

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2015  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair B. Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, H. O'Flynn, S. Gresh C. Nysten, J. Bauman, and F. Krason. Also present were Superintendent Hart and Finance Director Cuff.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA after which the meeting will adjourn.

Negotiations Subcommittee will meet on April 6 and 8, 3:30 p.m. in the Payne School Conference Rm.

School Committee will meet on April 16, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

K. Zagarella, IEA Co-chair, Winthrop teacher and Ipswich resident for four years, spoke in support of School Committee policy to allow offspring of teachers to be admitted tuition-free into Ipswich schools. She gave comparison between her one year as a Beverly resident when her boys were little and the other 12 years when they came to Ipswich for classroom time and enjoyed after-school activities while she put in the time in her classroom rather than racing home as soon as school was out to care for her boys.

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Dr. Hart announced that the Ipswich Chamber Orchestra has accepted an invitation to Symphony Hall, Boston, on Saturday, April 11, as part of the Gold Medal Performance from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., open to the public and free.

Mrs. Bauman commented on the presentation of the Abrahams Group audit draft to the Ad Hoc Audit Subcommittee and their comments that several audits had already been done by the school district and findings were compatible. She publicly thanked Joanne Cuff, Finance Director, for her prompt replies to requests for documentation by the Abrahams Group, for her hard work over the past several years, and her dedication to the district, and she presented her with a pot of chrysanthemums.

**PRESENTATION/ACCEPTANCE OF CHECK FROM IPSWICH FAMILY YMCA**

Gerry Beauchamp, spokesperson for the Ted O'Leary family and Drew Marcaurelle, presented a check to the schools for \$15,000, proceeds from their annual Mud Run in Ted O'Leary's memory. In the past 100 CPR certificates to MS kids and elementary-school ovens for their kitchens have been provided with the proceeds from the Mud Run; this year a Director of Food Services position is earmarked for the donation.

In addition, AD Tom Gallagher spoke in praise of the YMCA's support of the swim/dive program and purchase of boards in celebration of their aquatic accomplishments.

#### **A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Hart announced that MSBA has voted to begin the feasibility study for the Winthrop School building project. Ipswich will collaborate with them in a space summary based on the district's educational program, will work on building alternatives, and MSBA will recommend the most cost-effective and educationally appropriate solution over an 18-month period.

STEAM strategic planning team spent the entire day (April 2) at Crane's Castle, its first of three days (April 2, 3, and 14) in a 15-person team of students, staff, administration, parents, business and community leaders to create action steps for next year and goals for a three-year roll out process toward a cutting-edge, district-wide STEAM program.

Technology Specialist Chris Burke facilitated a multi-week technology course on Saturdays for 30 teachers entitled "Using Technology to Support Communication and Digital Literacy."

Gerry Dolan was inducted into the MMEA Hall of Fame on March 20, attended by a busload of students, teachers, administration and parents. Gerry was on display at the All School Band Concert last week. Mr. Hopping mentioned that Laurie Fab was also feted in Boston; Dr. Hart said she attended the STEAM workshop day as well.

#### **I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

##### **B. WINTER SPORTS AWARDS**

AD Tom Gallagher announced accomplishments of coaches and players and presented awards to the girls' basketball, boys'/girls' indoor track, boys'/girls' swim/dive, wrestling, and ice-hockey athletes. Dr. Hart commented that this quality man (Gallagher) who has a solid program, continues to make Ipswich proud. Mr. Hopping complimented the parents who support and transport their children to athletics.

##### **C. REPORT OF THE FEOFFEEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Seth Ward and Tracy Filosa, Feoffees, presented their Grammar School Trust Performance Summary, dated 9/30/14 - 12/31/14. The gain, including the recent merger of the Manning Fund into the Feoffees Trust (\$419,778--approximately 2% of the entire Trust—added to the total assets of the endowment) had a total gain of 6.6%, (the original endowment increased by 3%). Mr. Ward explained that the Feoffees have hired managers to oversee the endowment because the Feoffees have their own day jobs. One of the Aureus principals has a child who went to Ipswich schools. Hi Vista and Aureus work collectively to achieve a single investment strategy consistent with the Feoffees investment policy instituted in 2013. This

includes the mortgages (18 currently) and Usage/Occupancy (U/O) notes (11). The benchmark was set at 9.6% and the performance as of 12/31/14 exceeded it to 10.1%. Just under 70% is in equities. The need to diversify is evident for market fluctuations. The Manning Fund accounting system will be kept separate for spending distribution.

Mr. Nylen asked if the Feoffees were open to receiving additional gifts, and Mrs. Filosa replied that, having had that intention from the beginning, they are working to promote the gift-giving. Mr. Ward added that, by showing effective management even when the correction comes when the market drops, Feoffees can show responsible management.

Dr. O'Flynn asked for a reminder of the distribution policy. Mrs. Filosa gave the conservative, current estimate at \$680,000 keeping a certain amount for reserve and inflation, trying to reduce the amount of volatility, and making sure that overspending does not occur. Mr. Ward added that the idea is to grow the corpus above the rate of inflation. Even in the period where the market goes down, there will be a level to protect growth and the figure will go down less than the market.

