

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 15, 2014  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

B. Hopping, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with the following members present: J. Bauman, H. O'Flynn, S. Gresh, S. Player, R. Roesler and C. Nylen. Also present were Sup't. Hart; Finance Director Cuff; S. Conley, Doyon Principal; and Ass't Principals J. Caravillano and K. McMahon.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

J. Bauman read the Mission Statement.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held this evening to discuss strategy in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA and AFSCME

Communications Subcommittee will meet May 23, 1:30 p.m., Payne School

Schools will be closed on May 26, 2014, in observance of Memorial Day

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on June 3, at 6 p.m., M/HS School Guidance Conference Room

School Committee will meet on May 16, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

Mr. Hopping asked for a brief moment of silence in remembrance of Sue Brengle's mother who passed away this week. Sue has been very involved with the schools.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Mr. Hopping recognized a very special member of the School Committee who is stepping down, having served the community well for the past 3 years. He thanked Rachel Roesler for her work and presented her with a butterfly bush and a cake (which everyone on the Board enjoyed!). Members of the Board thanked and praised her personally for raising the bar, for her presentation at the ATM on school audits, and for challenging and asking hard questions as a School Committee member.

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

On May 9, the Superintendent, Mr. Dalton, and other Ipswich teachers and administrators visited the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School in Devens, MA. They listened to a 45-minute presentation of the school's philosophy of education which advocates that students "use their minds well" with a "minds on" and "hands on" approach. He reported that they all came away with a "WOW" sense that there was something to be learned here. He gave the example of a senior student who

studied mammals and put together an original research project by tracking the habitats and habits of the animals, using math and science.

The secondary principals are attending the National Science Teachers Assn. Conference, May 14-17, with the theme of STEM education. Mr. Hopping asked for reports from the two at one of the next two School Committee meetings.

Dr. Hart acknowledged a group of individuals (close to 20) who had written letters or articles in support of the schools in recent weeks.

## I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

### A. CELEBRATION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Farm to School. Mr. Jeff Caravillano, HS Ass't. Principal, with Ali Bouvier, Zoe Dorau and another girl gave a presentation of a 50' by 75' space beyond the football stadium which has been created to grow 28-30 vegetable and flower varieties because of a \$5,000 Feoffee grant and donations/assistance by Corliss Bros. Nursery, Tedford and Martin, Wolf Hill, and Marini Farm's tractor which mixed compost with the soil once the trees and debris were removed. Mr. Caravillano foresaw an accredited class on being a farmer with community support. Dr. O'Flynn asked about watering and weeding over the summer and was told that part of the summer camp will keep the garden alive.

Dr. Hart showed that this is another example of 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning—hands-on, STEM, (what the nation is calling for)—and it all started with a Feoffee mini-grant!

National Honor Society. Mr. Scott Ames, advisor for the National Honor Society with his representative group of Hunter, Libby, Maria, Molly, and Zoe (Vice-President), mentioned that 38 others including Maddie Werner, must have a 3.75 GPA average, leadership ability, solid character and a willingness to do community service. The girls and he reviewed the Senior Citizen Prom, working with Ipswich Caring at Christmas time and "sock" drive for school kids, serving at the "Dinner Bell", and being very visible as student ambassadors as well as the backbone of the tutoring group. Ms. Cuff said she could help their fund-raising monies get sent off to the Philippines. Dr. Hart and Mr. Hopping mentioned their appreciation and a shout-out to the other 38.

Adams letter. Mr. Caravillano presented Gail Pepe, one of the visual arts teachers, who accompanied her class on a field trip to Ipswich Museum where an original John Quincy Adams letter (found in the school library in a box) was deemed authentic by authorities. Ms. Catherine Chisholm, conservator, worked with the advanced art students, showing them the pitfalls and the care necessary in matting and framing this Adams artifact. Photos were shown of the reservation in progress.

### B. DIRECTOR OF PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES

Dr. Hart introduced Dr. Beverly Hegedus who had worked in Lynnfield and is

and is presently the assistant PPS, K-8, for the Lexington Public Schools. She explained her present administrative duties and spoke about evaluation of her staff members. Mrs. Roesler asked about her knowledge of the budget process; Ms. Player, about creative ideas; and Mr. Nysten, about her philosophy for balancing maintenance of services and costs. She believes in partnership with general education and inclusion. She believes in regular, ongoing meetings with parents (Dr. Gresh's question) where their voices are heard and working behind the scenes to help students; for example, in a hospital setting.

Dr. Hegedus was thanked for her time and answers and left the meeting. School Committee members asked why she would want to leave the Lexington system. Dr. Hart replied that she lives in Lynnfield and would like an advancement in position.

#### C. REVIEW OF TOWN MEETING

The Board made favorable comments about the support of the selectmen and the Fin Com and the mood of the Town Meeting populous. Ms. Player praised the community effort and said the override is about property values and quality of life.

#### D. REVIEW OF FAILED OVERRIDE

Dr. Hart commented to the people of Ipswich that, if you don't have the time to study all the ramifications, you need to believe the people who have studied it. While the Feoffee grant investment will have totaled \$1.5 million by the end of next year, there would be no fulltime technology person to enable the system to keep up with the technology. In the Central Office, a half-time secretary will be cut, a big impact in a small office.

