

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2014  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. with the following members present: C. Nysten, O'Flynn, S. Player, J. Bauman, F. Krason, and S. Gresh (9 p.m.) Also present were Superintendent Hart, Finance Director Cuff, and Student Representative Matthew DiBello.

**READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

Matthew DiBello 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 personnel matters

School Committee workshop will take place on November 24, 5:30-8:30p.m., EBSCO

Schools will dismiss early on November 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday and reopen on December 1, 2014.

Negotiations Subcommittee will meet on December 2, 5:30 p.m., High School Room B105

School Committee will meet on December 4, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**RULE OF NECESSITY STATEMENT**

Mr. Hopping explained that, because of relatives in IEA, TAs, and clerical, three School Committee members could not participate in negotiation discussions without the Rule of Necessity. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to invoke the Rule of Necessity. UNANIMOUS.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Matt DiBello reported the closing of the first quarter of the year, college application flurry, and a couple of seniors already accepted at colleges. Cheerleaders have won the Regional Championship and go to States on November 23. Engineering class participating in robotics came back from Andover competition with a first-place win. He urged everyone to attend Diary of Anne Frank to be presented by the drama group from Nov. 21-23. He said he enjoyed being the MC at the recent senior fashion show.

Mr. Nylen and Ms. Burke joined the robotic conversation with a request to see a live presentation. The students involved in the program are raking leaves to raise money.

**A. SUPERINTENDENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Hart reported on the nationally known expert who spoke to staff on November 10 and to 50-60 adults in the evening. He was well received, and Dr. Hart aligned IPS initiatives with the speaker’s message in his own comments. Dr. Hart thanked the Ipswich Education Foundation, New England Biolabs and Institution for Savings for their support. William Daggett will be the next speaker in the series, here on April 30, 2015.

The administrative team is preparing for the NESDEC School Choice study, identifying materials needed. The study will begin in early January to finish by February. Final presentation to School Committee will come in the beginning of March.

Central Office has welcomed new Business Office Clerk Elizabeth Valentine who has assumed Brenda Spiridigliozzi’s position. Brenda has assumed Joy Jartman’s position as Payroll and Personnel Assistant.

STEAM strategic planning is taking place over the next several weeks with IPS and the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE). Phase One is a needs assessment targeting interviews with school stakeholders, district and school leaders, and teachers, resulting in an accurate district STEAM profile that identifies strengths and critical challenges. Phase Two ICLE coaches will work with the STEAM team to prioritize needs, develop a plan, determine how to monitor, manage, and measure efforts.

Dr. O’Flynn asked to add another A (STEAM) for athletics to the mix. Mr. Hopping commented that the Biolabs donations run to 2019 (\$10,000 each).

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**B. SAIL PROGRAM STORAGE SHED REQUEST**

Suzanne Bediz, Program Coordinator, requested winter storage for the hotdog cart which is run by SAIL (Students Achieving Independent Living) and, with donated funds in their gift account, will be purchasing and installing an 8’ x 10’ steel shed behind the Performing Arts Center to sit on a plywood base. Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to support the placement of a storage shed to house the hotdog cart, costs to be covered from the gift account. UNANIMOUS.

**C. TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION**

Dr. Hart began by citing the use of Feoffee funds of \$900,000 one year for completely renovating and rebuilding the technology infrastructure in all four schools, Payne included, and \$600,000, the second year, for the teaching tools. He publicly thanked Mrs. Frash and her entire team and Chris Burke for doing a phenomenal job.

Jeannie Frash, IT Director, and Chris Burke, Technology Integration Specialist, began their presentation. Mrs. Frash stressed that technology is a teaching tool, a support system, and not an end in itself. She reviewed the elements of powerful learning with its descriptors. Her technology specialists are Diane Arsenault, Derek Deacon, and Bill Ford. The IT core areas of technology: infrastructure (a fiber-connected school district with high capacity switches), account and file management (a single domain structure), information services (Destiny {library}, new school lunch program, Blackboard Connect, Edline {website}, and Aspen {school information system}), applications (inventory, data base, server-based computer imaging system), and user equipment (160 clients, 26 music iPads, 200 laptops in 8 charging carts, 53 of 76 teacher laptops, and 55 Google Nexus tablets). Phase I completion chart shows the website almost done, an inventory database and infrastructure upgrade. Phase II completion chart shows Apple iPads for K-2 (both elementary schools working together), teacher laptop replacement, computer migration to new domain (teacher laptops in M/HS) and thin clients (libraries).

Board members asked questions and commented approvingly. Matt DiBello was very impressed and asked that the presentation be made available to the community. Mr. Nylen questioned training; Mrs. Frash replied that it goes on everyday and problem solving is documented. She said they are working on assessing progress with faculty, staff, and students and need a budget setup for maintenance, refreshing 1/8 of the inventory every year. Mrs. Bauman asked about security reassurances for parents. She answered that each computer has permissions assigned to it; the firewall provides security (not available before); the monitoring system for the network lets you know if there is hacking going on. She advised not sharing or using others' passwords. Mr. Hopping mentioned the COPPA law requiring parental signoff for children 13 and under; Mrs. Frash will look into it.

