

## Ipswich School Committee

MS/HS Ensemble Room

134 High Street, Ipswich

Thursday, June 16, 2022

7:00 PM

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Pavica Kneedler (Chair Pro Tem) at 7:00 PM.

Present: Ms. Kneedler, Mr. Stevens, Ms. Eliot, Ms. Cannon, Ms. Freehan, Ms. Donahue and Mr. Poirier

Also Present: Dr. Brian Blake, Superintendent of Schools and Cheryl Herrick-Stella, Director of Finance and Operations

#### 2. Reading of the District Mission Statement

Ms. Freehan read the mission statement.

#### 3. Announcements

- The School Committee retreat will be held on August 10th. Location and time are still to be determined.
- All schools and district offices will be closed on Monday, June 20th
- The last day of school for students is Tuesday, June 21st. This will be an early release for all students. The middle and high schools will dismiss at 11:20 AM and the elementary schools will dismiss at 11:55 AM. Grab and go lunches and transportation will be available. The Extended Day Program will also be running.
- The first round of community listening sessions on the future of the elementary school buildings will take place on July 26 and August 1. More information on the time and location of these meetings will be shared in the upcoming week.

#### 4. Special Acknowledgements

Ms. Stevens congratulated the Middle School girls' track team for their state championship win.

Ms. Kneedler and Ms. Eliot mentioned concerts that took place at the schools.

Ms. Donahue talked about the 8th Grade Civics Fair and how amazing it was.

Dr. Blake mentioned the staff in its entirety, talking about how they persevered through another challenging year.

#### 5. Citizens' Comments

*Irene Josephson, Washington Street:* Reached out to the Office of the Attorney General with concerns over the Open Meeting Law and hosting a public meeting in a private space. She then read the response she received:

*The Open Meeting Law applies when a quorum of public body members meet and deliberate, that is, communicate about public body business, regardless of where the meeting takes place. When such communications occur, they must be done in properly posted meetings, even if such communications occur during a retreat meeting. However, if public body members are not deliberating about public body business, then technically a meeting as defined under the Open Meeting Law has not occurred. It is not a violation of the Open Meeting Law for public body members to be in the same place at the same time, provided that no deliberation occurs. If members simply want to socialize and not deliberate about board business, then such communications would not be considered deliberation as it is defined in the Open Meeting Law. If there is no deliberation, then there is no meeting and the public body would not need to post notice or keep minutes.*

*Please be advised that discussions regarding procedural or administrative matters may relate to public business within a body's jurisdiction, including whether the body should consider or take action on specific topics during a meeting. The Open Meeting Law does not carve out an exception to the definition of "deliberation" for procedural discussions among public body members about how its meetings should be run, and a discussion concerning the leadership of a public body is considered a matter of public business that should be reserved for an open meeting. Discussion of a public body's operation is public business within the body's jurisdiction.*

Ms. Josephson also asked about holding a public meeting in a room that was not large enough to accommodate everyone who wished to attend. She read the response she received:

*All meetings of public bodies must be open and accessible to the public, unless an executive session is convened. Although the OML does not specifically prohibit public bodies from holding meetings in private buildings, meeting in a room that is too small to accommodate the public would likely violate the Open Meeting Law as public bodies must make reasonable efforts to accommodate anticipated crowds. For in-person meetings, access to a meeting must include the opportunity to be physically present, as well as to see and hear what is being discussed by the members of the public body. In addition, for an in-person meeting to be truly "open to the public," it must be held at a location that is accessible to persons with disabilities.*

## **6. Presentations**

### **A. Presentation on English Learner (EL) Program**

Dr. Blake began by stating that the district has experienced a significant increase in the English Learner (EL) population. He asked the EL teachers to present an overview of their work in the district.

Gabby Archambault, an EL teacher at the high school, first defined the terms English Learner and Multilingual Learner. She shared that there is now a shift to the term Multilingual Learner (ML) which recognizes that most people in this group speak multiple languages. She then shared the various profiles of a Multilingual Learner- newcomer, born in the U.S. and SIFE (someone with limited education).

