

FINANCE COMMITTEE/SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET PRESENTATION  
MARCH 20, 2014  
M/HS ENSEMBLE ROOM

OPEN SESSION

A. CALL TO ORDER

School Committee Chair B. Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, J. Bauman, C. Nylén, and R. Roesler. Also present were Superintendent Hart, Finance Director J. Cuff, and the secondary-school Principals Dalton and Fabrizio. Dr. O'Flynn joined the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

B. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

MISSION STATEMENT

Maddie Werner read the Mission Statement.

C. SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart remarked that he couldn't be more proud to acknowledge the MIAA Division 3 Team Sportsmanship Award winners for the entire State, Coach Woodworth and the girl basketball athletes. In Worcester on March 15<sup>th</sup>, they were presented this award. Dr. Hart congratulated the team and coach for a spectacular job and commented that the other coaches recognize the character reflected in the sportsmanship of the team. To applause, Mr. Hopping thanked and congratulated the girls.

D. VOTE APPROVAL OF SOI SUBMISSIONS

Mr. Hopping explained the process of "trying and trying again" when, as Kevin Murphy quoted, of 117 schools making applications for 220 projects, seven were approved State wide this year.

1. Mr. Hopping read the Statement of Interest for the Winthrop School; and Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to authorize the Chair to sign so that the Superintendent can submit the following application to MSBA. UNANIMOUS:

**Vote to Approve Authorization for the Superintendent to submit a Statement of Interest to the MSBA for the Winthrop School**

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 20, 2014, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 17, 2014, for the Winthrop School located at 65 Central Street, Ipswich, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and

the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

Priority 2 – Elimination of existing severe overcrowding -

Inadequate classroom, gymnasium and cafeteria space combined with the need to provide specialized instruction and therapies outside of the traditional classroom has placed an unprecedented demand on existing limited space at the Winthrop School.

Priority 5 – Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility -

Significant improvements need to be made to HVAC system, windows, electrical system, bathroom facilities and kitchen in order to extend the useful life of the building.

Priority 7 – Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements -

Space limitations in an overcrowded building and a modular building that is being used well past its expected life span, need to be addressed in order to improve the facility and provide our students with the best educational experience possible;

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting the Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

2. Mr. Hopping read the Statement of Interest for the Doyon School; and Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to authorize the Chair to sign so that the Superintendent can submit to MSBA the following application to MSBA. UNANIMOUS.

**Vote to Approve Authorization for the Superintendent to submit a Statement of Interest to the MSBA for the Doyon School**

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 20, 2014, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated March 17, 2014, for the Doyon School located at 216 Linebrook Road, Ipswich, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for

which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

Priority 2 – Elimination of existing severe overcrowding -

To address the current situation of the Doyon School holding instrumental music, physical education, small group instruction for reading tutorial and math remediation and English Language Learning in non-traditional classroom spaces due to overcrowding conditions at the building.

Priority 5 – Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility -

Replacement of the roof and installation of a ventilation system in the school kitchen, along with the renovation of the kitchen, bathrooms and driveway configuration at the school would serve to greatly improve the buildings infrastructure.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting the Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Mr. Hopping thanked the two elementary principals, Ms. Cuff, and Dr. Hart for the work in putting together these Statements of Interest.

CALL TO ORDER BY FIN COM

Mr. Michael Schaaf, Fin Com Chair, called the meeting to order with Fin Com members present: R. Howard, M. Swan, R. White, L. Seidler, M. Feldman, K. Murphy. J. Fay joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

E. SECONDARY SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS—MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Fabrizio began by thanking his staff, commenting that we are now competing with someone in China, France, etc., and the dealing is not always about academics but growing socially and emotionally and helping the whole child move forward.

Mr. Fabrizio reviewed his “What’s New” slide of world language (Spanish) returned to the curriculum, two mini-grants (funded by Feoffee grants) in I-coding (technology) and Destination Imagination, recognition ceremonies at the end of trimesters for honors and Tiger Awards, a skills program for Math and ELA struggling students, a program for 6<sup>th</sup> graders to attain library skills, a period during the day for band practice, special education classes, technology education, physical education, health, and art, and a leadership team. He reviewed MCAS testing, explaining that 40

students are needed for a sub-group which might be high needs or low income or disabilities, and determined that IMS falls into the average category in MCAS testing.

His budget-driven goals were as follows:

1. Increase student support services personnel by increasing the counselor from .8 FTE to 1.0 FTE and adding another 1.0 FTE for counseling and working with response to intervention (RTI) because the Middle School at 460 population should have State standards of one counselor for two hundred students rather than only one and because academic needs for struggling students need to be addressed with an additional .3 FTE reading specialist and an RTI program which can reduce the overall number of students referred to SPED.
2. Recreate the Middle School Model by increasing staff thus reducing class size and thus increasing achievement levels for all students
3. Increase 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning with STEAM offerings, a fusion of recording and manipulating sound, music production, computer programming, and multi-media productions which could lead to engineering, programming, and other careers. Included here are teachers: 1.0 FTE Special Education (because of reduction of 5 Teaching Assistants), 1.0 FTE Social Studies, and 1.0 FTE Science.

