

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2014
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, C. Nysten, J. Bauman, F. Krason, S. Gresh and H. O'Flynn. Also present were Superintendent Hart, and Finance Director Cuff.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Matthew DiBello, Ipswich High School Student Representative, read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held this evening to discuss the following:

Personnel matters, status of negotiations with bargaining units, and strategy in regard to non-union personnel negotiations after which the meeting will return to Open Session.

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on September 16, 6 p.m., Middle/High School Guidance Conf. Rm.

School Committee will meet on September 18, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Rm.

On September 23, Town Hall, 7 p.m., there will be a meeting to discuss strategy in dealing with Chapter 70 being sponsored and supported by Brad Hill. Representatives from school financial committees from surrounding communities are also invited.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PRESENTATION/ACCEPTANCE OF THIRD INSTALLMENT FROM FEOFFEE FUND

Tracy Filosa and Seth Ward, Feoffees appointed by the School Committee, spoke of the spending policy which the Feoffees dutifully put together on behalf of the Ipswich school children and which is in a good starting position. Tracy said another update will be coming in October, 2014, and the exact future number for allocation will be available in March, 2015. The three-year \$800,000 installments, based on usage/occupancy (U&O) will not reappear. In the future, distributions will come from the endowment fund which has been allowed to grow for three years. The annual distribution will be around June 30 for the fiscal year in which it belongs.

Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the gift of the installment payment of U&O of \$816,429.21 (the \$800,000 plus interest).

UNANIMOUS. Mr. Hopping and Dr. Hart, in accepting the check, offered their thanks and called the Feoffee funds a game changer for technology transformation across

the four schools and for professional development. Mrs. Filosa invited people to their Open meetings.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matt DiBello reported that school is back in session, students are getting back into the swing, getting schedules straightened out, and fall sports practices have been going on for some time. Some issues exist with Wi-Fi which are being worked on.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported that school opened well, thanking the administrators, office staff, and teaching staff for everything going very smoothly. Challenges do exist—particularly at the Middle School and congratulations went to David Fabrizio, Principal, for a stellar job with creative solutions. He invited Mr. Fabrizio to speak about the sixth-grade model.

Mr. Fabrizio explained that, in order to preserve the Middle School model, he and the faculty are doing a four-person team and a two-person team (some staff have dual certifications in subject matter). Of the 171 students in the 6th grade, 32 special education students are in the mix. The two teams are equally divided with special education students and because there is a class of 26 in “high math” and 11-12 in the next math category, the two classes were merged giving one class to the two-person team and one to the four-person team. To avoid “tracking”, a new “group cluster” called “Canoe” travels between “Kiva” and “Kayak.” With 29 kids in almost every class, it is working well thanks to the capable staff. There will be a presentation to the School Committee in the future.

Having met to elect officers and subcommittees, the Winthrop School Building Committee is focusing on the three areas of enrollment, building maintenance, and an Educational Program Questionnaire for a September 16 deadline. To Mr. Nysten's question of strategy for receiving money for a feasibility study, Mr. Hopping replied that bonding is being considered.

Dr. Hart reviewed the changes in staffing. Dr. O'Flynn expressed interest in hearing about the new personnel from the Principals, and it was decided that, at the next meeting, Principals would speak to this. Mrs. Bauman reported that a new special education driver is enabling a student to be transported at a great saving to the district.

Dr. Hart recommended that meeting time be available to review/discuss information relating to major district initiatives. Members agreed to this suggestion.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE FY15 DRAFT GOALS

The Board reviewed the five goals developed at a workshop on August 15.

When completed, these goals will be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Action oriented, Reasonable/realistic, Timely). For refinement, Nylen was assigned to the first goal on BUDGET; Bauman, to goal #2 on COMMUNICATION; Player, to goal #4 on DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT MEASURES OF PROGRESS/SUCCESS; and Krason, to goal #5 on SUPPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT. Goal #3 was removed. Dr. Hart asked for areas of focus. Mr. Nylen suggested a brainstorming workshop; Dr. O'Flynn, a presentation to School Committee on achievement a year from now. Mr. Hopping wanted to know why we are in a better place today than a year ago, what the results are of all the curriculum work, seeing examples of student work. Measures of success to answer Tri Board questions need to be more than MCAS scores.

C. SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2014-15

Mr. Hopping asked for a reorganization of Subcommittees. Mr. Nylen presented a paper on reorganization in type, membership, and status. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to refine/revise the list of standing subcommittees to six: Athletics, Budget, Communication, Grants, Operations, and Policy. UNANIMOUS.

Membership appointments were made as follows:

1. Athletics – Hopping, O'Flynn
2. Birth to 3 – Bauman
3. Budget – Hopping, Nylen, O'Flynn
4. Communication – Bauman, Gresh, Krason
5. Audit – Nylen
6. Grants – Mini-Player; Payne-Bauman
7. Long-range Planning – Nylen; Alternate: O'Flynn
8. MASC – Krason; Alternate: Player
9. Mutual Concerns – Hopping (as needed)
10. Operations – Hopping, O'Flynn
11. Payroll – Bauman, Player
12. Policy – Nylen, Bauman, Krason
13. SEPAC – Krason
14. Technology - Nylen
(Mr. Nylen feels that this committee must reconstitute itself, scheduling time with Dr. Hart and Technology Director Frash to do so. Dr. O'Flynn is interested in being a member.)
15. Negotiations – Bauman, Player for Professional
Gresh for Support Staff
16. Other – Clerk – Jean Emerson; “No School Designee” – Hart;
Purchasing Agent – Hart; Secretary - Hart
17. School Buildings Needs – Player, Hopping
18. State Reps meet with O'Flynn and Nylen about twice a year

Other than the six standing committees which will appear on each agenda, appointed members of all other committees will make reports to Dr. Hart for School Committee information.

Dr. O'Flynn left the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

D. SCHOOL BUILDING INSPECTION REPORT

Doyon – Ms. Player reported from a long list of achievements by the custodial staff and others over the summer which included painting, carpet shampooing and replacement, tile stripping, gym floor striping, cleaning of gym heaters, HVAC installation in the library. Prison inmates cleaned outside areas around the school under administration of Mr. Hodge.

Middle – Mrs. Bauman reported that administration's offices had been painted, and some carpet was removed. She commented that some areas still need painting and carpet replacement.

High – Mrs. Krason liked the shiny floors. She viewed the areas with the lead custodian and found that, while the weight room and the band room were small, both rooms are heavily used. Because production/filming is not being taught anymore, the room is used for other classes in the TV room.

Dr. Gresh will report on the Winthrop School at a later date. Mr. Hopping and Dr. Hart recognized Ms. Cuff and Mr. Hodge and the custodial staff for their great efforts.

E. REVISION TO 2014-15 SCHOOL CALENDAR

While a vote had already been taken by the School Committee on the 2014-15 school calendar, it was found that May's month had 20, not 19, days of school which moved back the last day by one day. Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to amend the August 14, 2014, vote on school calendar to make the last day of school June 15. UNANIMOUS. Matt questioned the Professional Day movement to November rather than January. Dr. Hart said the earlier date was more impactful for staff. Also, November 10, a Monday, comes just before Veteran's Day, another holiday, allowing a four-day weekend.

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

- 8. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING
- 9. MUTUAL CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE
- 10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
- 11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
- 12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)
- 13. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hopping announced that the School Committee attorney has been authorized to move the Manning Fund to work under the Feoffees jurisdiction and the final approval moves on to the Attorney General.

Dr. Hart received a request from Director of Pupil Personnel Services Hedegus to change legal counsel for special education services. Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept recommendation from Dr. Hart and Dr. Hedegus to change legal counsel to Stoneman, Chandler, and Miller. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Nylen asked about the Doyon School paving project and if the schools have an appropriate amount of input in regard to the Doyon parking situation. The reply was a definite "Yes."

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of August 14, 2014, Open Session. UNANIMOUS.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, to discuss status of negotiations with bargaining units, and to discuss strategy in re non-union personnel negotiations after which the meeting will return to Open Session. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Bauman, Gresh, Nylen, Hopping, Player, Krason.

OPEN SESSION

Resumed at 10:24 p.m.

Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Mr. Nylen, that the Ipswich School Committee and the Ipswich Education Association/Teaching Assistants have accepted a Memo of Agreement for the SY2014-15. UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. UNANIMOUS.