

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, MAY 31, 2017
7:00 PM
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM
Minutes

II. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Player called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM with the following members present: C. Whitten, H. O'Flynn, and B. Hopping. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Blake and Student Representative C. Bergner.

C. Nylen joined the meeting at 7:43 PM and N. Zito joined the meeting at 7:51 PM.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

High School Student Representative Chris Bergner read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. There will be a Policy Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, June 5th at 7:00pm in the guidance conference room.
2. The next School Committee meeting will be Thursday, June 7 at 7pm in the MS/HS Ensemble Room.
3. High School graduation is taking place this Sunday, June 3rd at 2:00pm.
4. The 8th Grade Issues Fair was taking place at the Middle School at the same time as tonight's meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Ipswich High School junior, Eva Capabianco, was acknowledged for her work organizing the student walkout along with Ava Warren and Cate Phypers. Her name was not mentioned during a past student representative report about the event.
- Ipswich Middle School student, Sarah Elliot, was acknowledged for organizing the Chase the Butterfly run to raise funds for CureCMT4J. Over 250 runners participated in the event, raising \$6,000 to go towards CureCMT4J.

- The School Committee High School Student Representative, Chris Bergner, was acknowledged and thanked by the Committee for his contributions to the School Committee this year. It was noted that Chris has been the only representative to email his report ahead of time when he could not attend a meeting.
- Maureen O'Connell, Doyon teacher, was acknowledged by Ms. Player. Since 1997, Ms. O'Connell has had her 2nd grade class write letters to themselves and address their own envelopes. Those letters are then sent to the students the year they graduate High School. Feedback from both parents and students is very positive and appreciative.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Christopher Bergner, Ipswich High School Student Representative

Mr. Bergner presented his last High School report to the Committee. He reported that students are excited about the year ending. Seniors had a great time at prom and are currently enjoying Senior Week activities including an Odyssey Cruise out of Boston, a cookout, a Prince Pizza comedy show, a farewell lunch at The Farm in Essex and graduation activities. He described Senior Week like a three second pause of your High School career and a great time for students to reflect on their time at Ipswich High School. He then thanked the School Committee for all the work they do to help students succeed in Ipswich. He finished his report with one of his favorite quotes from Roy. T. Bennett.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent

Dr. Blake reported on a busy few weeks that included:

- Dealing with bargaining unit issues
- Meeting with a parent regarding fundraising requirements for seniors to pay for the costs associated with rentals for graduation
- Ongoing negotiations with teachers, TA's, clerical unit, custodial, bus drivers, etc.
- Attended the Tri-Board meeting on May 22, 2018
- Attended his last Superintendent School day of year one.
- Watched the robotics demonstrations at the Middle School organized by Samantha Colby and Christine Senechal
- Attended a Community Collaborative meeting comprised of counseling staff, the DA and administrators
- Reviewed and worked on the Payne Grants to have them ready for tonight's meeting
- Finalized and signed the new High School Principal contract
- Attended both the senior prom and the Odyssey harbor cruise
- Attended the Baccalaureate night
- Will be attending the Winthrop School Ice Cream Social
- Attended part of the Payne Grant meeting tonight
- Will attend graduation on Sunday
- Attended an Ed. Eval. Meeting
 - There was a discussion regarding how much room and flexibility there was to make adjustments to the evaluation process to insure the evaluation is both meaningful and streamline.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. FIELD TRIP REQUEST-MODEL UN

Alexandra Hayoz-Laverdiere, High School Teacher

Both Alexandra Hayoz-Laverdiere and Jeff Krieger presented on the Model UN field trip taking place March 22-March 24, 2019 at the Westin Copley Hotel in Boston, MA. Model UN is in its 13th year at the high school and this will be the 6th year attending the conference. The trip will utilize bus transportation and will cost \$300.00 per student. This is considered a club field trip and there are no course requirements associated with the trip. Teachers will be present on the trip as chaperones. Although there are no plans to fundraise, they will not turn away a student who cannot pay.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to approve the overnight Model UN field trip request, seconded by Mr. Whitten. UNANIMOUS.

C. FIELD TRIP REQUEST- WASHINGTON, D.C.

Jeff Krieger, High School Teacher

Both Alexandra Hayoz-Laverdiere and Jeff Krieger presented the Close Up trip to Washington, D.C. The trip is scheduled for Sunday, March 10, 2019-Friday, March 15, 2019. Students will travel round trip by plane with transportation to and from the airport provided by bus. The cost of the trip is \$1,760.00 per student and includes roundtrip airfare, meals and program fees. Last year, 11 students participated in the trip, but they are hoping for more sophomore, junior and senior students to sign up.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to approve the Close Up trip to Washington, D.C., seconded by Mr. Nylén. UNANIMOUS.

