

IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019  
7:00 PM

**MINUTES**

<b>I. OPEN SESSION</b>
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**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Player called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

Committee Members Present: Sarah Player, Chair; Mr. Hopping, Mr. Nysten, Ms. Zito, Ms. Kneedler, Dr. O'Flynn joined the meeting at 8:08 PM

Also Present: Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools; Joanne Cuff, Director of Finance and Operations; Stuart Geller, HS Student Representative

**READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

Stuart Geller, HS Representative, read the Mission Statement

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next School Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00pm in the MS/HS Guidance Conference Room
- The Ipswich Police and Ipswich Aware will be hosting Drug Take Back Day along with Touch a Truck Day on Saturday, April 27th in the Middle/High School Parking lot from 10:00am-1:00pm
- On Wednesday May 1st from 5-8pm the Ipswich Public Schools, in collaboration with the Ipswich YMCA, the Ipswich Police Department, Ipswich AWARE, and other community health organizations, will be hosting Hidden in Plain Sight along with a Parent Information Night. This event will take place at the Ipswich YMCA

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

None.

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

None.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

**Stuart Geller, High School Student Representative**

Stuart reported that the students were on April vacation the week prior to this meeting. During that time, the England Trip for High School musicians took place and participants said it was a

great success. The Environmental Club was hosting an Environmental Fair in celebration of Earth Day and the Junior Prom was being held on Friday, April 25th. The Engineering Racing Team was participating in the National Championship at Texas A&M. The Green Team won the President's Award and the performance "Anything Goes" will be taking place at the High School.

#### **A. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

##### **Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools**

No report this week. A more extensive report will be presented at the next meeting.

<h2><b>II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS</b></h2>
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#### **B. FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN**

##### **Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools**

Members of the School Committee had asked to put the Five Year Capital Plan back on the agenda for additional discussion. Dr. Blake explained that in the fall of 2018, a subcommittee was created to work with Tony Marino, Town Manager, to review the capital planning process and review the projects on the docket. During that time, Dr. Blake said they had great conversations as a subcommittee and ultimately were able to make some recommendations. Understanding that there is a new facilities director and School Dude report coming, this year the focus of the capital plan was to tend to the immediate needs in the Town/District. School plans include:

- Gearbox repairs
- Roof Repairs at Doyon
- Technology
- MS/HS paint at PAC
- Classroom furniture replacement
- Interior repairs at HS

Ms. Player explained that at the first TriBoard meeting of this year, all boards agreed that they would like to take a more collaborative approach to capital plans going forward. The subcommittee would include the Superintendent, Town Manager and a representative from each board. The Town Manager presented the capital plan at the January TriBoard meeting when he discussed the budget.

Dr. Blake explained the process used to create the capital plan, stating this was a hybrid process which included parts from years past and a new approach of collaborative work. The subcommittee looked at prior year's plans to see what was out there and determined what would be a priority for the Town and School District. They also assessed the projects to determine if any could be included in the operating budget. Going forward, there will continue to be a discussion each year to determine the needs of both the Town and School District and what will take priority. It is their hope that School Dude will help to identify these needs and priorities with greater ease. As time goes on, this five year plan will evolve and change. Just because

something is not in the current five year plan, does not eliminate it from being in the plan in the future.

The Committee reviewed the Five Year Capital Plan document and asked clarifying questions on items including the technology requests and the building infrastructure requests like the roof repairs. Ms. Player stated that the School Committee would be voting on this at the Town Meeting.

### C. VOTE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

*Sarah read the warrants, explained them and gave the vote for the other boards. The Committee then voted on each warrant article. Their votes*

#	Title	SchCom	Voted
1	<b>Consent Calendar</b>	No vote	N/A
2	<b>Finance Committee Election</b>	No vote	N/A
3	<b>FY 2020 Municipal Budget</b>	5-0	Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Mr. Nylen
4	<b>FY 2020 School Budget</b>	5-0	Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Mr. Hopping
5	<b>FY 2020 Whittier Regional High School Budget</b>	5-0	Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Mr. Nylen
6	<b>FY 2020 Essex County Technical Institute Budget</b>	5-0	Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Mr. Hopping
7	<b>Transfer of FY 2019 Appropriated Budget Funds to Educational Stabilization Fund</b>	5-0	Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Mr. Hopping
8	<b>Transfer FY19 Budget Funds to Special Education Reserve Fund</b>	5-0	Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Ms. Zito
9	<b>Annual Capital Plan</b>	5-0	Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Mr. Nylen
10	<b>Water Main Replacement</b>	5-0	Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Mr. Nylen
11	<b>Change Voting Procedures for Town Meeting – Electronic Voting</b>	RATM	Committee agreed to RATM
12	<b>Stabilization Funding</b>	5-0	Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Mr. Nylen
13	<b>Other Post-Employment Benefits Funding</b>	5-0	Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Mr. Hopping
14	<b>Nuisance &amp; Dangerous Dog Amendment</b>	No vote	N/A
15	<b>Citizen Petition – Amendment to Ch. 109 Nuisance &amp; Dangerous Dogs</b>	No vote	N/A
16	<b>Open Space Committee – Appt. Terms</b>	No vote	N/A
17	<b>Updating Town Charter – Section 2 Select Board</b>	6-0	Mr. Nylen moved to support, seconded by Mr. Hopping
18	<b>Updating Town Bylaws – Gender Neutral</b>	6-0	Mr. Hopping moved to support, seconded by Ms. Zito
19	<b>Report of the Gov’t Study Committee – Planning Board</b>	No vote	N/A

