

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

I. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nylen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Attending were J. Bauman, F. Krason, C. Whitten, B. Hopping, S. Player, and H. O'Flynn. Dr. Hart and Reed Dolan, Student Representative, were also present.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Reed Dolan read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- September 26 – Curriculum Night, Grade 5, Winthrop, 6:30 p.m.
- September 26 – SEPAC meeting, Town Hall Resource Rm., 7 p.m.
- September 28 – Curriculum Night, High, 7 p.m.
- October 4 – College Financing Seminar, High School, 6:30 p.m.
- October 4 – Policy Subcommittee meeting, Payne School, 7 p.m.
- October 6 - School Committee meeting, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart had lunch with six third-graders at Doyon and found it to be the light of his day as they talked about their writing. He thanked the third-grade team and the six students.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Reed spoke of last week's football game with the ribbon cutting ceremony, the band, the cheerleaders, and the football team on the new turf field who came out on top with a win! He mentioned the assembly on distracted driving shown last Monday and gave kudos from his peers to the new and very organized librarian.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported a real-world problem-solving event with IHS robotic students. The study of whales has become enhanced by the study of cells from inside the whales' lungs through drone collection of spouting water. Students worked with Ocean Alliance of Gloucester using laser, wireless 3D printers, and microcontroller technology to keep the drone at the desired height long enough to collect the needed spout samples. Wow!

The IPS has 3 teams of teachers presenting at the prestigious MassCUE conference this fall in the theme of Digital Learning and Global connections. Winthrop's team will share its commitment to project-based learning enhanced by technology; Doyon will focus on technology-integrated Makerspaces for elementary students; and the Middle School will be sharing cutting-edge student projects which

use technology to create digital classrooms with Google Classroom and Electronic Agendas.

Dr. Hart gave recent reports of both of the older elementary schools which were tested for carcinogenic materials and were perfectly clear. Both have samples that reflect PCBs, particularly with putty around the windows but which are completely safe now. Frequent testing must happen as a result. Remediation is really quite comprehensive.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. TEACHING AND LEARNING – TED TALK

Dr. Hart introduced Chris Burke who had conducted a course entitled Sharing Ideas that Matter for 32 teachers in collaboration with the Director of Teaching/Learning for the month of July entitled. Last year's theme was "creative thinking"; this year's, is "culture of thinking." Funded by a Feoffees Payne Grant, it was all online. The film, entitled "Connect Change" presented to and well received by the School Committee, was the result of many hours by Jen Couto, one of Ms. Burke's students, and filming work done by Scott Jewell and Scott Ames.

H. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

Urged to take the item out of order, Mr. Nysten wished to recap the TriBoard meeting, discuss next steps, and aim for a decision by Town Meeting. Mr. Nysten asked for reaction from all SC members. Dr. O'Flynn felt that consensus was not reached because people fell back on their predispositions and spoke to the fact that SC has to choose what it wants. There was more flexibility than ever before.

Mr. Whitten felt that some FinCom supported 775 and others were mostly 490 at Winthrop or 775 at Doyon or a downtown school.

Mrs. Krason was flabbergasted that so many people still feel that both buildings don't need to be fixed in spite of the fact that MSBA gave permission to look at Doyon in addition to Winthrop. People haven't shifted their ideas. She was surprised that as many people are in support of the 775 building, and it gave her hope to not give up on the 775 school.

Ms. Player feels the strongest message is that they want our leadership. SC has been vocal about priorities, it is time to support the best project, and put it forth. As the educational elected officials, the SC's job is to select the one option that serves all the students and get the support for the 775. The 490 at Winthrop maximizes transitions and phasing; at Doyon, this does not happen. Mr. White (Fin Com) was the only one who mentioned money; the rest of them had "feeling and gut."

Mrs. Bauman agreed with Ms. Player but thought they would rather have a small school at 490, and she is shifting in that direction.

Mr. Hopping felt that better understanding has come about with the Fin Com members and a better feeling of cooperation, a willingness to consider, but not unanimous support. SC still has a great deal of work to do, and he is concerned that the SBC attendance has dropped because they must be back on board with the SC.

Dr. Hart found the dynamics interesting and sensed that people understood

the disparity and want the SC to make a decision. He felt very positive vibes came out of the meeting.

Mr. Nylen agreed that it was positive. He heard a split configuration and support for Doyon. Mr. Hopping repeated that SC must do what is in the best interests of students and staff, and ultimately, what is best for the community.

Dr. O'Flynn said there is a profound misunderstanding of the financial picture: special needs, transportation, staff, maintenance, etc. Operation of two schools over one school is a \$500,000 expense, and we are fooling ourselves that the 490 is cheaper.

Mr. Hopping hopes to get the FinCom working on this to show the long-term impact. Ms. Player said we have to decide on the project and get the people educated.

