

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 6, 2014  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, and F. Krason. Also present were Superintendent Hart, and Finance Director Cuff.

**READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

Dr. O'Flynn 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 to discuss strategy with respect to AFSCME grievance

Negotiations Subcommittee will meet on November 18, 5:30 p.m., M/HS Media Center

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on November 18, 6 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conference Room

Policy Subcommittee meets on November 20, 5:30 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conference Room

School Committee workshop, November 24, EBSCO, 5:30-8:30 p.m. with Ms. Brown

School Committee will meet on November 20, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Dana Allen, Director of Ipswich Birth to Three Family Center, spoke of the history of Birth to Three with State grant and vision of Carolyn Davis and Ken Cooper, elementary principals, 14 years ago. The State's contribution is now almost 1/3 of what it was then and, consequently, the 2014-15 budget including \$14,000 of fund raising and grant writing that she will be doing will just make it through June, 2015. Because of this untenable situation, she is asking for help, having met with the Superintendent already. Mr. Hopping thanked her for coming and suggested having a public session on the subject. He, the Superintendent, and Ms. Cuff will set up a framework for the presentation. Mr. Kit Cox, former Director, commented that there are plenty of success stories from the Birth to Three program which, in essence have saved the Town a great deal of money.

**RULE OF NECESSITY**

Mr. Hopping asked to invoke the Rule of Necessity because of the fact that Dr. O'Flynn, Mr. Nysten, and he have relatives currently employed within the Ipswich Public School system and the Rule allows all members to take part in collective

bargaining discussions. Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to invoke the Rule of Necessity. UNANIMOUS.

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Hart announced that Dr. Ray McNulty will speak to Ipswich educators and the community on Monday, November 10, on the subject of how the world of work is changing and how education has to change to prepare students for success. Following the speaker, teachers will work in grade-level/department groups on curriculum development with the long-term objective of a curriculum unit that aligns with Common Core and embeds Successful Habits of Mind.

He also commented on the administrative meeting with the School Resource Officer regarding the lockdown exercise which was held with reasonably good response and discussions following to develop an improvement action item list. In addition, Dr. Hart was pleased to observe the culture of Halloween traditions within the schools.

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**B. UPDATE ON CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Rachel Roesler, member of the Cable Advisory Committee, spoke of an upcoming public hearing for cable subscribers to attend and voice concerns before the next contract is signed in 18 months. Ipswich is receiving 4% from the company now and many communities are receiving 5%. The Committee would like to see if the community would support ICAM changes and involvement in the schools on a partnership basis. She encouraged people to fill out the survey.

Mr. Nylen joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

**C. MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL SIGNAGE**

Officer Sean Smith, School Resource Officer, presented his proposal for signage on the Middle/High School property because, as it stands now, he cannot take action against parking violators or vandalism. Each of the six suggested sign postings was reviewed with discussion including the number of new signs proposed, the shortage of visitor spots for parking, the restrictions to community use of the track and tennis courts during the school day, and the cost responsibility of the signs. Officer Smith detailed the problems: loitering and vandalism at the high school parking lot area in particular, too much vehicle parking at the rear of the gym and cafeteria, use of the bus entrance on the High Street as a vehicle "pass-through", potential detrimental interaction between citizens from the community and gym classes using the courts and/or fields.

Taken individually, the six signage areas were voted as follows:

1. On hold "Permit Parking Only. All Other Subject to Fines and/or Tow."

2. Player moved, Krason seconded, to approve placement of signs in Middle School and High School parking lots with the omission of a sign in the Middle of the High School lot entitled, "No Loitering or Overnight Parking from 10 p.m.-6 a.m. Police Take Notice. Unoccupied Vehicles Subject to Fines and/or Tow." UNANIMOUS.

3. O'Flynn moved, Player seconded, to approve placement at access road to rear of gym/cafeteria – "Emergency Vehicles Only. All Others Subject to Fines and/or Tow." UNANIMOUS.

4. O'Flynn moved, Player seconded, to approve two signs at the entrance to the front access road parallel to High Street – "No Through Traffic While School Bus Present." UNANIMOUS.

5. On hold. Opinions differed on community use of track and tennis courts versus appropriateness and student priority during class time.

6. O'Flynn moved, Bauman seconded, to approve replacement of "Do Not Enter" sign at the other end of front access (#4). UNANIMOUS.

**D. COLLABORATIVE FOR REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND TRAINING (CREST) AMENDED & RESTED AGREEMENT**

Dr. Hart spoke to the proposed change from the former Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative (GLEC) to the Collaborative for Regional Educational Services and Training (CREST) to be approved by 16 school committees. He mentioned that Hamilton/Wenham has withdrawn, to which School Committee members questioned why and whether their system might be using a different collaborative; Dr. Hart will answer those questions at the meeting on November 20.

**E. SUPERINTENDENT GOALS**

Dr. Hart presented his draft of goals (I-IV) via Powerpoint and reviewed the actions/outcomes expected with time lines given.

Goal I – Instructional Leadership. Mr. Nylén questioned the elementary collaboration, and Dr. Hart explained that the movement is to get the two schools together more along critical points of what students need to know and do. The expectation is that staff is developing curriculum that is aligned, even at the Middle/High schools, in a balance of autonomy and commonality. Each teacher will have developed one curriculum unit (or 171 units) that will be shared and be made available via the district student management system.

Goal II – Management & Operations. Mr. Hopping suggested adding the accreditation to the High School planning, implementing the Operations Audit recommendation, and the NESDEC Choice study.

Sean Gresh joined the meeting at 9 p.m.

Goal III – Family & Community Engagement. Dr. Hart reviewed his plans for communicating with the community on website, blog, and ICAM, parent night meetings once a month, and educating the Ipswich community on need to expand school funding. He will be reporting on November 20 on a STEAM state conference and on his conversations with New England Biolabs management.

Goal IV – Professional Culture. To Dr. Hart’s plan to create and communicate expectation for curriculum work, Mr. Hopping suggested that the great work that is already happening needs to be acknowledged and celebrated in the Ipswich schools. Ms. Player suggested a student achievement goal as well.

Dr. Hart will rework his goals and present them on November 20 in final form.

**F. TOWN MEETING REVIEW**

Mr. Hopping reviewed the Fall Town Meeting motions: Chapter 70 funds, \$300,000 from Free Cash for special education costs, the feasibility study for Winthrop School project. Some questions have been raised that the School Committee needs to study and set up some workshop time to think about: What will elementary schools look like for the foreseeable future? MSBA sets limits for an elementary school at 550-650 students and Ipswich would be including Pre K and Birth to Three. If not on the Central Street site, where? Could 30-40 students from overcrowded Doyon be moved to the Winthrop by repositioning the grey areas?

**G. AUDIT SUBCOMMITTEE REVIEW/SELECTION OF ABRAHAMS GROUP**

Mr. Nylen reported that of the two vendors who were reviewed, the vote was unanimous to choose Abrahams as the better choice in several areas.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS**

**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

**3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Dr. Gresh reviewed the Mission Statement final draft which he researched and on which he collaborated with Dr. Hart, reviewed with Mrs. Krason, and he now recommends to the full School Committee.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES
5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Player would like a Mini-Grant celebration event – open house with refreshments – showing the presentations by students.

Mrs. Bauman mentioned the Taste of Ipswich event to be held at Turner Hill on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., and the Winthrop Playground maintenance and cleanup on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hopping reported the Board of Selectmen acceptance of the change for retirees' health insurance and decrease OPEB liability to take place on February 1, 2015. School Committee would like to control their share, amounting to \$149,000 saving.

Mr. Hopping reported that there are four applications for the seat on the mini-grant committee.

Mr. Hopping read a thank-you note from Tina Ciarametaro for being allowed to present at a School Committee meeting.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of October 2, 2014, Open Session.

Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of October 16, 2014, Open Session.

Approval of the Ipswich Middle School Ferry Beach overnight field trip to Saco, Maine, April 28-May 1, 2015.

Acceptance of donation from the FRIES -Doyon to assist in the purchase of materials for the spelling program "Foundations" in the amount of \$1,000.

Acceptance of donation from the FRIES -Doyon to assist in the funding of "Visual Literacy—Seeing and Thinking about Reading" program in the amount of \$4,000.

Acceptance of donation from the Winthrop FRIES to the Winthrop School Gift Account in the amount of \$789.

Acceptance of donation from an anonymous donor to the Winthrop School Gift Account in the amount of \$1,000.

Acceptance of a TIF payment from New England BioLabs, Inc. in the amount of \$10,000. UNANIMOUS.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 9:45 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA and to discuss strategy with respect to AFSCME grievance. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Bauman, Nysten, Hopping, Player, O'Flynn, Krason and Gresh.