

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 7, 2016
TOWN MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM HALL MEETING ROOM A**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylen called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with H. O'Flynn, C. Whitten, J. Bauman, F. Krason, B. Hopping, and S. Player.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. Roll Call vote: IN FAVOR- Krason, Whitten, Bauman, Hopping, O'Flynn, Player, Nylen.

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM A

OPEN SESSION

II. CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with J. Bauman, H. O'Flynn, B. Hopping, F. Krason, C. Whitten, and S. Player in attendance. Also present were Superintendent Hart and Reed Dolan, Student Representative.

MISSION STATEMENT

Reed read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- April 8 – Bean Counting, Town Hall Meeting Room A, 9 a.m.
- April 11 – District Parent Forum with the Superintendent, 5-6 p.m., Doyon Library
- April 11 – National Honor Society Induction, Dolan PAC, 6:30 p.m.
- April 12 – Doyon Grade 2 & 4 Music Showcase, 6:15 p.m.
- April 13 – SBC at Town Hall Rm. A, 7 p.m.
- April 14 – Doyon School Art Show , 6-8 p.m.
- April 14 – Feoffee Grant Showcase, 5-7 p.m., Dolan PAC
- April 18 – 22 - Spring Vacation – No School
- April 20 – Polished, preventative dental care program, Town Hall Rm. C, 9-5
For free dental screening, etc. for children by appointment. Adults will be charged \$49. Call 508-237-5378
- April 27 – SBC, Town Hall Rm. A, 7 p.m.
- April 28 – SC/SBC Town Hall Rm. A, 7 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed mentioned the Wed. night All-Town Band performance of 350 students, grades 5-12. The string and chamber orchestras had State competition in Lexington

on April 2 where strings won silver and chamber won gold medals, and next month they go on to All-State championship competition.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported on a STEM leadership breakfast on March 30 in Boston's United Way that he attended. Keynote speakers extolled the important role of STEM education and how important it is for students to build SHOM habits and dispositions. He spoke with a United Way representative re Ipswich and a greater financial support for STEAM locally.

On March 31 he met with BioLabs CEO re a partnership to support the Science for Scientists program and other STEM related initiatives, and he is interested in collaborating with IPS. Yesterday, district-wide team met at BioLabs looking at sustainability issues with teachers and scientists.

The Feoffee Celebration is working to highlight STEAM work, a video connected to 21st Century skill development, sharing of PLC training that is transforming their work and that of their colleagues—all reflecting on the “game-changing” Feoffee funds.

A team is being set up toward Ipswich teachers/administrators attending a late June, 2016, national technology conference (International Society for Technology in Education).

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE – CONFIGURATION DECISION

Mr. Nylen outlined his plan for citizen questions first, Superintendent recommendation, and then the School Committee members' comments/vote. First, he recognized and thanked the people who have been involved since 2012 in the comprehensive process of submitting papers to the State; the School Building Committee members (and he read all their names) for their two years of gathering information and their guidance; the Town government of Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Facilities; teaching staff, students, parents, business and community members for their input; The Education Leadership team; the Education Working Group; the questionnaires on the website; the privilege of working with the great consulting team of OPM (project management) and the design team with the educational consultant.

Secondly, he reviewed the process designed by Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA), extended from March 23 to tonight, begun with the Winthrop School and expanded over time with MSBA request to look at both elementary schools. The School Committee tonight is making the decision on grade configuration as asked, having heard the input from all the individuals/groups mentioned. Decision will be made on one building or two for elementary grades, but no decision will be made on the site that the configuration will be built on.

He opened up discussion to the audience.

Mr. George cautioned, as a sixty-year citizen and active member of the community, that the SC must watch for pitfalls. One of those is the environmental

issues which exist on a site and gave the example of his membership on the Building Committee at the time of purchase of Mile Lane when the wetlands weren't considered long enough. The second caution was the need for community input to offset organized opposition. His suggestion was to add some kind of sport area (basketball court, hockey rink) to the new school site--something out of the box to bring the community together to pass at the ballot box.

Ms. Zagarella, elementary teacher, a K-8 proponent, described the poor conditions at the Doyon and Winthrop because of the rainy day. She worried about the cost for taxpayers and didn't think the community has been involved enough. Mr. Nysten clarified that Town Meeting of May 2017 must pass by 2/3 vote before it goes on the ballot.

A parent/coach was concerned that the baseball diamonds at Bialek would be gone if a school was to be built on the site. Dr. O'Flynn told the audience that the School Committee has promised to replace five athletic fields.

Mr. Howard (Fin Com member) spoke as an advocate for the close community of two elementary schools, and the large scale of the proposed single building would be imposing to small children. He also felt that citizens would be hurt when the tax impact hits.