The group then reviewed the process for identifying multilingual learners. This includes the home language survey completed at the time of registration.

Sarah Trotsky, EL teacher at Doyon, talked about the demographic of EL students and the languages they speak. She then shared the number of EL students from 2019 to present day, highlighting the increase in this population.

The group reviewed the programs used to educate EL students. They shared that most districts use Sheltered English Immersion (SEI). Students spend most of their day with an SEI content-licensed teacher (general education) and depending on proficiency, they spend 1-3 periods a day with a EL licensed teacher. This year, the EL team has spent a great deal of work on curriculum and instruction design. They have purchased and developed curriculum around the WIDA standards. They also created a unified document for elementary service delivery, curriculum and assessment.

Ms. Archambault talked about the student engagement and leadership opportunities throughout the district. This year, Ms. Archambault led the multilingual learners club which held showcases in both the fall and spring highlighting student work, food and culture.

Lisa Nylen, EL teacher at Winthrop, discussed the family engagement and outreach work the team has done. They have increased their introduced communication platforms that allow for translation, increased interpretation services and provided an ongoing list of services throughout Ipswich that meet the needs of the whole family. The group has also established community connections to help assist families with the registration process.

Ms. Nylen then talked about what is next for the EL department. She shared that the department is working on an EL website for all IPS educators to access resources including work on the WIDA standards and the role of an EL teacher. There is ongoing professional development offered which was piloted by Ms. Archambault around multilingual learners. All work coming from that professional development will also be posted to the newly created website.

Ms. Nylen talked through the process of how a new ELL student is integrated into the district. Once identified through the home language survey, the family will meet with the school principal and talk about placement. This year, the department began meeting with the whole family before the child starts. The classroom teacher is provided with an Ipad for translation, as well as other materials so that the student can access the same program their classmates are using. These students follow the same trajectory as English speaking students.

Ms. Nylen then discussed how the department supports the social/emotional aspect of moving into the district as an EL student. She said that students are generally really happy to be in school, at least at the elementary level. Ms. Archambault added that the team is still working on finding the right supports for secondary students. She acknowledged that it can be difficult when the students first arrive. Ms. Archambault checks in with the students and works with the counseling team to see how to best support each student.

The group discussed spacing needs and acknowledged that it can be a challenge. They agreed that teachers have been flexible and accommodating when needed.

## **B. School Committee Reorganization- Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary (taken out of order 7:08 PM)**

As the senior member of the School Committee, Ms. Kneedler opened the meeting and asked for nominations for the position of Chair. Ms. Cannon then nominated Ms. Stevens.

- *Motion to appoint Greg Stevens as Chair of the School Committee was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Donahue. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

Mr. Stevens, as the newly appointed Chair, then asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Stevens nominated Ms. Eliot.

- *Motion to appoint Kate Eliot as Vice Chair for the School Committee was made by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Ms. Donahue. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***
- *Motion to appoint Dr. Brian Blake as Secretary to the School Committee was made by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Ms. Kneedler. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

Dr. Blake then deferred the role of Secretary to Laura Hillery.

## **C. William Paine Enhancement Grant Approval**

Mr. Poirier started by discussing the grant approval process. The committee met over four nights to review the process and grants and then make recommendations.

Heather Leonard, Chair of the William Paine Enhancement Grant Committee, first thanked the committee members for their support, and commitment of time. She then talked about the positions open for the upcoming school year.

Ms. Leonard then reviewed a brief history of the Feoffee Grants, outlining where the money came from and the mission statement of the grant committee. She shared that the disbursement amount for this year's grant was \$656,487. The total amount for all grant applications submitted was \$828,108. Ms. Leonard shared that the committee, when reviewing grants, did not look dollar by dollar; instead, they looked at each grant as a whole.

Ms. Leonard reviewed each grant and shared the Paine Grant Committee's recommendation to the School Committee:

### **1. Replacement of Track Record Board: Requested by Martin Binette**

This grant was able to be funded through an alternative source.

