

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2017
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

I. OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair S. Player called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: C. Nysten, B. Hopping, C. Whitten, P. Kneedler, and N. Zito. Also present were Superintendent Blake, Fin. Dir. Cuff, and new Student Representative Chris Bergner.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Chris Bergner read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Player read the following announcements:

October 9 – Columbus Day holiday – schools closed

“ 10 - Professional Development Day – schools closed

“ 10 - Budget Subcommittee, 7 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conf. Rm.

“ 11 - Science Day, Winthrop School

“ 11 - Policy Subcommittee, 7:15 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conf. Rm.

“ 17 – Combined SBC & SC, 7 p.m., Town Hall Room A

“ 22-25 - NEASC Accreditation Team visits High School

Nov. 17, 18, 19 – Peter Pan (musical) – Middle School

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Blake mentioned the Reception for New Staff which had just been concluded in the Dolan PAC lobby with cake, coffee, and chat with School Committee members.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Chris spoke of upcoming Spirit Week, the Nov. 13 Senior Fashion Show as a graduation fund raiser, the Foreign Language Club fund raiser for hurricane victims and the InterACT Club's fund raiser being planned for victims as well. The foreign exchange program begins on October 20. The Tigers play at Amesbury on Friday, October 6, at 7 p.m.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Blake reported that Beth Gillander is the new Birth-to-Three Director. The purchase of a Frontline product, an electronic time card, will be a tremendous time and effort saver. He attended the CREST Board of Directors meeting, completing their required training; he attended a conference in Southbury, CT, for school superintendents and brought back information from two presenters regarding legal updates and court cases that involve technology (emailing and cyber bullying). He

spoke of Bill Daggett's new book Making Schools Work: A Vision for College and Career Ready Learning which compares a four-year-college graduate of today and kids with two-year degrees now and in the future outpacing the salaries of many four-year-degree graduates in many fields. He has now completed three of eight superintendent orientation meetings. He had a community collaboration meeting with the DA's office and commented that Massachusetts' system is much more developed than New Hampshire's.

Professional Development Day (October 10) has guest speakers in the morning and teachers break off by schools individually after lunch—all based around creative projects and incorporating creativity in the classroom.

Mr. Hopping commented that each SC member should read Daggett's book!

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

High School Principal Dalton presented his three-goal document for 2016-18, already shared with the SC. He has a vibrant student/teacher/parent school council.

Goal 1. Support the District Vision of “Building a Culture of Thinking” by providing teachers opportunities to reflect, collaborate, and showcase teacher and student work that exhibits depth of thinking and high levels of student engagement.

He encourages the faculty to view the document as a “living” document and spoke repeatedly about the “shifting sands” that need constant vigilance. He reviewed the years of developing Successful Habits of Mind (SHOM) in 2013-14, communication (2014-15), critical thinking (15-16), creating a culture of thinking, (16-17), and in 2017-18, creative critical thinking. He made reference to learning cycles, Compass teams, PLCs, TED Talks, Blue Skies, project-based learning, and increased showcasing (STEAM and other fairs).

Mr. Hopping asked for discussion of how teachers handle opportunities for self-reflection, and Mr. Dalton said that the teacher-evaluation process starts with a self-reflecting phase. Beginning teachers and experienced teachers work in different ways and eventually they propose a professional-practice goal, and build a department goal and student-learning goal from that. Mr. Hopping was pleased to hear of the sharing and feedback.

Goal 2. Support and conduct a transparent and inclusive self-study process that accurately informs the NEASC of our strengths and weaknesses and that will properly guide the recommendations which will become the foundation of future school improvement planning.

The NEASC study involved an Endicott College survey, the Standards Committees, and the faculty vote on strengths/weaknesses of IHS (which Dalton read to the SC).

Goal 3. Increase student performance on SAT and ACT by 1-5% annually beginning with the Class of 2018.

While Mr. Dalton had been uncomfortable with teaching to these exams but rather teaching rich curriculum in a way that engages kids and expects results, he is enthusiastic about the new year with a new technology director. SATs have been redone (shifting sands) electronically online.

Mr. Dalton was positive that Goal 1 has budgetary needs embedded—professional development, substitutes, and faculty requests for new tools. Goal 2 has budgetary connection to correct the weaknesses.

Middle School Principal Fabrizio presented and explained his three goals: Goal 1. To improve student learning through continued training in personalized instruction, inclusion, and innovative practices.

He described practices and intensive experiences, even to whole-day experiences in just one subject. A couple of subjects can be interdisciplinary. The more experience, the more innovative the teachers have become. He described flexible groupings and rotating according to student needs. Alternative classroom experiences include the river in canoes for science, clamming and traveling to Gloucester and Essex for social studies, analysis of acreage and the financial aspect of Russell Orchards in math. IMS faculty members have applied to be presenters at conventions.

Goal 2. Continue to improve communication between the middle school and the parents and community.

