

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2015
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylén called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: H. O'Flynn, S. Player, C. Whitten, J. Bauman, B. Hopping, and F. Krason (7:20). Also present were Superintendent Hart, Fin. Dir. Cuff, and Reed Dolan, IHS student representative.

MISSION STATEMENT

Reed read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylén read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

Fall Town Meeting will take place on October 27, 7 p.m., Performing Arts Center

School Committee will meet November 5, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart observed a tenth-grade English project in the Habit of Mind "perseverance". Students reflected and gave feedback to each other. Dr. Hart congratulated Mr. Sidmore and Ms. Pepe for a wonderful project.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed Dolan reported that, while the student body is quiet now, Spirit Week is next week. A golf tournament gets underway; Sophomores and Juniors took PSATs; and the INTERACT Club is planning a trip to the UN on November 7.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart spoke to a book he had distributed to the School Committee, Making Thinking Visible. The "critical thinking" habit (SHOM) was the primary focus of the Professional Day held on 10/13/15; Ms. Wagner, Director of Teaching and Learning, was significantly involved in the day. Staff then began working on their "critical thinking" unit. Hart presented a folder to School Committee members re the professional day. Mrs. Bauman asked how the facilitators were chosen; Dr. Hart said they are Compass or PLC people and, after 18 months to two years, these people feel comfortable doing this work.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. TEACHER PRESENTATIONS**

Compass facilitator Sue Killian and PLC (Professional Learning Community) facilitator Gail Pepe, both high school teachers, spoke of their courses in the summer and their work at the Professional Day. Ms. Pepe reported on her own PLC pilot and work with other teachers collaborating and developing one curriculum unit on "critical thinking." She spoke of a "career path" as a suggested course of study for students, involving guidance counselor Justine May in students' career planning. Visual arts makes everybody much more productive. She is looking at a couple of new courses and/or changing some of the current titles of courses to attract student interest.

Sue Killian described the Compass leadership of 25 K-12 educators working collaboratively and remarked that her enjoyment of working with elementary teachers is arduous but exciting. Imbedding these habits into K-12 curriculum, she is teaching "self-management" in addition to "perseverance" in her classes. Compass people are liaisons or resource leaders. CCE is working with teachers in summer courses. Mrs. Killian commented that teachers, in general, are coming together, and getting excited about the curriculum, as are the students. Ms. Pepe said that facilitators are empowered people rather than just educators. These experiences have made her assessment work easier.

The Board thanked the two teacher leaders for coming.

B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Senator Tarr and Representative Hill were greeted by Mr. Nylen who hopes to have regular dialogue with them and get updates from the legislature. All members of the Board introduced themselves. Both legislators commented that they work closely with Ms. Cuff.

Mr. Hill spoke of the Circuit Breaker law and informed the audience that revenues are down for the State considerably because of less gambling, less Capital Gains taxes because of drop in the stock market, and increased funding of \$1 million to Circuit Breaker is unlikely. Every school district gets at least 17½% of the Foundation Budget. Ipswich is above because of legislation this past year. Population increases/decreases are the biggest factor. Mr. Hill wants to see health insurance and more Special Education into the Foundation Budget this November (\$487 million needed).

Mr. Hill and Mr. Tarr talked about the debate over charter schools. They reviewed MCAS vs. PARCC. Mr. Tarr advocates for an updated MCAS rather than an acceptance of PARCC, for one reason because not all children have access to the technology needed to take the PARCC tests. Reed Dolan asked about MCAS' issue with updating; Mr. Tarr responded that it was supposed to evolve when some parts, which were supposed to have been implemented, never were. Mr. Tarr spoke of his memorandum in this regard which will be voted on November 17 and asked for School Committee support. Mr. Tarr is concerned about control of the development

of the test when Massachusetts has one of the best tests in the nation but might lose control of a new test.

Mr. Hill spoke of opiate addiction. There will be a seminar on November 10, 6 p.m., at Ipswich High School, partnering with Ipswich police and citizens of Ipswich who have come through opiate addiction. The Baker administration will be here and a Hamilton/Wenham audience will join.

When Mr. Hopping asked what other ways the School Committee could be helpful, Mr. Hill spoke of Ipswich school leaders testifying and attending "Day on the Hill" in March/April. In return, Tarr and Hill will send updates to Dr. Hart and Mr. Nylen. January and March are good times to hear from Tarr and Hill re legislative issues. The School Committee was asked to take action on Mr. Tarr's amendment within the next two weeks.

