

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2016
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylén called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, C. Whitten, J. Bauman, F. Krason and H. O'Flynn. Also present were Superintendent Hart, and Reed Dolan, IHS student representative.

MISSION STATEMENT

Reed read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylén read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held for the purpose of discussing deployment of security or devices or strategies with response thereto after which the meeting will adjourn

School Building Committee will meet on Jan 27, Town Hall Rm. A, 7 p.m.

Policy Subcommittee will meet on January 29, 3 p.m., Payne School

The Company of IHS presents "Almost Maine" Jan. 29 & 30, 7 p.m. and Jan. 31, 2:30 p.m.

School Committee will meet on February 4, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed Dolan announced that final exams are being held for the first semester Thursday and Friday and new classes begin next week.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart met with administrators and directors re their draft budgets focusing on three questions of budget alignment with district and building goals, of difference from the FY16 budget, and what is missing but should be in their budget.

The Learning Cycle process at the HS began on January 14. Critical thinking was the focus for each teacher's draft curriculum. The teachers share their curriculum to get feedback from colleagues, and he sat in on one such group-sharing session.

An open-parent meeting was held in the HS guidance conference room on January 12. The parent questions gave him information on their concerns, and he was confident that they were comfortable with how the system is addressing the issues.

He met with Doyon first graders at lunch and listened to their comments about when they felt most successful in school. Group brainstorming resulted in a solution to getting a straw up from a girl's tall juice bottle.

Site visits have been conducted with all three Town Boards, talking with faculty on their tours.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. IEF PRESENTATION OF CHECKS

Michelle Wurtz and Sean Cayer, of the Ipswich Education Foundation, came with a huge check totaling \$29,169 (money raised through private events and parent population). Within this funding, \$11,029 was donated to athletics for baseball's Mile Lane diamond, new pad for the high jump, basketball uniforms for girls' varsity, JV boys, and freshman boys; \$7,640 went to the 8th grade Chromebook cart; and \$4,000 went to the robotics team at IHS. The golf tournament proceeds last fall brought in close to \$65,000.

Dr. Hart called their support invaluable and Mr. Nylén knows how much the School Committee appreciates the partnership.

B. DISTRICT INITIATIVES

Winthrop Principal Sheila McAdams and fourth grade students presented a video clip of a global movement (with library support) of a coding game called Minecraft. Fourth graders individually came to each of the Board members to help them play the Minecraft game. Following that, a parent spoke of the excitement of her child returning home to play the "hour of code." Coding is used in the business world. Teachers are looking at other ways to connect with this. Dr. Hart and members were impressed.

C. MS/HS SOLAR PROJECT PRESENTATION

Connor Fauske, member of the IHS sustainability class, was presented by Dr. Hart. The two have been working together for a few months on Connor's idea for solar panels on the roof of the M/HS. Connor spoke of the installation on 15,000 sq. ft. of available roof in an angular way so as to avoid solar glare and be wired into the school. It would be augmenting the wind turbine currently producing electricity. An 184KW system would cost \$316,800 plus installation, totaling \$540,000. There are several options for paying including school funding, electric light department lease of the roof whereby they sell it back to the school, or a private business venture. The Ipswich Electric Light Department manager, Donald Newell, has also worked with Connor. The Town has expressed interest and will continue looking at this prospect. Mr. Whitten gave his personal experience with the savings of solar panels. Reed Dolan was told that the school would not be completely relying on solar power. Dr. Hart feels it is a win/win project which could be a financial benefit and especially liked the student's efforts at researching his project. He recognized Lori LaFrance for the work that she does with the students. Connor, himself, says that he has made a life change because he originally wanted to be a mechanical

engineer and now wants to work in mechanical technology. The next step is to assemble a committee of volunteers: Mr. Whitten, Mr. Nylén, Mr. Newell, and Connor Fauske will be getting together.

D. AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS PRIORITY

With Dr. Hart at the Powerpoint with audit recommendations, the Board heard responses for FY16 on curriculum management by principals, Hart, Wagner; Dolan and Gallagher in Fine Arts and Athletics; and Hegedus in Special Education. Mr. Nylén suggested that Ms. Wagner make a presentation to the School Committee on current status and future plans. Mr. Dalton said there is nothing about the transition to the new HS schedule that will have an adversarial effect on FY17 budget costs. Mr. Nylén urged Dr. Hart to reference the movement of monies in the FY17 budget in conjunction with the HS schedule. Mr. Nylén asked that Athletic Director Tom Gallagher speak to the Board re strategic planning in his area.

