

Mission

The Ipswich school community is committed to developing in all students the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to succeed and excel throughout life.

IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018
7:00 PM
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM
AGENDA

I. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Player, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM with the following members present: Dr. O'Flynn, Mr. Whitten, Ms. Kneedler, Mr. Hopping, and Ms. Zito. Also present were Joanne Cuff, Director of Finance and Operations and Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Nylen joined the meeting at 7:10 PM.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

High School student representative, Stuart Geller, read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There is no school on Monday, October 8th and Tuesday, October 9th for all students. District offices will be closed on Monday, October 8th.
2. The District Professional Development Day is schedule for Tuesday, October 9th.
3. There will be a Tri-Board meeting on Tuesday, October 9th at 7:00pm in meeting room A at Town Hall.
4. The next Budget Subcommittee meeting is Tuesday, October 9th at 6:00pm in the Town Manager's conference room at Town Hall.
5. The Mutual Concerns subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, October 10th at 7pm in the MS/HS guidance conference room.
6. The IHS Girls Volleyball Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser Match is taking place on Friday, October 5th @ Doug Woodworth Gym (IHS upper gym) 4pm JV match & 5:15 Varsity match. Raffles, snacks, drinks, and t-shirts will be sold as a fundraiser for breast cancer research. Please come and cheer on our girls volleyball team and help support this great cause.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Jen Baker of the Ipswich Lyons thanked the Committee for their decision to waive the PAC fee for their fundraiser concert that supports student scholarships.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ms. Player asked to acknowledge Brion Como, a district employee for over 30 years, who recently passed away. She also acknowledged the recent passing of Mr. Whitten's father and Director of Teaching and Learning, Tracy Wagner's father with a moment of silence.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Stuart Geller, HS Student Representative, reported that

- The upperclassmen were gearing up for college and working hard on college essays and applications
- The Senior Fashion Show would be held on Thursday, November 15th
- The seniors were busy voting on class superlatives and t-shirt designs
- Fall sports were doing well
- The volleyball team would be holding a fundraiser on Friday for Breast Cancer Awareness
- There has been a lot of positive feedback from students regarding the police presence in the crosswalk in front of the high school in the morning
- Several students participated in an engineering event
- Students are preparing for Spirit Week

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent

Dr. Blake reported on a busy two weeks that included the following:

- A discussion regarding staffing patterns at the High School
- A district technology update with Keith Borgen
- Attending a school safety seminar with the Chief of Police
- Signed an updated MOU with the Ipswich Police
- Began clerical union negotiations
- A meeting with the school safety consultant to discuss cameras and locking mechanisms
- Attending a leadership team meeting
- Two parent meetings regarding school choice
- A personal day
- A meeting regarding payroll/benefits with the Town
- Attending a Northshore Superintendents Roundtable meeting
- Attending a high school soccer game
- Attending an Ipswich Aware meeting
- Discussion with Tracy Wagner regarding the newly released MCAS results
- Attending a Community Collaborative meeting with the District Attorney to discuss students involved with the court system
- Attending a Whittier Tech luncheon
- Scheduling several Assistant Facilities Director interviews
- The resignation of the Tiger Tots Learning Center Director
- Meeting with the Town to discuss combing the HR Director, HR manager, and payroll clerk and associate
 - This will result in a shift of cost, not a cost savings

- Better alignment with the needs of the town and school
- Interviews will begin next week
- Discussing with the town the outsourcing of printing payroll
- Preparing for PD Day on October 9th for all school staff
 - Dan Ryder is going to be the keynote
 - Will be a new format- conference style with multiple workshops
- MCAS scores were released
 - Ipswich scored above the state average
- Will be attending soccer, volleyball and football games on Friday

Dr. Blake also mentioned that the Youth Risk Behavior Survey results have been returned and are currently being reviewed. The School Committee should anticipate a presentation on their findings at an upcoming meeting.

Ipswich Aware is looking to change regulations surrounding tobacco use and would like the School Committee's support. That information will also be presented at an upcoming meeting.

Birth to Three has moved their location permanently to Town Hall and are looking forward to their new space and working closely with the Council on Aging.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS: FERRY BEACH GRADE 6 TRIP

Prior to the start of the scheduled presentations, Dave Fabrizio, Middle School Principal, presented the Grade 6 Ferry Beach Ecology overnight trip for 2019. Grade 6 students will be attending Nature's Classroom in Saco, ME from April 23-26, 2019 utilizing Salter transportation. Mr. Fabrizio told the Committee that the Payne Grant will be covering the cost of transportation for this trip. He believed this is an invaluable experience both academically and socially for those involved.

