

Mission

The Ipswich school community is committed to developing in all students the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to succeed and excel throughout life.

IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019

7:00 PM

MS/HS ENSEMBLE ROOM

134 HIGH STREET, IPSWICH, MA

Minutes

II. OPEN SESSION

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Whitten, Chair, called the meeting to order after a brief recess at 7:10pm with the following members present: Dr. O'Flynn, Ms. Gilliam, Ms. Kneedler, Ms. Zito and Mr. Nysten.

Also present: Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools and Joanne Cuff, Director of Finance and Operations

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

High School Student, H. O'Connor, read the mission statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Mr. Whitten acknowledged the recent passing of longtime track coach, Ken Spellman and Barbara Beaman who taught at the Winthrop School for 30 years. The Committee took a moment of silence in their honor.

A. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Blake reviewed his schedule over the past two weeks. He reported that Kathy McMahon had been named the new Middle School Principal. Amy Gregory, a Grade 5 teacher at Doyon, had been hired as the new Technology Integration Specialist. Dr. Blake met with his administrative team to discuss their goals and contracts, attended an Ipswich Aware meeting, met with the Ipswich Education Association leadership as part of their monthly meetings, attended the final Crest Collaborative Board meeting for the year, and had a discussion with the elementary school principals about some challenges they are facing with enrollment and the new preschool configuration. He also attended several end of the year events at the schools, met with Kathy Simms to discuss Payne Grants, discussed future elementary school projects with the Town Manager, met with the Athletic Director for a monthly update, and had his weekly Facilities update with Chris Raise. Dr. Blake went to Crane Beach Day, reviewed the teacher mentor

programs, attended Ken Spellman's funeral and visited all the schools on the last day. He met with Scott Ames to discuss the Performing Arts Center and changes in personnel, held a leadership team meeting and handled a personnel issue at Doyon. Dr. Blake finished his report by telling the Committee that he plans to look at both the Extended Day Program and the Tiger Tots program more closely this summer.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. SPRING SPORTS AWARDS

Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director

Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director, presented the Spring Sports Awards to select athletes who participated in a variety of spring sports. He acknowledged their accomplishments over the course of the season.

C. PAYNE GRANT REVIEW: FRENCH EXCHANGE PROGRAM GET THE KIDS MOVIN' GRANT

Kathleen Simms, Payne Grant Allocations Committee Chair

At the June 6th meeting, Ms. Simms presented the Payne Grants for final approval from the School Committee. At that meeting, the School Committee deferred their vote on the Ipswich High School French Exchange Program and asked for clarification. The original ask for the grant was \$22,300, but the Payne Grant Allocations Committee voted to give them \$11,000 to cover the cost of students who may need scholarships if they qualify for free/reduced lunch. The School Committee wanted to know how many students interested in the trip qualify and if the amount of \$11,000 was too much or too little.

Ms. Simms spoke with Alex Craven and had the final list of students attending the trip. Of that group, one student qualifies for free/reduced lunch, therefore there was no longer a need for that \$11,000 to cover the cost of flights. Mr. Craven specified that the flight to France would be approximately \$1,200 per student.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to support the change in the grant amount from \$11,000 to \$1,200. Dr. O'Flynn added an amendment should the flight cost more than \$1,200, the fare would be covered. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zito. This motion passed unanimously in favor.

At the June 6th meeting, the School Committee was presented with the Get Kids Movin' Payne Grant for \$14,707 from Jake Patterson. This grant included gym equipment, as well as heart monitor trackers. The Payne Grant Committee had voted to approve \$10,219.29 of the grant which did not include the heart monitors. There were concerns over the use of these monitors and the anonymity of the students using them. The School Committee opted to defer their vote and asked for clarification from Mr. Patterson.

Ms. Simms, at this meeting, read an email from Mr. Patterson which explained the use and need for the equipment and trackers.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to approve \$14,707 to fully fund the Get Kids Movin' grant. This motion was seconded by Mr. Whitten. The motion passed unanimously.

The School Committee then discussed the Doyon 1:1 Primary iPads grant. Originally, on June 6th, the School Committee approved the grant for \$18,850 with the stipulation that if more funding became available, they would look to increase the total amount. With the decrease in funding for the French

Exchange Program grant, the Committee discussed allocating those additional funds to the Primary iPad grant.

With the additional funds, it was determined that sixteen more iPads could be purchased.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to support the Doyon 1:1 Primary iPad grants for \$25,992, seconded by Ms. Zito. The motion passed unanimously.

D. SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER RECOGNITION

Charles Whitten, Chair

Mr. Whitten acknowledged School Committee member Nicole Zito, as this was her last meeting. Nicole resigned from her position due to her family relocating. Mr. Whitten and members of the Committee thanked her for her time and wished her the best of luck in her new endeavours.

