

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 3, 2014
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair B. Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, H. O'Flynn, S. Gresh C. Nylen, and R. Roesler. Also present were Superintendent Hart; Finance Director Cuff; and Student Representative M. Werner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held this evening.

Policy Subcommittee will meet at 5:30 p.m., April 14, at Payne School

Bean Counting will be held on April 12, 9 a.m., Meeting Rm. A, Town Hall

School Committee will meet on April 17, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Gresh recognized Karen Donovan, President of SEPAC, for her support of children with special needs. The Federation for Children with Special Needs presented her with a Community Partnership Award for her contributions to the Ipswich community of children and parents with special needs. Dr. Gresh and Dr. Hart extended their congratulations, and Mrs. Donovan thanked the School Department for help with the children. The School Committee members extended their appreciation and congratulations as well. Dr. Hart looks forward to working with her.

Athletic Director Tom Gallagher recognized the Ipswich High School cheerleaders, who were in attendance 18 strong, for their Grand National Championship in Kentucky in late February, 2014. Coaches Kristen Almquist and Cara Wilson were recognized as well, and Ms. Almquist spoke of these girls as absolutely incredible athletes attesting to their commitment and dedication.

Mr. Gallagher mentioned Marty Vinnette being named Coach of the Year by the CAL and Salem News. He awarded certificates for winter sports to girls' and boys' basketball, to girls' and boys' indoor track, and to girls' and boys' swimming/diving.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Maddie remarked about how large the local scholarship list for graduating seniors is and thanked the community for their amazing generosity. Included are local businesses, memorials, bequests, etc. She mentioned the TAP (Tiger Advisory

Program) improvements, students working with the administration and, rather than listening to presentations, students are getting to know each other better.

Administration has devoted a few minutes from each class on Thursdays during the directed-study time frame to allow for the TAP program, a collaboration between students and administration. Tiger paws fill the Guidance Department's windows with college acceptance notices.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported that Massachusetts Secretary of Education Dr. Mathew Malone visited Ipswich High School on March 26, meeting with the Superintendent, Principals and Department Heads, learning about Ipswich's focus on 21st Century skill development through the new Successful Habits of Mind. He was impressed with the district's commitment, and a strong synergy between his vision and Ipswich's work was exhibited.

The technology infrastructure network to replace servers, install wireless access, connect new switches, and rewire all four schools is at a feverish pace. Mary Burns, an external consultant, begins a technology equipment strategic planning process which will guide technology hardware purchases for the following years.

While the response to the Door Buzzer RFP was overwhelming and has slowed down the process, it should be completed by mid-April. Winthrop's classroom doors now have an internal locking system and safety glass will soon be installed.

Dr. Hart reported that over the past seven months, he has visited over 140 classrooms during the last week of each month, observing and talking with students about their learning experience, with a structural follow-up with Principals. These professional sharing opportunities are an important part of a comprehensive approach to district improvement.

Mr. Nylén asked for an explanation of the Mass Communication System. Dr. Hart explained it is primarily a system to send voice messages to parents immediately when necessary and for all desired types of communication. Mr. Hopping added that a teacher can send a message from her computer to land lines, laptops, answering machines, etc. It can be used to promote upcoming events, has flexibility, and can be individualized. Mrs. Roesler asked who would be establishing the criteria for use; Dr. Hart admitted that the system could be overused, and the administrative team will start drafting regulations. Dr. Gresh asked, and Dr. Hart replied that families without internet access will be called individually.

B. WHITTIER REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Hopping reported that Superintendent William DeRosa would not be coming tonight because, after invitations from both the new Ipswich representative, Russ Bardsley, and Dr. Hart, Dr. DeRosa responded that, according to the General Laws, a regional Superintendent is not required to appear before local School Committees. Mr. Hopping expressed his disappointment and urged the School Committee to be in the audience when Dr. DeRosa is scheduled to appear before the Finance Committee.

