

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2016
MS/HS ENSEMBLE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nylen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were J. Bauman, C. Whitten, F. Krason, B. Hopping, and S. Player. Also present was Superintendent Hart.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and the deployment of security personnel or devices or strategies with response thereto. Roll call IN FAVOR – Bauman, Whitten, Krason, Nylen, Player, Hopping.

I. OPEN SESSION

Mr. Nylen called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following members present: Whitten, Krason, Bauman, Player, Hopping, O’Flynn. Also present were Dr. Hart, Director of Teaching/Learning Wagner, SPED Director Hegedus, and all four principals.

MISSION STATEMENT READING

Mrs. Bauman read the District’s Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylen read the following announcements:

Electronics recycling will take place on Feb. 6, 9-12, M/HS lot

8th grade parent orientation will take place on Feb. 8, 6:30 p.m.

Residents forum for elementary school discussion will take place on Feb. 10,
7 p.m., Town Hall Rm. A

School Committee will meet on Feb. 11, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm

FRIES will be sponsoring the Sundance film entitled “Most Likely to Succeed”
on Feb. 25, 7 p.m., PAC

Public Hearing on the School FY17 Budget will be held on March 3, 7 p.m.,
M/HS Ensemble Rm.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Scott Jewell, technology MS teacher, had spoken last year about his concern over large class sizes and lack of instructional equipment. He thanked Ipswich for passing the override so that these concerns no longer exist.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart spoke of the transitions in the Central Office in recent months. Having one of the busiest school systems with turf field, building project, and override improvements, it was difficult to have that big gap in Director of Administrative Services position. He presented roses and a plaque to Cindy Parker for all her work during the changes, having stepped up in a significant way during

the transitions. Mr. Nylén agreed with the consistency of her work as the audience gave her a round of applause.

Mr. Hopping gave a shout-out to 8th-grade teacher Laura Schofield who facilitated a webcast from Antarctica on January 25 where Ipswich students, along with others across the U.S. and England, interviewed scientists from other countries.

Reed Dolan, Student Representative, joined the meeting at 7:15.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. FY17 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Nylén announced the official beginning of the budget process and introduced Supt. Hart, who enthusiastically introduced the video in a partial answer to questions he's been asked: What does it look like for kids? What does the investment and vision mean for students? The Ipswich team was absolutely dedicated to the production of aligning resources with the objectives and initiatives. The ensuing "We are One" video provided a glimpse into the STEAM inclusion in the curricula throughout the grades.

Powerpoint slides, with Dr. Hart speaking, presented the Override Budget - Keeping the Promise, spelling out positions established in the four schools in FY16 that are being funded again in FY17, and will continue throughout the five-year plan.

Ms. Tracy Wagner, Director of Teaching/Learning, presented the budget for 75 teacher-leader positions @ \$32,000 in each of three categories: Compass, PLC (Professional Learning Communities) and Technology.

Dr. Hart returned to speak of the Operational Audit (voted at 2015 Spring Town Meeting) recommendations which have meant a shift from SPED support positions, a minus figure of 8.47 FTE (Full time equivalent) teaching assistant positions, to professional positions. Operational audit highlights (FY16 to FY17) include a list of accomplishments: Food Services development, reduction of class size, bi-weekly pay and direct deposit, Director of Teaching/Learning position, Fine Arts and athletics development, and technology use and continuance in FY17 of curriculum development and enhancement of instruction, technology use and alignment of resources, custodial staff, and SPED transportation. Staffing reallocations and additions in co-teaching, academic and secretarial support, and HS custodial; professional development (\$89,000); and technology in software, hardware, maintenance and supplies (\$250,000) were reviewed. Dr. Hart explained that this last figure will essentially be unchanged within the next decade per the schools' IT Director and the Director of Facilities.

Budget drivers were analyzed by chart: health insurance up 12%, fixed costs, grant funding dropping every year since FY10, Choice funding reduced (11 students graduating out of the Choice program), Circuit Breaker, and SPED expense growth since 2011. Mrs. Bauman suggested a financial chart; Mr. Hopping asked for a piece that will reflect the 5-year budget plan; Mr. Nylén suggested a longer-term strategy to make it more comfortable for people.

Mrs. McAdams explained that Title I funding is based upon the poverty level, was reduced by 20% this year, and she anticipates another 25% drop to Massachusetts next year.

Dr. O'Flynn asked Dr. Hart about steps re health insurance and workmen's compensation. Hart replied that he and the Town Manager are making safety a bigger priority and giving more flexibility to staff. The TM is checking a shift in the health care program.