Mr. Fay (Fin Com), having seen lots of information, still questioned why one building rather than two. When Mr. Nysten and Dr. O'Flynn referred to the three viable options (one building with pre K-5, 2 K-5 buildings, and 1, K-3/l, 4-5), Mr. Fay then wondered if it had been fully vetted in "education" or "cost"? He said he spoke from Fin Com discussion, to the relevancy of personnel costs. Mr. Nysten replied that as discussions go forward, there will be appropriate class sizes and characteristics of two separate schools. Mr. Bell of Perkins-Eastman (project architects) spoke of working with MSBA and on our own guidelines. Many projects are not examining so many variables as this one. Our process is already longer by 1-2 months, and we are doing a study in the next two months to which we are trying to arrive at the single preferred schematic from four preferred options (of many) in early June (MSBA deadline). There are many ways to design a building on sites. We really need to focus.

Mr. Hopping added that Ipswich is hoping to be developing an educational program where there will be a shift in delivery model that is impacting staff. Some of the options that we are hoping to create can't be predicted yet. The present elementary model is not what we want and that will be the challenge.

Dr. Hart has feedback that operational costs are neutral. While there are inefficiencies in the old buildings, electricity and other operating expenses, because of the higher level of functioning, will be higher at a new site. Elementary staff isn't as effectual. There might be efficiencies in a grade as far as being able to collapse one or two classes. The one-building, one-school, one-principal type of approach is not a viable option.

A citizen on Manning Street asked about costs for Doyon. Dr. O'Flynn, Mr. Nysten, and Mr. Hopping replied that the Town would be responsible for the Doyon project OR a process with MSBA would begin all over again.

A grandmother of a five-year old felt that a large school environment would be scary.

Mr. Borgman opined at having to enlarge a 700+ student school one day; Mr. Nylen replied that two studies both predict declining population for several years, dropping by as much as 200 students.

Dr. Hart commented on the thoughtful, open, educational work done by working groups, at forums, and with a variety of feedback. Moving forward, there has been an emerging theme and shifts in peoples' thinking. He recommends the K-5 configuration and the larger school, speaking of equity and culture in the positive and transitions (were it to be a K-3, 4-5 split) in the negative. The larger building, he said, is the best economic decision. People have connected with the schools now that the override is paying off and this choice will be important. The impact of this process cannot be overstated on the educational leaders, our students, and the process has been extremely exhausting because of all it means to be a great principal yet be adding this extensive process, thus taking away from the instructional leadership, especially were it to elongate for another ten years.

Mr. Nylen began his recommendation by speaking of the areas of discussion; i.e., grade configuration, small school status, equity focus, cost (two projects would be more expensive, especially with a delay on the second school). While he loves Winthrop, he can see its limitations. He reviewed his thoughts as a parent, as a School Committee member, and as a resident and feels that the Town would be best served by looking at a single facility, properly planned and designed.

Mrs. Bauman thanked the SBC, parents, and citizens and said she had done the research, visited other buildings, etc. She made her decision on what is best for all students, not based on cost, and she does not support two buildings, nor transitions from one elementary to another (grade 3 to grade 4) nor one new school vs. an old school. Equality would mean that all students would have access to all parts of education including open areas, lighting, etc. The large school idea could double the number of walking students. Ipswich has the opportunity now to pay for half of the building cost, and she supports the K-5, 775-student configuration.

Mr. Whitten feels that for grade configuration, the size of the building and the site are intertwined. He supports the mentoring program and, therefore, supports the K-5. He feels that there would be better participation in a small school. He believes that a 775-student school is too large and advocates for a K-5 school for 420 built on the Winthrop site.

Mrs. Krason explained that she had grown up in Central Asia in a city, which 50 years ago, had suffered an earthquake. The Soviet Union rebuilt only the part that was impacted the hardest, deciding not to rebuild the minimally damaged part which is called the Old City, and the rebuilt part is called the New City. It is awful because, though it is one city, it is obvious who grew up in the New City and who did not. She looks at Ipswich and thinks about the similarity and questions whether she wants to be a part of the town that is where students are in the best environment. Kids are resilient—her family has lived in different countries and moved ten times

in the last ten years, including both Doyon and Winthrop districts. She wants every child to have the same experience and, therefore, she wants K-5 in a larger building. Nobody wants to live in "Old City" she said.

Ms. Player spoke of the opportunity by the State to pay for the project at 50% of the cost. Ipswich has values, Ipswich residents are straight people, no-nonsense people. Educational reasons are School Committee priorities. The research speaks to transitions. If we have one building, all 5th graders have been merged earlier with their peers. Staff collaborations on one site would maximize potential for professional development. Student collaboration allows all students at the same site. Equity gives the best access to resources, gyms, flexible spaces, and from the feasibility angle, there is no guarantee that the Town would get MSBA assistance again. A Doyon school would cost more later. Impressed with the designers and SBC (made up largely of designers), she supports one elementary school, K-5.

Mr. Hopping, a graduate and parent of Winthrop School, thanked everyone who has come forward with their feelings and the SC has listened. Having thought this out for the past 15 months, he resented the implication that the SC needs to think this through further, and he recommends K-5 in one building. Equity will be given to all students for access to the same programs, resources, and facilities. 420 students but keeping Doyon at 355 doesn't mean equity. Neighborhood spaces can be developed in a larger building with meaningful outdoor connections. Transitions are harder for younger children than at the sixth grade.