20	<b>Reduction in Density Allowance for Mixed us IR/RRA Lots</b>	RATM	Committee agreed to RATM
21	<b>Increase parking requirement for residences to 2 spaces from 1.5</b>	No vote	N/A
22	<b>Disposition of Land, Rear Old Right Road</b>	No vote	N/A
23	<b>Citizen Petition ?: Term Limits for Elected Town Officials</b>	0-6(Oppose)	Mr. Hopping moved to oppose the article, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn
24	<b>Citizen Petition ?: Quarterly Internal Audits</b>	0-6(Oppose)	Mr. Hopping moved to oppose the article, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn
25	<b>Citizen Petition ?: Inventory Control Software</b>	RATM	Committee agreed to RATM

**D. TOWN MEETING SPEAKER ASSIGNMENT**

**Sarah Player, School Committee Chair**

The following Committee members were assigned to speak on behalf of the following warrant articles at the Annual Town Meeting:

- Article 4: Sarah Player
- Article 5: Pavica Kneedler
- Article 6: Pavica Kneedler
- Article 7: Carl Nylen
- Article 8: Nicole Zito
- Article 9: Charles Whitten

**E. SCHOOL CHOICE DECISION**

**Sarah Player, School Committee Chair**

Ms. Player explained that School Committee needed to determine whether the district would participate in the School Choice program or not. This decision needed to be made by May 1st. At this time, the Committee did not need to determine how many available Choice slots they would allow, however they could have that conversation if the Committee so chooses.

Dr. O’Flynn made a motion to participate in the School Choice program for the 2019-2020 school year. A discussion followed. During that discussion, Dr. O’Flynn stated that in a time of declining enrollment, the Choice program could be a good thing for the district. Historically, the Committee has opted to participate and it’s proven to be successful. Discussion also surrounded the high number or recommended openings at both the Middle and High School. The Committee was looking for reasonings behind the number of openings requested at each school. Mr. Nylen and Mr. Hopping both agreed that the high number of openings at the Middle and High School seemed unrealistic. Ms. Player added to the discussion her concern that the budget is already set for next year based on the enrollment predictions provided by the administrators during the budget presentation. Why now, are we looking to add more students to that number without a change in the budget. There was also some discussion about the upcoming building projects in town and how those will affect future enrollment at each school. Ultimately, it was decided that

the decision on the number of Choice openings per grade would be made at the next School Committee meeting. Members were encouraged to direct any questions they had about the recommended openings to Dr. Blake.

*Dr. O'Flynn moved to participate in the School Choice program for the 2019-20120 school year, seconded by Ms. Zito. 4-2 In support of Choice*

## **F. 2019-2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR APPROVAL**

### **Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools**

The School Calendar went back to the IEA for a formal vote. The results of that vote and their recommendation will be available at the next meeting.

## **G. EDUCATOR EVALUATION UPDATE**

### **Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools**

As part of bargaining negotiations, the Educator Evaluation system was reviewed and revised with the help of the Educator Evaluation Committee. The Committee is nearing the end of their work and a redline version is currently being created. Once finalized, the revised document will be brought forward to both the IEA and School Committee for approval.

## **I. POLICY UPDATE**

### **Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Blake presented the following policies to the School Committee for final approval: GBAA, AE, GBEB, IJND, IJNDE, IJNDD and JP. These policies were vetted first by the administrative team and then by the Policy Subcommittee. Once approved, these policies will be added to the District Policy manual located on the District website.

*Ms. Zito moved to accept GBAA, AE, GBEB, IJND, IJNDE, IJNDC, IJNDD, JP as presented, seconded by Mr. Hopping. UNANIMOUS.*

<b>III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS</b>
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<b>8:30 PM</b>
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**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS-Done**

**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE-Not met**

**2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE- Not met**

**3. GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES**

a. Payne Grant Subcommittee- Payne Grant Committee met on April 24, 2019. This was a kick-off meeting with current members. Will be bringing applications forward for open seats. Selected new chair- Kathy Simms. Reviewed current forms, updated, timeline, scheduled next meeting for May to review applications

b. Instructional Mini-Grant Subcommittee-Applications are due on May 7th

4. **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**- May 6th-submit hard copies to chair, chair will present on May 16th. Brinder is available May 2nd. Superintendent will present report on May 2nd.

5. **POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**-next meeting May 13, 2019

6. **TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE**-have some bills to pay so need to schedule meeting. Submitted application for grant from Institution for Savings. Needs to go to full board for review at bank

7. **WORKING GROUPS**

Feoffees Working Group: Mr. Hopping sat down with Janet Higgins(Accounts Payable) and Joanne Cuff to interview while Mr. Nysten interviewed the Administrative team. An interview needs to be scheduled for the Grant Committee leadership.

Budget Working Group will provide an update at next meeting

Elementary Working Group needs to meet

Field Trip Working Group needs to meet

8. **NEW BUSINESS\***-None

<b>IV. CONSENT</b>
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**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

*Ms. Player moved the Committee to*

- *Accept a donation of \$8,750.00 from the Doyon FRIES for purchase iPads for Kindergarten-2nd grade classrooms and Chromebooks for 3rd-5th grade classroom to be deposited into the Doyon Gifts Account.*
- *Accept a donation of \$1,000.00 from Veloxion, Inc for the FRC Robotics Team to be deposited into the High School Gifts Account.*

*Seconded by Dr. O'Flynn. UNANIMOUS.*

<b>V. ADJOURNMENT</b>
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*Ms. Zito moved the Committee to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm, seconded by Ms. Kneedler. UNANIMOUS.*