

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 23, 2017
MS/HS ENSEMBLE ROOM**

I. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nylen called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Present were F. Krason, J. Bauman, C. Whitten, B. Hopping, and S. Player. Also present were Superintendent Hart, Finance Director J. Cuff, and Student Representative Reed Dolan.

MISSION STATEMENT READING

Reed Dolan read the District's Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylen read the following announcements:

March 28 – Policy Subcommittee, 7 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conf. Rm.

March 29 – All Town Band, 7:30 p.m., Roundy Gym

“ 29 - School Building Comm., Town Hall, Room A

“ 30 - School Committee workshop 7 p.m., TBD

“ 30 - “Screenagers:Digital Age”, 7-8:30p.m., DPAC

April 3 - Kindergarten Information Night, Doyon

“ 4 - Parent Focus Group, 4 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

“ 4 - “ “ “ , 7 p.m., “ “ “

“ 4 - Policy Subcommittee, 7 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conf. Rm.

“ 6 - School Committee meeting, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

“ 13 – Turf Field Subcommittee, 7 p.m., Town Hall

CITIZEN COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart acknowledged Mr. Dalton's absence while dealing with family challenges and thanked Jeff Carovillano, Ass't. Principal, and the rest of the high school staff who have pulled together to ensure that the school is running well.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed announced the participation of Middle and High School students as follows: IMS musical Little Mermaid, sports practices out in the cold and snow, and once again, giving congratulations to all the seniors who have put more Tiger Paws in the window spaces for college acceptances.

Mr. Hopping gave a shout out to the robotics team who reached the semi-finals at Reading High School.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

AD Gallagher presented certificates to athletes following announcement of Marty Binnet as Track Coach of the Year and Izzzy Primack's Boston Herald selection of distinction as hockey player. Cape Ann All Stars and All League athletes

received certificates for boys' and girls' basketball, indoor track and shot put, swimming/diving, girls' and boys' ice hockey, and wrestling. Mr. Nylen thanked the kids for representing the school so well and the parents for their support.

B. HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CONDITIONING PROPOSAL

Athletic Director Tom Gallagher asked for School Committee support for a more formalized summer conditioning program and to create a new stipend position. The program will be open to males and females, grades 9 – 12, with coaches who are well versed in conditioning. They are looking at 3-4 mornings/week, a 6-8 week window, for cardio training outdoors. A formal registration for each participant will be included. Mr. Gallagher answered SC questions: an open search, posting, applying, certification in training needed, seeking the most qualified people. Generally, these workouts have been well attended in the past. Mr. Gallagher will appear before the SC on April 27 with a complete proposal. SC policy and IEA agreement aspects need to be affirmed. The SC gave consensus to move ahead.

C. MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL FIELD RENOVATION PROPOSAL

Tom Gallagher pointed out the area between the high school entrance and the stadium which is currently in disrepair because of lack of time and energy. He believes that the young program would connect with the high school program in a beneficial way. The softball volunteer people want to come in and redo the diamond on a three-day weekend, ripping up the soil, raking it/removing and replacing the pitcher's mound and home plate, redoing the backstop, adding protective screens with benches behind the screens. Company donations, in-kind work, and high school kids will help. Softball fields are lacking and this will be performed at no cost with the work being donated by a fencing/landscaping company, parents, and volunteers. SC members asked why the area was in disuse and AD replied that it had been neglected, was too small for high school use, and now will get some respect.

Ms. Player moved, second by Mrs. Bauman, to allow contractors on the property behind IHS over a three-day weekend to work on the planned improvements for a M/HS softball field. UNANIMOUS.

D. ELT THINK-TANK GROUPS RESEARCH/FINDINGS RE NEW ELEM. SCHOOL

Ms. McAdams and members of the two think-tank groups spoke of the plans to come out of two think-tank groups: Sustainability and Organization.

Ms. Welch explained that 30 people had come to Sustainability from organizations, the MS green team, and from the community and broke into three groups: educational program, organizational culture, and physical plant. People want to take advantage of the local natural resources such as the effects of the recent drought, clamming, and where students live. Perkins-Eastman will do the vision piece, and the recommendations are put on hold until the vision is created.

Organization, the second think-tank study, has recommended having three houses or academies, K-5, to create a sense of community. The alternative would be 6-8 sections of kindergarten in one "school". Creating separate but equal academies

(about 250 each) with a lead teacher in each, communicating with the Principal, gives a tremendous opportunity to collaborate and interact among the three “houses”. The thought now is that the teachers would remain in the same “house” with the same families. Dr. Hart thanked the think-tank groups for their work, setting a lot of pieces that keep the intimate environment, build collegiality with small staff that will work together in three different teams of teachers, students, and parents. Even under the same roof, there will be unique opportunities.

