

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 6, 2017  
MS/HS ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**I. OPEN SESSION**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nylen called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Present were J. Bauman, C. Whitten, B. Hopping, and S. Player. Also present were Superintendent Hart, and Finance Director J. Cuff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel after which the meeting will resume in Open Session.

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OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nylen called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with the following members present: H. O'Flynn, C. Whitten, F. Krason, S. Player, B. Hopping, and J. Bauman. Also present were Supt. Hart and Fin. Director Cuff.

MISSION STATEMENT READING

Mr. Hopping read the District's Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylen read the following announcements:

- April 11 - STEAM showcase, 5 – 7 p.m., M/HS cafeteria
- “ 11 - High School Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m., DPAC
- April 12 – Authors' Night
- “ 13 - Doyon Art Show, 6-8 p.m.
- “ 13 – Turf Field Subcommittee, 7 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conf Rm
- “ 17 – 21 School Vacation
- “ 27 - School Committee meeting, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

Last day of school - June 22

CITIZEN COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart acknowledged Mr. Fabrizio's presentations on multiple levels. On March 31 he presented at the New England League of Middle Schools on "Innovative Educational Practices" which went over well. Marc Lorenz is his co-presenter. He will be doing the annual national conference of Educational Innovation in early July, and the National Principals' Association also, a feather in the cap for Ipswich schools.

Sheila McAdams has been recognized this week by the Massachusetts Association of School Libraries as an "Administrative Advocate" for her contributions in promoting student learning through school library programs and services.. She will be attending the conference on May 7 to receive that award.

#### A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart spoke of the shift to the computer-based MCAS test with hard work by principals and teachers to make this happen. Teachers have done the training and it has gone really well.

Unfortunately, Birth-to-3 grant has been cut again with a significant 35% reduction, and he has been working with the Director to figure out the next steps.

Another team of teachers will be attending the technology conference in SanAntonio this year, and he extended an invitation to any SC member to attend.

## II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

#### B. INTEREST-BASED PLC MAKER SPACE CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

The Director of Teaching/Learning, Tracy Wagner, introduced Kerry Zagarella, citing the "research-cycle" model used by teachers who have identified a need to receive compensation. Students are continually learning and growing with the teacher. The kindergarten team of Mrs. Archung, Miss Borges, three TAs, and Mrs. Zagarella took the question "How can we use maker-space activities with our current curriculum mandates?" and ran with it. Mrs. Zagarella spoke of the visits to several schools, Tufts University, conferences, and recycling centers asking questions and developing models. Students learn by making mistakes (as do the teachers!) and social/emotional outcomes are beneficial beyond the core-curriculum subject matter being simultaneously achieved. To SC questions asked, Mrs. Z explained that these activities are different for different grades and the culture of thinking, design challenges, and reflecting on their thinking (plastic is a better rain catcher than cardboard) makes for a great experience in problem solving.

Mrs. Bauman asked about her participation at WGBH; she said this year they are studying weather.

#### C. RESIDENCES AT ESSEX PASTURES

Ethan Parsons, of the Ipswich Planning Department, spoke about the proposal at 28-44 Essex Road for 20 townhouse units with 3 bedrooms and 3rd- and 4th-story apartments in a horseshoe pattern around Bruni Marketplace with a driveway on either side of the Marketplace. Chapter 40B is a State law, (affordable housing) designed to override local zoning by-laws in a 10% threshold. Ipswich is short by 79 units. Under the zoning by-law, it would be permissible to build 60-65 units on that site. However, in terms of the proposal, there is no meaningful

space for vegetation and buffering of noise and light pollution, and does not account for privacy concerns. As a community, he feels water consumption should also be addressed. He thought it appropriate if the SC wished to make a comment or write a letter because of the proposed scale of development and of the issue of the proposed school development. He is not opposed to an affordable housing project at the site, but it is done through zoning regulations adopted at Town Meeting and will reflect desires of the community for managing appropriate lighting, scale of size, etc. As the project stands today, if it is not scaled back, then he does not see how those considerations could be satisfied similar to how other developments are done.

