

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2015
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylén called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present: F. Krason, H. O'Flynn, S. Player, J. Bauman, B. Hopping, and C. Whitten. Also present were Superintendent Hart and Student Rep Reed Dolan.

MISSION STATEMENT

Reed Dolan read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylén read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategy in collective bargaining and personnel issues after which the meeting will return to Open Session.

Policy Subcommittee meets on October 6, 7 p.m., Payne School Conf. Rm.

Communication Subcommittee meets on October 6, 3:30 p.m., Payne School

Athletic Subcommittee meets on October 7, 6 p.m., M/HS Guidance
Conference Room

School Committee will meet October 15, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Sharon Riley, parent, in researching the turf for the high school field asked if there is a subcommittee to research. Mr. Hopping and Mr. Nylén assured her that there is: STAC (Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee) which met last night and voted formally not to go with crumb rubber, a substance obtained from recycling motor vehicle tires and thought to be responsible for athletes' health issues.

Mrs. Riley gave kudos to the track coach and Athletic Director Gallagher. She also commented on the help given to a mother of five by the principal and social worker at Doyon School when the family was in dire need.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart spoke of attending a sustainability conference where an Ipswich boy, Connor Fauske, who first had a project to put solar panels out in the school parking lot, and has since found another way: a carport with solar panels on top of it. Dr. Hart encouraged him to continue his work on the project.

Mr. Nylén asked for a moment of silence to remember Jill Traverso, an artist and the late wife of Edward Traverso, longtime School Committee member.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed Dolan reported that high school football players are asking about burns which occur on artificial turf. Most find the turf project exciting, especially the video production to come and asked if they will be able to "stream." The football boys beat H/W last weekend. Spirit Week will take place late in October.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported that the administrative team participated on September 16 and 17 in a workshop to build capacity in supporting Professional Learning Communities designed to build effectiveness of the Administrative Team in collaborating to solve complicated problems. One topic was analysis of teacher feedback from two summer PLC professional Development sessions. Group consensus was that the workshop was extremely worthwhile.

CCE will be conducting a vision implementation needs analysis over the next several months that will result in a three-year blueprint to guide 21st Century Curriculum, PLC, and Powerful Learning work, the purpose of which is to analyze current and developing practice in curriculum development, Professional Learning opportunities and structures, classroom instruction methods, and student assessment.

Mr. Hopping asked to be able to meet the facilitators of the CCE at a School Committee meeting.

The Doyon School community celebrated Doyon's 50th anniversary throughout the week of September 21 with 2015 objects for a Time Capsule and reviewed the 50-year history with returning administrators, teachers, and students.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. TURF FIELD UPDATE**

Mr. Hopping began by outlining the meetings on the turf field project, the six firms who applied, and the selection of Huntress Associates, of which the owner Chris Huntress was present.

Dr. O'Flynn (entering the meeting at 7:30), explained the three-phase proposed construction: the synthetic turf field, the building to serve several needs for ticket sales, concession, team players, and attendees.

Dr. Hart spoke of the broad base of the community including the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and cross-section of community members who are collaborating in looking at the alternatives of the products and at the financial aspects. Finances needed for maintenance issues over the next ten years of the field and expected upgrades several years from now have been discussed.

Dr. O'Flynn reported that a Memo of Understanding has come forth from the Town for future funding; youth athletics has an agreement; use and maintenance of the field, how to fund, how to use revenue, and other resources have been discussed.

Mr. Hopping mentioned Sean Cayer, Kevin Murphy, and Ken Swenson whose children have gone through their own sports and are very invested in this great committee.

Mr. Chris Huntress detailed the work thus far: made topical studies, surveyed, investigated with 2" probes under the field, and made a conceptual design. He exhibited the schematic design of the synthetic field on the same footprint of the natural grass. A second building near the present ticket building comprised of 2400 sq. ft. with a 100' buffer needs review because of a 1998

determination of wetlands. The new building would improve the entrance to the site.

He spoke of (and sent samples around the School Committee table) crumb rubber and silica sand, absorbent and soft against injuries. The Ipswich committee has voted against this because of health questions. He also sent around other coated sand product samples which don't use rubber at all, give stable footing but don't provide shock absorption and must have a pad underneath. The range of these manufactured products (envirofill/infill) cost \$100,000 – 300,000 more. Newer fields are softer and don't incur the burns.

He distributed fact sheets of estimates of probable construction costs for each of the three phases, dated 10/1/15.

Mr. Huntress and Mr. Whitten discussed exploring pre-fab for the building construction. The building has a six-month window. Design of the field will continue through fall and winter (assuming the bond article passes at Town Meeting), ready to put out to bid in January/February. Construction would begin in late April/early May. The field would open around August 15.

Dr. O'Flynn reviewed ongoing pieces: What is expected of athletic groups, what is expected for putting money away for the field in years to come, what is expected of Policy Subcommittee to establish hard policies on the use of the field. Youth groups-- fee structure, conceptual use of fields; Board of Selectmen-- maintenance of field, school property; School Committee-- support for the bond itself to BOS and Fin Com. School Committee will be responsible for the 60% which MSBA will not finance.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, that the School Committee support the turf field project in three phases as outlined in the proposal from Huntress Associates with the understanding that the School Committee will accept responsibility for the concept of the bond needed to continue funding. UNANIMOUS.

