

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 6, 2014
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Barry Hopping, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. with the following members present: S. Gresh, S. Player, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, H. O'Flynn, and C. Nylen. Also present were Superintendent W. Hart, Finance Director J. Cuff, and Student Representative M. Werner.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Maddie Werner read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

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

Negotiations Subcommittee will meet at 5 p.m., March 7, HS Ensemble Rm.

Policy Subcommittee will meet on March 10, 5:30 p.m., Payne School

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on March 11, 6 p.m., MS/HS Guidance Conf. Rm.

Communications Subcommittee will meet on March 14, 1:30 p.m. Payne School

Finance Committee budget presentations by Central Office/Special Education will take place on March 18, 7:30 p.m., Rm. A, Town Hall

Finance Committee budget presentations by Doyon/Winthrop Schools will take place on March 19, 7:30 p.m., Rm. A, Town Hall

Finance Committee budget presentations by Middle/High Schools will take place on March 20, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room.

School Committee will meet on April 3, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Andrea Welch, mother of two students and Doyon teacher, spoke to the need for an override in an eloquent way, praising Dr. Hart's vision and the energy that administration has for the FY15 programs when the override comes to fruition.

Dana Allen, mother, resident, and educational academic, equated the pothole fillings on Linebrook Road near her residence to the temporary measures of the Ipswich Public Schools over the last 5 years and urged support for the override. She also asked that the Birth-to-3 program be included in the funding as a part of the school system.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Maddie explained the significance of the Guidance Office's windows, which are now filled, because students, when accepted to college, go to the Guidance Department, and a "paw" is posted on the window. She reported that the High School jazz band played at the Doyon School this day, and the little kids all want to play a musical instrument now!

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart made comments in four areas:

1. The Compass Team of 23 teacher curriculum leaders had a full-day workshop focusing on 21st Century curriculum, accomplishing an exceptional amount of work on a second draft of district-wide descriptors associated with the skills, attributes and habits of highly successful people which, after feedback from the broader professional staff, will become Successful Habits of Mind.
2. On April 4, Ipswich participants, including one School Committee member, will visit Cambridge Innovation Center, an offshoot of MIT. He extends an invitation to teachers and administration to understand 21st Century skills and how important they are to Ipswich students.
3. The NESDEC Building and Maintenance Report has been finalized, Mr. Hodge and Ms. Cuff are modifying custodial schedules, arranging the repair, replacement, installation, and refurbishing of various areas and have a Building Maintenance and Repair Budget for FY15 that supports maintenance of school buildings.
4. RFPs for buzzer and electronic entrance systems, bid opening on March 13, and immediate work thereafter with expected completion by the end of March will allow for the training of school employees by the end of April.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. OPEN HEARING AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED FY15 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mr. Hopping declared the Hearing on the proposed FY15 school budget open at 7:28 p.m. He asked for questions from the audience.

B. CLOSE HEARING ON PROPOSED FY15 BUDGET

As no one present asked a question, Mr. Hopping declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:30 p.m. He then opened discussion to the School Committee.

Mrs. Roesler reiterated the excitement she feels with the Administrators and new Superintendent. Staff and administrative team have done such an incredible job under financially unstable times. She appreciated Andrea Welch's comments and, at a crossroads, expressed concern to get this budget accomplished with support.

Mrs. Bauman encouraged the TV audience to become more informed through the school website and budget presentations taped on ICAM.

Dr. Gresh spoke of the impressive vision of Dr. Hart and colleagues in Ipswich but cautioned about keeping an eye on the bottom line. It comes down to each person asking friends and family and reaching out to seniors and the new voters to attend Town Meeting and go to the ballot box in support of the school budget. He commented that he will be knocking on hundreds of doors.

Mr. Nylen complimented the administrative team on their budgetary presentations and the tangible impact that Ipswich people need to understand. In the budget request, significant funding means the difference between maintaining status quo and the school district that we wish to be once again.

Maddie Werner feared the loss of more teachers in the event of an override failure because, even now, high school classrooms can't always accommodate all the students who need to be there.

Ms. Player commented on the winning factor of strong schools—homes are valued higher, the Town is in a better place. Dr. O'Flynn opined that the budget is really conservative. There aren't a lot of new positions. The transformation of our community through the investment in technology in the schools means that people will grow, and property values will increase. "We have to fight indifference", he said.

