

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 19, 2014
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair B. Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, J. Bauman, H. O'Flynn, and S. Gresh. Also present were Supt. Hart, Director of Finance & Operations J. Cuff, High School Principal D. Dalton, Middle School Principal D. Fabrizio, Doyon School Principal S. Conley and Winthrop School Principal S. McAdams.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Player read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

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

The last day of school will be June 24, 2014

Tri-Board Meeting will take place on July 7 as part of the BOS meeting at
Town Hall

School Committee will meet on July 17, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Andrea Welch, who announced that her term as co-president of IEA has just ended, is being replaced by Margaret Madeiros. She thanked the School Committee and appreciates what they do for the children and teachers of Ipswich. Mr. Hopping expressed his pleasure in working with her and Kerry Zagarella.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart informed the audience that Ashley Sulkin is the recipient of the GE Star Award Scholarship as an employee's child and the accompanying donation went to her teacher, Mary Hamm.

HIGH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Dalton announced that Matt DiBello has been voted the new student representative.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart announced that MSBA has indicated preliminary requirements including Initial Compliance Certification stating that Ipswich will follow all rules and regulations associated with the Massachusetts school building program. Mr. Craft and Mr. Hopping are working with him on the certification.

The Compass Curriculum Committee and the Professional Learning Community group have completed their year-long training. Feedback from teachers has been positive.

Dr. Hart announced that over 70 teachers have signed up for the June 25-27 summer academy and he invited the School Committee to attend, especially on the 27th.

Maintenance projects for summer include an air conditioner in the Doyon School library. Winthrop will get new tile and flooring in several areas. The PAC stage will be repaired. Painting interior at Doyon and M/H schools will brighten and refresh common areas.

Mr. LaRoche's sixth grade class sent a letter to several state and national officials requesting reimbursement for their time field-testing the PARRC exam and received a reply from the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education in appreciation of their efforts.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. SPRING SPORTS AWARDS

Athletic Director Tom Gallagher recognized student athletes for their All League and All Sport accomplishments in boys' and girls' outdoor track, boys' and girls' lacrosse, baseball, and softball with certificates. Several of the athletes had just graduated and were not present to receive their certificates.

C. NEASC ACCREDITATION

Mr. Dalton addressed the matter of a scheduled visitation in 2015 from the Commission for Public Secondary Schools which had been deferred to 2016 after a request by Mr. Dalton because of the Professional Learning Community and other transforming programs within the High School. Mr. Dalton has sent another letter because he and his faculty think they cannot give their best effort to work through a year-long self-study at this time and has requested a deferral to the 2017-2018 school year. He hoped to hear in the next week or two that they will honor the request. In response to Mrs. Bauman's question about the elimination of this requirement, Mr. Dalton said that accreditation is an extremely valuable exercise, not only in self-study, but in keeping the good Massachusetts schools. In 2017, a new, less onerous self-study will be instituted. If the request is denied, Mr. Dalton said that a visit would probably take place in late 2016 or the fall of 2017 and the self-study would have begun 12-18 months earlier.

D. FUTURE OF PARRC ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION

Mr. Hopping prefaced the vote by explaining that a decision is necessary by June 30. He directed discussion to Dr. Hart who explained that the administrative team had debated the subject and consensus was to stay with MCAS for now for reasons as follows: the PARRC exam is still in its infancy, only 16 states are on board, administration feels that MCAS has given valuable historical data, valuable

statistics on achievement, and has provided a positive experience in the district. In responding to the needs evidenced by MCAS, it would be harmful to truncate that knowledge. Mrs. McAdams reported that she has just come back from a meeting with the Northeast Consortium with valuable information in decision-making and no overwhelming yes or no with PARRC. She commented that elementary students begin testing in February, have two week-long breaks, and test right through May, thus leaving much less time for learning experiences. Mr. Dalton said MCAS isn't going away, PARRC would be administered at 9th and 11th grade levels, and stated that it is not even evident that the State will transition to PARRC. Dr. O'Flynn asked if this changes Ipswich's alignment with curriculum. Mr. Hopping said of those who took the computer-based PARRC test, 81% loved it; however, there are no accommodations for special education students. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to opt out of the PARRC participation. UNANIMOUS.