Dr. O'Flynn has longevity in the Ipswich schools at all the schools, five daughters who also attended, 13 years on the SC and ten years on the Demographic Committee, has seen the process of SBC, seen cutting of staff and busses, talked to administrators and teachers about how kids are differently prepared. He supports K-5 in one building.

Reed Dolan called the process nerve wracking! He liked the small school environment at Winthrop but is not polarized. He sees benefits in the one school but urged being mindful of the small school environment.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to support the 775-student single building. Mr. Hopping thanked the SBC for their many hours and stated that the SC are in our hearts and minds doing what is best for the kids in Ipswich. Mr. Nylen asked that everyone stay together, in spite of the fact that some are unhappy with the decision. Vote: IN FAVOR- Bauman, Krason, Nylen, Player, Hopping, O'Flynn; OPPOSED- Whitten.

Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to have a 5-minute recess.
UNANIMOUS.

C. REVIEW OF TOWN WARRANT FOR THE TOWN MEETING

Mr. Nylen, announcing that there are two meetings before Town Meeting, asked Moderator Murphy whether he was amenable to allowing the discussion of the new school building, and, after discussion, he said it could be included with the presentation of the school budget.

The Board began review of Articles as follows:

Article 3 – Transfer to Educational Stabilization Fund – O’Flynn will speak

Article 5 – Prior Year Unpaid Bills – no vote but someone will speak

Article 7 – FY2017 School Budget

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support Article 7.

UNANIMOUS.

Nylen will speak

Article 9 – FY2017 Whittier Regional Budget

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support with the understanding that the current number (\$650,000) will change. UNANIMOUS.

Russ Bardsley will speak

Mr. Bardsley will be contacted as a reminder and asked to provide the number of Ipswich students attending.

Article 10 – FY2017 Essex County Technical Budget

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to support Article 10. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Hopping asked if needs of students could be satisfied by attending only one of the two technical schools to avoid redundancy, but Mr. Nylen reminded that Ipswich students are not allowed to attend Essex Technical as technology students, only the agricultural component.

Player will speak

Article 11 – Annual Capital Plan

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to support Article 11.

UNANIMOUS.

Whitten will speak

Article 12 – Citizen Petition: Plastic bags and polystyrene

Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support Article 12.

UNANIMOUS.

Whitten will speak

Dr. Hart was asked to clarify whether the schools can comply with the banning and how it will impact the system.

Article 13 – Creation of Turf Field Stabilization Fund

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to support Article 13.

UNANIMOUS.

Hopping will speak

Article 15 – Citizen Petition – Saturday meetings

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to NOT support Article 15.

Vote IN FAVOR- Hopping, O’Flynn, Nylen, Krason, Whitten, Bauman; ABSTAINING- Player.

If needed, Bauman will speak

Article 16 – Citizen Petition – Saturday meetings

Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to NOT support Article 16.

Vote IN FAVOR- Hopping, O’Flynn, Nylen, Krason, Whitten, Bauman; ABSTAINING- Player.

If needed, Bauman will speak

Article 19 – OPEB

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support Article 19.

UNANIMOUS.

Article 20 – Citizen Petition - Discharge of Firearms - deferred

Article 21 – Citizen Petition – Climate Change Committee – deferred

D. POLICY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping introduced two policies recently reviewed by the Policy Committee. Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve the Acceptable Use policy as updated. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping explained how the Home Education of Students policy has evolved – 22 states currently give carte blanche for home educated students to participate in curricular or extracurricular public school activities. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to accept the policy as written. UNANIMOUS.

IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS AND BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Mrs. Bauman reported that the Feoffee Celebration is all set for April 14, 5 – 7 p.m. at the Dolan Performing Arts Center with speakers (Dr. Hart and a Feoffee) at 6 p.m.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

Payne Grant – Dr. Hart is asking for Payne Grants about April 28 and they will go to the Committee by May 6.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - Mr. Nysten talked about a meeting for a mid-year review.

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE – Ms. Player reported on a meeting with MASC Mike Gilbert re Policy Manual Reviews: a full policy Manual Review would take the existing manual and meld the MASC manual with it for \$10,500 and \$3,500 would include conversion to an online policy manual with a \$950 annual fee for continued management. The matter will be brought forward in May.

7. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE – Dr. O’Flynn suggests that at 6 p.m. next Tuesday night the committee will go over issues about the non-waterproof scoreboard, review drawings and plans from Hunter, and coordinate with the construction plan.

8. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

9. NEW BUSINESS

V. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of the Budget Presentation to Fin Com Minutes of 3/15/16
Open Session

Acceptance of the Budget Presentation to Fin Com Minutes of 3/16/16
Open Session

Acceptance of the Minutes of 3/17/16 Open Session

Acceptance of the Minutes of 3/23/16 Open Session

Acceptance of the Minutes of 3/24/16 Open Session

Acceptance of donation of \$758 from Doyon FRIES to be used to purchase 2 iPads by Grade 5 teachers at the Doyon School

Approval of the Environmental Club Overnight Field Trip to Colt Island, Topsfield, on May 20, returning May 21. UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to adjourn at 11:25 p.m. UNANIMOUS.