C. FY15 SCHOOL CHOICE

Mr. Hopping began discussion by asking the Board whether they choose to participate in School Choice openings for FY15. Indecision about success of the override and other unknowns were considered. Dr. O'Flynn felt that, if the override fails, two teachers could easily be hired with the \$115,000 coming from 23 proposed Choice students (15@HS, 8@ MS) at \$5,000 each or the Choice money might be a way to add money/personnel and support an override-increasing capacity for FY15. Mr. Nylen wondered about impact on class size/sections and variety of offerings at the High School and Middle School. The possibilities of Ipswich resident students currently attending out of district returning to Ipswich schools and more Educatus students arriving were discussed. Mr. Hopping asked to table the item until the next meeting, requesting the Middle and High School Principals to attend.

D. VOTE ON BUDGET OVERRIDE

Mr. Hopping reminded that, while the Committee had voted to support an override, no number had been voted. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to support a \$2,750,000 override. 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

Mr. Hopping had met with Dana Allen, Interim Birth to Three Director and assured her that the School Committee and district would like to work closely with Birth to Three.

4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

7. GRANT COMMITTEES

Mrs. Roesler reported that the Payne Grant Committee has postponed the application deadline by one month to May 1. Specificity is still not completed.

Ms. Player reported that the Mini-Grant acceptance letter is almost ready and that the date for the next round of applicants is May 1.

Mr. Hopping spoke of revising reporting mechanisms and tightening language, but the Policy Subcommittee must be made aware of the changes. He asked for information about the changes which have taken place since last year be provided by both Committees to the School Committee.

- 8. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING
- 9. MUTUAL CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE

10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Player asked Mr. Hopping for his available dates for a meeting.

11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Roesler asked about an update on the homework policy from the Administration. Dr. Hart promised to rush this so that Policy Committee can get a final acceptance of the new policy.

Mrs. Roesler mentioned considering an audit of the policy on School Choice.

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

13. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Nylen reported that the full committee met on April 1 with Technology Consultant Mary Burns who provided information on ideas and needs for the future. Mr. Hopping asked about involvement with the Town and Dr. Hart stated that Ms. Frash has been in communication with the Town. Mr. Nylen has observed that Ms. Frash has probably 12 project balls that she is keeping in the air despite her .2FTE position!

14. NEW BUSINESS

The April 17 agenda will cover Warrant Articles for Town Meeting with speaking assignments. Article 9 – School Budget, has been appropriated at 3.65%. Article 10 – will vote on the School Override. Mr. Hopping asked Dr. O’Flynn, Mrs. Roesler, or Mr. Nylen to agree which one will speak to the override article. Mr. Nylen reported that, as a result of discussion at the Tri-Board meeting, a dedicated stabilization fund is preferred (in lieu of the override) rather than segregating money from the Town’s stabilization fund, but it can’t happen until after Spring Town Meeting. Ms. Negri described a stabilization fund being in a holding account

until voted at the Fall Town Meeting. Ms. Cuff, in talking with Finance Committee member Seidler and Town Accountant Negri, has the Superintendent's Central Office District-wide budget line item of \$794,000 for a stabilization fund.

Mrs. Roesler commented that the Finance Committee report placed on the Town website is outstanding. Mr. Hopping praised Mr. Feldman for his article in the Chronicle.

Mr. Hopping has discussed the 57% increase in the Essex Agricultural School assessment with Ms. Negri, Ms. Crosbie, and Mr. Surpitski. Opinion seemed to be that the matter of increases/reimbursement could be put off until Fall Town Meeting, but that Senator Tarr and Representative Hill should be involved. Ipswich Choice numbers have dropped from \$115,000 to \$99,000. Whittier Vocational Technical High School has accepted 12 of 14 Ipswich applicants.

Dr. O'Flynn reported on his attendance at the Google for Education NE Summit on March 15 and 16. He said that there is intense focus on safety and privacy, but Mr. Hopping cautioned that he is not so sure. Dr. Hart suggested having Ms. Frash return to a future School Committee meeting to talk about it. Dr. Gresh asked for information to put in the local paper regarding teachers who are working with this technology.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of a matching donation of \$1,000 from Novartis to the Winthrop School

Acceptance of a donation of \$1,000 from the Winthrop FRIES to the Winthrop Elementary School for the purchase of library books

Acceptance of Minutes of March 6, 2014, School Committee Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 18, 2014, School Committee/Finance Committee Budget Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 19, 2014, School Committee/Finance Committee Budget Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 20, 2014, School Committee/Finance Committee Budget Session UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.