is going. Ms. McAdams added that it is assessment for the leaders as well: What are we offering? Each of the grade levels have started creating progression (21st Century Skills Progress). Reading comprehension (Calkins) has reading unit assessments, tried out and decided whether it works or doesn’t work.

They distributed math Exemplars (c. 2016, Exemplars, Inc.) for problem solving in math for the School Committee’s demonstration. Ms. McAdams commented that Common Core (CC) demands that every subject requires reading.

A Critical Thinking sheet was distributed giving CC practices for problem solving from Preschool through Grade 4. Dr. Hart reflected on his educational career with the whole thought process and sees emerging trends on scores, indicating that efforts at analytical thinking are working.

Dr. Hart and Mr. Nylen thanked the elementary principals.

E. WHITTIER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL UPDATE

Mr. Russ Bardsley, Ipswich representative, began by reviewing the age of the high school (1972) and is needing serious maintenance. The Whittier Committee is proactive in setting up a stabilization line item for the building next year. In 3-4 years, the library and other internal aspects as well as general maintenance will be needed. The stabilization will allow a level expenditure rather than one big hit. There is an existing Capital Plan and the stabilization (number as yet unknown) will be tied to it.

Ipswich students number 27, 2 of whom will be graduating; thirty-five will be attending in the fall. An engineering program (2-3 years incoming) is being instituted and, if a student tests well, s/he will receive a general broad education and decide after high school which field to enter.

The Committee keeps an eye on the budget and goes through multiple rounds. To Dr. OFlynn’s question, Mr. Bardsley answered that 10 Ipswich kids were accepted of 13 who applied this spring, rated on attendance, grades, and Guidance’s recommended scores. This year was a full in-district representation of students. To Mr. Whitten’s question, Mr. Bardsley answered about 65-68% go on to a four-year college and another portion go on to an 18- or 24-month certification in their particular field. Plumbing, for instance, takes four years beyond high school. Some of the solid work is transferrable for community-college credit.

The formula for Ipswich’s assessment actually varies from year to year because the State sets a lot of assessment levels. A district’s calculation is based on the number of students. The bridge repair on Rte. 1A actually upped Ipswich’s assessment.

Mr. Bardsley commented that it seemed as though Ipswich was trying to restrict the 8th grade from a total day’s exposure to Whittier this year. They get bussing, lunch, and the full knowledge of the discipline. Mr. Nylen explained that the idea of broadcasting that every student attend was up to the administration and they were interested in exploring other ways without sending the entire grade over.

Dr. O'Flynn commented that, because Whittier is so expensive to Ipswich taxpayers, the Finance Committee said we should discourage them from attending. It was suggested that Whittier do a better job of bridging. Reed Dolan recommended that all kids go; it helped him understand even though he didn't want to attend the school. Mrs. Krason agreed that if kids see the place, it would change the "perception" of the kids who do go.

Mr. Nylen thanked Mr. Bardsley for coming.

F. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

With two members absent and a third unable to vote (C. Whitten newly elected SC member not sworn in), Mr. Nylen had a two-part question for the Board: Do you agree that we should delay any lengthy discussion? and Are we behind the request for us to reconsider our vote and when? There was discussion and Mr. Murphy joined the conversation re an SBC meeting next Thursday when the floor plans will be presented; they are a place holder. If the School Committee goes forward with the 775 school, SBC would authorize the architect to go forward with four plans showing a building on three sites and by having these four choices, it gives flexibility. The MSBA is about reusing buildings first. The Winthrop isn't usable for a major renovation.

Mr. Whitten is concerned that the BOS are on record as a majority recommending two schools, and the Fin Com is not unanimous in its recommendation for 775. He commented that the stakeholders have made compelling arguments for us to reconsider our vote. He asked to read the Town Manager's letter into the record but Mr. Nylen asked to do that later.

A School Committee meeting was tentatively set for 7:30 p.m., May 25.

Mr. Champion (audience) questioned the search for a site and Mr. Murphy explained the problems with road access and the lack of 10-acre parcels available because of wetlands and farmland. Ideas are welcomed at SBC.org.

G. TOWN MEETING REVIEW

Mr. Nylen found no comments necessary except the great one where Mr. Whitten called the Sustainability girls' getting the award for the Town Meeting presentation as a "Top Ten."

H. POLICY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION- Postponed.

I. SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Dr. Hart reported on the proposal from Perini Consulting by Pam Perini, who does work for MSBA. The proposal included a list of examining the individual schools, assessing security processes and policies, interviewing key staff across the buildings, consulting assessment areas, security programs, security audit outcomes, and equipment, purchases, and installations. The audit will be coming within a few weeks and the report, by the end of the year, and will cost \$6,700. The School Committee was impressed.

J. 2016-17 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Hart brought the Board’s attention to errors on the first approved calendar of 19 days rather than 20 in September and kindergarten orientation on September 8 rather than September 12. The last day of school is June 16 (no snow days) or June 23 (five snow days). IEA has approved the revision. Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to accept Calendar #2 as amended. UNANIMOUS.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE-** Dr. O’Flynn reported discussion on the turf project, getting events for next year, such as volleyball as a sport, relays, league events. Also, the coaches’ handbook was discussed and the Student Council push for a later school start time—putting elementary grades earlier and secondary, later, but concerns were for the practices because of the darkness. The committee is waiting for the turf policy.

2. **BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE-** There is a reach out to J. Cuff.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

4. **GRANT COMMITTEES**

Payne Grants- Dr. O’Flynn met with the committee for five hours and the themes are capital, trips, and professional development. He asked if the \$2500 remainder could be bumped down for mini-grants pending approval.

5. **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

6. **POLICY – June 7 meeting.**

7. **TURF FIELD –** Dr. O’Flynn reported discussion printouts of field and readiness to go.

8. **SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

9. **NEW BUSINESS –** Choice numbers will come at the next meeting.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of May 5, 2016, Open Session

Acceptance of donation of \$750 from the Verizon Foundation

Volunteers Program and Verizon Volunteers to go into the Winthrop Gift Account

Acceptance of pottery wheel valued at \$1500 for the Ipswich Middle School Art Department

Approval of the Model UN Overnight Field Trip to the Boston College Model UN Conference at the Westin Copley in Boston, leaving on March 17, 2017, returning March 19, 2017.

Acceptance of the donation of \$16,437.50 from Ipswich Sustainable Education/IEF to fund the following: \$1,822.50- Softball uniforms, \$2,200- Weight-room Equipment, \$1,115-Lacross net, \$9,000-Football uniforms, \$1,500-Golf bags, and \$800- Golf uniforms. UNANIMOUS.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to go into Executive Session at 10:34 p.m. for the purpose of strategy for discussion with non-union personnel and Strategy for deployment of security personnel and/or devices. Roll call IN FAVOR- Krason, Nylen, O'Flynn, Player.