

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 2, 2016
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair O'Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Attending were C. Whitten, J. Bauman, F. Krason, S. Player, and B. Hopping. Also present were Student Rep R. Dolan and Superintendent Hart.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Reed Dolan read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- June 3 – Synthetic Field Ground Breaking Ceremony, Welch Stadium, 9 a.m.
- June 3 – Varsity lacrosse playoff, 5 p.m., Mile Lane field
- June 3 – Doyon 5th Grade show, 7 p.m., Doyon School
- June 4 – 7th & 8th grade orchestra and 8th grade chorus traveling to Six Flags to participate in Music in the Park
- June 5 – Ipswich High Graduation, 2 p.m.
- June 6 – IHS Honors Reception, 7 p.m., Dolan Performing Arts Center
- June 6 - Winthrop School 5th grade show, 7 p.m., Winthrop School
- June 7 – Mini-Grant Subcommittee, 6 p.m., Doyon School
- June 7 – Policy Subcommittee, Payne School , 7 p.m.
- June 7 – MS Choral Concert, 7:30 p.m., Dolan PAC
- June 8 – Doyon School Band/Orchestra concert, 7 p.m., Doyon School
- June 9 – HS Spring Art Show, Ipswich Museum, 6 p.m.
- June 9 – Winthrop School 5th Grade Band/Orchestra concert, 7 p.m.
- June 13 – Grade 5 Mixer, Middle School, 6 p.m.
- June 14 – MS Instrumental concert, 7:30 p.m., Dolan PAC
- June 16 – Crane Beach picnic
- June 16 – School Committee meeting, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room

CITIZENS COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart viewed the 8th grade project presentation and was amazed at the quality and the articulation of the kids.

The second submission of the School Building Project is a project budget for when the 775-student school opens and the administration is busily working on it.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed Dolan spoke of spring sports winding down and both girls' and boys' lacrosse teams are in the playoffs.

The Class of 2016 graduates on Sunday.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart explained his recent visit to the Winthrop School where boys were using tree branches in their enthusiasm for the study of eagles. Their excitement was moving, and, when the invitation came, he attended the 2nd grade Eagle Museum in Room 23. This is a stellar Project-based Learning example combining rigorous content with hands-on interest-based projects.

He will be attending the Buck Institute Project-based Learning conference in California, June 12-17, which brings educators from across the nation to a symposium including exemplary workshops, speakers, and collaboration. He will participate in the Leadership Academy and looks forward to sharing with administrators in the Summer Administrative workshop in August.

Students in the Sustainability Course were recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency for exemplary work in promoting practice that creates sustainability. Two EPA people presented the award on May 23 to the HS students who made possible the Town Meeting vote to ban plastic and Styrofoam.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**B. SEPAC PRESENTATION OF 2016 SPECIAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

Dr. Hart introduced the award to select the best of the best. Yi-Ping Lui, representing SEPAC, an advisory group giving support to SPED students and parents, explained that the award was established in 2014 to recognize a special educator. Mrs. Potter, MS Program Manager, was the first winner.

Karen Donovan, stepped forward to speak about Shauna Levasseur, the 2016 Special Educator of the Year, who had taught Brendan Donovan to speak and use language appropriately with the highest level of skill and integrity. Brendan's dad spoke as well. Shauna was very surprised and said the children make her job wonderful, making her laugh and smile every day.

Dr. O'Flynn and Mr. Hopping thanked her very much for her excellent work.

C. A YEAR IN REVIEW

Dr. Hart introduced Tracy Wagner, the Director of Teaching and Learning, as having the job of building capacity and getting staff in the organization to know how to do the work.

Ms. Wagner, on Powerpoint, completing her first year in Ipswich, presented the process of growing, teaching and learning in the Ipswich Public Schools (Professional Learning Community, Compass, and Learning Cycles [teachers getting feedback to improve their curriculum]). Next, in each of the previous categories, she showed the outcomes and discussed her steps for next year: continuing the learning cycles, vertical alignment (through the grades), shift towards instructional focus, interdisciplinary work, deepening levels of vigor, and demonstrations of student mastery, collecting and using data.

Dr. O'Flynn thanked her and Mr. Hopping commented on her fabulous job, asking if anything happened that she had not anticipated and what did she see as

challenges in the next 5-10 years. She replied that she saw students doing 21st Century work with documents and technology. While she had believed that teachers going into STEAM would be involved, she did find out that feedback in the Learning Cycles is very strong from the non-leaders.

Reed commented that subject matter is very much more rewarding when using SHOM, collecting data, etc. Dr. Hart commented that she has been a wonderful match for the district.

D. CHOICE ALLOTMENT 2016-17

Dr. O'Flynn began by saying that Mr. Nylen preferred that there be no vote, his concern being the current MS model. School Committee and administration need to have discussion. High School maintenance of this year's level was mentioned. Dr. Hart posed the question of thinking right-size as somewhere between 1500 and 2000 students total, and he suggested that NESDEC reflects the most aggressive direction and following this continuum would be the best combination. Dr. O'Flynn, as the biggest advocate for Choice, spoke to the successes of past years' experience with his daughters in regard to music, athletics, and academics in the system. On the other hand, it is necessary to shrink the MS because numbers are going down by 20 next year and another 20 later. Mr. Hopping felt that avoiding mistakes made in the past of reducing and adding back is imperative. Mrs. Bauman suggested bumping up for next year and doing a hybrid model the next year. Mr. Hopping felt that the budget could go into the 6th year and, if efficiencies were realized, that budget could be extended to future years.

