

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 18, 2014  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, C. Nylén, F. Krason, and S. Gresh. 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

Schools will be closed from Dec. 23 at the close of the day to Jan. 5, 2015

Policy Subcommittee will meet January 5, 5:30 p.m., Payne School Conference Rm.

School Committee will meet on January 8, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**RULE OF NECESSITY**

Mr. Hopping explained that, because of the full complement of School Committee members, there will be a quorum during Executive Session and no need to exercise the Rule.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Matt commented on music events with great turnouts of small and large ensemble concerts. The National Honor Society put together 250 sandwiches from the donations, distributing them in Boston. On December 23, musical groups will be caroling at the Sisters of Notre Dame and senior centers to bring Ipswich's great music program to the community. Dr. Hart followed up Matt's comments with kudos to the Music Department at IHS under Mr. Dolan's leadership, calling it "world class" on a full stage of strong musicians led by an incredible Fine Arts staff.

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Hart reported that a recent meeting with the Finance Committee informed them about Chapter 70 formulas and funding, projected enrollment and budget for both Whittier and Essex Technical schools, and town/school

collaborations both now and in the future. Mrs. Bauman asked about Finance Committee reaction to Whittier assessments. In discussion with numbers up (33 students anticipated for FY2015-16 at Whittier and a \$572,000 budget), Mr. Hopping asked Dr. Hart for ongoing updates re Whittier data, competition between Whittier, private schools, and IHS in programs for high school. Also, he asked for the Whittier representative to attend a School Committee meeting.

Budget meetings with administration, School Committee, and Finance Director Cuff have taken place and will, on December 19, continue for collaboration on broad budget shifts. Override budget process will take place in January.

The Ipswich Police Department and the schools have reconnected in a joint safety committee where on December 9th Lt. Hubbard presented an overview of schools' handling of an armed intruder and emergency plan readiness. Meetings will continue monthly.

## **I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

### **B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS**

Mr. Hopping reviewed the four School Committee goals:

1. Define, develop, and implement an adequate and sustainable budget—a two-part budget: short-term and a longer-term more sustainable budget.

Five indicators follow which need timeframes.

2. Develop and implement communications plan to promote and support the goals and vision of the Ipswich Public Schools.

Seven indicators follow which need timeframes.

3. Identify district measures that demonstrate student achievement and progress, display professional development and program process, and delineate student participation in extracurricular activities.

Three outcomes follow.

Discussion was lengthy including the question of measuring achievement which Dr. Hart defined as looking at base-line data, developing integrated performance units, and the impact of "growth" as better than "progress". Also, he called it the ability to distinguish successful habits of mind which, within the next few years, students will be able to do publicly demonstrating their achievements. Mr. Hopping suggested using Larry Seidler's expertise in comparing other schools' achievement measures. Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to accept Goal 3 with the understanding that the action steps will continue to be tweaked as the SC moves on. UNANIMOUS.

4. Support and encourage the Superintendent in his endeavor to lead the school district as the (new) educational initiatives are implemented and maintained.

Four outcomes follow which need timeframes.

In discussion, Mr. Hopping asked to tighten the action steps, not leaving goals to interpretation. He also suggested that when Dr. Hart meets with parents before a School Committee meeting one School Committee member accompany him. Mr. Nylen wished to promote an environment of safe and honest communication and suggested dropping the “assessment” because all the goals will be assessed. Mr. Hopping requested that Dr. Gresh work with Mrs. Krason on the fourth goal for presentation at the January 8th School Committee meeting.

**C. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINI-GRANT MIDYEAR REPORT**

Ms. Player reported on tightening up a Mid Year Report with new wording for effectiveness and successes, concerns and/or problems. If a mini-grant project has been completed by February 1, there will be only one report. No changes have been made to the final report. Mr. Hopping suggested clarifying the scale of 1-10, 10 being the best, and Mr. Nylen suggested tightening up/combining #5 and #6 and providing supporting evidence. In the final report, Mr. Hopping suggested commentary from grant receivers on improvement, successes, etc.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to support the edits made to the Mini-grant midyear report by the mini-grant committee. UNANIMOUS.

**D. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - STEAM**

Dr. Hart played a short video entitled “How Playing an Instrument Benefits Your Plan” by TED Ed. and presented a sheet of 8 questions to get the Committee thinking, speaking to how important the “A” (Art) is in the acronym STEAM. The overwhelming theme of the short film is that the ability to play an instrument uses all parts of a person’s brain and greatly enhances that person’s chances for an excellent education. Mrs. Bauman and Dr. Gresh commented that it made obvious the district’s commitment to a music program and distinguishes the schools. Mr. Nylen and Ms. Player commented on quantification of progress with awards won, individually and in groups, for their achievements. Dr. O’Flynn added that brain studies (exercising the brain) can also be employed in sports.

**E. VOTE MEMBER OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO PARTICIPATE ON STEAM STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Hart announced that a needs assessment is the first part for the Strategic Planning Committee. The organization that will be facilitating a part of the future planning process will have a three-day commitment beginning in late March, two days working intensively to make a draft document and a third day to complete it. The group, made up of people from Biolabs, Santron, teachers, School Committee, administrators, and parents, will have a working draft by April. Following Mr. Hopping’s suggestion, Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to elect Jen Bauman as the School Committee representative to the STEAM Strategic Planning Committee. UNANIMOUS.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Having met with administrators last week, the Budget Workshop meets on Dec. 21.

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman announced that Dr. Gresh will follow up on the environmental project in Costa Rica. The group met with Mr. Fabrizio who is really excited about the Middlebury College foreign language program to open next trimester where 20 students go online, then work at home. He will meet with these students each week. Also, a visit has been made to Hewlett-Packard's IT center.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

Maureen Fay has been named as the new member to the Mini-grant Committee. Mr. Hopping thanked the other applicants for their interest. The Payne Grant committee has an opening as well.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping announced that the School Committee is not required to evaluate the Superintendent twice but rather perform a mid-cycle review. He suggested the week of February to Dr. Hart for his update to the School Committee (a response to his goals) which then becomes a part of his summative evaluation at the end of the year. The evaluation process is a five-step cycle. Mr. Hopping read to the School Committee the information they must use for the Superintendent evaluation in the data-gathering process.

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Nysten reported that they will meet on January 5th. On January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, as part of the NESDEC School Choice Study, a representative will interview Town officials, School Committee members and other stakeholder groups.

7. NEW BUSINESS

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Nysten, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of December 4, 2014, Open Session.

Acceptance of a health services grant from the Newburyport Public Schools to the Middle School for \$1,500

Acceptance of a donation from the Ipswich Education Foundation in the amount of \$20,000 from the Institution for Savings and \$15,000 from NE Biolabs to go towards the STEAM project. UNANIMOUS.

The School Committee questioned the involvement with Newburyport's schools. Dr. Hart thanked the Ipswich Education Foundation for their work to bring in the phenomenal \$20,000 from Institution for Savings and NE Biolabs for their \$15,000 donation and the collaboration with their scientists. Dr. Gresh proposed an event where donors are brought in for a formal thank-you.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to go into Executive Session at 8:53 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, Nylen, Hopping, Player, O'Flynn, Krason and Gresh.