Mr. Hopping moved to approve the trip as presented, seconded by Mr. Nylen. UNANIMOUS.

B. NCTM CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Maureen O'Connell, Teacher, Paul F. Doyon School

Both Maureen O'Connell, a teacher at Doyon and Emily Allman, High School math teacher, presented on their experience at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference.

They discussed:

- Big Ideas
 - Equity
 - Learning the ability to pose questions worth solving
 - Everyone is a mathematician
 - How to apply math to real world situations
- Emily Allman presented at the conference- "From Number Lines to Logarithms, How Forgotten Instincts Can Spark Deeper Understanding"

- Emily stated it was a good experience and well attended
- The conference allowed participants to increase their depth of knowledge
- Focused on equity
 - Encouraged students to begin asking more questions
- Focus on teaching for understanding
 - Making connections
- They emphasized the importance of going as a teacher
 - The ripple effect is enormous, interest in attending is growing
- Attending conference like these exemplifies what the Payne grants are all about

C. AMENDMENT TO PLASTIC BAG BYLAW PRESENTATION

Tessa DeVoe, High School Student

Lori LaFrance, High School Sustainability Teacher

High School student Tessa DeVoe presented with Sustainability teacher Lori LaFrance on her warrant article asking the town to amend the Plastic Bag Bylaw. The goal of this article is to close the loophole in the current ban which allow stores to use a thicker type of plastic bag. This ban is being presented to reduce the use of plastic because it cannot be recycled and because alternative products are easily accessible. This new ban is just for check out bags. Tessa stated that out of 41 businesses in town surveyed, only four were currently noncompliant. 100% of all businesses surveyed stated the new ban would not affect their business. Currently, 83 Massachusetts towns have the same laws that are being proposed in Ipswich. Tessa believes that this amendment to the original bill would uphold the spirit of the original law.

Questions from the Committee included:

- Why just check out bags?
 - There are more readily available alternatives for check out bags
- How are you spreading the word?
 - Tessa has reached out to town businesses and spoken to the different town boards
- Would this amendment require a simple majority?
 - Yes

The Committee commended Tessa and stated how impressed they were with the students of Ipswich who are changing the laws and continue to work to update them.

D. GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Government Study Committee Members

Craig Saline, Chair of the Government Study Committee (GSC) and Gary Champion, member of the GSC, presented on their warrant article for the Special Town Meeting. The GSC is currently looking at the Town Charter and Bylaws to see if Ipswich is prepared to face issues 10-15 years from now. They will be presenting three articles:

1. Article 12: Updating Town Charter with current gender-neutral language
2. Article 13: Updating Town Charter as recommended by the Mass Department of Revenue to clarify the Select Board role to coordinate with the Town Manager, the Finance Committee, the School Committee and Town departments a balanced operating and capital budget proposed at the Annual Town Meeting.

3. Article 14- Updating Town Charter: striking out wordage and replacing new updated terms to better reflect a current charter

In article 13, the GSC is proposing a better description as to what the Select Board does that can be placed on the Town website and provide clarity to both the Town and the Select Board on its role within the community. The GSC is asking for the School Committee's support in making this change. Currently the language reads differently depending on where you look. The new statement would be a "one stop shop" of who is accountable for decision making within the town.

Concerns were raised among the School Committee members regarding the inclusion of "education" in the statement, making it appear that the Select Board is solely responsible for the school budget. It also appeared that School Committee members had a different version of the current article than the one the GSC was presenting to them.

Ultimately, the School Committee felt that the use of the word "oversee" in the statement was troubling because the schools are not a department of the town and "education" seemed wedged into the statement. They encouraged the GSC to re-evaluate their current statement, using less prescriptive language and emphasize boards collaborating, not overseeing.

E. PLANNING BOARD ARTICLES AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE DISTRICT

Heidi Paek, Chair, Ipswich Planning Board

Heidi Paek, Chair of the Planning Board, presented on the four warrant articles the Planning Board was presenting at the Special Town Meeting. Those articles were:

1. Article 8: Revisions to multi-family density bonus provisions
 - a. Change language in bylaw to include "The Planning Board may increase the number of dwelling units allowed under this requirement by special permit, subject to the requirements of Section IX.T of this bylaw."
2. Article 9: Revisions to Off-Street Parking Requirements
 - a. This article addresses amending the Protective Zoning Bylaw to provide greater flexibility for off-site parking for residential use. The additional flexibility is still more restrictive than what is allowed for commercial uses, and can only be utilized by obtaining a special permit from the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals.
3. Article 10: Revision to Section IX.J Accessory Apartment
 - a. This article limits 25% size maximum size limit so that any house could conceivably add a 900 square foot apartment, would reduce the floor/threshold for eligibility from 15,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet and eliminate any redundant language.
4. Article 11: Clarifying revisions to Sections III and XI
 - a. Revise the definition of "lot area" and amend subsection C in Section XI "Applicant Requirements."