Mr. Whitten asked if the developer could provide school enrollment projections. Mr. Parsons said the Town is applying for and will probably get assistance from the State. Zoning Board of Appeals will be involved. The BOS will ask for enrollment projections. This all will take many months.

Mr. Hopping asked how they can propose a 4-story building. Mr. Parsons stated that they are given latitude with a 40B proposal, but it is not appropriate for this location. Fifty-eight feet far exceeds 45' allowance for a highway scenario.

Discussion continued with Dr. Hart's suggestion re a multiple Birth-to-3 program in dedicated space. Mr. Whitten suggested setting aside some living space for teachers and Town employees. Mr. Parsons urged that an email be sent as soon as possible about the areas of concern and benefits suggested—Mr. Whitten and Mr. Nysten will handle this by April 11; Mr. Hopping would like to be cc'd on this.

Keri Macrae, 31 Heartbreak Road, agreed that the SC should get involved re mitigation on environment and safety. The townhouses, 24 2-bedroom units, and 12 3-bedroom units would total 356 bedrooms and a possible influx of 65-80 students. She quoted market rates vs. a lottery to allow Ipswich citizens first:

3-bedroom \$1671 vs. \$2350 market rate; 2-bedroom \$1470 vs. \$1807 market rate;

1-bedroom \$1242 vs. \$1507 market rate. The question is: "Is this truly affordable?"

She urged the SC, on behalf of the citizens of Ipswich, to represent them and define the impact of the present proposal.

#### D. PAYNE GRANT INVESTMENTS – FOCUS AREAS 2017

Dr. Hart reported plenty of requests for Payne Grants and a need to pare back by the Payne Grant Committee. TED talks are emerging (\$30,000 request)—a shift to developing lessons. Project-based learning (\$50,000) developing/analysis projects. Emerging grant proposals at Winthrop are around trauma prevention, high-risk, and poverty (\$50,000). The Middle School is working on innovation (\$25,000). M/HS is requesting the development of a TV studio in the current media center with ICAM (\$50,-\$100,000). HS has the Leadership conference on human rights (\$15,-\$30,000) and the athletic complex building (\$250,000). The FinCom is asking for broader representation for professional development in each school (\$100,-\$150,000 in each), maybe \$50-\$100,000 this year. Mrs. Bauman reminded that Guidance is to get grant money for the second year of their pilot program.

Mini-grant proposals (due April 28) might have \$150,000 left. Mr. Hopping reminded that mini-grants might be increased upward from \$5,000 and once numbers are known, SC could act. A vote will be taken at the next meeting. Ms. Cuff offered that \$200,000 has accrued

over the four-year period and there was some Feoffee money before the current plan went into effect. Over-budget amounts are very rare. Because of unknown expenses on these grants at the time, discussion on a new policy covering cost of administration of the program (insurance, travel, installations, etc.) was begun. The items are as follows: (1) amount of money proposed, (2) amount that could be spent on related items, (3) prior amounts returned to the fund (4) the historic spread, and (5) printout of the existing policy.

#### E. FY17-18 CALENDAR Postponed

#### F. SCHOOL CHOICE DISCUSSION

Recommendations for Choice from the administrative team were Winthrop – 3 each at Grades 1 and 3, other grades – 0; Doyon – 0; Middle – Grade 6 – 17, Grade 7 – 20, Grade 8 – 0; High – Grades 9-11 – 20—later delineated by Dr. Hart at Grade 9 10, Grade 10 – 5, and Grade 11 - 5.

Discussion ensued re accepting Choice students who enter the system at \$5,000 each. Enrollment is down by 300 students. Middle School can take Choice to continue the MS model. Dr. Hart reviewed the future: benefits of shrinking population and staff, cost differential when looking for the next override, class sizes, criteria for good proposals and bad proposals. Dr. O’Flynn stated that the consensus of the SC is to shrink. Dr. Hart said that electives will shrink and diversity will shrink at the High School.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to accept Choice students. Vote IN FAVOR- O’Flynn, Krason, Bauman, Nylen; OPPOSED- Player, Hopping, Whitten.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to accept the Winthrop proposal as listed: Grades 1 and 3 at 3 each, Grades K, 2,4,and 5 at 0. Vote IN FAVOR- Nylen, O’Flynn, Krason, Bauman; OPPOSED- Player, Hopping, Whitten.