Finance Committee members asked that Ipswich school personnel visit and look at what other schools are doing. Mr. Fabrizio gave out two articles regarding Response to Intervention for later reading. Mr. Schaaf questioned and Mr. Fabrizio explained that there will be more inclusion with an extra special education teacher in the regular classroom in a co-teaching model. Dr. Hart interjected that shifts have been made by all principals by changing teaching assistants, retirements, and supplies to increase staff in the professional areas of counselors, specialists, etc.

Mr. Fabrizio said that not enough is done in enrichment programs, that the override will help, and Mr. Hopping commented that the School Committee would like to see more foreign language courses being taught all through the district. To Mr. Schaaf's question of a failed override, Mr. Fabrizio mentioned a three-person teaching team (rather than four), and not being able to offer everything the Middle School needs for the "whole child." Mr. Seidler added high class sizes, students leaving the system, and lower test scores as further consequences.

There was conversation regarding Whittier and Essex Agricultural — higher assessments to each school from Ipswich, higher transportation costs. Dr. Hart has information that an override will not affect incoming Chapter 70 funding. A Tri Board meeting will take up continued discussion.

**BUDGET PRESENTATION: HIGH SCHOOL**

David Dalton presented his program for a post-secondary experience with STEM and STEAM programs running through the curriculum. Without as many course selections, students currently have fewer choices for AP - other courses and block scheduling has influenced this as well. Class sizes of about 25 (classroom size was built for 24) continue to rise and core sections have been eliminated through cuts of faculty.

His budget-driven goals are as follows:

1. Bolster foundational skills for all students in the areas of math and writing.
2. Increase STEM and STEAM courses.
3. Provide increased and coordinated opportunity for authentic learning experiences and transition to post-secondary environments.
4. Provide increased opportunities for student leadership training and student led programs through the Athletic Department.

There was discussion of MCAS scores (10<sup>th</sup> grade) at Level 1 (high-performing schools), looking at growth. MCAS will continue for 3-4 more years. Considerations are identification of high-needs students and use of RTI, remediation and tracking (one-to-one and small groups) and Study Island (computer software). The addition of an RTI math specialist and ELA writing instructor will result in an impact of \$100,000).

VHS courses ranging from AP courses to a very broad array of offerings, dual enrollment (Salem State or NSCC courses in addition to IHS) and independent courses contracted between teacher and student for projects. Considerations and research point to technology programs and related academic majors and a fiscal decision to add 1.0 FTE STEM (technology) teacher, 1.0 FTE performing arts instructor and revising elective offerings in social studies to accommodate expansion of AP courses.

Considerations for transition to post-secondary environments motivate students and allow skill attainment, related interviewing and resume-building skills. A 1.0 FTE Transition Specialist would provide invaluable experience for students.

Lastly, considerations for the position of Athletic Director, which has changed considerably over the years due to expanded offerings of sports, scheduling, fees, payments, and hours, necessitate a fulltime position of Athletic Director to 1.0 FTE. A .6 Health Teacher will fill the gap. Dr. Hart interjected the concept of a sustainable environment with a group of people in town for building gardens, and collaborating with firms, to be highly profiled with the student body and an internal connection with the school.

Mr. Dalton reviewed outside funds of athletic receipts and fees, Circuit Breaker

and IDEA funds, as well as Choice revenue. He said there are always searches for creative ways such as a United Way grant and Educatus students (currently 5 from all parts of the world) @\$14,500 per. He is concerned about scholarships being available for families without enough money to afford field trips, etc., and personally felt the athletic fees are an unfair burden on families.

Mr. Schaaf warned of added severity this upcoming year because last year's funds are diminished. Mr. Hopping declared that the district is at a \$1.3 million deficit and this year's needs are \$2 million with increasing class sizes and decreases in sections. Mr. Dalton praised his dedicated and hard-working staff who continue to work with larger classes. The core program is being barely maintained because other things have been cut. Varied experiences for students are on the edge. Negatives are the loss of world language and failure to help improve overall MCAS growth. Mr. Seidler commented that, while Ipswich is not a disaster yet, something must be done to avert even greater problems.

Mr. Dalton mentioned the need for a study of high school core sciences, math, technology engineering, and a capital project for a computer lab which focuses on foreign language exploration.

Mr. Fay asked for enrollment numbers from NESDEC.

Mr. Hopping thanked the Finance Committee for their questions and comments and urged the people of Ipswich to visit the schools. "We are offering the core," he said. "Basically, the rest of the apple is gone. If the residents would take the time, they would really see the problem up close and personal."

Dr. O'Flynn stated, "Our kids' success is determined by a lot of factors. We need to bring all these scores up. Dr. Hart is focused on increasing the rigor of education."

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

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Barry W. Hopping, Chair  
Ipswich School Committee