

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION
CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Player called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present: N. Zito, C. Nylén, B. Hopping and P. Kneedler. Also Dr. Blake, Superintendent, and Student Representative C. Bergner were present. Mr. C. Whitten joined the meeting at 7:15 and H. O'Flynn, at 7:58 p.m.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Chris Bergner read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- October 4 – Combined SC/SBC, 7 p.m., Town Hall Room A
- “ 5 – School Committee, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room
- “ 5 - Orientation reception for new staff, 6 – 7 p.m., Dolan PAC lobby
- “ 10 - Budget Subcommittee, 7 p.m., M/HS Guidance Office
- “ 26 – Operations Subcommittee, 6:30 p.m., M/HS Guidance Office

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Chris announced the successes/losses of the fall sports programs at the High School and the French/Spanish program to host families which is coming up in about a month and the return trip to Ipswich families during the April break. He mentioned successful fund-raising for soccer, volleyball, and football. He expressed concern because High School clubs are not able to meet as much because there is no longer an opportunity to meet during the school day. Mrs. Zito inquired about the schedule change; Mr. Hopping and Chris explained that, due to State requirements of 990 hours of direct instruction, the former “R” block (resource or directed study) has been changed to “Advisory” so that teachers get in more instruction, thus eliminating club meeting time.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Blake reviewed his busy two-week schedule: entry-level meetings with parents and staff on issues, training for the educational evaluation program offered by CREST, guest at the EDP program and interviewed by the students there (Mrs. Gooby has about 200 students enrolled at Doyon and Winthrop, with a waiting list). He met with Birth-to-Three and representatives from the State and will be interviewing a potential Director on Friday (9/22). He met with the School Resource Officer (SRO) and Athletic Director in scheduling monthly meetings with them for keeping open communications. He met with Doyon FRIES last week, had meetings with the Policy Subcommittee, and the School Building Committee/ School

Committee regarding the Doyon site and mechanical/electrical/plumbing design. The Central Office will have its full complement of staff starting October 9/10.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. APPROVAL OF TRIP TO INDIA FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Becky Slawson and DeeDee Bates (high school teachers) described the decision to plan, using E F Educational Tours of Cambridge, MA, for a trip to India during winter break in 2019, thus giving a good space of time to fund-raise for the trip for 10-20 students. A Global Citizenship class, a humanities/visual arts co-taught elective, currently exists. The trip's purpose beyond the experience of traveling to India is to focus on the approach for service; that is, a multi-day service project in a community in India. Funding sources for the trip, once approved by the School Committee, will be evolving.

Mr. Hopping, and Ms. Player asked for updates on the project; i.e., fund-raising, plans for the actual participation during the trip, and other specifics. Dr. O'Flynn and Chris Bergner brought up the conflicting timeframe: England's band trip, French trip, and the India trip. Ms. Player expressed concern over international events; Ms. Slawson replied that E F Tours services trips all over the world and would be overseeing situations.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to support the trip to India sponsored by E F Educational Tours for winter, 2019. UNANIMOUS.

C. HIGH SCHOOL ACCREDITATION UPDATE

Principal David Dalton spoke of the accreditation evaluation coming up October 22-24 by NEASC. While the last one was done in 2005 and evaluations are generally done every ten years, NEASC has been asking schools to defer and IHS had been in transition with a new block schedule. The evaluation will be carried on with the 2011 standards. NEASC focuses 100% on education, maintaining quality programming. The chair of the visiting committee is a retired adjunct professional, there is an associate principal and three other principals, a superintendent, and practicing educators. Over the last twelve months Ipswich High School professional staff has undergone an intensive self-study process. Students have been invited to participate. Faculty (with a hands-off by the principal) voted on a list of critical strengths and needs that they see relative to the standards. Then the principal looked at the results and developed a two- and five- year plan designed to improve the school improvement plan—a professionally rewarding experience. The study was finished last June.

Mr. Dalton reviewed the three-day visiting committee's work schedule. NEASC releases its evaluation in the Spring.

The SC asked for a list of the strengths/needs. There will be 14 people in the building pairing up with students, using their schedules, shadowing differing students for one period, spreading out so that every teacher is observed. Ms. Player asked if the areas of need would help drive budget requests or areas for support at the budget level; Mr. Dalton's reply was absolutely, so that the Committee sees progress. Changes that came about from the 2005 accreditation process were an extraordinary number of commendations and fewer than seven recommendations. One of the implementations made was to try to develop a system for individual program for "academic progress." It is an identified need again.

The Board and Mr. Dalton discussed times for their involvement with the visiting committee.

D. JOINING NORTSHORE CONSORTIUM

SPED Director B. Hegedus discussed joining the Northshore Consortium with Dr. Blake, and the Budget Subcommittee recommended bringing it forward to the full Committee. She cited the current membership with CREST at no charge and advocated for joining the Northshore Consortium, a collaborative with an annual fee of \$10,000, but with several advantages which include Ipswich Superintendent as a voting member who could shape program development, relationships with Manchester/Essex and Hamilton/Wenham in exchanging tuition for students, less costly transportation for Ipswich, and no need to withdraw from CREST. Application will take some time and it will not be effective until FY19. While membership with CREST (Lowell, Lawrence, Haverhill) does not provide much commonality with Ipswich, many districts belong because they offer professional development within the interschool relationships.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Nysten, to accept the Budget Subcommittee recommendation and approve the application to Northshore Consortium. UNANIMOUS. Dr. Hegedus will follow up on questions re CREST's ability to function without membership fees and will keep the Board informed on progress with the NSC process.