Mrs. Krason moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to NOT accept any Choice students at Doyon. Vote IN FAVOR- Bauman, O’Flynn, Krason, Nylen, Whitten; ABSTAINING- Hopping, Player.

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to accept Choice students at the Middle School as recommended: Grade 6 – 17, Grade 7 – 20, Grade 8 – 0. Vote IN FAVOR- O’Flynn, Krason; OPPOSED- Bauman, Hopping, Player, Whitten, Nylen.

Mrs. Krason moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to accept Choice students at the High School as stated by Dr. Hart: Grade 9 – 10, Grade 10 – 5, and Grade 11- 5. Vote IN FAVOR- Bauman, O’Flynn, Krason; OPPOSED- Nylen, Hopping, Player, Whitten.

Dr. O’Flynn asked that administrators be told that a special request by an administrator for filling individual slots, i.e., siblings, be allowed. Consensus was affirmative.

#### G. MEAL CHARGING POLICY/ FEOFFEE GRANTS EXPENSE TRACKING FORM

The draft of the policy was discussed by SC members. Dr. O’Flynn questioned the sample meal of cheese sandwich, veggie sticks, fruit and milk when the account cap of 5 meals as an elementary student or 3 meals as a M/H student is reached. He felt that embarrassment and stigma would result. This new change has been moved up to September, 2017.

Mrs. Krason moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support the Ipswich Public School Meal Charging Policy as drafted, to begin on the first day of school in September, 2017. Vote IN FAVOR- Whitten, Krason, Nylen, Player, Hopping, Bauman; OPPOSED- O'Flynn.

Ms. Cuff has set up a program for tracking expenses of Feoffee Grants for equipment, supplies, field trips, purchased services, professional development, stipends, and other costs. Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to support the tracking mechanism for distribution of Feoffee grants, to become part of the policy. UNANIMOUS.

### III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

#### B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE - None
2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE - Nylen set a placeholder for either April 24 or 25 at 7 p.m.
3. COMMUNICATIONS - Bauman working on April 11 expo
4. GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES – O'Flynn: Payne coming up in May  
Bauman: Mini deadline for applications is April 28
5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - Nylen: Completed focus meetings and named the Screening Committee (17 members). April 11 meeting to start review of applications
6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE – Hopping: Met with Gilbert again on instruction section. T. Wagner working with them. Studied policy on field trips, high school graduation credits, other policies unique to Ipswich. May 2 meeting.
7. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE – O'Flynn: April 13 meeting
8. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE – Whitten: no quorum

9. NEW BUSINESS – O'Flynn questioned the lack of available substitutes. Hart said it is an administrative dilemma. Need to institute calendars for decisions around professional development when we know people will be out.

O'Flynn wants a letter drafted for the Residence project as follows:

1. Concern about enrollment impact
  2. Enrollment in the new school building
  3. Benefits that Town might like to derive from the project
  4. Affordable threshold
  5. Set aside some to include teachers and town employees

Player requests formal study be done by the developer at their cost with a consultant

Whitten reminds that we are all in the community—civic engagement to do Pledge of Allegiance at every meeting. Action: Set aside until the first meeting in July under Reorganization.

#### **V. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of 3/23/17 Open Session School Committee

Acceptance of Minutes of 3/30/17 Open Session School Committee

Acceptance of Minutes of 12/21/16 Open Session of TriBoard

Acceptance of donation of \$500 from the Manchester Summer

Chamber Music LTD to support the IHS Chamber Orchestra trip

to NYC to play Carnegie Hall, to be deposited in the High

School Activities Account.

UNANIMOUS.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. UNANIMOUS.