### **2. 21st Century Music Classroom: Requested by Beth Hagan-Haltneier**

- Amount Requested: \$36,349.13
- School Population (location & grades) targeted by proposal: 8th grade, with possible expansion to 7th grade and HS
- Goal of Proposal: The goal of this proposal is to diversify the music education which currently takes place in Ipswich Middle School. Music technology and "Modern Band" are movements in education which are relevant and teach skills for lifelong music making and important life skills to all students.
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Unanimous Support

- *Motion to approve the 21st Century Music Classroom Paine Grant as presented was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Mr. Poirier. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

### **3. Elementary Library Tech Enhancement: Requested by Karen Sekiguchi and Teresa Hohenstein**

- Amount Requested: \$31,000
- School Population (location & grades) targeted by proposal: Doyon and Winthrop Elementary Schools; Pre-K-5th grades
- This grant would provide us with the necessary tools to support the Digital Literacy and Computer Science standards at the elementary level. The standards are comprehensive and require students to create digital artifacts,

collaborate with peers, and think critically about computer science concepts. Access to these digital tools will help our students and teachers develop this new literacy skill.

- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Unanimous Support

➤ *Motion to approve the Elementary Library Tech Enhancement Paine Grant was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Kneedler. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

**4. Place Based Learning: Requested by Sarah Goodale-O'Brien, Amy Sullivan, Kathleen McMahon, Jonathan Mitchell**

- Amount Requested: \$108,000
- Number of students that will benefit from the grant, if funded: Approximately 1,670 students
- This year's request from the four building principals of the Ipswich Schools demonstrate our resolve to reinstate powerful learning experiences through place-based learning. The increasing costs of transportation and family need make this an issue of equity. We strive to ensure that all Ipswich students, regardless of family finance, can participate fully in the valuable learning opportunities we offer. All Ipswich students should have access to the area's natural resources, cultural connections, and historic landmarks.
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Unanimous Support

➤ *Motion to approve the Place Based Learning Paine Grant was made by Ms. Kneedler and seconded by Ms. Cannon. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

**5. Dual Enrollment: Requested by Claire Powers**

- Amount Requested: \$13,700
- School Population (location & grades) targeted by proposal: Ipswich High School Juniors and Seniors
- Goal of Proposal: Offer Understanding Higher Education and Career Pathways during the school day for college and honors high school credit
  - Targets students who need more confidence and are exploring post-graduate options; first generation students; students on free/reduced lunch
  - We anticipate that it will be part of the school budget next year
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Unanimous Support

Ms. Leonard clarified that the grant will cover the cost of the teacher, student enrollment and course credit.

➤ *Motion to approve the Dual Enrollment Paine Grant was made by Ms. Kneedler and seconded by Ms. Cannon. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

**6. Doyon Playground Project: Requested by Sarah Goodale-O'Brien, representing the Playground Committee**

- Amount Requested: \$170,906
- School Population Targeted by Proposal: 354 students in grades K-5
- Goal of Proposal: The Paul F. Doyon Memorial School community seeks funding to create an equitable and inclusive outdoor education area that involves a playground and a sensory walking path. This area would be open to the entire Ipswich community, and would also provide a link to the vast natural resources of the nearby Willowdale State Forest, thus providing enrichment to all of the area's young people.
  - Ground Cover to replace current ground
  - Improve ADA compliance and inclusivity
  - Walking Path to connect the areas of the playground
  - Phase 1 of playground equipment
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Unanimous Support

It was clarified that the playground equipment could be moved at any time should there be a need to relocate.

There was a brief discussion around the "community build" mentioned in the application. Community members could assist with the construction of the equipment with oversight from the playground equipment company.

- *Motion to approve the Doyon Playground Project Paine Grant was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Kneedler. The motion passed unanimously in favor.*

#### **7. Visualizing and Verbalizing: Requested by Colleen Harrington**

- Amount Requested: \$9,745.89
- School Population targeted by proposal: Approximately 60 students from Doyon and Winthrop elementary schools will directly benefit from the comprehensive V&V intervention. All elementary students will benefit from the grant through the use of comprehension strategies learned and shared throughout the school community through curriculum planning time.
- Goal of Proposal: Training in Visualizing and Verbalizing will include how to use graphic organizers to support language understanding as well as structure words to aid students in creating mental images that support efficient and effective comprehension of grade level material. This training will allow teachers to implement interventions and strategies to support students who display specific language and reading comprehension difficulties as well as all readers and writers in developing effective language skills to support reading and writing at grade level.
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Unanimous Support

Ms. Cannon asked if this grant could support all students that need targeted training and whether it could be integrated into general education classrooms at both Doyon and Winthrop.

- *Motion to approve the Visualizing and Verbalizing Paine Grant was made by Ms. Kneedler and seconded by Ms. Cannon. The motion passed unanimously in favor.*

#### **8. Doyon 3rd Grade Plimoth and Patuxet: Requested by Betsy Castonguay, Andrea Welch**

- Amount Requested: \$6430
- School Population (location & grades) targeted by proposal: Doyon 3rd Grade
- Goal of Proposal: This grant would provide funding for a 3rd Grade extended day field trip to Plimoth & Patuxet Museums and the Mayflower II replica. The trip to these living history museums aligns directly with our 3rd grade Massachusetts History & Social Sciences Curriculum Frameworks study of Massachusetts history including the Pilgrims and Native Peoples. It would provide the perfect opportunity for us to connect the history we teach with Massachusetts historic sites.
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Unanimous Support

There was a discussion on why this grant did not fall under the Place Based Learning grant. It was explained that the Place Based Learning grant was to be used as a subsidy for the cost of trips, this grant was for the cost of the entire trip. It was the hope of the School Committee that Winthrop would be included in this grant should it be presented again next year.

- *Motion to approve the Doyon 3rd Grade Plimoth and Patuxet Paine Grant was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Eliot. The motion passed unanimously in favor.*

#### **9. Cardio Room: Requested by Jonathan Mitchell**

- Amount Requested: \$30,350
- School Population (location & grades) targeted by proposal: Students in grades 6-12
- If granted, the funds will go towards the transformation of the “aerobics room” into a flexible learning space known as the “cardio room.” Once outfitted with not only new cardio-themed fitness equipment, but also flexible seating and state-of-the-art portable A/V equipment, the space will be transformed into a valuable resource for both the middle and high schools. Students and staff alike will be able to use the space during and after school to work on their cardiovascular health, which once improved, will lead to not only better physical health, but also mental health.
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Not recommended, 1 in favor, 5 opposed

Ms. Leonard explained that the grant committee has concerns on the number of students that would be impacted and the logistics of timing. The committee felt there was some confusion with the goals of the grant.

Mr. Stevens expressed disappointment that the grant was not recommended. He felt there was a general interest among students and having an onsite cardio room would keep kids at school, rather than heading over to the YMCA.

Mr. Poirier explained that one of the concerns from the committee was staffing. He also said there were questions about what could be considered as a capital expenditure versus grant funded.

Ms. Cannon said she agreed with Mr. Stevens. She felt that anything that could give kids support around mental health is needed. She would like this to go back to the grant committee to flush out the questions/details.

Ms. Leonard explained that the grant application focused more on the physical space than it did on the enrichment opportunities for students. She said the committee felt it lacked a clear plan and they could not vote on what they wished the grant could be.

It was suggested that this discussion be tabled until the end of the presentation.

After circling back on this application, the School Committee agreed that it was best to respect the Paine Grant Committee's recommendation. Mr. Stevens encouraged the applicant to come back next year with more detail.

