

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2015
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair H. O'Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, J. Bauman, B. Hopping, and S. Gresh. Also present were Superintendent Hart, and Fin. Dir. Cuff.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Hopping read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA and non-union employees after which the meeting will return to Open Session

Opening day for staff is August 31; first day of school is September 2

School Committee will meet September 3, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

RULE OF NECESSITY

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to invoke the Rule of Necessity because of conflict with the other three members whose relatives are employed by the Ipswich School System. UNANIMOUS.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart presented a budget update on August 11 to the Finance Committee, citing rising morale and enthusiasm among the school staff, enabling great class size, hiring really talented people, outlining Feoffee funds' benefits to the system. He was received in a supportive and appreciative way and said they understand the FTE additions made and are comfortable. Dr. O'Flynn added that charts were presented showing resignations and new-hires. Mrs. Bauman felt that charts produced every year will prove we are doing what we have said we would do.

Gerry Dolan has agreed to holding a .25FTE Fine Arts Director position to support the Fine Arts program.

Chris Burke and he met, discussing her professional development calendar for integrating technology into the classroom. The Technology Specialists will be facilitating building-based, after-school technology sessions and helping teachers to integrate technology into new curriculum units.

He distributed the district-wide sheets of status of positions and openings for the new school year. The majority of openings have been filled.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

B. IPSWICH SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Simca Horowitz, Farm-to-School Consultant, who submitted a 14-page report and recommendations on Ipswich Farm and School Planning, thanked the Payne Grant Committee for their funding of a food services director and introduced Nicole Whitten and Wayne Castonguay. Nicole, co-chair of Ipswich Sustainable Education (ISE) explained the mission of ISE as promoting local foods in school plus food/agriculture healthier education, increasing school lunch participation as well as the benefits for it, creating a healthier local economy, and providing great learning outcomes for students with all different sorts of learning styles. The vision statement of ISE reads: A partnership between Ipswich schools and the greater community that empowers every member to enrich their lives by tasting, feeling, and experiencing our local agriculture.

She outlined various activities such as the Dream Big event, whose purpose was to determine what interested parties want to see in the cafeteria, the classroom, curriculum, and community with more leadership. YMCA funding allowed the hiring of a part-time Food Services Director. Sheila McAdams took leadership in connecting each curriculum unit with the farm-to-school program.

The Three Sisters Garden Project non-profit was explained by Wayne Castonguay as a sustainable community inclusive of all citizens. He looks forward to helping plan and being a backstop in supporting school gardens, getting through the summer, and putting the gardens to bed in the fall.

Nicole continued with information about a Task Force to establish achievable concrete goals for the coming school year.

Two Ipswich teachers from the elementary schools, Kate Eliot and Gretchen Marinopoulos, attended a weekend workshop at Shelburne Farms, Vermont, and reported with enthusiasm about planting the garden with all the curriculum, composting, encouraging healthy living, getting students to think about choices, costs, problems in the real world, etc. A cohort of 16 teachers including administrators talked with Salem State University people as well.

Mrs. Bauman, as a member of the Payne Grant Committee, sees this project as “sustainable” now. Mr. Hopping commended them for their work. Ms. Player saw it as part of the culture of Ipswich. Dr. Hart called it exciting to see the concepts coming together, in particular “persistence” as one of the Successful Habits of Mind. Dr. O’Flynn appreciated the three former students (two now teachers) and Wayne, an important part of Ipswich--a special place.

C. TURF FIELD COMMITTEE REPORT

Kevin Murphy and Ken Swenson reported on their interviews with firms interested in the turf plans. Three firms had 30-minute interviews with the 8-person committee, with a goal to give all high-school sports a place to play on a good field with viewing stands. The RFP has three components: the turf field, natural grass at Doyon, and a building at the Welch Stadium with concession, kitchen, bathrooms, and two locker rooms. He gave thanks to J. Cuff for her work on the

RFP; Payne Grant is funding the engineering and design.

To Mr. Hopping’s question of funding, Mr. Swenson cited the current plan for two Fall Town Meeting warrants: (1)to change the spending criteria for the Open Space Bond to allow for spending money to assist publicly owned land (Doyon School and High School) rather than purchasing private lands; (2) providing #1 passes, to request \$1 million (\$800,000 at the High School and \$200,000 at the Doyon School), 40% of the total estimated cost of the project. In this project the proposed funds are basically private/public partnership; \$275,000 worth of hardware has been pledged. Several other organizations have pledged \$30-40,000. \$900,000 will come from other private sources which have been pledged over the years once the project comes together. Payne Grant money--\$132,000—for engineering and design will be augmented with a second Payne Grant next year.

