

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2014
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, J. Bauman, F. Krason, and C. Nylen. Also present were Superintendent Hart, and Finance Director Cuff.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Bauman read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA and for collective bargaining strategy with respect to an AFSCME grievance

Negotiations Subcommittee will meet on October 7, 5:30 p.m., M/H Media Center

School Building Committee will meet on October 8, Winthrop School Cafeteria and again on October 9, 7 p.m., Room A, Town Hall

Policy Subcommittee meets on October 14, 6 p.m., Payne School Conference Room

School Committee will meet on October 16, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PRESENTATION/ACCEPTANCE OF CHECK FROM IPSWICH EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR HATS OFF ANNUAL FUND PROGRAM

Michelle Wertz, President of the Ipswich Educational Foundation, spoke of a number of events sponsored for education, among them \$50,000 for the athletic program. The "Hats Off" annual fund program honors staff members. Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the Ipswich Education Foundation check for \$5,578 from the "Hats Off" program. Mr. Hopping and Dr. Hart thanked Mrs. Wertz as a model for a high-functioning school district with a strong educational foundation. UNANIMOUS.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matthew DiBello was participating in the band at the high school football game.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart announced that the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee are unanimous in their support for the school department's \$300K request from Free Cash to help meet the district's unanticipated \$400K SPED costs. The budget did not cover unanticipated costs in an effort to minimize staff cuts.

Capital Planning documents have been sent to the Town Manager to include FY16, items to be discussed later in the agenda.

Dr. Hart reported that he had met with Chris Burke and technology installations and refinements continue. Laptops have been imaged and Chromebooks are being worked on.

He and principals are visiting classrooms with a focus on activities in the classroom and Powerful Learning.

Mr. Hopping asked about a date for launching of the website. Chris Burke will spend all day next Monday getting the website set up with eight different descriptors for the Central Office and four schools and, within the next two weeks, the public will be seeing information. To Mrs. Bauman's question of training on Aspen, Dr. Hart responded that two schools have been trained and the other two will be done next week. Elementaries will be online with Aspen next year.

Mrs. Roesler, audience member, asked if a plan exists for phasing out and replacing old equipment. Dr. Hart responded that there is. A scheduled replacement plan will be imbedded in the technology project. All of the equipment has been bar coded—the type, the age, etc., a systematic process to make sure that the cutting edge is maintained.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. REVIEW OF FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. Hopping and the Board reviewed the Warrant Article pages for the 10/21/14 Fall Town Meeting as follows:

Article 1 – FY15 Town Budget Amendment

Hopping will speak to it. UNANIMOUS support.

Article 2 – FY15 School Budget Amendment

Player will speak to it. UNANIMOUS support.

Article 3 – FY15 SPED costs (\$300,000 Free Cash)

Hopping presents. UNANIMOUS support.

Article 4 – Capital Plan Amendment

UNANIMOUS support

Article 5 – Extraordinary Repairs (Winthrop, Doyon, M/High, Town Hall)

Gresh will speak to the school repairs. UNANIMOUS support

Article 6 – Storm Response Funds

UNANIMOUS support.

Article 7 – Transfer to Capital Stabilization Fund (\$650,000)

UNANIMOUS support. Dr. Hart was asked to request of the Town Manager a summary of prioritized capital projects to help understand what the total balances of the \$650,000 are.

Article 8 – OPEB (\$100,000 from Free Cash)
UNANIMOUS support. Nylen speaks

Article 9 – (Enterprise Fund for Water)
No position.

Article 10 – Feasibility Study Funding for Winthrop School (\$945,000)
Ms. Cuff explained the financial process for FY16 and 17 directly impacting the budget. In the third year, further funding could be rolled in. Interest on the loan is approximately \$10,000/year. To pay back the feasibility study if it is not accepted at Town Meeting will take five years.
UNANIMOUS support. Nylen speaks

Articles 11, 12 and 13 – Zoning Articles; no School Committee position.

Article 14 – Architectural Preservation District
After discussion, the Board decided to hold on a position until Dr. Hart checks on the status of the Winthrop and Payne Schools, especially for Central Office which could be deemed a historic structure of significance and worthy of preservation. Both buildings which lie in the proposed district.