The group discussed the next steps: Bialek clarification with Town Counsel as it concerns the BOS, writing a letter to the BOS, traffic study at Winthrop, reengage the SBC, bring consultants and architect back to the next meeting, and bring the Grades 4/5 commitment at Doyon to the people. (Dr. Hart commented that in his experience at Pentucket with a two-grade school, the principal's comments were "not building a sense of community—coming, then going, in a two-year school.")

Reed Dolan felt that it is too much change and that 500 High School kids are having a hard time with the new High School schedule.

Mr. Richard Howard (from the audience) and Mr. Hopping added that the Doyon (4 &5) must be addressed inside and outside.

Mr. Engel (from the audience) spoke of the need to get the facts and numbers out early. Having attended the 9/20 Tri Board meeting, he felt that the negativity at the Doyon site is pretty much gone. He suggested that preserving the downtown feel might be a bus stop at the Winthrop site to head out to the Doyon School. He urged the Board to make a decision soon.

The group decided to make the decision on October 6 with the hope that as much info as possible can be obtained.

With a comment from Joseph Burke (audience member), Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to put the Doyon site back on the list of options. Dr. O'Flynn amended, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to add Winthrop at 490 students as well. Vote: IN FAVOR- O'Flynn, Whitten, Nylen, Player, Bauman, Hopping. Mrs. Krason recused herself because she is an abutter to Winthrop.

C. SUPERINTENDENT'S SEARCH

Mr. Nylen formally announced the commencement of the Superintendent's search. He thanked Dr. Hart for his service to the district and for the way he has handled the announcement. The two major steps are: A search committee and hiring a consultant. This will be discussed more at the October 6 meeting.

D. SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUILDING WALKTHROUGH REPORTS

Bill Hodge accompanied each of the four SC members who toured/inspected the buildings. Mrs. Bauman went through the High School with Mr. Hodge who had a list of repairs/maintenance that he followed up with her. Auditorium seats have been removed and replaced and others identified. Six clocks have been replaced and parts are being searched for a water fountain. Outside painting is currently 90% completed, exterior sidewalk is repaired, roof repairs have been made and upgraded, safety of bleachers improved, 38 push-button faucets replaced, PAC lighting, carpet, and painting are in the works or completed. Sprinkler heads are not up to code. Stair treads need to be and will be replaced.

Ms. Player commented on the similar items of Mrs. Bauman's with the Middle School and said that Mr. Hodge was very forthcoming. She had sent the Committee lists.

Mrs. Krason visited Doyon with Mr. Hodge and Ms. Conley and said that all rooms looked great. A window in the kitchen had been added for more natural light. The art room looked great. Two teachers had written a grant for Makerspace in the corner of the library.

Mr. Whitten visited Winthrop with Mr. Hodge, a custodian, and Mrs. McAdams. Winthrop needs to be replaced. Painting and cleaning has been done with no mold evident. A couple of doors don't close. Sidelights in the doors are made of plain old glass.

E. IPSWICH LIONS CHOWDERFEST – REQUEST TO SERVE ALCOHOL

After introduction, Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, for discussion, to grant the request to serve alcohol on the M/HS property at the 21st Annual Chowderfest on Saturday, October 15, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dr. Hart brought up the fee, whether smoking would be allowed, and that the Lions would assist in repair of the lighted sign or facsimile adjacent to the school. Mrs. Bauman was amenable to an additional police presence to control smoking and crowd detail. In discussion, members felt that it was precedent setting and sending the wrong message on school grounds. IN FAVOR- Bauman; OPPOSED- Krason, O'Flynn, Player, Whitten, Nylen, Hopping.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. VOUCHERS AND BILLS****B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Hopping and Dr. O'Flynn reported discussion of fees and policy regarding the children who participate in sports at two schools and, additionally, at small sports. They will bring a recommendation to the SC. Also they discussed the punch list, and the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the field, and introduced new coaches for the fall.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Nylen reported the discussed items at the meeting:
a. Budget update from J. Cuff who will be coming to the second

meeting in October; b. Savings estimates for a single elementary school building, and c. Suggestions/proposal for changes with Food Services.

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

4. GRANT COMMITTEES – Mrs. McMahon met with the Committee because of issues every year with mini-grants. Recommendations will come to the SC.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE - Meeting next week.

7. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

8. TECHNOLOGY – J. Frash and a committee have yet to meet.

9. TURF FIELD – Chris Huntress has been contacted.

10. NEW BUSINESS – Question for Fall Town Meeting preparation.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of September 8, 2016, School Comm.

Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of TriBoard Meeting, July 27, 2016

Approval of Advanced Project Adventure Overnight Field Trip to
Conway/Albany, NH, October 14 – 16, 2016

Acceptance of donation of \$4,000 from First Ipswich Bank for tuitions for
families in need at the Winthrop Preschool.

UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 10:32 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.

