

IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019
7:00 PM
MS/HS ENSEMBLE ROOM
134 HIGH STREET, IPSWICH, MA
Minutes

I. OPEN SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Ms. Player, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM with the following members present: Mr. Nysten, Ms. Zito, Mr. Hopping, Dr. O’Flynn, and Ms. Kneedler. Also present was Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools and Joanne Cuff, Director of Finance and Operations.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Stuart Geller, High School Student Representative, read the mission statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next School Committee meeting will be Thursday, April 4th at 7:00pm in the MS/HS Ensemble Room
- The Policy Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, March 26th at 7:00pm in the MS/HS Guidance Conference Room
- The Turf Subcommittee will meet on Thursday, March 28th at 7:00pm in the MS/HS Guidance Conference Room
- Kindergarten Information Night for all incoming kindergarten families will be held on Wednesday, April 3rd at the Doyon School from 7-8pm.
- The Payne Grant Committee is seeking new members. An application can be found on the district homepage or by reaching out to Laura Hillery at Central Office. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 26th

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

None.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Blake acknowledged the High School Robotics Team which received the Engineering Inspiration Award at their most recent competition. Mr. Hopping congratulated the Jazz Ensemble who competed at the Massachusetts State Finals at Norwood High School and Ms. Zito drew attention to the Middle School production of *Wizard of Oz*, acknowledging how well the students performed.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Stuart Geller, High School Student Representative

Mr. Geller reported on various activities happening throughout the school. His report included his experience with the Close Up Washington, D.C. trip, the Robotics team performance in their competition the weekend prior and the success of job shadow day. He reported that spring sports have begun and the high school is nearing the end of their third quarter at school. He also acknowledge two high school athletes that were named as Salem News All-Stars.

A. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Blake reported on his schedule:

- He attended a Leadership Team meeting
- Met with Birth to Three Director, Beth Gillander and representatives from the EEC
- Met with Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director, for an update on the athletic department
- He began interviews for the Performing Arts Director position
- He attended a Crest Collaborative Board Meeting
- Presented the FY20 School Budget to the Finance Committee
- Attended the Mass Superintendent Induction program
- Attended a legislative luncheon with the North Shore Superintendents Round Table
- Met with the IEA for a monthly meeting and for a Mutual Concerns meeting
- Attended Rotary
- Worked with the Educator Evaluation Committee
- Participated in a SEI/ELL recertification course

<h2>II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS</h2>
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B. STUDENT ATHLETIC AWARDS

Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director

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

C. SCHOOL COUNSELOR UPDATE

IHS/IMS School Counselors

School Counselor, Claire Powers, and Adjustment Counselor, Christine Hultgran, presented an update on the social and emotional programs at the middle and high school. At the middle school, different programs are being offered to address the social and emotional needs of the students. These programs include team building, health classes, support services, and a curriculum based on the book *Wonder*. They discussed ways that middle school works to connect with parents that include a curriculum night at the start of the school year, a safety, security and social development night and the *Minding Your Mind* program.

At the high school, programs include a Response to Intervention (RTI) team, the Positive Alternative to School Suspension (PASS) program, a Mindfulness Professional Learning Community, classroom seminars for all grades, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey Fair, participation in the Middlesex Partnerships for Youth and Ipswich Aware.

They reported that 83% of teachers report seeing students on a weekly basis that struggle with anxiety or depression and because of that, they are asking for more resources to help support them. Challenges that are present in the school are anxiety, depression, vaping, substance abuse, family illness, school attendance, home environment, pressure to succeed, and technology addictions. They emphasized significant attendance issues and an increase in school refusals and chronic absenteeism.

The Committee discussed these challenges with both counselors with an emphasis on school attendance and the shift towards more social and emotional learning. They discussed the need for a stricter attendance policy and how to balance a blanket policy with individual circumstances.

Mr. Hopping finished the discussion by stating that roles of educators have changed and evolved. Gone are the days that teachers present a lesson and leave. Now, what is going on outside the classroom can directly affect what is happening inside the classroom and that kids needs must be taken seriously.

D. GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Craig Saline and Gary Champion, GSC Members

Mr. Saline and Mr. Champion presented a slideshow to the Committee which discussed in detail the three topics the Government Study Committee was looking to bring forward as articles at the Town Meeting in May and their reasoning behind them. The three topics were:

1. An article to make the Ipswich By-Laws gender neutral
2. Members of the Planning Board must be elected, not appointed
3. The role of the Select Board in the Town Charter

The Government Study Committee planned to present to the Planning Board and the Finance Committee to discuss their topics and get feedback from the individual boards/committees.

E. STUDENT RESOURCE OFFICER UPDATE

Officer Joe Perna, Ipswich SRO

This presentation also included representation from Ipswich Aware (Dave Clark, Steve Barrett)

Officer Perna wanted to introduce himself to the School Committee and speak to his role in the district. He has been in the district for four years and explained that the main priority of his role is the safety of the students and staff in the school. He participates in the School Safety Committee on a regular basis, as well as Ipswich Aware. He is involved with the school attendance issues and is an active participant in NEMLEC. Officer Perna discussed with the Committee ways to address the substance abuse issues in the schools and his collaboration with NEMLEC. He also discussed the success of introducing the ALICE program to staff and now high school students.

Dave Clark, of Ipswich Aware, then joined the conversation to discuss with the Committee the background of the program, the stakeholders and the program's work in the community. The three goals of the program are to reduce stigma, educate the community and youth education/prevention. Mr. Clark talked about the program's achievements which included bringing Dr. Pote to the schools and community, the Youth Risk Behavior Survey(YRBS) and the event they are hosting on May 1st which coincides with the release of the YRBS results. The group also organizes Drug Take Back Day and a candlelight vigil for drug awareness. The group is also working on a Parent University to help educate and support families. They ended the presentation by saying, "You may not win the war, but you can win battles along the way".

F. BUDGET DEBRIEF

Sarah Player, School Committee Chair

Ms. Player asked the Committee to provide feedback on the budget presentation to the Finance Committee. The general consensus was that most of the questions asked during these nights do not directly pertain to the budget. It was suggested that in the future, the budget document is made more accessible and "user friendly" and the nights are broken up to address the highlights and then the numbers. The budget presentation should act as a guide to help lead the Finance Committee through the budget "story".

G. TRANSFER FUNDS TO STABILIZATION FUND

Joanne Cuff, Director of Finance and Operations

Joanne explained that the Committee needs to decide how much money should be moved to the stabilization fund and special education stabilization fund. She suggested that the conversation happen first at the Budget Subcommittee and their recommendations are then presented to the full Committee at the April 4th meeting. The Budget Subcommittee agreed to schedule a meeting prior to the April 4th meeting to discuss the transfer of funds.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS	8:40 PM
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A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

Done.

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Have not met.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Have not met. Scheduled a meeting for April 4, 2019.

3. GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES

Have not met.

a. Payne Grant Subcommittee

b. Instructional Mini-Grant Subcommittee

4. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Have not met.

5. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

A meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2019.

6. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE

A meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2019.

7. WORKING GROUPS

The Elementary group need to reschedule their meeting. The Field Trip Working Group has not met and the Feoffees Working Group needs to schedule a meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS*

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Player moved the Ipswich School Committee to accept

- The Open Session Meeting Minutes from February, 28, 2019; March 7, 2019; March 12, 2019; and March 13, 2019.
- A check for \$3,000 from the Ipswich YMCA to be split evenly and deposited into the Doyon Gift Account and the Winthrop Gift Account to be used for art and music.
- A donation of \$500 from Harmonic Drive LLC to support the FRC Robotics Team to be deposited into the High School Gift Account
- A donation of \$1,000 from the Masonic Angel Foundation to pay tuitions for after school and/or summer enrichment programs for at-risk students at Doyon to be deposited into the Doyon Gift Account.

- A donation of \$500 from the Ipswich Rotary Club to support the Student Racing Team to be deposited into the High School Gift Account.

Seconded by Mr. Hopping. UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn. UNANIMOUS.