Dr. Hart enumerated all the plus items connected with athletics; i.e., new coaching positions, winning teams, tennis court private donations, gym floor (IEF donation). Mr. Hopping commented that Ipswich is quickly becoming the exception because every surrounding community has improved their fields/facilities.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to support the recommendation of the Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee to enter into negotiation with Huntress Sports for the engineering and design for the Welch Stadium as well as the natural grass at the Doyon School. UNANIMOUS.

Wayne Castonguay, Open Space member, mentioned next Monday’s meeting which will discuss significant change proposals for Open Space.

D. REQUEST FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF SIGN ON LAWN AT DOYON SCHOOL

Postponed.

E. POLICIES: IECB—ACCEPTANCE OF CHILDREN OF NON-RESIDENT TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

After discussion on the first condition regarding “Chapter 766, bilingual, or other special program expense”, Mr. Hopping asked to hold on the vote. Dr. O’Flynn suggested using “all educators” rather than “teacher, principals and assistant principals.” Mrs. Bauman was concerned about the costs to the district in special circumstances with non-resident children. Consensus was to take it back for discussion with Beverly Hegedus, SPED Director.

FFB---DEDICATION OF ACCOMPANYING FACILITIES

After discussion, Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the FFB DEDICATION OF ACCOMPANYING FACILITIES with the elimination of the words “after approval by the administration” in paragraph #1.

Dr. O’Flynn amended, seconded by Ms. Player, to eliminate the words “administration and” in paragraph #2. UNANIMOUS.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the amendment added to the original motion. UNANIMOUS.

FFA NAMING OF A SCHOOL BUILDING

The Board reviewed the policy and made no changes.

F. SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Gresh announced his resignation from the School Committee and will be finishing up over the next thirty days. He will be teaching at Northeastern University on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and is under contract with IBM in interviewing certain projects all over the world in a demanding schedule. He thanked the School Committee and his wife for support over the last 5 ½ years and particularly mentioned the members' spouses for their support. He reviewed the major achievements in which he has participated; namely, the Feoffees settlement and investment and the success of the recent override. He made mention of the unstoppable significant changes in education in which Ipswich can now participate with new models of learning and he gave examples of learning languages on the internet and the emergence of STEAM.

The Board members thanked Sean, especially for his communication skills with picture taking and newspaper articles.

Mr. Hopping explained the process for moving forward. Dr. Gresh must notify the Town Clerk, and the BOS and School Committee will jointly select a successor to fill out the one-year term.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
4. GRANT COMMITTEES

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. O'Flynn announced the Superintendent evaluation next month and a retreat for the School Committee members at Turner Hill, on August 25, 5-10 p.m.

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman will have information on the teacher/child non-resident policy and will have reviewed the policy book A – Cs for September 3.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Bauman reviewed a meeting with Birth to Three and administration and listed items being worked on including needs assessment, early-

intervention transition, networking and outreach with parents, professional development for the lead teacher, job descriptions, fund-raising opportunities, and balancing the budget.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of August 6, 2015, Open Session

Acceptance of a donation of \$1,500 from the Patrick family to the Winthrop School

Approval of Executive Session Minutes recommended for approval at the July 13, 2015, Policy Subcommittee meeting *except* for the following Executive Sessions: January 8, May 7, and May 21, 2015. UNANIMOUS.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman , to go into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. for the purpose of strategy in negotiations with the IEA and non-union personnel to return to Open Session. Roll call IN FAVOR- Player, O’Flynn, Hopping, Gresh, Bauman.

Open Session resumed at 9:13 p.m. with members Player, Hopping, Gresh, and Bauman and Sup’t. Hart.

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to approve the Memo of Understanding between the Ipswich School Committee and the Ipswich Education Association, Unit A, regarding department chair job descriptions. UNANIMOUS.

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to approve the Stipends for Professional Development, Co-curricular, Fine Arts, Special Education, and Athletics between the Ipswich School Committee and the Ipswich Education Association. UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. UNANIMOUS.