Mrs. Burke showed visuals of classrooms at all levels working with computers and whiteboards. She gave as examples of 65 virtual high school (VHS) courses, Author project (publishing on a blog), Google classroom and professional development opportunities. Her hopes and dreams include a technology budget and to bring back a media specialist because the media center is always full of students working.

Dr. O'Flynn asked how equity can be brought in for teachers and students. She said the high school and middle school have technology tools for all students and she is working down through 5<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. Mr. Nylen asked for measurement discussion and a tool for assessment.

#### **D. COLLABORATIVE FOR REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND TRAINING (CREST) AMENDED AND RESTATED AGREEMENT**

Mr. Hopping asked Dr. Hart for the information on why Hamilton/Wenham

had opted out of the CREST collaborative. Dr. Hart responded that they had belonged to two collaboratives and decided to focus instead on the North Shore Education Consortium. CREST voted on three new districts and H/W opted out. Mr. Hopping asked how the voting happens as Ipswich was not included in the voting. Beverly Hegedus, PPS Director, is analyzing collaboratives and will come back with a report later in the year.

#### **E. DRAFT FY'16 BUDGET TIMELINE**

Ms. Cuff reviewed the outline: budget presentation to the School Committee on February 4 and 5 and to the Finance Committee on March 17, 18, and 19. Dr. Hart wishes to follow the logic from last year with a projection of overall budget for five years. He sees a level-services budget but an override budget for employees. Ms. Cuff quoted an \$800,000 growth figure over FY'15 and impact in staffing in the area of technology. The December 8th workshop with administrators and School Committee is very important. Ms. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to approve the budget timeline. UNANIMOUS.

#### **F. AUDIT REPORT**

Ms. Cuff reported a favorable audit report with no audit findings for the schools and only minimal improvement recommendations for the Town. Major funds have decreased by \$1.1 million, Feoffee funds have added to the assets, and a good Stabilization Fund balance exists. She was congratulated by Mr. Hopping and Dr. Hart for her thoroughness and expertise.

#### **G. SUPERINTENDENT GOALS**

Considerable discussion ensued over the superintendent's goals. He had added actions/outcomes to the (#2) management and operational systems goal as requested and to the (#4) professional culture goal. Especially, the Board wishes to see a measurement of achievement by students. Dr. Gresh mentioned prevalence in colleges of a student doing self-evaluation, completing an evaluation of a class for the benefit of his/her teacher and for the benefit of students who would be selecting a program/course as well. Matt didn't agree that students should know how other students view the courses. Mr. Nysten plans to review the goals with Dr. Hart and Mr. Hopping. Suggestions can also be sent to Central Office. A vote will be taken at the next meeting.

#### **H. SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT AGENDA**

In discussion, Mr. Hopping announced that the Board should bring their own brown bag dinner and discuss three items:

- (1) The leadership continuum--site-based versus top-down.
- (2) Ongoing projects in the district by Dr. Hart.
- (3) A summit where School Committee, IEA, and administrators discuss issues that are most pressing.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. VOUCHERS/BILLS
- B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - 1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. O’Flynn reviewed the discussion: lower numbers of participation in certain sports, a document in progress to cover coaches’ duties and how they are evaluated, implications on the budget for next year, possibility of bringing in volleyball as a new sport, making decisions on a fee increase or taking away some sports, maybe cutting freshman sports because they are undersubscribed, working on the field-turf project perhaps with Feoffee money, Community Preservation Act as a good source of recreation money, existence of fields behind Bruni’s on Essex Road diagonal to the YMCA.

- 2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
- 4. GRANT COMMITTEES
- 5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

- 6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Nylen reported that, having just met, there was discussion re the NESDEC Choice study, the schedule, reports on categories involving Choice, and their desire to involve stakeholders at meetings.

- 7. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hopping heard from the Town Manager re Gov. Patrick’s recommendation for \$40.3 million in cuts to school programs: \$3,86 million in SPED, \$2.88 million in Chapter 70, Vocational transportation, Charter School reimbursements, etc. Mr. Nylen mentioned Rachel Roesler’s note on the Foundation Budget Commission hearing. He urged, and Mr. Hopping promised to follow up with Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee Chairs, to communicate in writing about these cuts immediately.

**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 November 6, 2014, Open Session.

Acceptance of a payment from Hockmeyer Studios to the Ipswich High School related to the sale of school photographs for \$1,443.28

UNANIMOUS.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Ms. Player , to go into Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. to discuss strategy in collective bargaining with respect to and in

preparation for collective bargaining with IEA and to discuss personnel matters.  
Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Bauman, Nysten, Hopping, Player, O'Flynn, Krason and  
Gresh.