

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2015  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair B. Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. with the following members present: H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, S. Gresh, S. Player, and C. Nylen. Also present were Superintendent Hart and Fin. Dir. Cuff.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Dr. O'Flynn 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 AFSCME, after which the meeting will return to Open Session.

School Committee will meet on June 18, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Dr. Hart recognized Samantha Colby, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, for her innovative teaching practices based on scientific insights. Of the 18 videos submitted, the most "likes" came from the Ipswich Middle School presentation and was voted by a panel of experts. (The video was shown at the meeting.) Dr. Hart commented that this is a reflection of the levels of engagement: the use of technology, microscopes, and the collaboration with their peers.

Dr. Hart congratulated Lori LaFrance who received two awards: (1)the 2015 Massachusetts Conservation Teacher of the Year by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and (2)Exemplary Science Teacher, again, a reflection of the continuing wonderful work at the Middle and High Schools.

Dr. O'Flynn mentioned the ongoing tournament wins by the boys' and girls' varsity lacrosse teams at State finals, and Mr. Hopping reported that the boys' tennis team reached the tournament level as well.

Mr. Hopping extended a heartfelt thank-you to the Central Office staff for their help in preparing materials in the successful override campaign, specifically mentioning Joanne Cuff and Kathy Carleton.

**PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF CHECK FROM IPSWICH EDUCATION FOUNDATION TO IHS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

Kevin Murphy of the Ipswich Education Foundation, in referring to the new high school football coach, spoke of the need for upgrading the weight room. Tim

Collins, President and CEO of EBSCO Industries, had come forward with a \$10,000 donation to buy the equipment. In addition, \$4,500 has been added to buy three more platforms to go underneath the structure for weight lifting. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Nylén, to accept the generous donation of \$10,000 of equipment to IEF and the \$4,500 for platforms, totaling \$14,500 to support all sports at the Middle and High Schools. UNANIMOUS. The June 18 School Committee agenda will have a full presentation.

#### **RULE OF NECESSITY**

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to invoke the Rule of Necessity so that all members could participate in Executive Session discussion. UNANIMOUS.

#### **A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Hart reported on end-of-year activities with administrators on procedures for checkouts, building maintenance/repairs, and several staff hirings, already posted and interviewing begun. A three-day curriculum development workshop is planned. The spending freeze has been lifted to allow principals to purchase materials.

On May 27, the two elementary principals met to plan for the integration of the Birth to Three Program into the Ipswich Public Schools and will be meeting to outline objectives and goals for this merger.

The Class of 2015 has graduated following a full week of activities including a senior cookout, Baccalaureate, and Boston Harbor cruise.

Mr. Nylén asked to see a draft plan for the Birth to Three integration, monitoring, and preparedness for participants in entering the school system. Dana Allen, Birth to Three Director, will be invited to the August 13 School Committee meeting. Mrs. Bauman asked to be a part of the integration process with the elementary principals.

### **I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

#### **B. SUMMATIVE REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Hart, in introducing Chris Burke, commented that \$600,000 worth of technology tools has been/is being implemented in the Ipswich system. Mrs. Burke, using Powerpoint, explained the extent of technology; i.e., 250 thin clients; 377 Chromebooks; 68 projectors, interactive or ceiling; 200 laptops; 8 changing carts; 76 teacher laptops. She spoke of 82% of teachers who know of/use Google Classroom, demonstrated it, and explained her professional development classes in Google Classroom with 30 teachers. Technology is used by 98% of the teachers and 93% of the students. She thanked Ms. Frash, IT Director, and her team. Twenty teacher-leaders, who help Mrs. Burke build capacity, will work with five in each building who, in turn, meet with other teachers. Her future hopes and dreams include having email accounts for grades 6-12, a continuation of replacing older equipment, and a hosting of a technology exhibit to the community.

Mr. Hopping, Ms. Player, and Mrs. Burke discussed the technology requests which have come from Feoffee mini-grant applications.

#### C. HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO COSTA RICA

Mr. Dalton introduced Lori LaPlante and the students who attended the Global Students Leadership Summit last March in Costa Rica courtesy of a Payne Grant (Feoffees). Andover and Groton-Dunstable schools from Massachusetts were also in attendance at the Summit. Ms. LaPlante spoke of the “design-thinking” process which they brought back and the “successful habits of mind” (SHOM). Twelve students had been selected (from the 16 who created and presented proposals) who spoke to a particular area of their experience including their observations, the wildlife, their interface with Andover and Groton-Dunstable peers, the eco systems, and how it all relates to a “sustainable vision for Ipswich”. Each student returned to the mic and gave his/her individual ongoing project for local sustainability including dogwaste, phragmite, and green-crab elimination in a new class taught by Ms. LaPlante—inquiry-based, project-based learning which is monitored and graded daily, weekly, and quarterly by Ms. LaPlante and offered at the High School, mainly for Grades 9 and 10.

#### D. 2015-16 WILLIAM PAYNE GRANTS

Mr. Hopping explained that Payne Grant (Feoffee) requests are forwarded to the School Committee for approval following their appraisal by a cross section of people and Dr. Hart.

Dr. Hart reviewed each grant for discussion and approval as follows:

(1) Building STEAM Capacity in a Student Leadership Summit on Exploring Human Rights - \$35,000

Partial responsibility for each student (\$4,500) will be the parent to pick up is \$1,500, and two scholarships will be offered. Focus is on sophomores who go before a panel before selection of 10-12 students. Dr. O’Flynn urged that the selection involve the educator who will be leading the group. Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to approve the \$35,000 Payne Grant entitled Building STEAM Capacity in a Student Leadership Summit on Exploring Human Rights. UNANIMOUS.

