

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 17, 2014
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair B. Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with the following members present: J. Bauman, S. Gresh, H. O'Flynn, S. Player, C. Nylen, and R. Roesler. Also present were Superintendent Hart; Finance Director Cuff; Student Representative M. Werner, Principals Dalton and Fabrizio, Athletic Director Gallagher, and Finance Committee member K. Murphy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held this evening.

Schools will be closed for school vacation from 4/21-4/25/14.

School Committee will meet on May 1, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Hopping asked for a moment of silence for Dr. Hart's brother-in-law who had passed away the week before.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF CHECK FROM IPSWICH YOUTH FOOTBALL TO RESEED AND UPGRADE FIELD AT TOWN HALL

Ipswich Sustainable Education members presented a check from Winthrop and Doyon FRIES (\$1,000 each) for purchase of non-foam products in the cafeterias. Ipswich Town Recycling had also given \$1,000 previously. The goal of \$4,000 is still being worked on, and an electronics drive will be conducted on May 17. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Nylen, to accept the check from Winthrop and Doyon FRIES at \$1,000 each from Ipswich Sustainable Education for non-foam products.

UNANIMOUS. A cooperative bid with another town may be possible next year resulting in greater savings because of increased quantity.

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF CHECK FROM IPSWICH YOUTH FOOTBALL TO RESEED AND UPGRADE FIELD AT TOWN HALL

Mr. Hopping, in introducing Kevin Murphy, Treasurer of Ipswich Tigers Youth Football League (ITYFL), spoke of the Athletic Director, the school administration, and officers of IYFL working together so that, in lieu of the rental fee for using the high school field, the Youth League would be allowed to play there. Mr. Murphy remarked that the League had more people attending, had public announcing of play, and, in trying to be a good neighbor, worked at keeping the field as they found it. Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, the School Committee voted to accept a \$2200 check for the football field's reseeding and aeration in the presentation by Mr. Murphy from ITYFL. UNANIMOUS.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Maddie Werner spoke about a school-wide rubric used in Art for projects some months ago and in her Spanish class the other day. The rubric is interdisciplinary with questions like: "Do you know the material?" "Does it have creativity?" The project is graded on effort with a follow up with the teacher.

Her second commentary was on the subject of STEM/STEAM and that Ipswich is not doing enough. She refuted that by saying that positive feedback is coming from well-known math and engineering schools; prestigious schools are recognizing Ipswich as a good math/science school.

Mr. Hopping remarked that Maddie has made a tremendous impression with her public speaking and has represented the student body with grace and dignity for two years.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported that he presented an FY15 budget outline, his vision, and the structural budget challenges of school systems across the state, receiving Rotarian support of the school system from several who were present.

Professional development continues with 18 teachers in a full-day curriculum development workshop. The Compass Team used teacher feedback to begin the revision process for the draft of Successful Habits of Mind. The full faculty saw a first draft of six of the "Habits", associated with the rubric Maddie mentioned.

On April 4 a group of students, parents, and administration visited Cambridge Innovation Center in Boston. That environment experience was deemed well worth the effort. He opined that it is absolutely necessary to communicate and collaborate well.

The interviewing process for a Director of Pupil Personnel is in its final phase with three strong candidates. He thanked David Dalton for Chairing and Dr. Gresh for serving on the Search Committee, and SPED program managers and students in helping the candidates through an entire school day of visiting. Dr. Hart said that this new Director is fulltime regardless of the override.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**B. REAPPOINTMENT OF SETH WARD TO FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN THE TOWN OF IPSWICH**

With a "statement of interest" from Seth Ward in Mr. Hopping's possession, Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to renew Seth Ward's appointment for a term of two years to the Feoffees of the Grammar School in the Town of Ipswich. UNANIMOUS. It was the School Committee's decision in the Administrative Order to stagger terms so that there is not a complete loss of members at the same time.

C. MIDDLE SCHOOL FEE INCREASE PROPOSAL

Mr. Fabrizio, Middle School Principal, explained that there had been no fee increase for the last ten years and the balance of the activity account is substantially lower at \$18,000 than the two previous years of \$28,000 and \$27,000. In his discussion regarding the proposed new fees, he cited four neighboring middle school systems where fees were higher. There is a sense of commitment by Ipswich Middle School to continue to develop and sustain fundraising efforts to maintain the quality of the after-school programs.