- *Motion to support the recommendation of the Paine Grant Committee was made by Ms. Kneedler and seconded by Ms. Donahue. **The motion passed with 6 in favor and 1 opposed.***

#### **10. Improving Student Achievement through Adult Learning: Requested by Jonathan Mitchell**

- Amount Requested: \$47,392.00
- School Population (location & grades) targeted by proposal: District
- The objective of the grant is to empower teachers with the knowledge and expertise to help students develop skills that will help them succeed across multiple academic domains. Further, the proposed grant would allow district leaders to address exigent adult learning needs as they arise.
  - Ipswich High School: student support team to American School Counselors Association conference in Austin, TX
  - Ipswich Middle School: ELA teachers to NCTE annual convention with the purpose of exploring best practices in the interdisciplinary teaching of reading and writing
  - Winthrop: Build teacher expertise in areas to better support our most vulnerable students
  - Paul F. Doyon: Responsive Classroom Training
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Unanimous Support

- *Motion to approve the Improving Student Achievement through Adult Learning Paine Grant was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Kneedler. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

#### **11. 2022 College Application Boot Camp: Requested by Justine May, Claire Powers**

- Amount Requested: \$12,250
- School Population (location & grades) targeted by proposal: Ipswich High School - rising seniors
- Goal of Proposal: Provide a free enrichment opportunity for rising seniors
  - Financial Aid- application process, net price calculators, FAFSA4caster, range of college cost
  - Interview Skills -heightened anxiety around interviewing, especially since the pandemic
  - Only 25% said they would participate if there was a fee associated with the camp
  - Increased importance of the essay with rise of optional SAT/ACT scores
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Unanimous Support

- *Motion to approve the College Application Boot Camp Paine Grant was made by Ms. Kneedler and seconded by Ms. Cannon. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

#### **12. HS Music Department England Trip: Requested by Gerry Dolan, Michael Coelho, Abby Frost, Sean Lee**

- Amount Requested: \$128,600
- Number of students that will benefit from the grant, if funded: Approximately 225
- Every four years our music department seeks to give our ensembles the experience of traveling internationally and sharing the joy of making music outside of the borders of the United States. This year's trip dates are April 13th thru April 21st 2023. One of the tenets of music education in Ipswich is that we create equitable access for all students regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic status.

- We would like to seek a 50% reduction for students who meet the “Free and Reduced” Lunch criteria.
- We would like to seek a 50% reduction for one sibling in families who will be sending multiple children.
- We would like to seek \$8,700 to cover expenses that are additional charges on the tour.
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Approved, with 1 abstention

Mr. Stevens shared that the current cost of the trip per student is \$3,400.

- *Motion to approve the HS Music Department England Trip Paine Grant was made by Ms. Kneedler and seconded by Ms. Cannon. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

### **13. Creating Innovators Part 2: Requested by Kathy McMahon**

- Amount Requested: \$94,500
- Number of students that will benefit from the grant, if funded: Approximately 370 students
- Our goal is to bring computer science standards and content across the Ipswich Public Secondary Schools in order to help students develop life long skills of creativity, communication, collaboration, and perseverance. Specifically, this grant would fund:
  - A Computer Science Teacher for grades 6-8 to lead inquiry-based, Code.org Computer Science curriculum
  - The completion of a flexible "Zoom Room" at the MS/HS that can serve as a room for teaching Computer Science.
  - Additional materials to support the Code.org Computer Science curriculum at the Middle School and subscriptions to support virtual field trips for the Zoom Room, including subscriptions for streaming services.
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation: Approved with 1 opposed, 1 abstention

Ms. Cannon asked how this grant was considered enrichment if it included the integrated computer science standards. It was explained that these initiatives would not otherwise be in the middle school and it helps with a continuation of standards from the elementary schools. She then asked if the district would meet the computer science standards without the grant. This level of programming is above and beyond the standards and allows kids to get into computer science classes at the high school level and higher.

There was some discussion about funding a position and when those grant funded positions would move into the appropriated budget.

