

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2016
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylén called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Attending were J. Bauman, B. Hopping, S. Player, C. Whitten, F. Krason, Dr. W. Hart, and J. Cuff.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. IN FAVOR- Bauman, Player, Nylén, Hopping, Krason, Whitten.

II. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nylén called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Attending were S. Player, J. Bauman, H. O'Flynn, C. Whitten, F. Krason, and B. Hopping. Also present were Dr. Hart, Superintendent, Financial Director J. Cuff, and R. Dolan, Student Representative.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Reed Dolan read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December 19 – High School Large Ensemble Group, 7 p.m., PAC
- 20 - Policy Subcommittee, 7 p.m., Payne School
- 21- TriBoard meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall
- 22 – High School Small Ensemble Group, 7:30 p.m., PAC
- 23 – Early dismissal: M/HS – 11:20 a.m.; Elem – 12 noon
- 29 – School Building Comm., 7 p.m., Town Hall
- January 3 – School resumes
- 3 – Policy Subcommittee, 7 p.m., Payne
- 5 – Parent meeting on anti bullying, PAC
- 5 – School Committee meeting, 7 p.m., Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart remarked about the 1080 racing challenge – Mr. Gallant's team of students who participated in a STEAM activity of building a car that then has to go through a whole variety of leaping challenges and obstacle courses. Using all of the

STEAM areas, the car is painted, and verbally promoted. There were 9 teams and two of the teams came in first and second.

Ms. Player commented that the MS instrumental concert last week was great.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Reed spoke of the musicians, both small and large, who will be performing under the direction of Mr. Lee and Ms. Ross next week at the PAC. Men's and girls' basketball teams are now competing. Poetry day was just held at the Univ. of Mass, Boston.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported that school officials and the Quirk Construction group met and agreed upon the final punch list for the turf field. Issues include loose granules, lifted drainage grates that create a trip hazard, and the biggest, a break in the irrigation line. It is anticipated that all items will be addressed and final payment released within the next two weeks. Dr. O'Flynn commented that the irrigation has been taken care of in preparation for the current unusual cold weather.

The Administration team has submitted first draft budgets, and Dr. Hart will be meeting with the Director of Finance and Operations and each administrator to review each budget. Primary focus is long-term financial planning designed to expand the override five-year budget for three years out.

The Professional Learning Community met last week with the Director of Teaching/Learning in a day-long workshop focused on bringing the Peer Observation goal connected to the district-wide expectations document to fruition.

He met with the Middle School Green Team to expand the composting program at the MS. These students were well organized and articulate re expanding their recycling bins and he enthusiastically supports them.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. FALL SPORTS AWARDS

Mr. Gallagher, AD, recognized the champion cheerleading squad for the 6th consecutive year and their imminent trip to the Nationals. He said that six of the nine fall programs made it to the playoffs. He named ten Salem News All Stars: Izzie Primack (field hockey), coaches S. Merullo and K. O'Connor. All Star students were named by the Salem News for cheerleading, boys' cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer, and volleyball. Dr. Hart thanked Tom Gallagher, the coaches, and the parents who provide support and backup for their athletes.

C. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

Mr. Nysten spoke of the upcoming December 29, SBC meeting when the chosen elementary school design will be voted by the SBC. The certified vote for the design must be submitted by the SBC. Mr. Hopping urged the SC to vote on 12/21 at the Tri Board meeting.

Mr. Whitten projected the design offerings: W3B – add/reno which does not meet the education plan for a new school and W2A.1, an attempt to get the smallest possible configuration on the site with the cafeteria and gym stacked, which is not efficient nor sound. He viewed W2A.2 and then jumped to W2A.4, describing car queues of entrances/exits, bus (10) queues, pre-K movement near the administration area, community spaces which can be blocked from the academic wing, 50 cars on site and a need for 90 other cars. Parking remains a concern. Traffic studies are only at the observation level without recommendations (Hopping). The traffic survey sent out to 150 and 218 parents (Winthrop and Doyon) has shown a 30% participation over all. Mr. Murphy, SBC Chair, opined that the next natural study should show where the walkers live, the Winthrop-area kids currently being driven to the Doyon, etc., and the decision is too early for turns on adjacent streets.

Ms. Player and Dr. Hart talked about the Education Learning Team's group meeting about creating a list of working groups as the design process continues. At the end of the combined faculty meeting, Ms. McAdams had included a list of interests for faculty to work on school-specific problems.

Mr. Nylén said that a working group of key stakeholders including police and fire chiefs have convened to work on preliminary parking.

