

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2016
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nylen called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Attending were J. Bauman, B. Hopping, S. Player, and H. O'Flynn.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing deployment of security personnel or devices or strategies with respect hereto. IN FAVOR- Bauman, Player, Nylen, Hopping, O'Flynn.

II. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nylen called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Attending were S. Player, J. Bauman, B. Hopping, and H. O'Flynn.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Sarah Player read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 9 – Communications Subcommittee will meet at 2:30 p.m., Payne School

August 10 – School Building Committee will meet at 7 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room A

August 23 – School Building Committee will meet at 7 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room A

August 25 – 6th grade-locker night, 5-7 p.m.

August 25 – School Committee meeting will be held at 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room

CITIZENS COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Nylen introduced Seth Ward, member of the Feoffees of the Grammar Schools of Ipswich, who made a formal presentation of the disbursement for 2016 to the Ipswich schools. He explained that there is just under \$26 million that they continue to invest prudently in equities, commodities, fixed income, and cash. These policies are reviewed annually. The investment has been performing since January, 2013, at a 6.3% annual return, above the benchmark of 6.0%. The year 6/30/15 – 6/30/16 was a little more troublesome with a negative 1.4%. Changes have been made by terminating one manager, doing the indexing within the group of Feoffees themselves for fixed income, equities, and commodities and lowering the cost as a result. The Feoffees are pleased to be doing this for the schools. He reminded the

citizens of Ipswich of this extraordinary event when the Feoffees distribution is pleased to distribute \$716,204. It was \$711,925 last year and the preceding three years amounted to approximately \$800,000 annually plus interest, a total for the five years of just under \$4 million for the use of enhancing Ipswich's educational programs. The Feoffees have a formula that over time will, in the event of volatility, keep the numbers up. Fifty percent of the prior year's distribution plus 50% of the preceding 12 quarters is how Feoffees get to the amount.

School Committee members joined him in speaking of the celebration of the enhanced programs by demonstrations and exhibitions made available through Payne and mini-grants for school staff, organized by Jen Bauman and held last Spring. Competition is heavy for grants; the bar has been raised in terms of what grants are funded. The Manning Fund, incorporated into the Little Neck funds is going to the Doyon School this year, a total of \$11,348 within the \$716,000. Mr. Ward encouraged others in Town to give funds to be managed by Feoffees for the schools.

Dr. O'Flynn thanked Mr. Ward for the outstanding stewardship of him and his colleagues.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. SECURITY PURCHASES

Mr. Nylen announced that the District has engaged a consultant to study the schools' security system and look for ways to improve it. Funding request for the first phase amounts to \$230,620.03, recommended by the Superintendent, and sources of the funds now have to be determined. The Superintendent recommends using Choice funds; the Town Manager says there are no Capital funds available but there would be for another year. The consultant recommends that the first phase (of three) is particularly time sensitive.

Mrs. Bauman feels that security is the #1 priority, recommends that it be done immediately, and does not agree that funds should come from "Choice." Choice usage means that the District goes backward, cutting the ability to defend the override. As a Town issue (municipal buildings), it should come from Capital funds. Dr. O'Flynn and Mr. Nylen spoke of relocating Capital funds and using "free cash." Possible savings from other sources, such as Essex Tech savings and Fall Town Meeting request were mentioned. Mr. Hopping supported reallocating Capital funds and searching for grant funding, but would not support fully the use of Choice. Ms. Player suggested that the TriBoard be consulted.

Dr. O'Flynn moved that the first two recommendations of \$47,107.50 and \$21,978.13 for security upgrades under Phase 1 be funded out of unspent or repurposed Capital funds and, if not available, from Choice. Mr. Hopping amended, seconded by Mrs. Bauman to use whatever funding is available. Amended motion vote: UNANIMOUS.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to prioritize the third recommendation of Phase 1 of \$161,534.50 out of free cash, grant funding, or capital funding. UNANIMOUS.

B. STAFFING UPDATE

The Board reviewed the new and replacement positions. Financial changes were to be a net savings, but there is no certain number at this time.