Ms. Conley, Doyon Principal, explaining that Mrs. McAdams was absent because she was attending the retirement party of a long-time Winthrop teacher (a typical event because dedicated teachers stay in Ipswich for a long time). She gave the consequences of a failed override as increased class sizes, a decrease in the strings music program that are so vital to the wonderful Fine Arts buildup beginning in the elementary years, math programs in both buildings that will suffer without their math specialists, a fulltime art teacher who won't be available, and the teaching assistants, most of whom are former experienced educators, who will be lost. The younger children in the schools will be losing materials and programs that allow them to continue to grow at the same level as they are now. She commented that the teachers asking where they will go with Dr. Hart's vision if it isn't there next year.

Ass't. Principal McMahon, a 24-year employee, stressed that the Middle School philosophical model will change with the loss of an override. Right now, social studies and science teachers have 26-30 kids in a class. The plan for differentiated instruction and the

necessary mentor relationship between teacher and students will be gone along with guidance help and a reading specialist.

Mr. Caravillano, High School Ass't. Principal, stated that two schedules sit side by side on Principal Dalton's desk—one with electives and opportunities that come with an override to allow IHS to be one of the best schools in the area and the second with a constrained program of large classes without options for students because of the cut of a fulltime writing instructor who assists with college essays, etc.; a technology code elective taught by 1 fulltime individual; a fulltime math and RTI teacher for help all day, every day; a fulltime transition specialist for SPED students who are "aging out"; a mentor for dual enrollments and independent study; an Athletic Director who will remain at 60% and teach 40%; no drama teacher; the continuation of VHS courses rather than in-house AP courses; plus the elimination of 1 FTE SPED teacher, 1 social studies teacher, .5 behavioral specialist, .2 math teacher, .2 technology ed. teacher, and 4 teaching assistants. Two paths—and the morale of the teachers, in a great place to work but not the highest salaries, is affected.

In discussion, the School Committee urged Dr. Hart and the High School administration to send out notice to Grade 8 – 11 parents that student scheduling for next year cannot be achieved (until after the override vote has been tallied) and what they can anticipate as it stands now with only the approved budget at Town Meeting.

**E. AMEND ACTION TAKEN ON FOEFFEE APPOINTMENT**

On April 17 Seth Ward was reappointed to the Feoffees in a two-year appointment when, in fact, it should have been three years. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to amend action taken by the Board on April 17 that Seth Ward be appointed as a Feoffee for a term of three years rather than a two-year term. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Ward will be notified by letter.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS**

**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE
3. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE
4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

**7. GRANT COMMITTEES**

Mini-grant applications have come in totaling \$250,000, far exceeding last year's \$160,000. Payne grant applications total \$927,000. Total monies

monies available are \$1.1 million. Considerable discussion ensued regarding a blind approach and setting maximum amounts of money available in each grant category (mini and Payne) without regard to how many applications had been made. The other argument was made not to dampen the enthusiasm of teachers who are applying at this time. Money appropriations from the Feoffees will be considerably lower next year when the investments under Feoffees' jurisdiction enter a new phase with the corpus.

Mr. Chen, Chair of the Payne Grant Committee, proposed that the mini-grants go through the process, determine what the Committee will approve, and then look at the Payne Grants. If some of those are denied, the mini-grants could get more. Mrs. Roesler reviewed the Chen proposal orally, and all agreed that there would be no more decisions made at this time. Mini-grant decisions are made in May; Payne grants, in June. Mr. Nylen opined that reliance for technology funding should not be solely on Feoffees grant. Ms. Player hopes that, next year, a number can be determined early on to go into a blind setting. Mrs. Bauman agreed to replace Mrs. Roesler on the Payne Grant Committee.

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

Ms. Player reminded the Board that the Superintendent's evaluation papers need to be in K. Carleton's hands by May 29. On June 5, a meeting will do a draft in public session and on June 19, a summary of the final draft will be read into the records.

11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Roesler reported that the point person for the Choice audit by NESDEC has heard from Ipswich and will present a proposal. In about six weeks, Dr. Hart will disperse it to the School Committee and recommendations will come in late fall. The cost will be \$6 – 8,000. Dr. O'Flynn would like a more clear answer on the economic side.

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)
13. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Nylen reported that Mary Burns is beginning to respond to the Committee and will draft a set of recommendations.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Bauman spoke of the unveiling of the Winthrop mural on the back outside wall facing the new playground. Every Winthrop child has painted a piece of it and the resident muralist did an unbelievable job. It came from a STARZ grant through the FRIES.

Dr. O'Flynn announced from the Athletic Director that Beverly Hospital will fund (\$12,000) new football helmets in a formal presentation on June 5.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of School Committee, 5/1/14 Open Session

Acceptance of donation from Boxtops Education to the Winthrop Elementary School in the amount of \$577.30 UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Bauman would not approve the England trip by the music groups until she knows how the chaperones are chosen.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to go into Executive Session at 10:47 p.m. to discuss strategy in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA and AFSCME. Roll call IN FAVOR- Roesler, O'Flynn, Player, Hopping, Bauman, Gresh, Nysten.