D. SCHOOL IT UPDATE

IT Director J. Frash was introduced by Dr. Hart who extolled the dramatic changes in technology in the Ipswich schools since Jeanne came on board and one cannot walk through any of the schools without seeing kids on technology. Three different groups presented at MassCue. Mrs. Frash worked with Powerpoint in covering the new website and upgrades, funding, and challenges throughout the district. The upgrades to infrastructure --internet, router, firewall, server, and client—have connected all the schools improving reliability, security, and performance. The account and file management has been simplified. Information services cover the library, the lunch program, the district website, and student information system. Applications include Solidworks and Adobe Creative Cloud. New support tools improve response time. Classroom equipment includes Chromebooks, laptops and ipads in charging carts, thin clients in classrooms and libraries, CAD lab computers, iMacs for art lab, projection system, teacher/administration laptops, desktops. Quantity and variety provide new opportunities in the learning environment. Kids are not constrained for access to a device and some bring their own from home every day.

Most of this inventory came from the Feoffees as Payne and/or mini grants. Payne grants have provided \$1,673,812 and mini grants, \$258,979. Capital funds and the annual budget augment. Dr. Hart interjected that \$250,000 is in the operating budget. Infrastructure maintenance and upgrades are important. The mini-grant applicants must get signed approval from the IT Director that the request will merge with the system's equipment and Mrs. Frash can order it, thus saving money. She would prefer advance notice with Payne Grants as well.

The budget for maintenance of equipment averages to \$400,000 annually and capital funds can provide \$150,000 per year. Infrastructure can't be done on an annual basis because some needs are every six years (FY20), others 7-8 (FY21), and still others at 9-10 years (FY24).

Challenges are of system management, support and staff, and equipment maintenance. Examples here are diverse technology, accommodating mini grants, training staff, maintaining all the equipment. Others are managing the purchases and budget, adjusting to a managed system (more structured). Constantly in her mind, the system has a very robust firewall for security. Dr. Hart again praised Mrs. Frash for "sticking to her guns" so that all the pieces are coming together because people now stay with the process.

In summary, Mrs. Frash proclaimed the result is a robust, reliable, adaptable, and sustainable system. Dr. Hart mentioned that Jeanne needs to stop working so much, and they will work on continuing the relationship on a part-time basis.

E. FY18 BUDGET AND TRI-BOARD PREPARATION

FY18 Budget. Mr. Nylén reported that the Budget Subcommittee had met and looked at the documents which the Town Manager created. The general consensus was that the committee like what the Finance Director and Town Manager put together.

Dr. O'Flynn, meeting with the Town Manager for one hour, brought capital issues forward on improving SC position on the Capital Budget. Audit savings are part of what SC is supposed to make. Projection had been an increase of 3.1% and the \$849,000 increase is slightly under 3%. Because we are getting \$26,000 more than we had projected, Ms. Cuff suggested that that amount go into Stabilization and all agreed.

TriBoard. The agenda calls for the 12/21/16 meeting, 9-10 p.m. presentation for SBC with the architect and traffic engineer present, the bulk of the time being presentations. Mr. Murphy suggested answering the question: Why do we want to throw away a 50-yr-old building? with the answer that the Winthrop building has issues. Mr. Nylén spoke of milestones and anticipating Fin Com questions, hoping to recruit them. Also, he mentioned minimizing taxes on townspeople.

Mr. Whitten mentioned several towns/cities with similar limitations on acreage and parking in locating a new school and was urged to acquire more information.

The Pony Express Open Space parcel at the January Special Town Meeting was discussed briefly.

IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. VOUCHERS AND BILLS
- B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

4. GRANT COMMITTEES - met with Policy Committee

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Nylan reported having spent time on the Superintendent’s search: the internal solicitations for candidates being the first step. Also, two responses have come in for the RFQ. An Executive Session was set for December 21 at 6 p.m. on the topic.

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE –Mr. Hopping reported a meeting with M. Gilbert on the manual sections C & D, weeding out some old policies and updating some that must be included.

7. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

8. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE

9. NEW BUSINESS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nylan moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of December 1, 2016

Approval of \$998 to Winthrop School from Geskus Studios and Yearbook Publishing, Inc. which is their portion of the proceeds from this fall’s school pictures

Approval of \$1,341.51 to Ipswich High School from Hockmeyer Studios which is their portion of the proceeds from this fall’s school pictures

Acceptance of \$2,500 donation from Ipswich Charitable Foundation to support the First Robotics Team

Acceptance of \$1,000 donation from Align Credit Union to support the First Robotics Team.

Acceptance of \$4,000 donation from Analog Device to support the First Robotics Team

Approval of overnight field trip to participate in the National Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall, New York, NY, April 12-16, 2017

Acceptance of \$5,000 donation from retired music teacher Frances Healey to purchase a new piano for the Doyon School

Approval of \$904 to Doyon School from Geskus Studios and Yearbook Publishing, Inc., their portion from this fall’s school pictures.

Acceptance of \$1,500 from a grant funded by the Ipswich ReCreation Department for summer programming at Birth to Three Family Center.

Acceptance of \$7,500 from Doyon FRIES to purchase Chromebooks.

UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

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