B. TRACY WAGNER

The new Director of Teaching and Learning, expressing happiness at being in Ipswich and loving her September, gave a history of her education and experience, and outlined her activities within the Ipswich district since her arrival. She supports district-wide initiatives, Successful Habits of Mind, Powerful Learning, and STEAM. On October 13 the whole district comes together in a workshop on this year's topic, teaching "critical thinking." An Ipswich STEAM committee will be established by the end of October composed of 9 educators, 1 parent, 1 community member, 1 business leader, and, hopefully, 1 School Committee member.

School Committee members asked philosophical, curriculum, and assessment questions. She described her job as Director of Teaching and Learning, not as a curriculum director who designs and hands out curriculum, because there is such a strong group of teachers who don't need to be given the basis of what they should teach—they are doing it themselves and they will be seeing the alignment of district-wide curriculum.

C. FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

Article 2 – FY 16 Budget Amendment C. Nysten will speak

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to support the budget amount to the schools of \$133,564 from additional Local Aid from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the School Department Budget. UNANIMOUS.

Article 3 – Amend Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District Funding No speaker assigned

After discussion, Dr. Hart was asked to get clarification of the raising and appropriating of “an additional \$36,008 from available funds to cover the Town’s share of the 2016 annual operating and debt service expenses of the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District”. No vote was taken.

Article 4 – Educational Stabilization Fund H. O’Flynn will speak

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to establish a Stabilization Fund of \$604,210 from the sum appropriated to the FY16 School Operating Budget Article 10 (override) of the 2015 Annual Town Meeting. UNANIMOUS.

Article 11 – Athletic Fields Bond H. O’Flynn will speak

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to support the Athletic Fields Bond for “a sum not to exceed \$1,000,000 for the design and construction of an artificial turf field at the Ipswich Middle School and High School” and “to issue bonds or serial notes under the provisions of Mass. General Laws Chapter 44.” UNAN.

Article 15 – Citizen’s Petition

After discussion, consensus was to wait until presentation of the Article at Town Meeting for recommendation.

D. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

Ms. Player reported that the group met last week and is working with the OPM on the draft request for design services and now waiting for edit response re the RFF. There are four options for building configurations. Mr. Whitten is concerned about the size, stating that the footprint needs to be twice the size for the current population at Winthrop. Mr. Hopping is concerned about the Education Program; Mr. Murphy replied that MSBA will require it in six months. Dr. O’Flynn and Mr. Hopping gave some of the advantages of one big school: equitable, eliminating the flex (gray) area zone of students’ transportation/placement, classroom sizes more flexible, and good for long-range planning. Mr. Whitten and Mr. Hopping would like to reach out to other schools which have made similar decisions and would help with the education consultant and the architect. Mr. Whitten spoke of the recent Oregon school killings and security. Mr. Nysten spoke of functional uses in an elementary school which could include early-childhood education (pre-school and Birth-to-Three) and the potential of including community

space and administrative offices. All agree that the primary focus should be an elementary configuration that is in the best interests of the children.

E. SUPERINTENDENT’S DRAFT GOALS FOR 2015-16

Dr. Hart distributed 5 draft goals which he reviewed with their accompanying bullets. Mr. Hopping asked and Dr. Hart offered his methods of assessment of the bullet information in the implementation of his goals. He was given several suggestions by the Board, including enhancing communication with School Committee members and touring the schools with individual Board members, collaborating with them in workshops, and concentrating on fiscal responsibility.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
- 2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

The group discussed new policy for the application process and Mr. Hopping was asked to speak with Bandy Chin re the School Committee playing a bigger role with the Superintendent in selecting Payne Grants in the future.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

6. POLICY

Mr. Hopping, Chair, reported on the work of going through old policies, and Special Education, Payne Grant, Choice, and Fees policies.

7. NEW BUSINESS

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn , to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Approval of September 17, 2015, Open Session Minutes
- Approval of September 17, 2015, Executive Session Minutes
- Approval of September 23, 2015, Workshop Minutes

Acceptance of donation of \$500 from the Institute of International Education to Ipswich High School on behalf of Matthew DiBello, the recipient of the GE STAR Award .

UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 10:57 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining and personnel matters after which the meeting will return to Open Session. Roll call IN FAVOR- Krason, O’Flynn, Player, Nylen, Hopping, Whitten, Bauman.

Open Session resumed at 11:36 p.m.

Mr. Nylen announced that Unit A stipends with IEA have been approved.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the Memo of Agreement between Ipswich School Committee and Ipswich Education Association, until 6/30/18. UNANIMOUS.

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to accept the stipends, amending Appendix B of Unit A in regard to stipends for faculty manager, equipment manager, and technology specialist coordinator, effective 9/1/15. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 11:39 p.m. UNANIMOUS.