

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, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018
7:00 PM
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM

Meeting Minutes

I. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Player, School Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM with the following members present: H. O'Flynn, C. Whitten, P. Kneedler, B. Hopping, N. Zito, and C. Nylen. Also present was the Director of Finance and Operations, Joanne Cuff and Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Brian Blake.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Kneedler read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next School Committee meeting will be Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 7pm in the MS/HS Ensemble Room.
- The Turf Field Subcommittee will be meeting on Tuesday, September 11th at 6pm in the MS/HS guidance conference room.
- The Athletic Subcommittee will be meeting on Wednesday, September 12th at 6pm in the MS/HS guidance conference room.
- The Budget Subcommittee will be meeting on Monday, September 17th at 7pm in the MS/HS guidance conference room.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

None.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent

Dr. Blake reported that he was involved in the following:

- Welcomed new staff at Opening Day on August 29th

- Began a discussion with the Town regarding the vacancy of an HR specialist to see how the Town and School can work together
- Ran an Administrative Retreat on August 27 and 28 for his leadership team at the Tavern at Castle Hill. He reported it was a packed agenda that included:
 - Reviewing their norms
 - Welcoming new High School principal, Jonathan Mitchell
 - Reviewing the instructional focus
 - A discussion of ALICE training
 - Developing a new vision/mission statement to align with a new district strategy
- Opening Day for all IPS staff
 - Received good feedback of the format from staff
 - Acknowledged Years of Service of staff in 5 year increments
 - Established a new Pledge of Allegiance tradition
- A walkthrough for the turf building project
- Participated in Rotary meetings
- Met with new staff
- Met with Wilma Gooby regarding EDP
 - EDP is at capacity
 - Wilma is having a difficult time filling positions
 - There is a need to expand programming
- Addressed a mold issue at Winthrop School
- First day of school on Tuesday, September 4th
 - All schools reported a good first day
- Participated in an Ed Eval meeting
- Participated in monthly meeting with IEA presidents
- Launched mandatory training
- Currently at full staff in district
- Offered the Assistant Facilities Director position to someone

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. ISTE PRESENTATION

Amy Gregory, Teacher, Paul F Doyon School

Amy Gregory presented on her experience at the ISTE conference she attended in June 2018 and included feedback from the other participants. She said it was a fascinating experience.

Some highlights from the conference included:

- ISTE University- online professional development for ISTE members to receive credits
- EDTech Advisory group- to help with the vetting of programs/apps
- New standards for Educational Leaders were introduced

She included in her presentation some “big ideas” from the conference:

- Accessibility
- Keynote speaker Katie Martin and her book “Learner Centered Innovation”
- Emphasis on creativity amongst learners
- Google experience

Themes prevalent at the conference included:

- Computer science
- Maker spaces/ 3D printing
- Robotics
- Virtual reality
- Digital access

Two Ipswich teachers, Dee Dee Bates and Linda Blum, presented at the Poster Sessions on their transdisciplinary project based learning experience

Takeaways from the educators who attended included:

- Digital portfolios
- Global education
- Digital literacy
- Student engagement
- Student choice with web and google products
- Computer science
- Virtual reality
- Computational thinking
- Social media benefits

Takeaways from the IT people who attended:

- Good vendor outreach and contacts

Amy shared with the Committee that the information gained from the conference is typically shared at the school level through presentations to staff at faculty meetings and through the members of the tech team.

C. SUMMER PD UPDATE

Tracy Wagner, Director of Teaching and Learning

Tracy Wagner gave a slideshow presentation on the Summer Professional Development courses that she implemented over the summer for IPS faculty. She was proud to say that 100 people from the district took part in the courses. The three courses offered were:

1. Innovative Practices with Any Gregory
 - a. Funded through a Payne
 - b. Online only course
 - c. Used "Learner Centered Innovation" as the text
 - d. Course used weekly discussion boards and posts
 - e. Modeled as a district learning cycle
 - f. Scheduled a spring share and online magazine to present products from class
2. Leadership Strategies with Meg Anderson
 - a. Discussed real world dilemmas and issues
 - b. Used the "Meeting Wise" as class text
 - c. Facilitated training and support for having difficult conversations with adults
3. Disciplinary Literacy: Reading Across Content
 - a. Reading course for non- English teachers
 - b. Discussed what it means to read like a scientist, mathematician, computer science teacher, etc.
 - c. Worked on strategies to support students in reading informational text

Tracy then talked about the next steps:

- She created an online magazine for each course to be shared with the district that includes all the curriculum that was created this summer.
 - Can be used by all teachers in district
- She will be bringing the curriculum into the learning cycles
- Working on alignment with the standards
- Evaluate the feedback and information from programs

Tracy then answered several SC member questions:

1. What was the funding source?
 - a. Payne grants, NE BioLabs donation, appropriated budget and the materials come from grants.
2. Is there a capacity for more programming/ an expansion?
 - a. Teachers would like more PD during the school year.
 - b. Tracy said she would like to expand the PD to outside districts and charge for those people to take courses
3. Is 100 people the maximum for the programs?
 - a. There is no max. Tracy will take as many people as interested
4. What does participation look like?
 - a. The group was mixed with veteran teachers and those who have not participated in PD before. The majority of participants can in pairs or teams to work on aligning a progression of standards
5. Is there consistency across schools?
 - a. Compass focuses on the alignment and consistency. Their goal is to create one place to house curriculum for the district to access.
6. How does IPS professional development compare to other districts?
 - a. Districts are surprised at how well attended our summer PD is and how different it is to other districts

Other comments from the SC included it being a great use of the Feoffees money and notable that Ipswich is using locally sourced curriculum created by teachers in the community.