C. SCHOOL BUILDING – TRI-BOARD MEETING

Mr. Nylen reported that, at the TriBoard meeting, there were concerns with the Bialek site. There were several concerns identified and requests for answers including traffic studies, railroad crossing studies, and field issues. The BOS needs to vote on Bialek Park conversion to a school site with a Town Meeting vote to follow. FinCom has a question whether the SC would consider adding back the Doyon site to the list if MASC would allow it. The rail study will take 3 weeks; the traffic study, 5-6 weeks as a \$50,000 project. Mr. Hopping felt the need to let the process play out but, having seen the new designs at the Bialek site with athletic fields at the front, he was more convinced than ever that Bialek should be the site of the school and applauded the architects. Mr. Nylen, commenting that it is part park and part school, announced SBC meeting for August 10 and BOS, for August 15, and his intention to write a letter on behalf of the SC to the newspapers respectfully making citizens aware of SC view.

A citizen thinks that the subject ought to go to Town Meeting. Dr. O'Flynn was concerned that if the vocal minority of natural opponents showed up and the advocates didn't, the project would fail. He felt the best way is to reassert the commitment to 775 students, go forward with the process, and push to retain and encourage the BOS to keep Bialek in play. Ms. Player cited the SC goal to support a 775 school that meets the educational needs. Mr. Hopping agreed and said the best way for all to enjoy that site is to build a school there and let them redesign the site for fields as well.

D. POLICY – MASC POLICY SERVICES

Mr. Hopping explained the financial process for purchasing the policy handbook: \$3,500 immediately, \$3,500 in January, 2018, and \$3,500 in July, 2018, and, going forward, \$950 annually to update the handbook. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to fund the initial \$3,500 out of Choice, which will be paid on the signing of the contract. UNANIMOUS.

E. SCHOOL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR BUILDING INSPECTION

The Board chose assignments as follows: Doyon – Krason, Winthrop - Whitten, Middle – Player, High – Bauman. These reports from School Committee members will be due on the first meeting of the Board in September, and Mrs. Bauman asked that Mr. Hodge, Director of Facilities, be present at that time. Also, he is asked to accompany the members on their tour of the schools and ask him what capital projects have not yet been addressed.

F. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2016-17

After discussion, the following assignments were made:

Athletics – Hopping, O’Flynn
Birth to Three – Bauman
Budget – Nysten, Player, O’Flynn
Communications – Bauman, Krason
Grant – Payne – O’Flynn
 Mini - Bauman
MASC Voting Delegate – Whitten
Mutual Concerns – Nysten, Hopping, Player
Operations – Nysten, Player, Bauman
Policy – Hopping, Whitten, Player
School Building – Hopping, Player, Whitten
SEPAC – Krason
Turf – Hopping, O’Flynn

Mr. Nysten submitted to the Board a list of FY17 activities for these subcommittees.

G. SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS WORKSHOP

Dr. O’Flynn reported that everything is set for August 30, 5 p.m., Turner Hill with the Superintendent and the Board for Superintendent’s goals and SC goals.

H. SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING/SUBCOMMITTEE CALENDAR, 2016-17

Mr. Nysten will build into a master calendar the dates for Choice decisions and for Feoffees interaction.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player to approve the meeting calendar draft for 2016-17. UNANIMOUS.

IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS AND BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Nysten reported that, in conversation with Ms. Cuff, lunch prices will need adjusting in the next few months to become effective at midyear.

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – meeting August 9.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

Payne Grant Committee

Instructional Mini-grant Committee

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Hopping reported that, following the SC’s vote of approval on the draft of the turf field maintenance/management, all groups are on board and the final document will be in place on August 10 with added language as suggested.

The next Policy meeting will work on dividing allocations as Ipswich doesn't follow the handbook policy. He discussed release of 7/8 Executive Session Minutes to go on Consent Agenda following perusal by Board members.

7. TURF FIELD – Meeting on August 12 re signage with Mike Jones present. The Board asked about a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

8. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

9. NEW BUSINESS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of July 21, 2016

Acceptance of New England BioLabs contribution of \$10,000 to the Ipswich Schools per the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement for 2016 to be used for science education. UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 9:26 p.m. UNANIMOUS.