C. TOWN HALL WARRANTS- ESSEX TECHNICAL SCHOOL

In review discussion, Mr. Nylen referred to Article 3, Amend Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School District Funding, on which the School Committee had taken no position. Following clarification by Ms. Cuff, detailing the Town Accountant's updated figures from previous estimates, Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support Article 3 at Fall Town Meeting. Board members asked why transportation costs are included and why, since Ipswich students are only getting half of the school's offerings, and the rate is going up, and they expressed a need to ask Senator Tarr and Rep. Hill. UNANIMOUS.

E. TURF FIELD PLAN UPDATE

Dr. O'Flynn explained the issue and the right of the School Committee to name the new field/buildings. Because of the contributions of many, it may be appropriate to bring it all together by calling it a sports complex. Mr. Whitten questioned the perpetuity of a name.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the naming of the property behind the M/H School as the Sports Complex. UNANIMOUS.

Policy Subcommittee will review the "naming of school areas" policy.

Dr. O'Flynn and Board discussed a bond of \$70,000/year and what source might fund it; Dr. O'Flynn promised that the School Committee will assume responsibility, first looking at revenue.

E. SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS

Due to time constraints, the Board will review drafts of 3 goals distributed with the intent to vote them on November 5.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS

Dr. Hart and the Board went over each of his five goals on Instruction, Management & Operations, Family & Community Engagement, Professional Culture, and Student Learning for 2015/16, making suggestions and revisions and asking for

timelines. Under Management & Operations, Dr. Hart was urged to review all the recommendations from the Operational and Efficiency Evaluation and make a presentation for further work on the recommendations. Under Professional Culture, he was urged “to make meaningful attempts to resolve conflict”, and Mr. Nylén asked that he focus on the elementary schools in building teams, having them adopt his visions as he has been able to do at the secondary level. With the Student Learning goal, he was advised to add a third bullet involving teacher evaluation of technology use. Mr. Hopping asked to see the data gathered from the 2014-15 year in student growth in leveraging technology.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Hopping reported updates on the turf field project, a brief overview of fall sports, question about the buses, and need to spread the word and be present at Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Nylén praised the well-thought-out plan for the turf field.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE- Mr. Nylén reported a meeting just held which had discussion on Article 4, Educational Stabilization Fund. The Superintendent and Finance Director support the additional local aid being moved into the Stabilization Fund (Article already supported by the School Committee). Mr. Hopping stressed the advantage to the townspeople of knowing this money exists for school needs.

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE- Mrs. Bauman reported that April 14, 2016, from 6-8 p.m., IPAC lobby, has been designated as Feoffee Celebration with large- and small-grant participation; maps/history; speakers and descendants of the Feoffees.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES- Ms. Player requested approval for Lori LaFrance’s high school grant. Mr. Whitten moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve the erection of an 8’ x 10’ vinyl shed on school property for Sustainable Education (Feoffee mini-grant), subject to approval by the appropriate Town Board. UNANIMOUS.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

6. POLICY- Mr. Hopping reported that Chris Burke, Technology Specialist, asked to revisit the Accessible Use Policy and asked for consideration to establish email accounts for students from Grades 6 – 12 within the school system. She has contacted the Principals in this regard. The matter will be on a future agenda.

Bandy Chin, Payne Grant chair, expressed the Grant Committee’s interest in seeing the proposals before they are recommended by the

Superintendent. Another layer to the process: encouraging more applicants for more competition and a thinking process for getting different schools working together. Also, it is proposed that two School Committee members be involved when the applications go to the Superintendent.

Mr. Hopping reported additional study with the out-of-district teacher/student applications.

Mrs. Krason commented that the Policy Book and website are not current.

7. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE – Mr. Hopping reported that the RFF has been reviewed and the Committee is going forward to meet MSBA in Boston on Dec. 1. An advertisement for an architect will run on November 4. A site visit by the architect will begin at the Winthrop School and go on to the Doyon. A three-person board will narrow architect applications. Meetings continue on November 12 and 18.

8. NEW BUSINESS – Mrs. Krason objected to the late notice of a school-wide assembly regarding gay rights and the parental discomfort with the late email. Mr. Dalton, she said, made clear that students could choose not to attend. Dr. Hart will bring it up with administrators.

Mr. Whiten suggested that the late hour for School Committee meetings is not conducive to the School Committee's best work, to keep business to a shorter time frame, and also suggesting a 6 p.m. starting time.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of October 1, 2015, Open Session

Acceptance of donation of \$2,000 to the Winthrop School from an anonymous donor to support the Grade 5 Plimoth Plantation Field Trip

Acceptance of the donation of \$4,800 from Action, Inc. for Winthrop Preschool tuitions for families in need

Acceptance of two vouchers totaling \$1,300 from Gordon College to be used for 3-credit graduate courses by two Ipswich teachers. UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to adjourn at 11:30 p.m. UNANIMOUS.