

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

I. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nylen called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 13 – Budget Subcommittee, 7 p.m., Payne School

September 14 - Athletics Subcommittee, 6 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conference
Rm

September 14 – Meet and Greet Doyon's New Special Education Manager,
Nicole McGarry

September 16 – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, New Turf Field, 6:30 p.m., prior to
Ipswich vs. Newburyport Varsity Football Game

Curriculum Nights

MS – September 15, 6:30 p.m

HS - September 28, 7 p.m.

Doyon – September 13, 6 p.m., Grade 5

20, 6 p.m., “ 2

21, 6 p.m., “ 1

21, 7 p.m., “ 3

22, 6 p.m. “ 4

Winthrop – September 19, 6:30 p.m., Grade 1

19, 7 p.m., “ 3

20, 6:30 p.m., K

20, 7 p.m., Grade 5

21, 6:30 p.m., “ 2

21, 7 p.m., “ 4

September 22 – School Committee, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room

October 17 – Ipswich Education Foundation is sponsoring a golf tournament
and looking for foursomes. IEF website has details.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

A Kimball Avenue resident urged reconsideration of the Doyon site for a new school.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart thanked the Synthetic Turf Committee for the wonderful addition to the school district's facilities students were able to play on the turf field for the first time.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Reed reported return to school as anxious/excited or begrudging, especially with the new schedule and its drawbacks and advantages. Having been a free block, Directed Study is a problem because students want their freedom back! The turf is a great addition.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported that the school community has been working hard: first, the growth of AP scores beyond "statistically significant" with 82 students taking AP courses in 2012 and 124 this past year because of the override's enabling the addition of new courses, reflecting strong and broad participation. 86% (107 students) of those 124 students received scores of 3 and above on AP exams.

Secondly, Boston Magazine had researched and compiled the top 50 schools within I-495. Ipswich is ranked at 40 with an enrollment at the high school of 538 and average class size of 13.7, indicating MCAS, SAT, and AP results along with college counselors, varsity sports teams, the graduation rate (IHS: 96.7%) and attending college (86%). Mr. Dalton called this a district honor.

On August 25 orientation for new teachers was held with the vision process (habits of highly successful people) and ended with a bus tour of the Town courtesy of Wilma Gooby.

The teacher opening days focused on the shift from content teaching to habits and intellectual skills in collaboration and creative teaching.

Tracy Wagner conducted a two-day workshop for MS math teachers.

To Mr. Hopping's question of the students' first day, Dr. Hart answered that his whole day was spent in the schools with excitement and smooth running.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT STATUS, UPDATE, NEXT STEPS

Mr. Nylen began by acknowledging the six members of the School Building Committee who had come at his invitation (M. Lowe, N. Mootafian, K. Murphy, R. Crosbie, J. Anderson, and J. Elder) in addition to the three School Committee members and Dr. Hart. Having contacted the BOS and the FinCom, Mr. Nylen gave a tentative date of September 20 for a joint meeting of the three Boards and the School Building Committee. MSBA has granted an extension of time which Mr. Murphy reckoned at approximately December 1.

Mr. Nylen asked the Committee what should be brought to the Tri Board meeting. Currently, the decision on a 775-student school at the Winthrop site isn't made. The School Building Committee is on hold. With no feedback from the other

two Boards, the SC will chair the meeting with focus on the elementary school project. Each SC member spoke on the subject.

Mr. Whitten, who originally was a proponent for a 420-student Winthrop School on the Winthrop site, feels that the 775 school, an excellent architectural design, won't fit there. Mrs. Bauman and Mrs. Krason share concerns about the lack of green spaces as well as the traffic. Also, parents drive their children because the walk is long and the bus fees are too expensive. Other challenges exist: where do students go while a new school is being built at Winthrop?

Mr. Hopping never anticipated locating a 775 school on the Winthrop site and his concern now is the phasing, trying to put something there (that doesn't fit) with the educational standards for the students that SC voted.

Dr. Hart commented that the 775 school is the most equitable and would give the best education possible. He is okay with the building at either Winthrop or Doyon but wants the 775 school.

Reed Dolan thought that a large school in the Winthrop neighborhood would be tough.

John Elder (SBC) remembered speaking of a 490-student school at Winthrop but always felt it was a long shot and a challenge even for that size. The BOS chair said it would be intellectually dishonest to put a school on the Winthrop site with The need for public safety, but everyone must be on board, and Mr. Elder saw Doyon as a purely practical prospect.

Jeff Anderson (SBC) wondered how well the new school at the Winthrop site would fit the educational model. Bialek was walkable and had space. What matters is what site works the best.

Mr. Murphy (SBC) spoke of the construction issues and said the architectural floor plan, worked on with the Superintendent, two principals, and two teachers, came out well; and he would hope that a 490-student plan could keep the same model.

Selectman Mootafian (SBC) is hoping that the TriBoard meeting will be productive. He feels that the SC needs to come to that meeting stating what they want, then the conversation becomes productive.

Town Manager Crosbie repeated her position as a proponent for keeping two small schools, but said she would clearly support the School Committee's decision and favored Doyon for a 775-school because it has parking space.

Dr. Hart inquired, in the eyes of the State, whose project it is and was told it is a Town project. He then asked if there would be responsibility of the BOS, collaboratively, to figure out how it would work and get the Boards on the same page. He felt that, with the conversation all on the SC, it doesn't reflect how the State feels that it should play out.

Mr. Whitten spoke of compromise with the political reality of 80% of the Town without school children. The 775 school provides immediate equity. The better configuration for every student is K-3 @490 Winthrop and 4-5 at Doyon.

