

School Committee

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 21, 2017
Ipswich Middle/High School Ensemble Room

Attendees: Jen Bauman, Sarah Player (Chairing the meeting), Chub Whitten, Hugh O'Flynn, Barry Hopping and Bill Hart. Carl Nysten on phone

1. Call to Order: meeting was called to order at 7:19pm
2. Citizen Comments: John Collyer of Jeffrey's Neck Road presented the Ipswich Citizens Lobbying for Another MSBA Site (CLAMS) petition of more than 300 signatures of citizens who are opposed to the location of the proposed new elementary school. The comments on the petition vary from traffic issues, size constraints, and one community school. Not a 100% consensus on issues. Willie Whitmore of Kinsman Court said that he's encouraged that 2 groups are being formed advocating for the single Community School. He believes there is still information that people need to learn about the size constraints and potential traffic. Jim Engle said he's concerned the discussions at this point aren't moving the needle. The traffic study was supposed to be completed before the site was selected. That did not happen. The traffic study did not completely alleviate the problem. Where are the people? Just waiting to go to ballot box to vote no.
3. Parking: Group needs to decide on parking issue to give our recommendation to School Building Committee (SBC) for their meeting tomorrow. Off-street parking is not an option because the business roundtable has concerns about it. Also, teachers don't want to drive around looking for a spot every day. Bialek Park would give us 30+ spots but we don't own the land and can't count on it. Teachers are creatively thinking about the Green Street lot such as EDP Van, health plan incentives, walking school bus locations, etc. Chub made a motion to recommend to the SBC that the school committee intends to use the Green Street property for a parking lot contingent on the passing of the town vote; Jen seconded. Role call vote: all yes. Hugh made another motion to write a letter to BOS to use Bialek Park for overflow parking for teachers; Barry seconded. Role call vote: all yes.
4. Busing: Hugh made a motion to eliminate elementary busing fees and provide up to 11 busses available for all elementary students, contingent on the passing of the town vote; Chub seconded. Role call vote: all yes. Discussion around eliminating bus fees for middle and high school students. No decision made since the decisions are only regarding the elementary project only.
5. Traffic study highlights: It is believed that Kevin Murphy of SBC sent the draft traffic study report to the Board of Selectmen. The school committee needs to follow through with the stated recommendations; most of which are out of school committee control such as painting a right-hand turn out of Winthrop, signs in front of fire station prohibiting stopping, eliminating some parking spots, etc. School committee will reconvene the traffic study group to include the fire and police chief as well as other town officials.
6. New business: Beth Gillander of Farley Avenue, just came to the meeting from the ELT Sustainability Group that discussed 1. Organization, 2. Place/Building 3. Educational meetings. More than 30 people attended.

7. Adjourn: Motion by Barry to adjourn; Hugh seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm