

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 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, J. Bauman, F. Krason, C. Nylen, and H. O'Flynn. Also present were Superintendent Hart, Finance Director Cuff, and Student Representative Matthew DiBello.

**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 strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA.

Fall Town Meeting will be held on October 21, 7:30, PAC

Communications Subcommittee will meet on October 24, 10:30 a.m.,  
Payne School Conference Room

Negotiations Subcommittee will meet on October 29, 5:30 p.m., Middle  
School Library Media Center

School Committee will meet on November 6, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Fine Arts Director Gerald Dolan presented Anagh Tiwary, IHS senior, baritone saxophone player, who has been selected to attend the All-National Honor Ensembles in Nashville, Tennessee, from October 26-29 at the Grand Ole Opry. Mr. Dolan reviewed his rise through the grades (Anagh's mother contributing details) with varying saxophones and hours of determination, study, and practice with the instrument. Music did not come easily for him, but his work ethic and his desire to excel in everything has made him the best baritone sax player in Massachusetts. Mrs. Tiwary gave credit to Mr. Dolan who helped her son to achieve the right balance between the creative aspect and the academic aspect. Dr. O'Flynn asked and was told that Anagh is the first Ipswich player to reach the Nationals. Anagh is considering music as a minor in college. The School Committee was high in its praise for Anagh's achievement and confidence as a performer.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Matt DiBello reported on a very busy week with PSATs yesterday morning for sophomores and juniors and last week's Spirit Week among the classes in

competition with physical, musical, and artistic talents. In addition, there was a canned-food drive to benefit the Ipswich Food Pantry. It was a very successful week and the seniors won!

#### **A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Hart spoke of his expansion of communication with the community in the form of a monthly ICAM program with invited guests from within the Ipswich Public Schools and the broader Ipswich community. On November 10, Ray McNulty will speak to local educators and in the evening to the community about the changes in the world of work and how education has to change students for success. His topics will include 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and STEAM.

He reported on an elementary classroom visit with two children in a math card game and High School Spirit Week culminating in a talent show, full-school pep rally and dance, exhibiting strong school culture.

### **I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

#### **B. POLARTREC PRESENTATION**

Christine Ciarametaro, Grade 8 Science Teacher, presented a slide show, about her experience in a three-week commitment to the arctic in Greenland. Having applied several times, last February she was notified of her acceptance with the expectation that she would share what she has learned. She went through an arctic field-training course with Dr. Jason Briner, a scientist, who collected samples. The question is "Is this part of Earth's natural changing or is this a different change?"

She hiked over 75 miles in Greenland or went by helicopter, viewing summer homes owned by wealthy Denmark residents, noting beautiful tundra blossoms (only two hours of darkness). Her pictures indicated ice sheets, bare rock, mountains, fissures, and glacial lakes. She concluded that her goals for her students are critical thinking, problem solving skills and being educational risk takers. She has a three-year commitment to present to her hometown and other places.

#### **C. WINTHROP SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Kevin Murphy, Chair, introduced the members present to speak about progress: Nishan Mootafian (BOS), Sheila McAdams (Winthrop Principal), and Robin Crosbie (Town Manager). Mr. Murphy reported that in meeting every two weeks, their job is to get (1)school population study, (2)updated information on the school district, (3)capital plan and maintenance records, and (4)approval from the Town to do a feasibility study. He explained how the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) operates and requirements differ from 20 years ago when the M/HS was built. Members include (13-14 people) the School Superintendent, two School Committee members, Town Manager, the Winthrop Principal, one Board of Selectmen member, the School Finance Director, and a selection of Town members to include one in construction, a lawyer, two architects and an engineer. Mrs. McAdams cited the needs and inadequacies of the present Winthrop School.

Mr. Mootafian, who will present the motion at the Town Meeting, spoke of the eight stages of the first phase: eligibility, forming a project team, the feasibility study, schematic design, etc. With the required 2/3-approval vote at Town Meeting, an Owners Project Manager will be hired. The feasibility study will be reimbursed at least 45% by the State. Winthrop's existing building is 41,000 sq. ft. For a present-day building to serve 500 students, the square footage should be somewhere between 80,000 and 85,000 square feet.

Mr. Murphy illustrated how the \$900,000 cost with a \$45,000 (5% contingency) was arrived at. The funding method: A five year Bond Anticipation Note paying \$10,000 interest only for each of the first two years to be included in the school budget and a three-year term to pay off the rest if the Town doesn't approve the project. He showed the plan for the next five years after the Town Meeting vote:

- 12-15 months for the feasibility study
- May, 2016 – Warrant Article to vote for full funding under debt exclusion
- 12 months for design, development and drawings
- two years for construction; completion in 2019

The Middle/High School debt will be retired in FY20.