E. No action.

F. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Dr. Blake had met with engineers and landscape architect around the Doyon site, discussing snow storage/removal, salt use on the site, a stream on the left side, other water issues, and design of the outdoor classroom space. Separate car and bus dropoff areas with a raised "table" in between would be available so that emergency vehicles could go over if they needed to.

Athletic fields were questioned: full-sized baseball field won't fit; two softball fields are being considered out front near Linebrook Road. Sidewalks have been completed from the downtown area but concern is held for sidewalks from the Pinefield/Marini area. Wetlands were flagged; some conversation was held about trash removal.

Dr. O'Flynn felt that abutters need to be contacted immediately regarding the property.

Mr. Nysten spoke about the mechanical/electrical/plumbing discussions: a large group of people have come forward with expertise reviewing options for HVAC systems (4-5 major options and pros/cons), criteria to evaluate the different options from maintenance cost to air quality. Fuel options are: natural gas (the Town would pay for a natural gas line from Rte. 1. or Mile Lane but disrupt the new road to Rte. 1), propane, oil (tanks on site), geothermal (very expensive, untested for a large building), and solar electric (which can provide only 30% of energy needs). Mr. Whitten said it is an economic decision. Propane is an accepted, inexpensive fuel source and would eliminate a \$1 million pipeline. He advised a strong look at this option. The Fire Department has a question on the kind of a tank farm given the size of the building. Dr. O'Flynn felt that the BOS should be involved going forward.

Ms. Player gave the upcoming meeting dates: October 4, 17, and 26 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall Room A.

Dr. Blake met with the Director of Teaching/Learning and the two principals and will be scheduling a meeting of the Educational Leadership Team.

G. SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS

With discussion on each of the draft goals and Dr. Zito's agreement to finalize wording on the Budget goal, each of the four goals was approved as follows:

Dr. Zito moved, seconded by Mrs. Kneedler, to approve the Budget goal as discussed. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Dr. Zito, to approve the Policy Goal as presented. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Dr. Zito, to approve the School Building Project goal as presented. UNANIMOUS.

Dr. Zito moved, seconded by Mr. Nylen, to approve the Student Achievement goal as presented. UNANIMOUS.

H. TOWN MEETING – SCHOOL RELATED STM ARTICLES

School Committee members reviewed and voted on Articles which related to schools as follows:

Article 1 – Amend Town Budget - Hopping moved, O'Flynn seconded to support. UNANIMOUS.

Article 2 – Amend School Budget – Hopping moved, Nylen seconded to support. UNANIMOUS. Speaker: Kneedler

Article 3 – Education Stabilization Fund – Hopping moved, O'Flynn seconded to support. UNANIMOUS. Speaker: Nylen

Article 4- Appropriation to Essex Tech – Hopping moved, O'Flynn seconded to support. UNANIMOUS Speaker: Player

Article 7 – Modification to Housing-related Zoning Provisions- Nylen will speak to Glen Gibbs re affordable housing and how it will impact the schools. No position taken.

Article 12 – Revolving Fund for Health Insurance Reimbursement (FY18 School Budget, \$60,607.19) – Hopping moved, Whitten seconded to support. UNANIMOUS.

Article 13 – Speed Limits – Whitten moved, O'Flynn seconded to support. UNANIMOUS.

Article 17 – Re-Adopt OPEB – Ms. Player will check with Fin Com if there are additional implications.

Article 18 – SPED Reserve Fund – Hopping moved, O'Flynn seconded to support. UNANIMOUS. Speaker: O'Flynn

IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Athletic Subcommittee – O'Flynn reported meeting on the capital spending and created a prioritized list hoping that IEF will support. Items on the list include tennis court repair, improvements at Mile Lane, and a new trophy case. There were reports on the number of fall sports, the summer weight-training program (afternoon session was not attended), and a goal for increasing participation for women athletes.
2. Budget Subcommittee – Player reported meeting on the NS Consortium, a new green sustainable bus, capital planning, budget goals. Oct. 10 meeting will cover

budget development process, and giving the Sch Comm more say in the initiative process.

3. Grant Subcommittees – Payne/ Instructional Mini-Grant
4. Operations Subcommittee
5. Policy Subcommittee – Hopping reported that a new meeting has not been scheduled and there is need for a new chair. MASC policies are to be reviewed along with releasing Exec. Sessions. They wrote the policy goal.
6. Turf Field Subcommittee
7. School Building Committee
8. New Business - Policy Manual – Dr. Blake explained the introductory pages of the policy manual—essentially as a “living” manual”, always changing.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to accept Policy ADDA, Background Checks. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Nylén, to accept Policy JICFB, Bullying Prevention. UNANIMOUS. These policies go into effect immediately.

The Board discussed the critical relationship between Superintendent and Town Manager, and Mr. Hopping and Mr. Nylén expressed desire to assign Dr. Blake and C. Nylén to be represented on the Town Manager Search Committee.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

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Mrs. Kneedler moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve School Committee Open Session Minutes of September 7, 2017. UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to adjourn at 10:07 p.m. UNANIMOUS.