E. END OF YEAR REPORT

Dr. Brian J. Blake, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Blake started off his report saying that by all accounts, this had been a very successful year. It was announced, with good feedback and thanks to a Payne Grant, that both elementary schools will be introducing a world language program. Dr. Blake talked about the music events at all grade levels and the amazing music educators who continue to impress him. He thanked the two FRIES groups for all of their hard work and dedication to the schools. Both the elementary schools and the middle school hosted successful step up days and the Senior Walk Through at both Doyon and Winthrop went great.

At the Middle School, Dr. Blake talked about the successful trip to Washington, D.C. and the glitch in the Middle School Yearbook which was currently being fixed. The Middle School hosted another incredibly successful Walk For Hunger, raising \$18,000 for Open Door.

The High School also had a great year. Both the Junior and Senior Proms were wonderful and the Senior Week activities, as well as graduation, were a huge success. Three athletic teams went on to participate in tournaments this spring.

The district, overall, was very busy. The One Read books, Boy in the Boat, were distributed at all schools. Two teachers retired this year, Paula Curcio and Glenn Foster. Summer professional development has 100 participants and several staff are signed up to attend a Landmark Training for two days following the end of school. Dr. Blake finished by saying he was thankful for just one snow day this year, resulting in a longer summer break. He felt that was well deserved on all accounts.

F. WORKING GROUP REPORT: FEOFFEES

Barry Hopping and Carl Nysten, SC Members

Before presenting, Mr. Nysten expressed that he would prefer to defer this conversation at a time that Mr. Hopping would also be able to participate. The working group will meet once more and present their findings in August.

G. WORKING GROUP REPORT: BUDGET

Carl Nysten, SC Member

Mr. Nysten stated that the Budget Working Group had come to the conclusion that they could not make a recommendation for a long term budget without furthering investigating certain trends and influences that

may affect the budget. At this time, they felt that it would be premature to bring forward a recommendation and in going forward, they would need to re-evaluate the timing of the long term budget.

H. WORKING GROUP REPORT: ELEMENTARY

Nicole Zito, SC Member

Ms. Zito explained that at the last School Committee meeting, the Elementary Working Group presented a draft Elementary Educational Program. Their hope is to move forward and make a clean version of the document to be put on the website. It was brought to her attention that the last sentence of the last paragraph was incomplete. The working group and Dr. Blake would work to recover that last sentence prior to putting the work on the website.

Mr. Whitten moved to accept this version of the Elementary Educational Program in draft form to be published to the webpage, seconded by Ms. Zito. The motion passed unanimously.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS REVIEW

Charles Whitten, Chair

The discussion centered around the working groups with Mr. Whitten first stating that he liked the format of a working group. He talked about the need to continue the work of the Elementary Working Group and the Feoffees Working Group into the next year. Ms. Zito asked what had happened to the Enrollment Working Group to which Mr. Nysten responded that it did not come to fruition this year. Mr. Whitten believes that enrollment and budget go hand in hand and should be discussed as a whole Committee. Mr. Whitten told the Committee that they will need to formulate new goals in August. He feels strongly that a working group should be created for the upcoming school year to address the override.

Overall, Mr. Whitten said that he felt the School Committee was successful in completing 70% of their goals. Dr. Blake said that part of the reason they were unable to complete 100% of the goals was due to time, space and availability, not for a lack of trying.

J. SUMMER SCHEDULE AND WARRANT SIGNATURES

Joanne Cuff, Director of Finance and Operations

Mr. Whitten ran through a list of upcoming dates for the School Committee which included a reorganizational meeting on Thursday, July 25th, a Triboard meeting on August 13th and the School Committee Retreat on August 14th. He also discussed the need for the Select Board to appoint someone to fill the vacant seat left by Ms. Zito. It was suggested that the vacancy be announced to the public and that all applicants be interviewed at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

Joanne Cuff then asked the School Committee to appoint a second person to sign warrants should Mr. Whitten not be available during the summer months. Ms. Kneeder offered to be available.

Mr. Nysten moved to appoint Ms. Kneeder as signatory for School Committee warrants, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn. This motion passed unanimously.

IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE- Not met**
2. **BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE- Not met**
3. **GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES- Not met**
 - a. **Payne Grant Subcommittee**
 - b. **Instructional Mini-Grant Subcommittee**
4. **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE- Met to onboard new School Committee member Sara Gilliam**
5. **POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE- Not met**
6. **TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE- Not met**
7. **WORKING GROUPS- Reviewed earlier in the meeting.**
8. **NEW BUSINESS***

Dr. Blake announced that the MASC 2019 Joint Conference was going to be held November 6-9th and asked if any members would be interested in attending. Ms. Gilliam expressed interest.

V. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Whitten moved the Ipswich School Committee to

- *Accept the Open Session Meeting Minutes from Thursday, June 6, 2019.*
- *Accept a check for \$735.00 from the Winthrop FRIES for the Decordova field trip to be deposited into the Winthrop Activities Account*
- *Accept a check for \$680 from the Winthrop FRIES for 5th grade end of the year activities to be deposited into the Winthrop Activities Account.*

Seconded by Mr. Nysten. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Whitten moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 PM, seconded by Ms. Zito. The motion passed unanimously.