The Board had questions:

To looking beyond the elementary schools: no set agenda exists but instead a very open-ended process.

To the usurping of School Committee ability as a policymaker: as the process unfolds, SC will be the first decision maker.

To the "Who drives what?": Town Manager answered that RPMs have worked numerous times with other communities in building schools and flexibility allows a community with a strong preference for a certain way to do just that.

To the enrollment projection: shows enrollment of a little over 500 students in the next five years

To the investigation of multiple sites question: as yet to be determined; the Woburn project, which Ipswich is following, looked at four sites.

To the question of Ipswich's figure at the high end: some projects are three years old; architectural and engineering fees are up.

Mr. Murphy spoke of model-school designs which would save money. The advantages here are that there is a proven design where errors and omissions have been eliminated and "change orders" are easier.

Kevin Murphy (Finance Committee), Bill Craft (Board of Selectmen), and Carl Nylen (School Committee) will be speaking on this issue at Town Meeting.

#### **D. IPAC USE POLICY**

Carl Nylen, Policy Chair, began by saying that there is an existing Facility Use

policy, and the Committee was asked to review it and propose changes, the main purpose of which is to bring Ipswich fees in line with other districts. The proposed changes and an IPAC Services/Equipment Checklist (recommended by Scott Ames, manager of technology sound/lighting facilities) were reviewed and discussed. He quoted an \$85 charge for tuning after each use of a piano (4 altogether), a necessary item because of the humidity. The income would be \$400 for 4 pianos rather than \$100 for all 4. Technicians fees (lighting, etc.) from the current \$50/day would be \$100/6-hr. period and \$15/hr. thereafter. The rest of the fees are newly identified fees. After a year's worth of rentals, there would conceivably be money to upgrade the sound system. Mr. Nysten added that there are three different, but related policies, all of which have an application process and regulations which will be reviewed for language as well, but the one under consideration had an immediate need. The money for custodians during facilities rentals will also be reviewed.

Mr. Hopping asked about procedures for applying and receiving funds; Ms. Cuff replied that there is need for a comprehensive review, especially because clear specifications need to be in place for different groups (i.e., non profit) who wish to rent.

Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the new fee schedule for rental of facilities recommended by the Policy Committee. UNANIMOUS.

#### E. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT READING

Each member of the School Committee commented on the reading of Lesson 1 of Ten Lessons in Leadership and Learning by John D'Auria. The Board discussed "teachable moments" of leaders and "Culture is created, moment by moment, by how leaders interact with others and their environments."

Mrs. Bauman left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

## II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

### B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

#### 2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

#### 3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

#### 4. GRANT COMMITTEES

Ms. Player reported that the Instructional Mini Grant Committee is still looking for a community representative.

**5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Hopping spoke to Dr. Hart re a schedule of his goals. As of November 1, the School Committee begins work on his evaluations, two this year.

**6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Nysten reported that the group had studied other policies as well in the buildings priorities area.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Bauman left a note announcing the "Taste of Ipswich" at Turner Hill on November 13, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m., sponsored by Ipswich Education Foundation/YMCA.

Mr. Hopping, referring to the Christina Brown workshop, will try for November 17 in the EBSCO conference room.

Mr. Hopping reported that the Town Manager's suggested insurance changes for Town retirees had hit a stumbling block at the BOS meeting when George Howe and Charles Surpitski (who recused himself from the Board when he spoke) objected to the acceptance of the Medex II to Medex III plan without notification to the retirees. As a result, the discussion was tabled until after retirees meet with an MIAA representative on October 23, 9 a.m., Town Hall.

Mr. Hopping said the Audit Subcommittee will be interviewing two agencies on October 23, 6:45 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room, and questioned whether there was need for a bigger area for observers. The deadline for an agency recommendation is October 29; \$50,000 has been set aside.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Accepted the donation from Immanuel Baptist Church, Baptist Deacons Fund, Bob Kurtz, for the Winthrop Preschool tuitions for families in need in the amount of \$2,400.

Accepted the donation from Action, Inc., for the Winthrop Preschool tuitions for families in need in the amount of \$4,800

Accepted an anonymous donation to the Winthrop School in the amount of \$500

Accepted a payment from Geskus Studios for school photographs to the Ipswich Middle School in the amount of \$1,158

Accepted an anonymous donation of \$1700 to be used toward the Grade 5 Plimouth Plantation Field Trip, to be deposited into the Winthrop School Student Activity account. UNANIMOUS.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mr. Nysten, to go into Executive Session at 9:32 p.m. to discuss strategy in collective bargaining with IEA. Roll call vote IN FAVOR-

Krason, Nysten, Hopping, Player, O'Flynn. Unable to meet because Rule of Necessity had not been voted in Open Session, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Roll call: IN FAVOR - Krason, O'Flynn, Player, Hopping, Nysten.