E. NSTA STEM CONFERENCE & FORUM PRESENTATION

David Fabrizio and David Dalton reported on their recent trip to a conference on STEM. While Ipswich has "silos" (disciplines), there is not enough interdisciplinary work. Presenters were defining themselves in institutions such as STEM charter schools, etc. The Ipswich principals realized that all the building blocks are here: partnerships with companies, ie., New England Biolabs, the engineering program which shows evidence of a good program, STEM thinking, problem solving and perseverance. Creating free-range thinkers and a modeling component of marketing/planning were presented. Saying that time is needed, Mr. Fabrizio focused on scheduling, bringing it into and across the classrooms, then beyond the classrooms and beyond the school in (robotics and Legos) competitions and further expansion, hopefully with immersion from mini-grants. They expanded on the partnership component and a finalized agreement that would cement the partnership and benefit the school and the company in a project-based method of instruction. Most of the schools participating in the conference had successful pathways because of vocational roots and celebrating student achievement and success in some special way.

Mrs. Bauman spoke of a STEM camp this summer at the Middle School with students from Grades 1 through 6.

F. 2014-15 WILLIAM PAYNE GRANTS

Mr. Hopping reminded the audience that Feoffee Payne Grants are vetted through the Superintendent and then approved or rejected by the School Committee.

Dr. Hart presented a Powerpoint presentation on the five grants being considered:

(1)Integration of Food and Farm/Garden-Based Education into the Ipswich School District in support of district goals and 21st Century skill development.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept Integration of Food and Farm/Garden-Based Education for \$12,600. UNANIMOUS. Donations of \$25,000 augment this grant.

(2)Sustaining Ipswich through Student Leadership

Dr. Hart explained that he wished to target students directly. About 150 students are interested, and competition will take place resulting in eleven students and two adults making the trip to Costa Rica where the theme of environmental stability is already being implemented. The grey area here is that there is a \$7,000 shortage, but the belief is that it can be funded from funds remaining from the previous years' grant or from this year's extra money from allotments.

Dr. O'Flynn questioned the small number of students proposed when the Fine Arts Department fund raises, each student contributes, and multiple students make the trip to England. Grades 10 and 11 in three environmental classes over a two-year curriculum (or 150 students) will be involved with this.

Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve Sustaining Ipswich Through Student Leadership @ \$41,005. Ms. Cuff needed direction in case there wasn't enough money. Dr. O'Flynn urged reducing the grant amount and making it a student-funded endeavor with \$10,000 for 2 adults and students funding their own way. Dr. Hart said the fund-raising would put the project on hold for this year. Vote: IN FAVOR- Gresh, Bauman, Player, Hopping; OPPOSED- O'Flynn.

As he was "on call", Dr. O'Flynn left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

(3)Teaching and Learning with Technology

Stating that technology supports powerful learning, Dr. Hart requests this grant to put technology in the hands of kids from principals and teachers and is in alignment with all the technology studies conducted over the year. There was discussion of overlap possibilities, a reduction of the original list of over \$900,000 to the current \$600,000 grant, and a comment by Mr. Hopping that \$1.6 million is being spent for technology over the two years with Feoffee grants. Mr. Hopping proposed that all grants be taken under advisement with the intent to return to make up the \$7,000 difference. Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to take under advisement the technology grant supporting materials @ \$599,928.

(4)Professional Development Opportunities for Continuous Growth

The Professional Development Committee has applied for this grant with Kathleen McMahan, Middel School Assistant Principal, as Chair. Each of the schools

in the district will be targeted and contractors will provide the services. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to take under advisement the grant to provide the district with professional development @ \$99,260. UNANIMOUS.

(5) "Successful Habits of Mind" Across the Curriculum

The Center of Collaborative Education will work with the district-wide integrated "Successful Habits of Mind"/21st Century Curricula. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to take under advisement the grant for "Successful Habits of Mind" @\$48,125. UNANIMOUS.

(6) Collaborative Education

Dr. Hart explained that this grant will develop the ability to have professionally reflective dialogue using protocols of students' work and solve dilemmas in the classroom. In-depth work in workshops will shift to a site-based approach. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh to take under advisement the collaborative education proposal @\$48,400. UNANIMOUS.

G. OVERRIDE DISCUSSION

Mr. Hopping asked Dr. Hart to conduct the discussion of the budget workshop last Tuesday evening. Dr. Hart detailed the meeting as a review of School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen meeting and a debriefing of the failed override and review of reasons. Following that, themes were discussed: Should another override take place in the fall or spring? (reaction from Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen was in the fall) Should we drop the override number? (which fell into two categories: (1) drop it and adjust programmatically and (2) shorten the time the override would sustain). In collaboration with Ms. Cuff, three options were offered:

1. Drop the override number to \$2.5 million restoring everything that has been lost (\$800,000), allotting \$300,000 for the vision piece, and including the Winthrop feasibility study for \$600,000-1,000,000, for four years.
2. Drop the override number to \$2.3 million restoring everything that has been lost (\$800,000) allotting \$300,000 for the vision piece, and have no feasibility money included, for four years.
3. Do the same as #2 except extend the time frame to five years.