(2) Supporting Post-secondary Career-building in Special Education Students - \$34,800

This is seed money to get things moving for those who have not received a high-school diploma and is advocated by Mr. Dalton and Dr. Hegedus who feel this could become self-sustaining. Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve the \$34,800 Payne Grant entitled Supporting Post-secondary Career-building in Special Education Students. UNANIMOUS.

(3) Artificial Turf Installation at I H S Stadium - \$132,000

Dr. Hart explained that this money is for engineering studies and that a \$1.5 million amount will replace the current field with artificial turf and a \$2.3 million would add buildings and other features. Dr. O'Flynn explained that athletic fields are a huge problem and with multiple other areas of funding, this multi-use area can become a reality. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve the \$132,000 Payne Grant entitled Artificial Turf Installation at I H S Stadium. UNANIMOUS.

(4) District-wide Professional Development Opportunities -\$75,000

Discussion approved the continuance of professional development. Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve the \$75,000 Payne Grant entitled District-wide Professional Development Opportunities. UNANIMOUS.

(5) Enhancing Technology Initiatives - \$90,000

Dr. Hart said the intention for this money is to complete the expenditure with replacements to ensure investment and transition of equipment in a three-year rotation. Inventory is definitely kept and Mr. Hopping asked for coding to identify the pieces as Feoffee donations. Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to approve the \$90,000 Payne Grant entitled Enhancing Technology Initiatives. UNANIMOUS.

(6) Implementing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning in the Ipswich Public Schools - \$108,850

Dr. Hart explained that the purpose is to have every building supported by ongoing and embedded curriculum development with collaborative education and Compass groups. Mr. Hopping and Mr. Nysten had concerns regarding the CCE group who would oversee this and the future hiring of a Director of Teaching and Learning. After discussion, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Nysten, to delay approval of this Grant until the June 18 meeting when more information will have become available. UNANIMOUS.

(7) Orchestra Commission Project - \$17,500

Immediate reaction from the School Committee was all positive for a musical composition. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve the \$17,500 Payne Grant entitled Orchestra Commission Project. UNANIMOUS.

(8) Weaving Fibers through the Fabric of Learning - \$30,000

This is a STEAM initiative at the elementary schools. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to approve the \$30,000 Payne Grant entitled Weaving Fibers through the Fabric of Learning. UNANIMOUS.

**E. AUDIT CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Nylén, SC representative, gave a summative report on observations and recommendations of the recent audit:

Recommendations: Rewrite the curriculum policy

Improve standardized plan for the District and the

DESE outline to be followed with a corresponding action plan in three phases:

I – Director of Curriculum/Instruction

II – Evaluation of department heads as Chairs and full-time teachers

III – Standardize report cards in both elementaries

Implement curriculum plans into software-sharing plans

Have long-term plan/procedures for textbooks - prioritizing \$20,000/yr until caught up

Scheduling class size - replacing 3 positions at the Middle School

Athletics and Fine Arts: restore positions and develop strategic plan for Fine Arts

The next step for the School Committee, with some of these recommendations already underway due to the successful override, is to implement others and have a discussion of the purpose of textbooks. Mr. Nylén cited two impending needs: to share more and be clear on what the Middle School model will be in the coming year and to understand the implications for the High School schedule. Mr. Hopping declared that the School Improvement Plan is required by law and that needs to be bumped up on the list. Also, the Director of Teaching and Learning, given the importance of that position, must be a person who is in sync with the district and amenable to the faculty. The Screening Committee for the selection of this director was discussed. Feedback on the Director's job description will be forthcoming by June 16.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping and Dr. O'Flynn remarked on the tournaments' success with boys'/ girls' lacrosse and tennis. The new football coach will attend the June 18 meeting of the SC. MIAA football committee and sports medicine committee advocate limited football training before the season in transitional days and no contact. Mrs. Bauman asked if volleyball has been discussed; a JV team is being proposed for the fall.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

**4. GRANT COMMITTEES**

Mini-grant: Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to elect Mary Manos, high school teacher, to a spot on the Mini-grant Committee. UNANIMOUS.

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to elect Carston Ueckert-LaPlante, high school student, to a spot on the Mini-grant Committee. UNANIMOUS.

**5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Hopping thanked the group for their evaluations and mentioned that July is the final public evaluation report for the Superintendent.

**6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Nylen reported that the committee worked on three areas:

(1) Discussed reallocation of Choice at a building level and need for feedback from the secondary administrative team.

(2) Had discussion on Payne Grants about potential tweaks around the process and more info to the School Committee about their nature. Payne Grant committee going to attend a Policy meeting.

(3) Laid out process for going through and updating old Policy Manual. Executive Minutes releases will take place at the next meeting.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Acceptance of Open Session, May 21, 2015 School Committee  
Acceptance of Open Session, May 28, 2015 School Committee  
Acceptance of \$500 donation from Wellington Management Company, LLP, in connection with a Doyon parent donation to the Doyon Gift Fund Appeal. UNANIMOUS.

**IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to go into Executive Session at 10:50 p.m. for the purpose of strategy for collective bargaining with IEA and AFSCME, after which the meeting will return to Open Session. Roll call IN FAVOR- O'Flynn, Player, Hopping, Gresh, Nylen, and Bauman.

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OPEN SESSION resumed at 11:03 p.m.

Ms. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Nylen, that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ipswich School Committee and AFSCME, COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 2905, Food Services, dated 5/15/15, that has been extended from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, is now extended through June 30, 2018. UNANIMOUS.

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ipswich School Committee and AFSCME, COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 2905, Clerical, dated 5/15/15, that has been extended from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, is now extended through June 30, 2018. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Nysten, to adjourn at 11:05 p.m.  
UNANIMOUS