Dr. O'Flynn questioned the use of one fee for all participation to encourage better participation. Discussion involved the following areas: (1) two fees for two drama productions – musical involves considerably more expertise and direction than the other; hence, the larger fee; (2) scholarships for those students whose families find it difficult to pay – availability exists; (3) how many sports offered – two in the winter, three in the fall; (4) Middle School sports under direction of Athletic Department – overseen by the Athletic Director, Assistant Principal and school nurse. Maddie felt that the fee for the musical would drive people away if the student had only a bit part.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to increase Middle School interscholastic sports to \$75/per sport, Math League to \$75 for participation; Drama: \$50 Fall production, \$100 Winter musical; Intramurals one-time user fee of \$50. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping asked to see follow up of revenue realized to make sure that costs are covered. Mr. Nylén and Mr. Hopping suggested the study of fees for use of school facilities once again.

D. HIGH SCHOOL TRACK RESURFACING

Mr. Gallagher thanked Mr. Murphy publicly for the money to seed and aerate the football field. He is asking for acceptance, through the Ipswich Education Foundation grant from Institution for Savings, a \$35,000 fund, and a second \$35,000 amount from the Charitable Foundation account, to have the track cleaned, relined, and measured, anticipating a week to ten days that the track would be shut down. It should have been done at least six years ago he said and he is hoping that the amount will come within the \$70,000 that has been given. He explained that the surface is made of rubber granules which, if the turf replacement project can go forward sometime in the future, will be protected. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to allow contractors to come on site for the resurfacing and repainting of the track following the acceptance of the gifts of \$35,000 each from the Ipswich Education Foundation account and the Charitable Foundation account, both at the Institution for Savings. UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Roesler expressed feelings of wonder at the significant donations which the school system has received in the last year alone: FRIES, Feoffees, Winthrop playground, etc. —well over \$400,000.

E. FY15 SCHOOL CHOICE

Mr. Fabrizio reviewed the numbers for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade class enrollments for FY15 and said he could accept ten Choice students at the 8th grade level. Mr. Dalton said that he could accept five at the 9th and five at the 10th grade levels at the High School. Twelve students have been accepted at Whittier at the 9th grade level out of 14 applicants and three have been accepted at Essex County Technical School; maybe 15 or 16 to private schools with recommendations, a far cry from the numbers of last year. Board members asked again for parental/student reasons for leaving once they have made the decision to leave the Ipswich schools.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to participate in Choice as a school district for the coming year, assuming that the override passes. VOTE: In favor- Roesler, O'Flynn, Player, Nylen, Gresh, Bauman; Opposed- Hopping.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept for FY15 Choice students in the 8th, 9th, and 10th grades if the override passes. VOTE: In favor- Roesler, O'Flynn, Player, Nylen, Gresh, Bauman; Abstaining- Hopping (by voting the indication would be that Mr. Hopping supports Choice which he does not).

OTHER ACTION:

Mr. Kevin Murphy, on behalf of ITYFL and IYL asked if the Green Street field, which is in tough shape because matters didn't turn out so well last summer, could be divided in half so that at least half of the field could be loamed, seeded and watered. It is estimated that the cost would be \$2,000 with loam added. Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to allow Ipswich Tigers Youth Football and Ipswich Youth Lacrosse to take half of the field behind the Town Hall offline as soon as possible to get it loamed, seeded and watered for the fall season. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Hopping asked that the Board be kept abreast of the work.

F. REVIEW OF ANNUAL TOWN WARRANT, VOTE ON WARRANT ARTICLES, AND ASSIGNMENT OF SPEAKERS

Article 5 – Electronic Voting System O'Flynn moved to support, Gresh seconded, UNANIMOUS.

Article 8 – FY15 Municipal Budget Bauman moved to support, Player seconded, UNANIMOUS.

Article 9 – F Y15 School Budget Nylen moved to support , Player seconded, UNANIMOUS.

Hopping will speak and make the motion to

support \$3.65 million appropriated budget.

Article 10 – School Override O’Flynn moved to support, Roesler seconded.
UNANIMOUS.

After discussion, the decision was made that the School Committee would state the educational benefits, the Finance Committee would provide the financial aspect, and the Board of Selectmen would address the issue of how much this vote matters to the Town.

Article 11 – FY15 Whittier Regional High School Budget

O’Flynn moved to support, Gresh seconded
UNANIMOUS. Speaker: O’Flynn

(Russ Bardsley, Whittier Representative, needs to be at Town Meeting.)

Article 12 – FY15 Essex County Technical Institute Budget

O’Flynn moved to support, Gresh seconded
UNANIMOUS. Speaker: O’Flynn

Article 16 – Annual Capital Plan Nylen moved to support, Player seconded
UNANIMOUS. Speaker: Roesler

(School Computer Equipment, \$50,000 gets enumerated elsewhere)

Article 17 – Interior Painting of Library and Schools

Nylen moved to support, Player seconded
UNANIMOUS.

Article 20 – Athletic Field Engineering for Mile Lane

O’Flynn moved to support, Gresh seconded
5 in favor, Bauman opposed, Player abstained

Article 28 – OPEB

O’Flynn moved to support, Nylen seconded
UNANIMOUS.

