

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2015
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: H. O'Flynn, S. Player, C. Whitten, J. Bauman, F. Krason (7:25) and B. Hopping (7:35). Also present were Superintendent Hart, Fin. Dir. Cuff, and Reed Dolan, IHS student representative.

MISSION STATEMENT

Reed read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylen read the following announcements:

- Executive Session will be held for the purpose of discussing personnel matters after which the meeting will adjourn
- Policy Subcommittee will meet on December 8, 7 p.m., Payne School
- Mutual Concerns will meet on December 15, 4 p.m., place TBD
- School Committee will meet on December 17, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Chip Nylen spoke to the group asking for the basketball court at the High School to be named for Doug Woodworth who deserves the accolade. Dr. O'Flynn of the Athletics Subcommittee said that they have approved this, and the proposal is coming up later in the evening.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart praised Tom Gallagher for the strategic plan for the athletic program which he has put together and which is coming to fruition in a variety of ways. He also gave credit to Kevin Fessette, who in one season, brought a struggling football team to a successful season.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed Dolan remarked on the Flat-Line Poetry performance which impressed the students along with the subject matter that the students brought up. He mentioned the Thanksgiving "crush" that the football team did to H/W and the winning cheerleaders. Jake Long was honored with an award as Salem News All-Star. (Reed Dolan was also given an award as a runner.)

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart recognized Connor Fauske, IHS student, who has been working with the Director of Facilities, Building Inspector, and Ipswich Electric Department Manager looking at the feasibility of solar panels on the M/HS building. The Light Department is very interested in collaborating with the schools in this endeavor.

Dr. Hart acknowledged a hefty problem at the Central Office in terms of staffing. He informed the Board that he will be making suggestions to make the Central Office more efficient.

The Town Manager, Mr. Hopping, and Dr. Hart worked with the MSBA Designer group and decided on three designer firm finalists on December 1, to be interviewed on December 15.

Middle School science teachers are working to utilize the new standards for current best practices and new teaching/learning opportunities.

Tracy Wagner, Dr. Hart, and the principals, working in the new systemic approach in curriculum and “critical thinking” will have an Ipswich Public Schools learning cycle plan for December, 2015.

He also mentioned an excellent candidate for Birth to Three Director.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. SUPERINTENDENT’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Dr. Hart read the achievements which the winner of the Certificate of Academic Excellence has accomplished. She carries a load of AP and honors classes, plays in the jazz band, and does a myriad of outside activities while achieving a 4.3 GPA! He called up Camille Devoe for picture taking and the jazz band, which was rehearsing nearby, came in to applaud and cheer for Camille. This award for academic excellence is made possible by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.

B. HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS’ TRIP TO NATIONALS PRESENTATION

Mr. Dalton explained the success of the High School Cheerleaders again this year as being champions in the Cape Ann League, Regionals, and coming in second in the States, entitling them to compete in Orlando from February 5-8. With fundraising they will be able to go at no cost to the school system. Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve the cheerleaders’ trip in February.
UNANIMOUS.

C. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: TEACHING THINKING

Dr. Hart introduced Carrie Clasby and Betsy Castonguay, third-grade Doyon teachers, who presented their new curriculum unit on “The First People—Wampanoag” by showing the children a group of pictures from their Massachusetts (text)book without explaining or teaching anything. The children made observations and hypotheses on paper as to the events in the pictures. The teachers said that, rather than in passive listening and answering questions, the children were actively involved and excited, and conversations were much more active in learning and teaching each other. The teachers will now work on the next unit in a slightly different way to keep the students’ active energy fully focused and “thinking.”

Mr. Nysten thanked them for coming.

D. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Allison Connelly, MS/HS Library Media Director, presented Powerpoint entitled "What is an Information Literate Student in the 21st Century?" The standards for school libraries from the American Association of School Librarians and the Association for Educational Communication Technology are three: 1. The student....accesses information efficiently and effectively. 2....evaluates information critically and competently. 3.....uses information accurately and creatively. She gave statistics on the print books accessed by the students, more than 50% fiction (1,800 books) and less than 10% nonfiction (700) in the 2014-15 academic year. Students are not using print material for academic research. Students get their information from Google, but the question is "do they have the skills to recognize what is good information?" Library Websites was accessed 15,743 times. The Gale Virtual Reference Library was accessed 6,600 times and EBSCO HOST Research Databases (a more sophisticated college-level tool) was accessed 2,300 times. Britannica School Edition (online encyclopedia) was accessed 5,798 times. This website can translate text, has audiobook, and search images and videos.