C. VOTE OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON FY15 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Mr. Hopping thanked the Selectmen and Finance Committee for listening even in the last hour when Finance Committee members met with the School Committee to get the override right. He said that sometimes we send out mixed messages because of the greatness of our school system and the quality of our teachers. However, we are NOT doing fine. We stand unanimous in our support of Dr. Hart's vision.

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the 2014-15 budget presentation at \$25,296,117 plus the debt portion of \$2,534,525 for a total of \$27,830,642.
UNANIMOUS.

Next Tuesday evening at the Finance Committee meeting at 8 o'clock the override number, not to exceed \$3 million, will be determined.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to accept the override amount as yet to be determined. UNANIMOUS.

D. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF REVISED HOMEWORK POLICY (IKB)

Mrs. Roesler began by discussing the topic of policies which do not reflect current practices. The subcommittee chose to simplify the homework policy created in 1984. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mr. Nylen, to support and accept the revised Homework

Policy (IKB) for first reading. Dr. Hart and Dr. O'Flynn spoke of policy and practice statements. This proposed new policy will be distributed to principals and school councils, feedback and recommendations will be transmitted to the Policy Subcommittee for further study, and the policy will come back to the School Committee for a final vote. UNANIMOUS.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

3. BIRTH-TO-THREE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman commented on Dana Allen's plea for funding. Mr. Hopping is meeting with her next week to begin dialogue. Dr. Hart agreed that the district should have a part in funding and involvement in their progress.

4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman met with Jeanne Fraisch, IT Director, who has a recommendation for a website vendor. Mr. Nylen questioned, in spite of comments from others and the Town's and schools' IT directors that they are not compatible, why the collaboration cannot take place. The time to encourage integration is now, before a choice is made and he is frustrated when it is only involving a modest investment. Mrs. Bauman promised to speak to the IT Director again.

Mr. Hopping asked for a new greeting on the Central Office phone system.

6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

7. GRANT COMMITTEES

Mini Grants: Mrs. Roesler announced that applications are on schedule for April 1 with decision by May 1. Additional requests for technology can be made until June 1.

Payne Grants: Ms. Player announced a slightly modified application is now online, accounting for shipping/handling, bus transportation, and other incidental costs and the evaluation section of the grant. Applications are due May 1. Administrative representatives will be meeting regarding the reports from the 2013-14 Payne grants.

8. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Mr. Hopping spoke of discussion on the same subject as the Finance Committee: the override. They will meet again in April. He was disappointed that the Long-range Committee is not turning to the Finance Committee as an advisory board.

9. MUTUAL CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE

10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping suggested a March meeting for a mid-year and then a final review of the Superintendent.

11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

Dr. Gresh reported that Principal Dalton, who is Chair of the Director of Pupil Personnel Services Search Committee, has scheduled two meetings to begin reviewing applicants.

13. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Nylen, reported that, in looking for a strategic plan for technology, the Tech Ed Committee interviewed two people, and want both for different reasons. Mary Burns, who has done strategic planning, will be coming fairly soon and will be writing a comprehensive plan by the end of the school year. Alan November, Dr. Hart commented, is an exceptional cutting-edge thinker who will be working with us in a long-term relationship to connect with our students and broader staff but, more directly, with 25 technology specialists imbedded in our district over the summer and then monthly over the school year to support the effective integration of technology.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. O'Flynn wants consideration of the Policy for Acceptance of Non-resident Children as soon as possible, making sure it serves our educators. Mrs. Roesler assured him that it is on the Policy Subcommittee agenda.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to accept the following consent agenda items:

Acceptance of January 23, 2014, Open Session Minutes

Acceptance of January 23, 2014, Tri Board Meeting Minutes

Acceptance of February 6, 2014, Open Session Minutes

Acceptance of February 10, 2014, Open Session Minutes

Acceptance of a donation of \$528 from 1080 Education, Inc. to the High School Gift Account for the Student Racing Challenge team

Acceptance of a commission from Geskus Photography to the Doyon School in the amount of \$1,005. UNANIMOUS.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to go into Exec Session at 8:30 to discuss strategy to prepare for collective bargaining after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call: Bauman, Gresh, Nylen, Hopping, Player, O'Flynn, Roesler.