- *Motion to approve the Creating Innovators Part 2 Paine Grant was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Kneedler. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

### **14. MS/HS STEAM Innovation Learning Spaces: Requested by Tracy Wagner, Jonathan Mitchell, Kathy McMahon**

- Requested Amount: \$263,661
- Questions/Concerns
  - Why wasn't this project considered for a Capital Plan request? FinCom reports having asked about capital projects for MS/HS needs.
  - Why was the decision to go for the middle request vs. the 'top' request, was it because that is best for our students, or because it was decided to seek funding from Paine Grant only and would have cost too much?
  - Who was part of this process to decide and recommend? Were teachers included or was it administration only?
  - It seems as if some of the items are basic safety, things that need to be done and therefore funded through operating budget/facilities? What is really innovative... what part of this grant is appropriately aligned with the Paine Grant purpose.
- Paine Grant Committee Recommendation:
  - Vote #1: Partially fund the grant with \$165,215 (5 in favor, 1 abstain)
  - Vote #2: Recommend fully funding the grant with \$165,215 from current allocation, and School Committee funding the remainder with "left over" funds from prior year Paine Grants (3 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstain)

Ms. Cannon first asked why the district would fund health and safety upgrades through a Paine Grant. She wanted to know why a project like this would not fall under the capital plan if it were bringing the space into compliance. Ms. Cannon also raised concerns with overall inflation and supply chain issues, questioning whether it was fiscally responsible to take on a heavy remodel at this time.

Mr. Stevens felt that in a perfect world, this type of project would be considered a capital project; however, the district is facing other significant capital projects, along with continued issues at the elementary schools. He felt that using these grant funds would be a good way to enhance the facilities the district has to help improve the current programs and make them more competitive. He did suggest that a project of this size would take more than a year to complete.

The discussion continued on the size of the project, the specific cost and concerns over what would happen if the projected costs increased as the project moved forward.

Ms. Donahue felt that this project did not feel like a Paine Grant and questioned whether the School Committee would support fixing plumbing issues at the elementary schools through a Paine Grant in the future.

Mr. Stevens felt that the plumbing issues at the elementary schools would fall under a capital expense because it was to fix issues with existing infrastructure. The grant in question will bring in new equipment to the science labs that will enhance programs and create space that is not currently available.

Ted Spinale, member of the William Paine Enhancement Grant Committee, spoke about the decision to support this grant. He felt that the grant would allow the district to elevate the science labs from their current “bare bones” state. These improvements would allow for STEAM programs to grow.

Ms. Cannon said that while she understood the potential of the grant, she wished there was a way to fund the capital piece of the grant differently.

Mr. Poirier asked if the School Committee could see what Tier 1 of the consultant report was and then revisit the grant at a later time.

At this time, the School Committee decided it was best to table this discussion. There was not vote on this grant.

Ms. Leonard shared recommendations for the future of the grants:

- Applications & Committee recommendations: Earlier in the year
  - Early Spring (March?)
  - Non-Dated application forms: Allow them to be standing & reused and applied at any time
  - Timing for disbursement?
- School Committee/District: Provide Clarity on Grants
  - What grants are available in Ipswich? What is the purpose of each grant?
  - Provide transparency & clarity for applicants and committee members
- Applications:
  - Consider application revision components:
    - Is this a repeat grant? Do you expect it to become a repeat grant?
    - Signature of admin approval ensures alignment to grant purposes
- Encourage more broad applications
  - 2022: 71% of requested money from admin, 29% from teachers
  - 2021: 66% admin requests, 34% teacher requests
  - 2020: 80% admin requests, 20% teacher requests
  - “How To” tutorial in fall for grant applications

#### **D. Potential Vote on Use of Excess Feoffee Funds**

This agenda item was not needed.



## **E. Finance Update**

Ms. Herrick-Stella shared an update on the status of the end-of-year fiscal closeout. She reported that as of this meeting, 99% of funds had been expended. She then gave an update on the status of each ESSER grant, stating that:

- ESSER 1 was fully expended
- ESSER 2 was 75% expended
- ESSER 3 was 10% expended

She then reviewed the totals in all revolving accounts, as well as the Stabilization Fund.

Mr. Poirer asked if there was any indication of potential increases in food service costs should the pending bill for universal lunches not pass for the upcoming school year. Ms. Herrick-Stella said that while the balance in the revolving account could help, the fund would still lose money because costs have skyrocketed. The business office will come before the School Committee with any necessary recommendations should they be needed if the bill does not pass.