D. CLIMATE ACTION PRESENTATION

Lori Lafrance, High School Teacher

Lori Lafrance, High School teacher, presented on her Sustainability Scholars' projects. Students used the program Flipgrid to create short videos detailing their projects. Projects included:

- Eliminating the use of plastic waste with a focus on straws
- Hydroponics
- Garden rain barrels
- Solar panel installation in the new Gen Garden
- Ipswich River Watershed dog waste study
- Indoor vertical garden at the Winthrop School
- Cafeteria waste stream
- Purchase and use of additional compost bins in the High School cafeteria
- DrainSmart

Several members of the Committee commented on the quality and importance of these types of projects. Ms. Lafrance said there was a growing community interest in collaborating with her students. She also said that there is a growing interest in students wanting to take her class and unfortunately, has to turn some students away. Although this is an Honors class, she will accept students who may not meet the Honors requirements, but who have the drive to succeed. Ms. Lafrance also stated that the goal for next school year is to gain Green Ribbon Status as a sustainable school.

Carolyn Britt of the Sustainability Committee also presented a request for the formation of a Sustainability Manager position and Climate Action and Resiliency Committee. The group is requesting the Ipswich Board of Selectman to

1. Create a full-time Sustainability Manager position for the Town
2. Create and appoint a Climate Action and Resiliency Committee to
 - a. Facilitate and encourage practices, policies, and goals on mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate driven threats facing the town
3. The Sustainability Manager with the newly formed Committee would implement the recommendations contained in the 2011 and 2017 Ipswich Climate Action Plan and the 2017 Great Marsh Coastal Adaptation Plan

What Caroline was there to request of the School Committee was a letter of support for the proposed plan. The School Committee agreed that it was worth putting on a future agenda for further discussion and that if this does get traction, it would make sense for the schools to become involved.

E. ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE CURRICULUM

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Blake presented High School English teacher, Becky Slawson's request for consideration of a new English elective per Article XXII *Carnegie Language* of the Ipswich Public Schools contractual agreement. The new class, *All the World's a Stage* will meet on five Sundays over the course of the academic year from noon-6pm to engage in pre-show activities, view the show and participate in the post show Humanities Forum at the theater. Students who take the course will independently complete packets of pre and post show activities and meet as a discussion group during 2 Friday R blocks per show- one before and one after the show. As a final assessment, students will develop a reflective portfolio that will be presented during a class celebration scheduled during R block.

Course Credits and Hours:

Course Credits: 2.5

Course House: 65 Hours

Dr. Blake explained that an approved mini-grant will help fund this course for the next school year as a pilot program and it is Ms. Slawson's hope that a mini-grant will fund it for an additional 2-3 years after. There are currently 21 students registered for the class. After some discussion, it was understood that Ms. Slawson would not be teaching this as an additional class to her current workload, but it would replace an elective she was teaching before.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to approve to the new course, seconded by Ms. Zito. UNANIMOUS.

F. GUN VIOLENCE PROCLAMATION

Sarah Player, School Committee Chair

Ms. Player read the following statement created by both N. Zito and C. Nylen-

"The Ipswich School Committee maintains that every child in Ipswich has the right to learn free from the threat of violence.

We appreciate that that gun violence is a broad, community concern. However, the national PTA recognizes "the importance of a safe learning environment in attaining the highest level of student learning and achievement." Regarding calls for arming educators as a deterrent to gun violence, the Ipswich School Committee strongly rejects this proposal. We believe the most effective day-to-day school climate to be gun-free.

We strive for a multi-pronged approach with allied stakeholders to implement policy, collaborate with public safety officials, and educate our community. We commit to ensuring that our schools are appropriately resourced so that every student has access to the social, emotional, and communicative supports he or she needs in order to succeed.

Finally, the School Committee urges our legislators to take a more active regulatory stance regarding common sense gun laws in order to protect our children including stronger background checks, banning assault weapons, addressing firearm trafficking, opposing legislation to weaken gun laws, funding violence prevention programs, and encouraging safe firearm storage."

There was some discussion about the length of the statement and if it could be condensed. It was agreed that the third paragraph could be removed and the word "Finally" in the first sentence of last paragraph could be removed. There was also a discussion about whether the title should be more specific to gun violence in schools, but it was eventually agreed that it should remain as is.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to accept the gun violence statements with revisions, seconded by Mr. Nylen. UNANIMOUS.