Mr. Ward explained that the whole M/U&O payments have been better than imagined with now under 10% of mortgaged properties and U/O payments at 4% annually.

Dr. O'Flynn and Mr. Hopping thanked the two Feoffees, knowing the investments are in the best of hands and their willingness to keep the community informed.

**D. VOTE ON BUDGET OVERRIDE**

Mr. Hopping called for a vote of \$2.9 million on the FY16 override budget. Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to set the FY16 override budget at \$2.9 million. UNANIMOUS.

**E. REVIEW OF ANNUAL TOWN WARRANT, VOTE ON WARRANT ARTICLES AND ASSIGNMENT OF SPEAKERS**

Mr. Hopping led the group through the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for May 12, 2015, with action by the School Committee only on those articles which directly involve the schools as follows:

Article 3 – FY15 School Budget Amendments—support 7/0; Hopping to speak

Article 8 – Municipal Budget—support 7/0

Article 9 – FY16 School Budget—support 7/0; O'Flynn to speak  
(slides to be forthcoming before May 5)

Article 10-Override—support 7/0; Nylen to speak

Article 11-Whittier Regional Budget—support 7/0; Russ Bardsley to speak;  
alternate speaker: Gresh

Article 12-Essex County Tech—support 7/0; Player to speak

Article 13-Annual Capital Plan—support 7/0; Bauman to speak

Article 15-OPEB—support 7/0 for \$50,000;if amount changes, revisit. O’Flynn will speak if necessary

Article 24-Repairs to Payne School—support 7/0 \$35,000 free cash; Krason to speak

Article 25-Replacement of shades/blinds at Doyon—support 7/0 \$20,000 free cash; Player to speak

#### F. SUPERINTENDENT MID-YEAR REPORT

Dr. Hart, with a Powerpoint presentation, reviewed the four Standards by which he is evaluated by the School Committee. He included an extended addendum documenting his work.

##### Standard I: Instructional Leadership

Of the four actions/outcomes, two have been accomplished (Curriculum Development Expectations document and workshop on November 10), one is ongoing (site-based curriculum unit development). The last, each school hosting a public work-sharing event in June, was urged by Mr. Hopping to become student-involved activities at each school on different nights when parents will attend.

##### Standard II: Management & Operations

Included here are a four-year budget (now in process), a technology infrastructure overhaul (accomplished), and negotiations with unions (IEA in process, others pending). These involved collaboration with the Town on capital project items, NESDEC facilities/maintenance study and greatly improved cleanliness, training, and equipment, and the Operational Audit recommendations. Addendum 6 resulted in discussion re M/HS phone system of voice override to replace a 15-year-old system where area phones don’t work well (or at all) and replacements can’t be found. The “buzzer” system is operating well and staff has become accustomed to it.

##### Standard III: Family & Community Engagement

Dr. Hart has posted a weekly communiqué on the district website and blog, has produced a monthly cable TV program, hosts a parent night each month, and has collaborated with New England BioLabs on STEAM: funding, needs assessment, and a strategic plan process.

##### Standard IV: Professional Culture

Of the four actions covering (1)the curriculum development and (2)sharing of same in the district, he gave evidence, questioned whether the (3)celebratory events recognizing this outstanding work done by employees could be accomplished, and (4)extolled over his ongoing monthly meeting with students.

Dr. O'Flynn commented that, in his twelve years as a School Committee member, Dr. Hart has the most thorough presentation to date. Very near the end of the school year, an open session is necessary for the superintendent's final evaluation, a summary of which will be read into the record.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS**

**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE**

**2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**

**3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**4. GRANT COMMITTEES**

**5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE** – Mr. Hopping stated that there is a timetable and template for the Superintendent's evaluation.

**6. POLICY** – Mr. Nylen will set a meeting for the next week or so.

**7. NEW BUSINESS** –

Mr. Hopping advised the Board that Christina Brown has one more workshop session if the Board chooses, and Dr. O'Flynn suggested meeting after May 19.

Mr. Nylen stated that the Ad Hoc Audit Committee has one more public meeting on Thursday, April 9, for the public to ask or submit questions. He also suggested that the Committee should prepare some form of response or plan for action after the report has been digested. It was put on the April 16 agenda.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Acceptance of Minutes of March 17, 2015, School Committee/Finance Committee Budget Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 18, 2015, School Committee/Finance Committee Budget Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 19, 2015, School Committee Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 19, 2015, School Committee/Finance Committee Budget Session

Acceptance of donation of \$1120 from Mr./Mrs. Nate Newton to Birth to 3

Acceptance of donation of \$1000 from Lynx System Developers, Inc., to the High School Student Racing Challenge for the First Robotics Program.

**UNANIMOUS.**

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. for the purpose of strategy for collective bargaining. Roll call IN FAVOR- Krason, O'Flynn, Player, Hopping, Nylen, Gresh, and Bauman. O'Flynn and Nylen left.