Moving 775 to Doyon, he believes, loses the motivation for two elementary schools, and he feels the need for two elementary populations in complete agreement to go forward.

Ms. Player cited the concerns of public safety, free busing of picking up for offsite parking which is not guaranteed, a three-story building in that neighborhood which has impact on the character. She appreciates the idea of compromise. There are problems, however. Doyon would house the larger children in the smaller classrooms. There is no future plan for Doyon. There are other plans for Town building, such as public safety, senior center, etc. It will cost more later. Everybody needs a new building. It is in the best interests of the taxpayer, long term rather than to go back to them in a few years for Doyon. It is SC 's job to put the best education on the table. Doyon wasn't entirely vetted. The 775 number was voted; SC took the heat, and revoted. The need is to fully vet the 775.

Mrs. Krason urged thinking for the long term and keeping in mind that the M/HS is 20 years old. Right now compromise seems very attractive, but she is afraid it will undermine all future projects.

Dr. O'Flynn is strongly supportive of 775 at Doyon but not for Winthrop.

Mr. Hopping spoke about concern for anything less than 775 because of leaving Doyon at the end of the list that includes public safety, senior center, water treatment plant, the 20-yr-old M/HS, the Capital Plan which is already \$10 million toward a new school, and costs that will never be cheaper. He quoted Mrs. McAdams: Accessibility and having a facility that will support our program.

Mr. Lowe (SBC) opined that Winthrop site doesn't work for 775 and isn't sure that 490 would fit. Phasing issues are challenges even for a smaller school. MSBA was trying to push to do one school on one site.

Mr. Engel (audience member) said that the BOS will be signing the Warrant for the Fall Town Meeting on September 19, and it is his understanding that SBC may need more money depending on what the option is. Mr. Murphy stated that the Town Manager has put a place holder into the Warrant, and he would ask the OPM to ask MSBA how much it would be for different sites and different configurations.

Mr. Nylen asked the Board what they wished to bring forward to the TriBoard to set up a set of action items. Mrs. Bauman, Mr. Whitten, and Mrs. Krason were in favor of bringing the 490 Winthrop and the 775 Doyon. Dr. O'Flynn, Mr. Nylen, and Mrs. Player were in favor of the 775. Mr. Hopping was not sold on 775 at Doyon and will not support two K-5 buildings. Mr. Nylen assumed, therefore, that the 775 at Winthrop was off the table. Mr. Hopping and Mr. Nylen liked multiple options and a split configuration.

Mr. Hart urged starting with consensus on the objective: new school(s) for the kids which is most fiscally responsible and which provides equity for all kids. Mr. Engel argued that going back on 775 is going for an inferior project by your own admission.

Ms. Player spoke about many really involved elementary parents whom the SC doesn't know about. If SC pushes for the position of leadership rather than multiple options, it will mean a better project.

J. Anderson urged the SC to make the TriBoard realize that circumstances have changed and the Board has learned more about parental support.

Mr. Murphy asked the SC to come in with the plan and go with it. He personally feels that he would support a plan where the State will buy some of it rather than spending his own money.

C. SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS – FY 17

Because of the late hour, Mr. Nylen assigned the four goals which had been cited at the workshop in August for discussion on September 22. Mr. Nylen will set up the action items for the Budget goal; Mrs. Bauman will work on the Communication goal.

D. SUPERINTENDENT GOALS – FY17

Mr. Nylen asked that the Committee post up guidance on the Superintendent’s goals prior to the next meeting.

E. TOWN MEETING – SCHOOL RELATED STM ARTICLES

Mr. Nylen commented that there seems to be competition for the money savings that the SC wants to go into the Stabilization Fund and additional funds for the school building project.

F. TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Mr. Nylen asked that Jeanne Frash, IT Director, meet with the SC on October 6.

After brief discussion, Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to reinstate the Technology Subcommittee as a complement to the current school staff. Suggestions from the Committee include representation from the Feoffees people, two members of the School Committee, and study of the desired outcomes for this huge investment. UNANIMOUS.

G. TEACHING AND LEARNING – TED TALK

Dr. Hart’s presentation was postponed until September 22 and he was urged to bring the teachers who were involved.

H. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping, Chair of the Committee, read the new policy entitled Expenditure of Choice Funds with input from Ms. Cuff and administrators. Dr. O’Flynn questioned the change to 25% from the original 50% of the Choice funds to the individual schools of Choice students attending that school and was told that the 75% allocated to support the district vision, operating budget expenses and other anticipated costs will also go to the individual schools.

Mrs. Krason moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the recommendation from the Policy Subcommittee to support the new Expenditure of Choice Funds policy. UNANIMOUS.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS AND BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE – Meeting on September 14

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – Meeting on September 13

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - Mrs. Bauman reported working on the new teacher reception.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE- Mr. Nylen reported discussion on the Superintendent goal direction and the Superintendent search process.

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE - Ms. Player spoke of the MASB Policy book being reviewed and the hope for representation by them at the October SC meeting.

A concerned citizen has questioned the athletic user fee when a student participates in sports not offered by Ipswich and has been invited to attend a meeting. Ms. Player reported that the next agenda has a variety of policies including the Feoffee policy which has no mention of the Manning Fund.

7. TURF FIELD – Dr. O’Flynn reported going through the punch list, field used for practice on Wednesday and a game this day. Ribbon cutting and game will take place on September 16.

Mr. Nylen mentioned the fact that, because the AD is responsible for marketing and managing, members of the Committee expressed concern with the responsibility at his current hours. In the past, there had been mention of his being a fulltime Director.

8. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

9. NEW BUSINESS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of August 25, 2016

Acceptance of Bean Counting Minutes of April 9, 2016, as edited.

UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to adjourn at 10:36 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.