

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 17, 2016
TOWN MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Nylen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. with the following members present: C. Whitten, J. Bauman, S. Player, B. Hopping, F. Krason. Dr. Hart was present as well

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 6:06 p.m. to discuss the superintendent's contract. Roll call IN FAVOR – Bauman, Whitten, Krason, Nylen, Player, Hopping.

II. OPEN SESSION – TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM A

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nylen called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. with the addition of H. O'Flynn and Reed Dolan, Student Representative.

MISSION STATEMENT

Reed read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylen read the following announcements:

- March 18: FRIES Fundraiser for the elementary schools to be held at Turner Hill Country Club.
- March 23: 6 p.m. interview with Feoffee applicants , Town Hall Room C
7 p.m. School Building Community Forum, Town Hall Room A
- March 28: Kindergarten Information Night, 7-8 p.m., Winthrop
- March 29: Operations Subcommittee will meet at 6:30 p.m., Payne School
- March 31: School Committee and School Building Committee will hold joint Meeting at Town Hall Room A, 7 p.m.
- April 7: School Committee will meet at 7 p.m., Town Hall Room A
- April 13: School Building Committee will meet at 7 p.m., Town Hall Rm. A
- April 27: School Building Committee will meet at 7 p.m., Town Hall Rm. A
- April 28: School Committee will meet at 7 p.m., Town Hall Room A

Mr. Nylen asked for a moment of silence in remembrance to Sheila McAdams and her family of the passing of her father.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart acknowledged the administrative team and congratulated them for their fine budget presentations to the Fin Com. Everyone who attended felt that they all went above and beyond.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed spoke of the student community enduring the longest month of the year with no breaks. One of the bright spots was the appearance of Vince Skelton on Channel 5's A+ student segment; also, the Sustainability Scholars who traveled to Costa Rica last year and are now presenting their appeal at Town Meeting to ban Styrofoam and plastic to customers at stores and restaurants.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported on meeting with Bill Hodge and Tom Gallagher who has a number of Capital items he would like added to the Capital Plan; namely, an athletic event school bus, resurfacing the parking lot at Mile Lane, renovating Doyon athletic fields, upgrading the M/HS lower gym sound system and upper gym scoreboards and stop clocks.

Rotary heard students from Interact present a substantial donation to Ipswich Caring from their Jingle Bell Walk which is sponsored by Rotary, Police and Fire Departments and Marine Corp Reserve.

On March 1 he attended two meetings: one on local response to the opioid epidemic with Brad Hill and local leaders to begin a proactive plan to address the regional drug problem and a second at the Winthrop School with parents discussing the FY17 school budget and the elementary school building project.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**B. SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARS PRESENTATION**

Lori LaFrance introduced five students who are part of the Sustainability group and have written a by-law that has been placed on the Warrant for Town Meeting. The girls gave a Powerpoint presentation, explaining that Styrofoam is toxic and could cause cancer, especially when its characteristics leak into hot liquids. Alternatives were presented and statistics from towns like Hamilton and Watertown who have bans were positive with a cleaner town and good economic impact. The girls have contacted Dunkin Donuts and most of the businesses in Ipswich. Some firms are testing other products. Enforcement of the Ipswich ban could be by the Ipswich Board of Health or DPW and will be up to the Town Manager. They plan to spread the word with newspaper articles; the Recycling Committee is behind the project. Plastic bags, the second part of the warrant article, are filling landfills and do not really decompose. SC members congratulated the group and urged them on, and Reed, who went to Costa Rica as well, commented that in exactly one year's time since the trip, look how far we have come and what that change has provided.

C. FEEOFFEES DISTRIBUTION

After a short discussion about a \$40,000 amount for professional development not spent from the FY15 Payne Grant disbursement when SC asked Dr. Hart to find out how the money will be spent before the next SC meeting, Mr. Nylen asked for a vote on the distribution. There was mention of a \$5,000 mini-grant cap

as being too low in some cases; i.e., a printer for the Art Department was more than \$5,000, and Dr. O'Flynn and Mr. Hopping would like to see a higher number. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to allocate the disbursement for FY16 Feoffee grants as follows: Payne, \$500,618, Mini, \$200,000, leaving the Manning Fund at \$11,307, totaling \$711,925 (voted 9/3/15). UNANIMOUS.

D. SCHOOL BUILDING GRADE CONFIGURATION DISCUSSION

Bob Bell and David Stephen headed up the presentation. In the elementary working group (EWG) there are 35 IPS teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community partners who have met in two full-day workshops on design patterns and vision presentations outlined by MSBA (website: www.ipswichsbc.org) On February 29 four teachers from each of the elementary schools put together an overview of things they would like to see provided. The March 14 meeting with an architectural focus looked at other schools and setting up one for Ipswich.

On March 17 there was a faculty forum early in the day and the implications on configurations from them will be available on March 23. The design patterns will get forwarded to the working group (EWG). Katie Norris, 4th grade teacher, commented on a great afternoon. Mrs. Bauman thanked her for her support. Mr. Whitten asked for a survey with the community, and Mr. Bell said he was hoping for another with the return of Sheila McAdams. Also, Mr. Bell spoke of the "Considerations Matrix", as they and the SC reviewed 18 considerations on each of the four school configuration options, as a living, breathing document which is continually being honed.

To Mr. Hopping's question of the look of a co-teaching classroom compared to the current one, Mr. Bell replied that it would be larger, with smaller group work spaces within the room and break-out spaces immediately adjacent to the classroom.