Dr. Hart thought that the broader question, before getting to the model piece, is declining enrollment that might not end. Managing the decrease in staffing and sustaining the override could be done, but the downside is at the high school where the perfect size is 650 students to have balanced offerings, etc. Is there a point where small is too small? There is an opportunity to add Choice.

Ms. Player asked for research with other schools whose enrollments are dropping. Mr. Hopping suggested getting a handle on trends population-wise, to develop a five-year plan with staffing.

After all the discussion, they felt the need to have the MS principal present at the next meeting to discuss the MS model before voting Choice numbers.

E. PAYNE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. O'Flynn reported on the Grant selection process and the significant diverse direction in which the Grants go. Comparing technology, capital requests, and routine professional development makes study necessary on how the Grants are awarded. Funding of the capital part of Payne Grants is challenging and perhaps duplicative.

Following discussion of the nature of each, Grant approvals are as follows:
Engineering Literacy. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to approve Engineering Literacy at \$41,500. UNANIMOUS.

Extending Technology Initiatives. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to approve Extending Technology Initiatives for \$60,150. Mr. Hopping is hoping that this addresses specific needs with teachers who are slow to employ technology. UNANIMOUS.

Jack Welch Stadium Bathrooms/Concessions/Team Rooms/ Buildings and improvement to Doyon Field. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn to approve Jack Welch Stadium Bathrooms/Concessions/Team Rooms/ Buildings and improvement to Doyon Field for \$150,000. UNANIMOUS.

High School Professional Development. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve High School Professional Development for \$15,000. Mr. Hopping wanted to know how much professional development was within the Operating Budget. UNANIMOUS.

Building STEAM Capacity. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to approve Building STEAM Capacity for \$30,000. UNANIMOUS.

Employing the Standards for Mathematical Practice and Metacognition to Enhance the Teaching of Writing in Mathematics. Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve Employing the Standards for Mathematical Practice and Metacognition to Enhance the Teaching of Writing in Mathematics for \$26,475. IN FAVOR- O'Flynn, Player, Bauman, Krason, Whitten; ABSTAINING- Hopping.

Enhance and Support the College-going and Career Readiness Culture in the Ipswich Public Schools. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to approve Enhance and Support the College-going and Career Readiness Culture in the Ipswich Public Schools for \$36,615. UNANIMOUS.

Doyon Makerspace Project. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve Doyon Makerspace Project for \$20,558. UNANIMOUS.

Performing Arts Center Upgrade (Phase 1). Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, for \$25,209. UNANIMOUS. ICAM is contributing money to this project as well. Mr. Hopping would like to see Phases 2 and 3 funded on the Capital Plan. UNANIMOUS.

Empowering Students with TED Talk Skills. Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve Empowering Students with TED Talk Skills for \$20,000. UNANIMOUS.

Professional Development Grant – Middle School. Mrs. Krason moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve Professional Development Grant – Middle School for \$20,000. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Hopping asked if conferences have been

reimbursed in the past and whether the objective is exploring methods of instruction. Dr. Hart explained that these are full-day conferences. Mr. Hopping was under the impression that RTI was already in place.

Early Childhood STEAM. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to approve Early Childhood STEAM for \$8,430.

Symphony of Mathematics. Emily Allman, the applicant, came forward to complain about the process which she felt should be more transparent and that the amount of the grant had been cut substantially. She said bias comes from accepting some people's applications who are on the committee. She was confused with portions of the application and who to contact.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, that the SC request Dr. Hart to review the MS Math League program with Mr. Fabrizio, involving Kelly Scott and Emily Allman. UNANIMOUS. It was recommended that the Principals involved attach their signatures to any Payne Grant application. No action was taken on the grant, and Mr. Hopping requested that the matter be revisited at the School Committee meeting on June 16.

Enriching Professional Development and Classroom Learning Using 21st Century Tools. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve Enriching Professional Development and Classroom Learning Using 21st Century Tools for \$11,500. UNANIMOUS.

Dr. O'Flynn did a quick review of Payne Grant proposals which were not funded. Mr. Hopping asked at what point the School Committee gets to review the applications. If the Payne Grant Committee does not recommend, does the SC think it is worthy and have veto power. The issue of stipend amounts contracted within IEA and stipends requested by Grant applicants was also mentioned.

F. HANDBOOK CHANGES

The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the High School Handbook including the new schedule, backpack policy, electronic devices use, and awards. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to approve the described changes in the High School handbook. UNANIMOUS.

The Middle School changes were reviewed, and Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the changes to the Middle School Handbook. UNANIMOUS.

The Winthrop School changes to the Vision and Mission Statements were reviewed, and Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to accept the changes to the Winthrop School handbook. UNANIMOUS.

G. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

Dr. Hart reported that MSBA has given an expanded time frame until June 9. The Building Site Subcommittee, of which Mr. Whitten is a member, is reviewing seven sites and looking at the pros and cons, has approached the landowners, and is negotiating before any site is brought forward in public. The determination can be made over the summer. A spreadsheet on these seven sites will be put together next week and an action plan is underway for going forward.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. VOUCHERS AND BILLS
- B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – meeting next week.
 - 4. GRANT COMMITTEES
 - Payne Grant Committee
 - Instructional Mini-grant Committee – meeting next week.
 - 5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE – meeting next week.
 - 7. TURF FIELD - construction proceeding; groundbreaking ceremony,
6/3/16
 - 8. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
 - 9. NEW BUSINESS

III. CONSENT

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to approve Open Session Minutes of May 25, 2016. UNANIMOUS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. UNANIMOUS.