

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 7, 2015
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair C. Nylen called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. with the following members present: F. Krason, S. Player, H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, and S. Gresh (8:45 p.m.). Also present were Superintendent Hart and Finance Director Cuff.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mrs. Krason read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylen read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA, AFSCME, and personnel matters after which the meeting will adjourn.

Policy Subcommittee meets on May 11, 5:30-7:30, Payne School

Annual Town Meeting will take place on May 12, 7 p.m., PAC Center

Town elections will be held on May 19, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., Ipswich YMCA

School Committee will meet on May 21, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Nylen spoke of this week being Teacher Appreciation Week, as an opportunity to give thanks and recognition to all of the folks who work with educating our children. Dr. Hart commented that, as this week is celebrated across the state and country, these educators are the most respected people in the country. The recognition of how outstanding our teachers are goes all across the community. The big indicator for him as he started meeting every month with students, is that they clearly and articulately speak of their regard for their teachers. He thanked all the teachers for a wonderful job of capturing excellence in education. Mrs. Bauman said that the last 4-5 years she has coordinated the Teachers' Luncheon at Winthrop where 40-50 parents submit food, drink, and raffle tickets. Ms. Player said that the Doyon School has an Italian theme and it is nice to serve the teachers with time for them to sit together and build culture. Dr. O'Flynn hopes that, as the Town rallies behind the override, it will validate appreciation further.

RULE OF NECESSITY

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to invoke the Rule of Necessity so that Dr. O'Flynn and Mr. Nylen could participate in Executive Session discussion.

UNANIMOUS.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported on the Payne Grant applications which he submitted for review/approval by the Payne Grant Committee, the largest request being to support an artificial turf field at the football stadium. Other requests included funding for international student leadership conferences, STEAM programming, enhanced technology, professional development, and post-secondary support for SPED students. The committee meets next week to review all eight proposals.

On April 30, Dr. William Daggett spoke to educators in the afternoon and the community in the evening concerning the need to invest in education, making a compelling argument for why it is important to continuously improve local schools. Daggett complimented the Successful Habits of Mind and STEAM work that the Ipswich district is doing.

Curriculum-unit preparation continues for the June 21st Century Curriculum Sharings at all three educational levels—a testament to the dedication of the faculty and just the first step in a multi-year journey. These opportunities for sharing will occur on June 4 (1:30-3:30) for Middle/High Schools and June 10 (3:15-4:15) for the elementary schools.

At Subs with the Superintendent, Dr. Hart met with High School students who demonstrated their interest in his personal/professional background and their feedback covered topics on the new high school schedule and how important personalization is to education.

Mr. Nylén asked Dr. Hart to speak further on the turf field, and Dr. Hart replied that it is in the developmental stages and he is trying to take a multi-faceted approach to try to make this happen. “Debt exclusion” makes him nervous, one piece of a several-piece pie to see if there is a way of dividing the project. There is business support. Mr. Nylén commented that there is a well-established need for it in the Town and seems within our ability to execute, most of the funds coming from outside the budget.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**B. FY16 BUDGET RECAP**

Dr. Hart took a few minutes with a PowerPoint presentation to show the community the difference between what the target budget will mean and what the school district will lose, and what the override can do to get the schools back on track, having had audits and studies which show responsible management but need monetarily to support 21st Century and STEAM curriculum with personnel and materials.

Dr. O'Flynn is hopeful that the community understands the need. The *Chronicle* has printed a variety of letters. He hopes that the supporters will reach out to their friends. Ms. Player commented that it is critical for the success of the Town—a vibrant school system drives a vibrant town. Mr. Nylén remarked that Mr. Dalton and Mrs. McAdams, both longtime employees with the schools, are seeing this great system go downhill.

C. APPROVAL OF 2015-16 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Hart reviewed his draft calendar for 2015-16 which Ipswich Educators' Association had voted down. This one scheduled the teacher workshop in August. IEA proposes two additional options: IEA Option 1 has teacher workshops on August 30 and September 1; Option 2 has workshop days on September 2 and 3 and school starting on September 8, resulting in a 2016 closing of June 20/27 (depending on the number of snow days).

Dr. Hart suggested eliminating one option after stating that he did not feel strongly about any elements of his own draft. Dr. O'Flynn asked to have Graduation Day for seniors added to the calendar. Mrs. Bauman asked if there ever was any discussion about eliminating February and April vacations and making it one week; there was none.

After discussion, Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to eliminate IEA Option 2. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to send Dr. Hart's draft and IEA Option 1 back to IEA for their vote. UNANIMOUS.

D. DEBRIEF ON DAGGETT PRESENTATION

Dr. Hart began by thanking the Institution for Savings and New England Biolabs for their generous donations to allow two national/international guest speakers this year. The world has been connected to Ipswich, he said, because Ipswich was working closely with Dr. Daggett's organization in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Ipswich presented at the Model Schools Conference.