He said that teachers have contacted parents by phone plus tweeting and sharing the work of students and staff.

Goal 3. Increase instances of Transdisciplinary Learning in Grade 8.

Following summer professional development, each 8th grade teacher will create and implement at least two transdisciplinary lessons per trimester.

Mr. Whitten was enthusiastic about the changes that technology has made; Mrs. Zito commented that transdisciplinary lessons are real work in problem solving.

C. TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE – MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH LEVELING

Mr. Fabrizio explained the difficulty of change and when changes are made, they are not done in a rushed manner. The staff at the MS provides every MS student the opportunity to learn math at the highest level, heterogeneously grouped, opening the door for every student to succeed in math. Staff is improving their delivery, using the social/emotional frameworks, and changing the way math is taught.

Mr. Fabrizio said that 6th grade is not the time to separate by tracking students. Flexible grouping means everyone is not being taught at the same pace. Sixth graders are going into groups, many with SPED support.

Dr. Blake commented that, in study of math standards in NH, it was found that college professors would prefer that high schools not get to calculus but instead provide enough solid foundation in high school, and then take college calculus.

Fabrizio said he polled local-area schools and ten of twelve do not level sixth grade math. Algebra I is advocated by the Massachusetts Frameworks in the 9th grade or 8th grade if students are capable.

Math teacher Emily Allman applauded the attention to math, spoke of her Math Team at the MS, felt that tracking is beneficial, and thinks that Ipswich kids have the potential to excel at math as they do in music.

D. DRAFT SUPERINTENDENT GOALS FY18

Dr. Blake reviewed his four goals as follows:

Goal 1. Completion of Entry Plan. By December, the district will have a broad agreement from key stakeholder groups about (a)the most critical needs of the district and (b)strategies and goals to address them most effectively.

Goal 2. Meaningful Evaluation. Learn and implement the Educator Evaluation system with all principals and District administrators.

Goal 3. Professional Practice. Develop skills in strategy development, data analysis, and instructional leadership by completing the first year of the New Superintendent Induction Program and earning at least Proficient ratings on each major assignment.

Goal 4. Management and Operations. Ensure implementation of revised District policy manual and develop related procedures for the efficient management of the system.

Each of these goals have actions and benchmarks.

Mr. Nylen asked if he considered the budget (as a goal) to which Blake answered in the negative because that and the school project are ongoing and more specific. Mrs. Zito asked about student achievement in his goals and he answered that it probably entered into all of them.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Nylen, to accept the draft of goals by the Superintendent as written. UNANIMOUS.

E. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. Player reported that the SBC and SC and architectural team met on October 4 in another community forum with two specific site plan designs. There was a presentation of where the project has been and what the building looks like now on the Doyon site with huge blowups. Twenty-five community members cycled through six different stations including photos of schools just completed. A wide range of interested citizens made comments and gave feedback. The next followup is October 17; the meeting on the 26th will be to resubmit final decisions for November to MSBA.

SC members made comments. Mr. Whitten felt there isn't enough play space outside the Doyon plan. In three separate areas, the atrium being the largest, he thought after the presentation that 775 elementary students need outdoor play space and maybe a playing field needs to be sacrificed. He also thought that parking areas might be shifted to the front of the building. Mr. Hopping would take both softball fields away because they seem squeezed. Mrs. Kneedler remarked that playing field and play space proximity made it great for small kids' entertainment.

Dr. Blake relayed information that Bob Bell (architect) will be at the Doyon site on Thursday, October 19, and faculty are invited to attend and to go outside to look at the site. There were questions about timing for suggestions to include faculty input before the final decision.

Dr. O'Flynn mentioned SC input in regard to the sale of Kozeneski property (98+ acres) on Linebrook Road in proximity to the Doyon site and again mentioned the communication with abutters to Doyon.

F. APPOINTMENT OF DR. BLAKE TO CREST COLLABORATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Zito, to appoint Dr. Blake to the Collaborative Board of Directors to CREST (Collaborative for Regional Educational Services and Training). UNANIMOUS.

III. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – October 10 meeting
3. GRANT COMMITTEES – Player will contact Chen for vacancy replacements: Payne and Mini-grants
4. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Nylen reported discussion re the Superintendent's evaluations mid-cycle (Feb.) and end-of-year
5. POLICY – October 11 meeting
6. TURF – A need to set a meeting
7. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

8. NEW BUSINESS-

Mrs. Kneedler will be attending the MASC conference on Nov. 1 and 2. Mr. Nylen commented that he would love to see Ipswich present one year.

Ms. Player read a thank-you note from Reed Dolan, past Student Representative.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of the Open Session Minutes of September 21, 2017

Acceptance of the donation of \$2,000 given anonymously to the Winthrop School to support the Grade 5 Plimoth Plantation field trip to be deposited in the Winthrop School Student Activities Account UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Nylén, to adjourn at 10:04 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.