The new Gun Violence statement will read:

"The Ipswich School Committee maintains that every child in Ipswich has the right to learn free from the threat of violence.

We appreciate that that gun violence is a broad, community concern. However, the national PTA recognizes "the importance of a safe learning environment in attaining the highest level of student learning and achievement." Regarding calls for arming educators as a deterrent to gun

violence, the Ipswich School Committee strongly rejects this proposal. We believe the most effective day-to-day school climate to be gun-free.

The School Committee urges our legislators to take a more active regulatory stance regarding common sense gun laws in order to protect our children including stronger background checks, banning assault weapons, addressing firearm trafficking, opposing legislation to weaken gun laws, funding violence prevention programs, and encouraging safe firearm storage.”

It was agreed that the next steps should include posting the statement on the website, sending out a press release, adding the statement to our school handbooks, as well as reaching out to state legislators.

G. CDP STEERING COMMITTEE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REP ASSIGNMENT

Sarah Player, School Committee Chair

Ms. Player explained to the Committee that Mr. Nylén had been approached by Ethan Parsons to be the School Committee Representative on the newly formed Community Development Plan (CDP) Steering Committee. Mr. Nylén then explained that the group held an organizational meeting last Thursday. There are currently 14 members, but are looking for more. This Committee plans to divide work into phases:

1. Establish goals and focus- should they look at new ideas for the CDP or work within the constraints of the current plan
2. Create an action plan and work on implementation

The Committee plans to meet monthly or every 6 weeks and will provide updates to people's respective boards as new information is available. The goal is to rewrite the CDP. There was some discussion of how prescriptive the plan should be and its intended uses. It was thought that the first step is to determine the future use of the CDP. It was also suggested that whatever comes of the Committee, that it be based on research and not personal preferences. It was agreed that this is a welcomed Committee and long overdue. Mr. Nylén asked if there was interest in any other School Committee members in joining the Committee to which Ms. Player responded, yes. The next meeting will take place in June.

H. END OF YEAR ASSIGNMENTS

Sarah Player, School Committee Chair

Member of the Committee agreed to attend the following end of the year events:

Winthrop Grade 5 Graduation: Mr. Whitten

Doyon Grade 5 Graduation: Ms. Kneedler

High School Honors Night: Mr. Hopping, Dr. O'Flynn

Middle School 8th Grade Graduation: Dr. O'Flynn

High School Graduation: Ms. Player, Dr. O'Flynn, Mr. Hopping, Ms. Zito

I. POLICY SECTION I

Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Blake presented policy section I, *Instruction* for School Committee approval. These policies were first brought to the administrative team for feedback and then brought to the Policy Subcommittee for review and possible revision. Dr. Blake reminded the Committee that the final copy, approved by the Policy Subcommittee, is then presented to the full School Committee for final approval. It is the understanding that at the time the policies are presented to the School Committee, they have been fully edited and vetted.

The following policies were pulled by the Policy Subcommittee for further review and were not included as Policy Section I:

- IGA
- IHAMB
- IHCA
- IJ-R
- IJLA
- IJND
- IJNDB
- IJNDC
- IJNDD
- IJNDE
- IJOA
- IK
- IKF

Mr. Hopping moved to approve Policy Section I as presented, seconded by Ms. Zito.
UNANIMOUS.

<h2>IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS</h2>

A. **VOUCHERS/BILLS**- complete

B. **SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. **ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE**- meeting postponed

2. **BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**- Need to schedule

3. **GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES**

a. **Payne Grant Subcommittee**- meeting tonight, 5/31

b. **Instructional Mini-Grant Subcommittee**- Subcommittee finished their work and distributed the grants. There was a question as to why Winthrop did not submit any mini-grant applications. Mr. Whitten would follow up with Jen Spencer.

4. **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**- Working on finding a time to meet. Will discuss dates after meeting.
5. **POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**- Cancel the 6/5 meeting and reschedule for 6/12
6. **TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE**- In the event the Payne grant application was approved, the group will reconvene.
8. **NEW BUSINESS***- Ms. Player asked that each member send her their summer vacation plans so she can organize summer meeting dates.

V. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Player moved the Ipswich School Committee to accept the School Committee Open Session meeting minutes for May 10, 2018 and to accept a \$750 donation from the Audrey P. Connor Charitable Foundation to be deposited into the High School Gift Account.

Mr. Nysten seconded. UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 PM, seconded by Mr. Nysten. UNANIMOUS.

***All business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Agenda items may be taken out of order to fill time gaps and/or to accommodate presenters when necessary. All times are approximate.**