Article 15 – Open Space Bond List – no position

C. UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

Ms. Cuff, Financial Director, reviewed Capital Project Update FY15-16. FY14 awarded funds of \$215,700 are closed except for a SPED van which is proceeding now that a SPED Director is in place and should be completed in January. Three of the seven FY15 projects are completed and painting will be done over the holiday weeks. Under the FY16 list, the M/HS HVAC system which has been problematic since the building opened will be separated into zones for more even distribution of heat. The \$204,450 (FY16) will come from the \$650,000 Capital Stabilization Fund. Mrs. Bauman asked about the Doyon roof; Mr. Hodge says it can be done at a reduced amount. Mr. Nylen asked about grant funding for security (FY15); Dr. Hart reported that Mr. Carovillano will be studying the Governor's report and working with a team on this. Mr. Hopping asked about Phase 3; Ms. Cuff replied that the Payne School needs new telephones, and areas within the Winthrop and M/HS art and technology wings need better communication. Interior doors within the schools need to be reframed.

Mr. Nylen asked about the approach to flooring material; Ms. Cuff answered that carpet tiles which can easily be replaced are preferable to rolled carpeting. The long-term question of carpeting being the better solution is not final, but the noise factor and comfort for elementary children is a necessary consideration. Mr. Nylen questioned the \$65,000 for HVAC: Ms. Cuff explained that the money will be spent for a full-value HVAC zoning system to include the evaluation and calibration of the air flow, as well as making needed adjustments.

Dr. Hart wished to recognize Ms. Cuff and Mr. Hodge for their work. The system has turned around in a very short time with their thoughtful investments and “stick-to-itiveness”. The Board thanked Ms. Cuff.

D. APPROVAL OF NESDEC STUDY PROPOSAL

Mr. Nylen explained that the Policy Subcommittee, in studying the Choice program, has a proposal to analyze Choice and chose NESDEC over two other organizations to examine Ipswich’s projected enrollments and the anticipated impacts of School Choice on educational programs, space and budget in order to assist with future planning. Board members mentioned specifics; i.e., non-discriminatory selection of incoming students, parental interviews of current Choice students, impact of class size at elementary level. The proposal at \$7,988 will be paid for from Choice funds. Ms. Player moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn (who had entered the meeting just then at 8:15 p.m.), to use Choice funds of \$7,988 to conduct the School Choice Program Review by NESDEC. UNANIMOUS.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
- 2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman reported that goal setting is the main topic at present.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

Ms. Player commented that the committee is still looking for a community representative, and Mr. Hopping repeated to the audience that applications should go to Central Office, Attention Mr. Hopping.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping asked that Dr. O’Flynn and he meet with Mrs. Krason at the Payne School for an orientation meeting.

Mr. Nylen asked about the goals. Dr. Hart’s goals need to be completed by Nov. 1, presented in SMART-goal fashion and include a professional goal and a student achievement goal.

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Nylen reported that the subcommittee wishes to complete an extensive review of the existing policies to eliminate, prioritize, and update.

A food allergy policy was questioned (later found in the policy book). Proposed changes to the rental fees for IPAC and related equipment need to be ready for a vote at the October 16 School Committee meeting. Ms. Cuff asked about custodial costs when a facility is rented. Mr. Hopping asked that the subcommittee also look at other building elements for rent: classroom, gyms, etc.

Mr. Nylen reported that a finger-printing policy for all school employees will be presented at a future date.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hopping and the Board discussed a follow-up meeting re their August retreat—tentatively set for October 27, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Payne School (or elsewhere).

Mr. Hopping reported that the Town Manager proposes a change to retiree health insurance, the schools’ portion to save \$146,000 annually. She proposes that the yearly savings be transferred to OPEB. Mr. Hopping suggested that those savings could be used in three ways (a) for OPEB, (b) to offset some of the obligations to the Town for Feoffee costs, and (c) to set aside money if the override fails. Following discussion, Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mr. Player, to support putting \$146,000 savings on health insurance changes for school retirees in the first year toward paying down the School Committee obligation to the Town for the Feoffee costs incurred during the sale negotiations. UNANIMOUS.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of September 18, 2014, Open Session.

Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of September 24, 2014, Open Session.

Approval of the Ipswich High School Closeup overnight field trip to Washington, DC, March 8-13, 2015.

Approval of the Ipswich High School Racing Challenge overnight field trip to Charlotte, NC, October 15-17, 2015. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping asked that future field trip requests be digitalized so that they are not handwritten.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Nylén moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to go into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss strategy in collective bargaining with IEA and collective bargaining strategy with respect to AFSCME grievance. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Bauman, Nylén, Hopping, Player, O'Flynn, Krason and Gresh (who joined the meeting at 8:55 p.m.)