Article 31 – Finance Committee Report for Any Town Meeting

Bauman moved to support, Nylen seconded
UNANIMOUS.

Article 32 – Operational Audit of the Ipswich School System by an Outside Audit Firm

O’Flynn to oppose, Nylen seconded

Mr. Hopping suggested that being opposed to it now suggests that we are trying to hide something—the timing is inappropriate; Player agrees. This article usurps the Committee’s authority. It is a review of the district’s budget and a fundamental strike at the heart of the School Committee as a State law. He would like to have more information and doesn’t feel that we should not support it but should find out more. Dr. Gresh thinks that because of the questionable aspect of this request, transparency is important. It wouldn’t be good to let this pass and he agrees with Dr. O’Flynn. He feels the petitioner hasn’t done her homework by looking at the budget and reviewing the override. Ms. Player feels that an audit will

show people the value of what we are doing. Mr. Nylen said that the School Committee vote should be made really clear and the Board shouldn't be scared of this.

UNANIMOUS in opposition

Article 33 -no override until Operational Audit has been completed.....

Nylen moved to oppose, seconded by Roesler
UNANIMOUS in opposition Speaker: Player

Article 34 – Reconsideration of Linebrook Road Project

O'Flynn moved to oppose, Roesler seconded
UNANIMOUS in opposition Speaker: Player

G. VOTE ON 2014-2015 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The IEA has voted to support Option 2 where the students do not begin school until Tuesday, September 2. Andrea Welch, IEA Co-Chair, said that the contract says that school shouldn't start before September 1. Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Mr. Nylen, to support Option 2 for the 2014-15 School Calendar.
UNANIMOUS.

H. ASSIGNMENTS FOR END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITIES

Doyon: Memorial Brick Ceremony - Hopping
Grade 5 Show – Player
Grade 4 Band/Orchestra/Chorus – O'Flynn
Grade 5 Band/Orchestra - Player
Grade 5 Move On Ceremony – Player

High School: Honors Reception – Hold
Fine Arts Awards – O'Flynn
Senior Prom – Hopping, Gresh, etc.
Baccalaureate – Bauman
Graduation – Hopping

Middle School: 8th Grade Graduation – O'Flynn, Bauman

Winthrop: Winthrop Grade 5 Graduation - Bauman

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 reported working on the State grant, due May 1, and will know by the end of June. It has dropped to \$59,000 and been extended to children from Essex. Birth to 3 will be applying for Feoffee grants.

4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Mrs. Bauman met and talked about the override with the Communications group. Ipswich Override.org is getting great feedback from the phone bank. The school website, courtesy of Jeanne Frash, will be live July 1.
6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE
7. GRANT COMMITTEES
Mrs. Roesler reported that the Payne Grant Committee anticipates meeting by the third week in May to discuss May 1 applications. Ms. Player quoted \$166,000 for mini grants. Some of the applications call for structural changes: electricity, bookcases, etc. Having these needs, she would like the applicant to call a vendor for information. This process must be vetted before approval. Mr. Hopping said a \$5,000 maximum exists, but decisions must be made going forward. Mr. Nylen questioned the possibility of a phase 2 of a mini-grant: when do these become a part of the curriculum?
8. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING
Mr. Nylen said that charts on school spending, Chapter 70, and the tax rate are being worked on.
9. MUTUAL CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE
10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Ms. Player, Chair, reviewed the Summative Report handed out to the Board. Mr. Hopping said the executive summary will be read into the records at a School Committee meeting. The timeline, with one evaluation report rather than two, is hoped for completion by the end of the school year.
11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
Mrs. Roesler reviewed the issues around the homework policy, approved by the School Committee at first reading. Feedback by teachers has been helpful. While some say that the policy is vague, others recognize that it should be vague and that the intent of the policy is a philosophical one rather than parameters around "time." It will appear on the May 1 agenda.

Mrs. Roesler is seeking the most appropriate organization for the

School Choice audit. NESDEC will meet with Policy Subcommittee at their next meeting and will establish parameters and goals for the next audit.

Dr. Hart has been contacted for a formal application for the children of non-resident teachers. Some changes to the policy are being made.

12. SEPAC

Dr. Gresh recognized Karen Donovan, SEPAC President, for spearheading a meeting held on the 15th of April and thanked New England Biolabs. Dr. Katherine Adair, who teaches at Harvard Medical School, spoke of raising children in the digital age for all parents. SEPAC recognized Jackie Potter for her outstanding contribution to special needs and parents.

15. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

16. NEW BUSINESS

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:
Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of April 3, 2014, Open Session. UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nylén moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 10:55 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.