D. ADMIN RETREAT UPDATE

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools

The administrative team met at the Tavern at Castle Hill on Monday, August 27th and Tuesday, August 28th. Over the course of two days, the team worked on a “Back to the Future Protocol” which first included a discussion about what education would look like in 10 years. From there, the group then looked back at how the district can get there. From that discussion, the team created a new vision and mission statement:

“Vision:

Ipswich Public Schools inspires all students to embrace the power, wonder, and joy of learning.

Mission Statement:

Ipswich Public Schools aspires to empower ALL students to be global citizens who are effective communicators, analytic problem solvers and savvy consumers of information. We propose to do this through an emphasis on communication, critical thinking, creativity, self-management, perseverance and collaboration. Students will be active partners in authentic learning, offering

voice and choice in demonstrating competency.

As educators... As a community... As students..."

Dr. Blake explained this is a work in progress and that he hopes to develop the mission statement further by including educators, community members and students to participate in the discussion.

After the vision/mission statement, the group created a theory of action:

"Theory of Action:

If we provide all students with supportive and rigorous educational experiences that meet their social, emotional and academic needs AND immerse all students in engaging and challenging academic programs built on authentic, profound learning experiences driven by the Successful Habits of Mind AND ensure that all students will be prepared to face the challenges presented by an increasingly complex world, then our students will have the tools and dispositions to be successful in a dynamic world."

The leadership team worked together on creating three objectives:

1. Meeting the needs of all students
2. Creating innovative learning environments
3. Building a connection to the global community

They then branched out to create priorities for each of those objectives. Part of the discussion of the leadership team was that there is a lot of exciting stuff going on within the district, but these plans help organize it better.

Next steps include each building administrator working with their building to create action items, checkpoints and responsibilities to match each priority. As the project evolves, links will be created to show the progress made for each priority. Over time, the priorities may change, but the objectives stay the same.

Dr. Blake concluded that these district strategic improvement plan is a solid foundation going forward and align with the school improvement plans.

D. SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

School Committee Members

School Committee members visited each of the four schools and reported back to the Committee on their findings.

Middle School: Ms. Zito reported back that the maintenance over the summer was lacking. Some areas of the building required new paint and carpet in some pods required replacement. Principal Dave Fabrizio expressed a need to know the summer maintenance schedules in advance to better prepare. Ms. Zito also shared the inconsistencies with the heating and cooling systems. Some positive aspects of the tour included the flexible furniture and teachers were visibly preparing their rooms.

Winthrop School: Ms. Kneeder reported the mold in the early childhood classrooms that was discovered after the rooms had been locked up all summer. It was explained to her that the

problem stemmed from the excessive humidity and poor air circulation. ServiceMaster was on scene working to clean the areas. Winthrop reported no roof leaks in the last 3 months. She also mentioned the chromebooks on carts in the rooms and teachers getting ready.

Doyon: Mr. Hopping reported that the school looked great and was open for business. There were complaints of a leaky roof, loud noise from the univent, bathroom stalls in disrepair and tight bathroom spaces. Although they did create a new space for the school psychologist, Mr. Hopping did report that the spaces available are still not conducive for services. The staff are using creative solutions and making it work, but the challenges we obvious.

High School: Ms. Player spoke about the concerns the custodial staff had with the painting over the summer. She noted that equipment like a bathroom scrubber were needed and that the main foyer was due to have the wax stripped to the lower level and smoothed out. She mentioned that improvements are needed in the PAC. Overall, the building looked good and was ready to go for the start of school.

E. REVIEW TOWN MEETING CALENDAR

Sarah Player, School Committee Chair

Ms. Player reviewed the Town Calendar that was distributed by Town Hall and noted the Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, October 16th. The School Committee would be discussing the warrant articles at the October 4th meeting and would invite Tom Murphy to the meeting.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting on September 12, 2018

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting on September 17, 2018

3. GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES

a. **Payne Grant Subcommittee**

b. **Instructional Mini-Grant Subcommittee**

4. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

5. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Working to schedule

6. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE

Meetings scheduled for September 11th and September 19th.

8. NEW BUSINESS*

Dr. Blake met with Tony Marino, Town Manager, around the town and school working closely in HR. Tony, Sarah Johnson, Joanne Cuff and Dr. Blake discussed hiring a Human Resources Director that oversees both the town and school. This new position would report to both the Superintendent and Town Manager and would require a shift in some job responsibilities of

current staff. To move forward with this proposal, they must discuss where the position will be housed, what the job description would include, who would be involved in the hiring and defining the new workflow.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Player moved the Ipswich School Committee to accept a donation of \$500 from Ipswich Caring to address food service account balances for families in need. Seconded by Mr. Hopping. UNANIMOUS

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Nylen to adjourn at 9:10 PM. UNANIMOUS.