Heidi explained that mixed-use buildings would increase the density of residents, but would not greatly impact enrollment because they anticipate these apartments to be utilized for first time homebuyers or those looking to downsize.

Ms Player thanked Ms. Paek for her presentation and then suggested the Planning Board present to the School Committee prior to the start of big projects, especially those that may have an impact on the schools.

F. TOWN MEETING- SCHOOL RELATED STM ARTICLES AND STM WARRANT HEARING AND SPEAKING ASSIGNMENTS

Sarah Player, School Committee Chair

Ms. Player opened the STM Warrant Hearing. The School Committee assigned speakers to the school-related STM articles and voted on recommendations for all the article:

Article 1: No speaker

Article 2: Sarah Player to speak. Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn. UNANIMOUS

Article 3: Barry Hopping to speak. Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Mr. Whiten. UNANIMOUS.

Article 4: Pavica Kneedler to speak. Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Mr. Hopping. UNANIMOUS

Article 5: Pavica Kneedler to speak. Mr. Whitten moved to support, seconded by Mr. Nylen. UNANIMOUS.

Article 6: Charles Whitten to speak. Mr. Whitten moved to support, seconded by Ms. Zito. UNANIMOUS.

Article 7: No vote until Tri Board

Article 8: Not making recommendation

Article 9: Not making recommendation

Article 10: Not making recommendation

Article 11: Not making recommendation

Article 12: Mr. Whitten moved to support, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn. UNANIMOUS.

Article 13: Will make recommendation at Town Meeting

Article 14: Not making recommendation

Article 15: Not making recommendation

Article 16: Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Ms. Zito. UNANIMOUS.

Article 17: No vote until Tri Board

G. SUPERINTENDENT GOAL DISCUSSION

Dr. Brian J. Blake, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Blake presented the Committee with his 2018-2019 Superintendent Goals in draft form.

Those goals were:

Goal 1. Instructional Leadership: D Evaluation:

Working with the Educator Evaluation Committee, complete a review of the current evaluation system and make recommendations for improving the system and making it more "user-friendly" to both administrators and teachers. Prepare a final document for presentation to the School Committee and Bargaining unit for approval with implementation set for 2019-2020 school year.

Goal 2. Management and Operations: A Environment:

Work with the Town Manager to continue to consolidate and find efficiencies in the areas of Human Resources and Payroll. Work with Human Resource Director to standardize operating procedures including, but not limited to new hires, "individual contracts" and benefits, and operating processes.

Goal 3. Family and Community Engagement: A Engagement

Work with elected officials in Ipswich to (re)engage the community around the capital needs of the community in light of the failed vote last May.

Goal 4. Professional Culture: A. Commitment to high Standards.

Working with the leadership team, continue to refine and complete the Strategy for District Improvement document including the new vision, mission statement, theory of action and strategic objectives.

Discussion around the goals included a need for a Student Achievement Goal and whether or not it was necessary. The Committee would like to see these goals in the SMART goal format and they need to be more specific. It was also asked if a working group would already be covering the family engagement goal and if not, what would re-engagement look like?

It was decided that the Operations Subcommittee would meet prior to the next School Committee meeting and Dr. Blake would present a finalized version of his goals at the next meeting.

H. WORKING GROUP DISCUSSION

Sarah Player, School Committee Chair

Ms. Player and Dr. Blake gave an update on the status of the working groups. It was decided that School Committee members assigned to each working group should meet first to discuss the format, goals, etc. Once they have met, the groups would be advertised to drum up interest. Working groups should meet by November.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

Done.

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Have not met.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting schedule.

3. GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES

a. Payne Grant Subcommittee

b. Instructional Mini-Grant Subcommittee

Have not met.

4. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Need to schedule meeting prior to next School Committee meeting.

5. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Reviewed Section J at their last meeting which will be presented at the next School Committee meeting.

6. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE

Have not met.

8. NEW BUSINESS*

See above.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Player moved the Ipswich School Committee to approve the School Committee Open Session meeting minutes from September 20, 2018, seconded by Ms. Kneedler. UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nylen moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 PM, seconded by Mr. Whitten. UNANIMOUS.