She remarked, however, that because she is one person, students are not being adequately prepared to be information-literate in the 21st Century. Dr. O'Flynn asked where every student every year could get something; she advocated for small research projects rather one big one and building on new resources so that by the time they get to be seniors, they know where to go. Colleges report that students don't know enough about researching.

Mrs. Bauman asked for the teachers to know so that they could pass the skills on in the classroom. Ms. Connelly said that the Technology Committee is working on an e-book catalog in mapping, teaching the teachers. The media center has 24 desktop computers and 24 Chromebooks, but it is not open after school due to lack of personnel.

Mr. Nylen thanked her for her presentation.

E. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE/SCHOOL BUILDING CONFIGURATIONS

Mr. Nylen asked for a roundtable discussion re School Committee discussion on elementary configurations for the future. Mr. Hopping asked for reading material to look beyond what is currently in place. Dr. O'Flynn asked Dr. Hart to seek out the ten-year-old report filed in the Payne School on the subject of elementary grade configuration. The group mentioned the need for discussion with the Superintendent, the elementary principals and the soon-to-be hired consultant. Dr. Hart urged strong rigorous standards, and learning processes with strong, embedded, flexible, analytical skills for the students.

In discussion, it was decided that the School Committee would seek out research (Hanover, MA, school system had this recent experience). The Building Committee members of the School Committee will take the lead and facilitate the discussion on the next agenda.

F. SUPERINTENDENT GOALS

Operations Committee has met twice with Dr. Hart regarding his goals and reformulated them. Review of the five goals took place with the promise of working on this item again on the next agenda following Operations Committee work.

G. SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS

The School Committee goals were presented once again with a 5th one added entitled "Winthrop School Building." The first bullet point was amended to read "Work with School Building Committee, consultants, staff, and community to develop school building design that appropriately supports the educational needs and goals of the Ipswich Schools and the Ipswich community." Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve the School Committee goals as amended. UNANIMOUS.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to name the Elliott Roundy Gym basketball court after Doug Woodworth. UNANIMOUS. Dr. Hart will notify the Roundy family.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE- Having met just before the School Committee meeting, Mr. Nylen reported that Dr. Hart, Ms. Cuff, and he had reviewed the five-year Capital Plan. Mr. Hodge, Facilities Manager, will be asked to be present at the next School Committee meeting.

Audit recommendations: Ms. Cuff and Dr. Hart have done an initial assessment of all the recommendations and have assigned tasks to appropriate administrative staff for study. The plan is to have everyone, including School Committee, do an assessment of recommendations doing feedback with School Committee, compile information over all, prioritize, and take action from there. The Board will review the audit recommendations at the January 7 School Committee meeting.

Ms. Cuff explained new Federal guidelines re Federal grant audits and reports. As a result, School Committee policies re financial matters/practices and the procedures must be written out and compiled into a book for auditing purposes.

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE- Mrs. Bauman is working with Cindy Parker who is getting all Minutes, etc. on the website.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES-

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Nylen reported that the Committee

has met to talk about goals and worked with the new Board member to get him “on board.”

6. POLICY-

7. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Hopping reported a meeting with C. Huntress who showed the design of the building, team room, concession stand, and bathrooms, and discussed different types of infill for the field. The “D” area will be turfed for a warmup area.

8. NEW BUSINESS – Cindy Parker is putting together guidelines for the subcommittees on posting of meetings.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of Minutes of November 19, 2015, Open Session

Approval of payment of \$1,031 from Geskus Studios & Yearbook Publishing which represents Doyon’s portion of the proceeds from this year’s school pictures.

Approval of payment of \$1,121.08 from Geskus Studios representing Winthrop’s portion of the proceeds from school pictures.

Approval of payment of \$1,482.01 from Hockmeyer Studios representing the High School’s portion from school pictures.

Approval of payment of \$1,218 from Geskus Studios representing the Middle School’s portion from school pictures. UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to go into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call IN FAVOR- Hopping, Player, Nylén, Krason, Whitten, Bauman.