No consensus was reached among the Boards. Mr. Hopping commented that he has received emails from people against the override. It is ongoing and he concurs with Dr. Gresh that this is still evolving. It is a matter of how much, when, and how to address the Winthrop feasibility study.

H. REVISIT 2014-15 SCHOOL CHOICE DECISION

On April 17, the Board voted to participate in Choice and accept the Choice students as outlined by Mr. Fabrizio and Mr. Dalton if the override passed. While

there are thirty applications for Choice admission, the two principals agreed that their willingness to accept has dropped to zero as a result of the failure of the override. No action was taken.

I. 2014-15 NON-RESIDENT TEACHER ENROLLMENT REQUESTS

Dr. Hart quoted 111 kindergarten pupils registered at the two elementaries with the probability that it will increase in August. The policy on acceptance of children of non-resident teachers on a tuition-free basis, currently under scrutiny by the Policy Subcommittee, was reported by Mrs. Bauman as having minor and major revisions in different areas. If possible, incoming kindergarteners should go to Doyon.

J. SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION 2013-14

Mr. Hopping described the Superintendent' evaluation as similar to the new teacher evaluation system using a specific format. He read a summary draft of the Superintendent's Performance Evaluation which did not include the new Board member's evaluation nor the member who has just resigned, but Mrs. Roesler's will be reflected in the Final Draft which will be read on July 17 and go into public record. His summary included the four standards and ratings (Exemplary, Proficient, Needs Improvement on Unsatisfactory) by which Dr. Hart was evaluated:

1. Instructional Leadership – High Proficient
2. Management and Operations – Proficient
3. Family and Community Engagement – Low Proficient
4. Professional Culture – Proficient

In summary, Dr. Hart received the mid-Proficient range. All of the Superintendent's identified performance goals were either met, exceeded, or showed significant progress towards achievement. Dr. Hart, asked to comment or ask questions, wasn't ready to comment until he read it but thanked everyone for their time.

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

Payne Grant Committee

Instructional Mini-Grant Committee

Ms. Player summarized the mini-grant process as 61 reviewed,

14 not awarded, and 47 funded, and letters sent to applicants this week.

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

Mr. Hopping thanked the Board for the Superintendent's evaluation piece and urged that a meeting be set for Feruza Krason's orientation.

- 11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
- 12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

Dr. Gresh reported that the group chose new officers and Dr. Hart's visit was appreciated.

- 13. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
- 14. OTHER

- a. School Committee Summer Workshop

Dr. Hart asked for a School Committee summer workshop to reflect on five strategic objectives, successes and challenges, and start to plan goals for the future. He felt that it would be better to have an external facilitator. In discussion, Mr. Hopping suggested Turner Hill in a one-day workshop. He is working with the new Chairs of the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen on Town Hall issues for a meeting in late August.

- b. Response to citizen's request for School Committee action on Dunkin Donut expansion project

Mr. Hopping reported that a 77-page traffic safety report done by an independent firm and public hearings scheduled for July are in the Board's best interest to research but should proceed with caution until all data and analysis is done. Dr. Gresh agreed and added that the Board should look at traffic patterns that resulted from cutbacks in school bus transportation with cars that are idling.

Mrs. Bauman questioned Choice-out 8th graders to public schools not recorded on Dr. Hart's sheet of 30 students who chose to attend Essex Agricultural/Technical (7) and Whittier Regional Vocational (14) and 5 private schools (9). Mr. Hopping informed the Board that the Whittier Superintendent will be attending a Board of Selectmen meeting in July. Ms. Cuff reported Choice-out assessment for Ipswich at \$118,000 and Choice-in, at \$440,000.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of June 5, 2014, Open Session
Acceptance of a donation from Winthrop FRIES for \$600.18 for reimbursement of cameras purchased

Acceptance of a donation from the Verizon Foundation to the Winthrop School for \$750

Acceptance of a donation from Doyon FRIES for \$742.83 for the purchase of recess equipment . UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 9:52 p.m. for the preparation of strategy for negotiations with IEA and AFSCME. Roll call IN FAVOR- Player, Hopping, Gresh, Bauman.