Mr. Bell urged the Board to look through the considerations matrix before March 23. Mr. Nylén asked about the Doyon building and was told that MSBA standards will be rough numbers and escalating for the future with the example that the Doyon gym might need a 10,000 sq. ft. addition.

Dr. O'Flynn questioned the loss of athletic fields before the decision on a site and the fact that a separate study should probably be done to replicate fields.

Mr. Whitten suggested a new school at Doyon with MSBA funding instead of a bandaid approach. Mr. Murphy, SBC Chair, said there was no guarantee of approval by MSBA. Mr. Nylén thought we need the most aggressive cost. Mr. Hopping asked about reimbursement for the outside of a building and was told that MSBA will reimburse up to an 8% cap. Mr. Howard (from the audience) asked for a fair comparison of a large vs. two smaller schools with an analysis of a limited renovation at Doyon. There would be benefits, he said, and a neighborhood school if the Town would be willing to wait. Mr. Bell was going to decide in two ways: a brand new Doyon with a brand new Winthrop or a rehabbed Doyon and a brand new Winthrop. Mr. Murphy said, with this process, there is no funding to renovate Doyon and another problem exists in that renovating Doyon requires a code of \$2

million for ADA regulations, seismic code, fire-alarm systems, etc., tripping all building codes. And where do you house the students while rebuilding—you will look at an almost brand new school building. Mr. Murphy commented that the Winthrop School was submitted to MSBA three times in a row before acceptance and Doyon, the last two times. Other communities with buildings in far worse shape than Doyon are competing.

Preferred configuration vote comes on April 7 – site recommendation a little later, and Mr. Nylen said conversation should start before March 30.

Dr. O’Flynn asked how to configure a K-5 building, and Mr. Bell answered in several ways: one big building, two schools that are connected, or early learning K-1 and 2-5 with several sub options.

Mr. Whitten asked if the designers had heard a lot of interest for anything other than K-5. Mr. Bell replied that he heard more concerns with the grade level options.

Dr. O’Flynn feels that equity is central to the community which eliminates one of the two options. Mr. Whitten commented that it may be that inequity is for a moment in time, and Dr. O’Flynn replied that separate facilities are inherently unequal.

Mr. Hopping reminded that there has been confusion and that it is the elementary project. The call is to maximize the opportunity for all our elementary schools. The School Committee was elected to represent the children of the elementary schools. He hopes people aren’t thinking that just by lowering the population of the Doyon, that that is enough.

Subcommittees to come are as follows:

Site Analysis Group (architect) – after March 23 or beginning of April

Sustainability Committee – to meet at the end of April

Universal Design Group – after the site has been selected, April or May

Finance Team – working before Town Meeting of 2017

Conservation Commission and Planning Board have some concerns about possible sites.

The School Committee thanked the design team for how they are handling everything.

E. FIN COM BUDGET MEETING FOLLOWUP

Mr. Nylen, stating that he thought the two nights’ previous budget meetings with the Fin Com went very well and the measure is how they reacted, asked the Board for comments. Mrs. Bauman credited Sheila Conley with doing a great job. Mr. Hopping said the two-night format was good. Ms. Player commented favorably on the material sent to Fin Com beforehand and the format, and the “Poetry Out Loud” was impressive. Mr. Hopping agreed with her comment and cautioned the Board that it is SC responsibility to protect the five-year plan of the override by being attentive to the bottom line. He added that the Stabilization Fund needs to be highlighted at Town Meeting as the way to get to the five-year plan and beyond.

Mrs. Bauman and Dr. O'Flynn emphasized the need to keep the numbers in line every year to show "what we said we would do" and keep teachers aware of the need to stay within the five-year plan. Dr. Hart commented that everybody in the administration is acting as a team.

Dr. Hart, responding to a Fin Com question of the previous night, said that Choice-Out is down from 20 the previous year to 12 and Choice-In is 68 students. Mrs. Bauman wants more detail for Choice Out in what grades and to what towns.

IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE – Dr. O'Flynn spoke of the desire for a pickle ball court beside the Town Hall. Mr. Hopping spoke of the coaching hires for spring sports, the hiring of a new bus driver, and working on the coaches' handbook. May 23 begins construction of the new turf field. A series of things must go on the Town's Capital list.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Nylén reported that a meeting had taken place before the FinCom budget meetings. A host of things need to be done in thinking beyond the five-year plan.

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Mrs. Krason and Mrs. Bauman reported the work on the April 14 Feoffee celebration and a meeting scheduled for April 9. Some teachers have not responded re their participation. The school website now has a district calendar.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES – Mrs. Bauman reported on a meeting last Thursday on technology pieces, including a separate form that has to be approved before the Committee can receive the grant(s). Mr. Hopping commented that wording changes need to be made to the Mini-grant policy and he will review it.

Mr. Nylén spoke with Bandi Chin, Chair of the Payne Grant Committee, who had a question about enlisting some kind of a grant rider extending the Feoffee funds through matching grants. The idea was supported by the Board.

Noted: SC decision for grant funding dollars should be determined in January in the future.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - Meeting scheduled for March 29 for mid-cycle review.

6. POLICY – Mr. Hopping reported that there will be a meeting on April 5 to finish the Acceptable Use Policy revision. Mike Gilbert of MASC will be talking about a review of the policy manual. Our bullying policy dates back to 1999.

7. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE
8. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE
9. NEW BUSINESS

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nylén moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of March 3, 2016, Open Session

UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to adjourn at 10:37 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.