Mr. Hopping asked about the service delivery model re changes with co-teaching; Dr. Hegedus replied that the greatest amount is inclusion but more support is given to those who need it.

Ms. Player suggested the mention to the Fin Com of RBT training/licensure and spelling out of grants.

Questions about Choice decisions for FY17 and five-year data on 8th graders transferring out were put forth for future Fin Com and SC discussions.

Declining grant funds, Choice, enrollment attrition, and increased technology monies mean that new funding efforts must be made (O'Flynn and Nysten).

SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET

Dr. Hegedus reviewed the continuing and expanding program emphasizing the legal contract between the school and the parent (IEP), the highly skilled professional providers who are committed to support students within the least restrictive environments, and the focus on internalizing skills for ultimate independence. Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT), that is, licensed staff, and the young-adult program for those who need additional life-skill training through age 22 (YACHT) were explained.

Dr. O'Flynn asked if SPED professionals in the co-teaching model are supporting regular education; Dr. Hegedus replied that there is collaboration in the classroom.

Mrs. Bauman asked about marketing transitions for SPED students. Mr. Dalton remarked that with the high school academic support, it can be done next year with a lesser amount than the seed grant from Feoffees provided.

HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET

Principal Dalton detailed STEAM/STEM pathway initiatives, 40% of which is focused on AP students. He outlined support for all students with funding for an added adjustment counselor, YACHT funding, SPED co-teacher and .5 reading specialist. Continuing review of his budget, he mentioned a substantial need for textbooks and supplies due to the full-year schedule ahead. Reallocations support this need along with reduction in tutoring due to the academic support program.

Mr. Hopping noticed that the robotics budget has been reduced. Mr. Dalton explained that it is a placeholder and will actually be an increase because of realigning and upgrading robotics, and the MS will get the Lego program.

Mr. Dalton stated that an interim program manager for SPED for the remainder of the year is a definite possibility.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BUDGET

Principal Fabrizio focused on STEAM funding in the MS with science curriculum redesign, upgrade of science and technology equipment and supplies for more rigorous and STEAM-focused lessons, reassigning technological engineering to the science department, resupplying visual arts to better focus on interdisciplinary and STEAM-related planning, and professional development for staff on innovative teaching practices. A speech therapist will be hired next year to replace the one who has left.

Reallocation reveals a two-fold need: (1)Response to Intervention (RTI) for high-need students in ELA and math occurs in summer courses and for regular education in other courses; (2)the co-teaching model for a professional Special Education position is at \$44,000.

DOYON/WINTHROP ELEMENTARY BUDGETS

S. Conley and S. McAdams, Doyon and Winthrop Principals respectively, reviewed their co-teaching classrooms and STEAM initiatives and outlined their aspirations, realizations and challenges from FY16 to FY17; Mrs. McAdams with an additional co-teaching classroom, flexible learning environments, and visual learning tools; Ms. Conley with additional co-teaching classrooms, STEAM connection to art and library media, a literary specialist, professional development, and initiatives. Both spoke with enthusiasm of the Makerspace program, a cutting-edge concept in education in the past 2-3 years where students gather to create, tinker, invent, explore and discover using a variety of high- and low-tech tools and materials. 3-D printers are an integral part of this program, and Mrs. McAdams feels that her requested apprenticeship positions (newly graduated teachers) would provide a great opportunity here.

CENTRAL OFFICE

The Board asked Dr. Hart questions re his budgeted salaries on personnel and the lower amounts on negotiations costs (settled contracts). On Buildings/Operations, Dr. Hart explained that he and Mr. Hodge are trying to get to a point where a (2%?) growth figure would maintain facilities.

The Board expressed satisfaction with the new budget presentation.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support the proposed FY17 Ipswich Public Schools budget for \$30,379,867 and take it under advisement. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Nysten explained the Public Hearing process to the audience.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Ms. Player to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Acceptance of Minutes of 1/7/16 Open Session School Committee
- Acceptance of Minutes of 1/21/16 Open Session School Committee
- Acceptance of Minutes of 1/20/16 Tri Board

Approval of High School Racing Challenge overnight trip to Miami, FL, 5/20/16-5/22/16

Approval of the donation of \$11,029 to athletics for baseball's Mile Lane diamond, new pad for the high jump, basketball uniforms for girls' varsity, JV boys, and freshman boys from Ipswich Education Foundation (IEF).

Approval of the donation of \$7,640 for 8th grade Chromebook cart from IEF.

Approval of the donation of \$4,000 to the IHS robotics team from IEF.
UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to adjourn at 10:30 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.