## **F. CRC Liaison and Town Manager Interview Committee Liaison Assignment**

Mr. Stevens shared that the Town was seeking School Committee representatives to serve on the Climate Resiliency Committee and the Town Manager Interview Committee.

Ms. Donahue expressed interest in serving on the Town Manager Interview Committee.

- *Motion to appoint Jen Donahue as the School Committee representative to the Town Manager Interview Committee was made by Ms. Kneedler and seconded by Ms. Cannon. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

Ms. Kneedler expressed interest in serving on the Climate Resiliency Committee.

- *Motion to appoint Pavica Kneedler as the School Committee representative to the Climate Resiliency Committee was made by Ms. Eliot and seconded by Mr. Poirier. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

## **G. Listening Session Outreach Planning**

Ms. Eliot started off by reviewing the dates for the first round of listening sessions. She said the School Committee needed to discuss the plan for community outreach around these sessions.

Ms. Cannon provided feedback on the draft flier for distribution. She felt that it was important to highlight that the listening sessions were going to be moderated by Bill Logue. She also suggested that the language be changed around reviewing key facts from the last project. She felt that there were no key facts and the group was starting from scratch. She wanted to avoid the potential to debate the history of the old project.

Ms. Eliot talked about wordsmithing some of the document to ensure that the community understood that the meetings would be facilitated by an outside group and that this would be an inclusive process for all. She then responded to Ms. Cannon's concerns over the "key facts". Ms. Eliot said that it was Bill Logue's suggestion that they include an introduction which highlights the state of the current buildings, the potential costs to repair them and reference to the former unsuccessful project.

Dr. Blake added that the former failed project cannot be ignored. While some feel the town already knows the details of the last attempt, Dr. Blake felt there was a whole new population in Ipswich. He said the group needs to talk about the challenges and the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process. The community should understand the timeline needed for a Statement of Interest (SOI) submission. Dr. Blake reminded the group that Bill Logue has experience with this.

Ms. Donahue asked for clarification on the timeline. Ms. Stevens said they are looking into the requirements for an SOI submission and whether they will need to go to Town Meeting for votes around location.

There was a discussion on how the flier would be distributed and when.

## **H. Overnight Field Trip Request: Washington, D.C**

Dr. Blake presented an overnight field trip request to Washington. The group, led by Jeff Krieger, will be participating in the Close Up program. This trip is held annually.

- *Motion to approve the overnight field trip request for the Close Up Washington trip was made by Ms. Kneedler and seconded by Ms. Cannon. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

### **7. Superintendent's Administrative Report**

Dr. Blake reported on his work throughout the district in weeks since that last School Committee meeting. His report included:

- Attendance at the high school graduation
- Attendance at the 8th Grade Civics Fair and 7th Grade mini golf project
- Review of the technology department and facilities department plans for the summer
- Dr. Blake also shared the retirement of Gerry Dolan as the Fine Arts Director. Michael Coelho has been chosen to take over in that role.
- Central Office and the schools are working hard to close out the current school year.
- All collective bargaining unit contracts have reached tentative agreements.
- Schools are preparing to recognize Juneteenth with the raising of the Juneteenth flag. Resources have also been shared with teachers and students.
- Dr. Blake finished his report by sharing the latest COVID numbers.

### **8. Subcommittee, Working Group and Liaison Reports**

- **Policy Subcommittee:** The group presented policy *IJ-R: Reconsideration of Instructional Resources* for approval.

- *Motion to support changes to policy IJ-R: Reconsideration of Instructional Resources as presented was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Kneedler. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

### **9. New Business\***

Ms. Donahue asked about reviewing the suggested changes to the Paine Grants that Heather Leonard presented to the School Committee. Mr. Stevens said that would be discussed during the School Committee workshop.

### **10. Vouchers and Bills**

All were reviewed and signed.

### **11. Consent Agenda**

- *Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was made by Mr. Stevens and seconded by Ms. Cannon. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

### **12. Adjournment**

- *Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Cannon and seconded by Ms. Kneedler. **The motion passed unanimously in favor.***

**Meeting adjourned at 9:46 PM**