Ms. Player offered the information that some students visited a Salem school with academies. Mrs. Krason questioned the physical arrangement, and the team responded that they envision it vertically in the 3-story building.

Dr. O’Flynn joined the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

E. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Hopping referred to the unanimous vote on March 21 to provide offsite parking at the Green Street site, lot to be developed. A second vote that SC would go to BOS to ask for a part of Bialek Park for overflow parking for teachers was unanimous. Consensus was to write a letter. Mr. Hopping spoke of the parking lot across from the Ascension Church which is public parking and volunteered to speak with Rev. Clark.

The March 21 meeting also carried a unanimous vote to eliminate busing fees for elementary students, up to 11 buses. The purpose of the 11th bus is to shorten the commute so that no child would have a long ride.

Mr. Hopping discussed the new Winthrop School’s elevations, depicting different types of building materials and roofing angles, seen from the Mineral St. pathway. A variety of suggestions were made to the architect; the landscape architect was there as well.

Kevin Murphy spoke of the beginnings of solutions to the problems of traffic and parking with a small working group to answer how many cars would be “off the road”, how many are still expected to be involved. Dr. Hart suggested “out-of-the-box” thinking: (a)with 50-60% of the teachers living in Ipswich, could a van pick up these teachers; (b)moving the Payne School to Green Street and making parking at the Lord Square site. Ms. Player will connect with Mr. Whitten about calling other schools where parking had been a problem. Mr. Nylén summarized the actions to be taken: letter to the BOS, responding to SBC re how to mitigate traffic parking, and meeting again with the transportation working group including Fire and Police Chiefs.

Dr. O’Flynn and Mr. Hopping mentioned the petition of over 300 citizens to select the Doyon site for varying reasons. Re the citizens who signed the CLAMS petition, Mr. Hopping cautioned to be guarded in conversations. Mr. Nylén felt the need to respond but didn’t know how, when the opinions seemed to be so varied; Dr. O’Flynn asked about a letter to them. Mrs. Bauman urged promotion of the plan and reasons for SC having chosen it. Mr. Whitten asked for a unified package to work with; Mr. Nylén suggested coordinating an SBC meeting. Meetings ahead are a Sunday, March 27, advocacy group and a Tuesday, March 29, Business Roundtable. Dr. O’Flynn suggested a letter to them. Mr. Murphy urged a Letter to the Editor with

the reason why the SC chose the downtown site as more advantageous than a site on outer Linebrook. With five weeks until Town Meeting, the consensus was to educate the citizenry.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

3. COMMUNICATIONS - Bauman working on April 11 expo

4. GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES – O’Flynn reported that the mid-year reports are out. Personnel on Payne Committee needed: elementary teacher

Mini – Bauman reported applications due on April 28, vote on May 11. SC vote on how to split funds on April 6. Hart to tell what important requests are.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - Nylen reports that Supt. Search Comm. applications are due; need students or Town Manager. Nylen needs to tell newspaper re focus groups.

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE – Meets the next two Tuesdays. Revised accounting for the Grants for improved tracking; Food Services food prices; policy changes continue in the manual

7. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE – O’Flynn reported that punch list changes need good weather. Snowthrower will be purchased for clearing snow. Phase 2, construction of locker room, concession stand, etc. is a \$750,000 item and there is \$250,000 available. Another Payne Grant request will be made this year. Not much money is coming in presently for leasing the field this Spring. Committee members felt that emails should be enhanced.

Ms. Player left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

8. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

9. NEW BUSINESS – Dr. Hart reminded the School Committee on Choice. After discussion, the SC consensus was that Dr. Hart should look at the last two years’ summary of Choice slots/acceptance, the NESDEC study, and the administrative recommendations for this year. Mr. Nylen remarked about the Bruni “Residence at Essex Pasture”, the BOS agenda on April 18 for a possible 40B process, and Town Planner Gibbs looking for feedback.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Acceptance of Minutes of 3/2/17 Open Session School Committee

Acceptance of Minutes of 3/15/17 Open Session School Committee
Acceptance of Minutes of 3/15/17 budget session of FinCom/School
Committee
Acceptance of Minutes of 3/16/17 budget session of FinCom/School
Committee
Acceptance of Minutes of 3/21/17 Open Session School Committee
Acceptance of donation of \$2500 from IEF to support High School
Robotics Program to the High School Gift account
Acceptance of donation of \$1200 from IEF to support Sustainability
Education Waste Station and Hydroponics to the High School
Gift account
Acceptance of donation of \$800 from IEF to support the High School
Math League to the High School Gift Account
Acceptance of donation of \$2000 from Robie Window Systems to the
High School orchestra for the Carnegie Institute performance
to the Activities account
Acceptance of donation of \$1000 from Lynx System Developers to the
High School orchestra for the Carnegie Institute performance
to the Activities account

UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.