In the SPED area, Mr. Nylén and Dr. Hart discussed best practices with ongoing training for 11 behavioral assistants and two SPED teachers to achieve certification as Registered Behavior Technicians. In FY17, 8 paraprofessionals will be reduced. The long-term process of autonomy for students is a big shift, making sure that professionally licensed people remain at the center of the work, and it makes sense to be fiscally responsible.

In Technology, professional development funds are embedded in the school FY16 budget and will continue in the Capital Improvement Plan.

In Transportation Services, Dr. Hart commented that one of the biggest challenges is to get individual bus drivers.

Under Capital Plan in the Facilities and Maintenance category, Dr. Hart feels that the allocation with the Town still needs to be worked out.

In the FY16 and 17 years, Dr. O'Flynn sees the 8 TAs leaving, 2 professionals employed, as the only savings. Dr. Hart said that administrators are keeping to the five-year plan. Mr. Nylén mentioned textbooks, transportation, and contracts as savings under audit recommendations.

E. ADMINISTERING MEDICATION TO STUDENTS

ACCEPTABLE-USE AGREEMENT – STUDENT EMAILS GRADES 6 -12

Sarah Player referred to the second page for the revision of the policy in regard to a written plan. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the revision of the Administering Medication to Students policy. UNANIMOUS.

In the Student Email access Grades 6-12, Middle School students will have access to in-house email only. The current policy will be kept and embed this one while the Policy Subcommittee continues to study it. The penalty (disciplinary part) for a violation of the current policy is not spelled out. Mr. Nylén questioned that nothing says that Grades 9-12 students can use email only for school purposes.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to approve the Acceptable Use

Agreement for student emails Grades 6-12 with a one-word amendment as follows:
“Email is to be used for school-related communication only and students.....”

UNANIMOUS.

F. DISTRICT INITIATIVE SURVEYS

Professional Learning Communities Benchmark Survey

Dr. Hart, with Powerpoint, presented the results of the survey to assess current practices around collaboration in the Ipswich Public Schools. The survey, given in October, 2015, had 131 teachers involved. Three strengths (of the school, faculty, and team meetings) and three areas of need (with colleague observations, problem-solving with instructional dilemmas, and teamwork) were surveyed with high percentages in each of the strength and needs areas.

Curriculum (Compass) Benchmark Survey

This survey showed level of teacher skills and knowledge on the 16 elements of curriculum development. Given in November, 102 teachers completed the survey. Three strengths (of formative and summative assessment, and differentiation) and three areas of need (in Understanding by Design, enduring understanding, and Critical Thinking) showed high percentages in the strengths.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE – Dr. O’Flynn summarized the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on participation in athletics: cutting the user fee for freshmen to be paid with Payne Grant money and free admission to games as incentives. There is a Memo of Understanding concept of how to charge--a policy/handbook strategic plan for athletics.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – Mrs. Bauman asked about workshop time on the budget.

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

6. POLICY

7. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE – Dr. O’Flynn reported that bids for the turf field go out in February, dates for the construction work are between May 21 and Sept. 1. A meeting is scheduled for January 29 and the turf subject will be on the School Committee agenda for February 4.

8. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE- K. Murphy presented the new option re a possible switch of grading with Doyon to K-2 and Winthrop to 3-5 because Doyon 3-5 would require 420 students and the desired number is 355. Pre-K at Doyon would raise the number to 395 so Winthrop would have to take pre-K. If Ipswich wants to consider it, a letter would be needed to MSBA. They can say no, can

require a MSBA vote, or stop the process for a review. Mr. Murphy commented that a community asset is needed—with a large gym, etc. and put the building blocks in line to make it work. The general consensus was to take the switch option off the table and not pursue the change of elementary grade assignment between schools.

9. NEW BUSINESS

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Because Mr. Whitten wished to have all of his conversation re the elementary building project included, January 7 Minutes were withdrawn.

Mr. Nylén moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Approval of Analog Devices' donation of \$4,000 for the First Robotics Program

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

Approval of IEF's \$7,640 donation to the 8th grade Chromebook cart

Approval of IEF's \$4,000 donation to the robotics team at IHS.

Approval of donation of \$1,000 from a Doyon School family in response to the annual Doyon Gift Fund Appeal.

UNANIMOUS.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Nylén moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to go into Executive Session at 10:20 p.m. for the purpose of deployment of security policy after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call IN FAVOR- Player, Nylén, Krason, Whitten, Bauman, O'Flynn.