

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 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, C. Nysten, F. Krason, and S. Gresh (at 9 p.m.). Also present were Superintendent Hart, Finance Director Cuff, and M. DiBello, Student Representative.

**READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

Matt 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/Administrators Budget workshop will take place on December 8, 2014, 7 p.m., M/H School Guidance Conference Room

Negotiations Subcommittee will meet on December 10 and again on December 15, 5:30 p.m., High School Room B105.

School Committee will meet on December 18, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Mr. Hopping gave a shout-out for the Middle School concert held on December 3 exclaiming that it was terrific! He directed a brief moment of silence in remembrance of Judy Mulholland and Walter Pojasek, both long-time School Committee members who have recently passed.

**RULE OF NECESSITY**

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to invoke the Rule of Necessity so that Board members who have relatives employed within the IPS can participate in negotiation discussions. UNANIMOUS.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Matt reported on events: the Middle School concert, the High School small music ensemble on December 10 and the large music ensemble group on December 17. Track and swim teams are competing. The National Honor Society is having a fund raiser for peanut butter and jelly containers and adult socks which will be distributed in Boston next week. These items may be placed in a box outside the high school office.

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Hart reported that the Winthrop School Building project is moving forward with the School Building Committee (SBC) working with MSBA to determine enrollment. SBC is advocating that 90 students be shifted to the new Winthrop School to help ease overcrowding at Doyon so that they could use the additional available space.

The STEAM strategic planning process continues with collaboration discussions (programmatic and financial) begun on November 21 with Ipswich-based SanTron Corporation CEO and a building tour of its high-tech manufacturing environment. On November 25, Dr. Hart met a second time with New England Biolabs CEO to plan STEAM support. Two scientists attended that meeting and several interesting collaborative possibilities were reviewed.

The joint Emergency Management Committee with police and schools has been reactivated, will meet monthly, and systematically revise or develop emergency management strategies to keep schools safe.

The Central Office phone system recently experienced day-long power loss and two vendors have made presentations. Selection of one will be made shortly and payment for the new system will come from capital school safety funds.

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS****B. SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, CLASS OF 2015**

Dr. Hart introduced Margaret Brown who, following the reading of her multiple achievements in academics with a 4.398 GPA, music, and sports, was presented with the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence, Class of 2015. She was applauded by all present and congratulated by Mr. Hopping and Dr. Hart.

**C. GRANTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL ROBOTICS PROGRAM**

Christine Reif, Program Co-director and volunteer, spoke of the First Robotic Challenge (FRC) in which the robotics program will compete this year. Registration costs \$6,000 and expenses, \$5,000 or as high as \$20,000 all together. They have received a grant which will completely cover the registration fee. Competition begins on January 3 and allows Ipswich participation in two district events locally. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the grant of \$6,000 to enter the NASA Challenge of FRC (check being deposited in the FRC account).

UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Reif, herself a machine design engineer, then asked for acceptance of a donation of a piece of equipment, a 3D printer, to be used in Bill Gallant's robotics class, retail value of \$900-\$1,100, which will allow students to make prototype and real parts using thermofusion allowing a 6"x6"x6" object. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the donation of a piece of equipment.

UNANIMOUS.

## D. PRESENTATION ON BIRTH TO THREE PROGRAM

Dana Allen, Director, was introduced by Mrs. Bauman. Ms. Allen gave a thorough history of the program's inception with the professional development which began in 1993. Medical research confirmed that a child learns more in the first three years than all the rest of its life. Massachusetts was realizing that families weren't taking advantage of State services and offered grants. The Ipswich Community Partnership promotes early learning experience and strengthens families, and she presented slides illustrating the participation in the last three months. The program now is only 75% of its initial founding year of 2000 with only 50% of the grant money. The Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program (CFCE) funds a grant of \$69,500. She announced that she cannot sign the Early Education Grant for next year and, in fact, will have to raise \$16,000 to fulfill her responsibilities to stay open until Spring. She asked that the Ipswich Public Schools provide Birth to Three \$80,000 to continue the program for 2015-2016, thus providing a chance to vitalize and sustain the investment in B23. Without this program, young children fall behind their peers between 12-19 months where they do not catch up. Currently there are 148 people registered. Only those who don't work actually come down and participate in Monday-Friday playgroup. The 90 other "enhanced referrals" are evidence that there is much more service needed. She cited 89% of participants rated B23 in the highest categories. For 15 years ¼ to 1/3 of Ipswich pre-school children have been served. Every dollar invested when children are given intervention in B23 reaps \$70 in later costs.

The Board had many comments. Mr. Hopping assured Ms. Allen that the matter is on their radar screen. Mrs. Bauman and Ms. Player commented that the program makes so much sense for the young, and it is better to pay early rather than later. The Board asked her to create a cost proposal for the Finance Committee, including some concrete figures, if possible, of savings as Birth to 3 participants progress through the school district. Mr. Nylen questioned the percentage of unmet needs; she serves 50 infants when there are probably 150 in the Town. Questioned about businesses helping, she answered that that sort of gifting goes to healthy organizations. Mr. Nylen mentioned that people would question abandoning the service rather than using the available funds with less services. Ms. Allen's response was that the choice was made to have a site with play groups and outreach to the Town.

Members of the audience made several comments: (a)The downtown site is extremely important, (b)Birth to 3 graduates exhibit more confidence, (c)Personal parental/childhood experience showed after his children attended B23, and (d)Presence of B23 influenced the purchase of a home in Ipswich.

Mr. Hopping thanked Ms. Allen for her presentation and assured her that the Board will take the request under advisement and conversations will continue with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee. He thanked the parents who attended as well.

**E. REVIEW OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT**

Mr. Hopping asked for commentary from the members. Reaction was positive and Mr. Hopping reviewed the outcomes:  
School-based management was made clear  
Common understanding of the superintendent's attention to moving forward  
On board with initiatives  
Clear strategy to the superintendent's leadership was developed with a plan for a successful summit  
Reflection is a good point in the teacher evaluation

**F. SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS**

Dr. Hart reviewed changes to his four goals with suggestions from the Board. After discussion, Dr. Hart was advised to flag his priorities in the Actions/Outcomes portions of the four goals. The Superintendent's goals, accepted unanimously, are in final copy for their Monday, December 8, workshop with administration.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS**

**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE**

**2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**

Board decision to meet at 5:30 p.m. prior to SC meeting on Dec. 18 and hold December 22 for a 7:30 meeting if necessary.

**3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**4. GRANT COMMITTEES**

Ms. Player announced that a revised mini-grant midyear report has been drafted.

**5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Nysten reported that the committee will be finalizing the list of Stakeholders re the NESDEC study of Choice on January 5.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Central Office will provide mini-grant applicants to the Board for December 8 meeting.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of November 20, 2014, Open Session.

Acceptance of a payment from Geskus Studios to the Winthrop School related to the sale of school photographs in the amount of \$1,060.

Acceptance of a donation from Winthrop FRIES to the Winthrop School for the Star Labs in-house field trip in the amount of \$750.

Acceptance of a donation from Action, Inc. (funds from Ipswich Bank) to the Winthrop School for Winthrop Preschool tuitions for families in need in the amount of \$2,400.

Acceptance of a donation from the Doyon FRIES to the Doyon School in the amount of \$1,936.54 to purchase eleven bookcases for Grade 2 and Kindergarten classrooms. UNANIMOUS.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to go into Executive Session at 9:48 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA and personnel matters after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Bauman, Nysten, Hopping, Player, O'Flynn, Krason and Gresh.