Dr. Hart presented three questions to the School Committee. Dr. O'Flynn stated that we measure MCAS but not SATs, important landmarks for the rest of students' lives, and need is to focus on their goals. Mrs. Bauman spoke of the shrinking of the Middle Class and the international testing in SATs and Daggett's comments re memorization. It helped her understand "powerful learning," how critical it is to get teachers to understand "Successful Habits of Mind." Mr. Nysten was struck by the fact that college professors still aren't teaching what employers want. Ms. Player commented that 89% of high school teachers say they are preparing students for college while college teachers say 22% are prepared! She said parents need to know what the skills and knowledge are for success in the job market and what the college institutions teach so that the kids can select the right school. Mr. Nysten followed up with the need for training and supporting school counselors. Mrs. Krason was impressed that Dr. Hart is right on track, and Dr. Daggett reinforced for her the way education is changing. Mr. Nysten commented on the need to change how educational structure is evolving and how to do it when MCAS and other traditional methods still continue. Dr. Hart commented that if students have a rigorous environment, they will do well because the project-based curriculum has taught them to problem solve. Because Ipswich does this, we are really well positioned for success at problem-solving, etc. Mrs. Bauman asked if any

Ipswich teachers are going to the Model School conferences, and Dr. Hart said it is incorporated into the override. School Committee members thanked the education foundations and urged Dr. Hart to go back to them for help.

E. UPDATE ON STEAM STRATEGIC PLANNING

Dr. Hart reported on the STEAM meetings which have prepared a needs assessment (which will be shared on the schools' website). Priority goals are: (1) Establish STEAM vision, (2) Define project scope, (3) Have a support system, and (4) Establish a team for standards, etc. Mrs. Bauman explained that the next step is to assemble a smaller team of 4-5 people identified for the vision study.

F. REVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS FOR TOWN MEETING

Mr. Nylen reviewed the Town Meeting assignments by Article number, topic, and School Committee member who is speaking on the topic.

G. CREST AMENDED ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

Dr. Hart explained the very few amended (on 4/11/15) portions: Dracut and Triton schools joining and Section IX: Procedure and Timeline for Admitting New Member Districts, G. Districts who are awaiting final approvals....will not have voting rights....but may qualify to participate on Advisory Committee and receive....reduction in tuition and services."

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the amendment to the CREST Amended and Restated Articles of Agreement. UNANIMOUS.

The Board wishes to hear more about the Collaborative, and Dr. Hart suggested that an agenda item might be combined with Dr. Hegedus' review of the CREST services to see if continuation with them makes sense.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Operations Subcommittee member H. O'Flynn reported that he and Mr. Hopping plan to present to the community the standards which manage the Superintendent and how his proficiency is measured at the May 21 School Committee meeting for review of his progress this year. Ms. Player and Mr. Nylen will be out of town.

Dr. Hart urged the Board to view his portfolio, a collection of evidence of the Standards, which is available at Central Office.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. O'Flynn reported that he, Principal Dalton, Supt. Hart, and Athletic Director Gallagher held early interviews, narrowed it to three applicants, and chose a new football coach.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman spoke of the work done by Ipswich Supports Education in support of the override.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

Payne Grants - Mrs. Bauman said the Committee will have reviewed and recommended the eight proposals next week for presentation to School Committee on May 21.

Mini Grants - Ms. Player and the Committee will meet at the Central Office tomorrow. Each member scores individually and meets again in early June to vote.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

6. POLICY – Mr. Nysten has a full agenda for May 11.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nysten reviewed upcoming events as follows:

- Brick Ceremony, Doyon – Hopping
- Junior Prom – Player, O’Flynn, Bauman, Krason
- Senior Prom – O’Flynn, Bauman, Krason, Gresh, Player
- Baccalaureate – Krason, Gresh
- Graduation – Bauman, Krason, Hopping, O’Flynn
- Doyon Moveup – Player, O’Flynn, Krason
- 8th Grade Graduation – Krason
- Honors Night – Krason, O’Flynn
- Winthrop Moveup – Bauman

Mr. Nysten announced that the beginning of the audit recommendations discussions on May 21 will involve Dr. Hegedus and SEPAC with SPED.

Mr. Nysten also felt the need for a strong discussion on the Winthrop building project and its design configuration.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Acceptance of Minutes of April 16, 2015, Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of April 28, 2015, Open Session
- Approval of the Ipswich High School Advanced Project Adventure overnight field trip to New Hampshire, June 5-7, 2015
- Acceptance of a donation of \$2,000 from the Robert Satter Charitable Trust to Birth to 3
- Acceptance of a donation of \$600 from the Ipswich Charitable Association for the High School Sustainability Project. UNANIMOUS.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 9 p.m. for the purpose of strategy for collective bargaining with IEA, AFSCME, and personnel matters after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call IN FAVOR- O'Flynn, Player, Krason, Nysten, Gresh, and Bauman.