

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2015  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair C. Nylén called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: F. Krason, H. O'Flynn, S. Player, J. Bauman, B. Hopping, and S. Gresh. Also present were Superintendent Hart and Fin. Dir. Cuff.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Feruzza Krason read the Mission Statement.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Nylén read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategy with non-union employees and personnel matters.

Policy Subcommittee meets on September 14 at 5:30 p.m., Payne School Conf. Rm.

School Committee will meet September 17, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Sharon Riley, two-year resident and parent, gave kudos to the District and recommended peer mentoring and prevention from sports activities as punishment for misdemeanors.

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Dr. Hart recognized Madeleine Harlan and Celeste Joyce, IHS student artists who restored the tiger logo on the wooden gym floor of the M/HS, which had been refinished and funded by Ipswich Education Foundation. In turn, Mr. Murphy of IEF presented the two girls with thanks and a scholarship certificate.

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Dr. Hart reported the two-day workshop for staff on August 31 and September 1. A general meeting in the cafeteria for coffee was followed by welcoming comments, staff Service Award recognitions for 10, 20, and 225 year staff, and introductions of new staff, whereupon they moved to their respective buildings for meetings and classroom work. He toured the four facilities on August 27 with B. Hodge and J. Cuff finding an extensive list of cleaning, repairs, and capital projects completed and praised the buildings/ maintenance team for their work over the summer.

On August 24, new staff (33 attendees) participated in New Teacher Orientation Day, working with Dr. Hart on Highly Successful Person Activity, principals on artifact analysis of their school's culture, and Wilma Gooby on an Ipswich bus tour.

Administrators worked on curriculum development expectations, with “thinking” as the highlighted Successful Habit of Mind. Tracy Wagner helps with this work.

He briefly reviewed the last of the staff replacements, noting that Special Education has a couple of pending placements. He was pleased that students greeted him cordially while touring the schools on the beginning days.

## **I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

### **B. PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF CHECK FROM THE FEOFFEEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS**

Seth Ward, on behalf of the Feoffees of the Grammar School, called it a real privilege and honor to present to the Ipswich School Committee a check for education enhancement, reporting that a perpetual amount of a similar size will be distributed each year to the school children of Ipswich. In his update, he referred to the three previous disbursements of \$800,000 each which were based on the settlement agreement allowing the corpus to build on itself (website gives details). He also announced that of the \$711,925 presented, \$11,307 comes from the Manning Fund, a recent adjunct to the Feoffees fund which will be accounted in dependently going forward. Currently, the two financial managing firms are overseen by the Feoffees (financial managers themselves) with a distribution policy of increasing the original principal of \$21.8 million annually for inflation, reserving 5% of the assets to take care of negative returns in any year. The spending policy is 3% of the corpus to be distributed out on a rolling 3-year (12 quarter) period.

Mr. Nylén, on behalf of the Committee and the students, thanked the Feoffees for their intelligent management and commented that he trusts them completely. Dr. Hart, speaking definitively, said that the Ipswich Public Schools are very different because of the Grants and have moved forward with technology, international conferences, and sustainable projects and others envy him as Ipswich Superintendent. Mr. Nylén spoke of a definite desire to celebrate; Dr. Gresh wished to include the other institutions and individuals who have made tremendous donations as well. Mr. Ward made a public appeal to anyone who might wish to make a bequest in their estate plan because they believe in the system and the Town.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the check from the Feoffees in the amount of \$711,925, including the \$11,307 from the Manning Fund. UNANIMOUS.

### **C. MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE UPDATE**

Principal Fabrizio referred to last year’s big discussion of changing the schedule, but, when the override passed, the middle school returned to the schedule which has worked very well in the past. Class sizes currently are averaging at 21 students rather than the 28 to 35. Teachers have been transferred from their comfort zone in any of the three grades to another grade to be made more aware of

the continuity of their subject areas. World language from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade pilot last year is continuing in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The Board reviewed the MS time-schedule slots. Mr. Fabrizio spoke about the advanced math (currently three students) difficulties for transferring into high school curriculum and the better possibilities next year when the high school will have a solid block of three classes at the end of each day.

#### **D. TURF FIELD UPDATE AND CONSULTANT CONTRACT**

Dr. O'Flynn reported on three significant meetings over a two-week period with the Open Space Committee, the Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee (STAC) in selecting a consultant, and the stakeholders meeting where funding discussions have begun. The Huntress contract is done; Open Space may not be an opportunity for funding because there is a concern about change of Open Space wording to allow for existing fields to be renovated with Open Space funds. Stakeholders will be seeking a \$1 million debt exclusion at Town Meeting.

Mr. Nylén felt that people value the project and want it to move forward, details of which will minimize the taxpayer burden. The thinking is to departmentalize the project into three areas: the turf field, the private donations, and lastly, the Doyon field. Dr. O'Flynn continued with the debt-exclusion plan, the Capital Plan funding (Town-Manager led with the school piece around \$250,000 usually) and more Feoffee granting next year. Other possibilities include Free Cash, Ipswich Education Foundation, and youth sports. Mr. Hopping remarked that, even though Open Space people are against the funding, they are fully in favor of the project and it is a matter of pinning down appropriate funding with different approaches. Mr. Nylén asked for Ms. Cuff and Mr. Swenson to come back with information about the debt exclusion at a later date.

Mr. Murphy, of STAC, gave several reasons for separating the project into "chapters." Bidding for construction of the field itself only, staggered construction with the different fields providing access to others while construction goes on, grass construction at Doyon from a different expert, and project price under \$1.5 million which does not require an OPM (public funding). Mr. Murphy outlined the Huntress process: (1) Due diligence with selection of the fiber of the turf (long vs. short), (2) bidding process; and (3) time frame: March and April for shop drawings, a 4-month window for construction (May-August).

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept the recommendation of Joanne Cuff, Finance Director, that the School Committee enter into a contract with Huntress Associates for landscaping and architectural services related to the turf field, grass field, and athletic building project and to approve the expenditure of \$132,000 for Phase I and Phase I allowances as outlined in the proposal for professional services on September 2, 2015. UNANIMOUS. Ms. Cuff was given the authority to send out the acceptance letters.

## E. WINTHROP BUILDING PROJECT

Dr. Hart posted three questions on the white board for the School Committee who then brainstormed. Clusters of answers were grouped together as follows:

1. What is the ideal learning environment for Winthrop Students?

Technology/laboratory opportunities, emphasis on the arts, collaborative and participatory learning, individualized challenges, warm/welcoming, resources and shared spaces, lighting/soundproofing, music piped in, comfortable yet stimulating

2. What is the ideal work environment for Winthrop Staff?

Dedicated spaces for faculty/parents, common spaces for students, lighting and physical attributes to create a pleasant and agreeable atmosphere for efficiency and adaptability with sufficient equipment

3. What is the ideal school environment that promotes public participation?

Open, attractive, and welcoming with public/private agency spaces, recreation, opportunities for outside organizations to augment instruction and “green” sustainability

Dr. O’Flynn presented a fourth question:

4. What is the ideal school environment that will facilitate the advancement of the Ipswich Public School System as a whole? Whatever comes to the Winthrop School will determine the success of all the schools.

## F. POLICY JECB – ACCEPTANCE OF CHILDREN OF NON-RESIDENT TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the policy JECB – Acceptance of Children of Non-resident Teachers, Principals, and Assistant Principals following Ms. Hegedus’ revision of paragraph #1.

In discussion which followed, Dr. O’Flynn would not support the concept of excluding the administration’s children in certain SPED conditions but does support the broad-based interpretation of professionals. Discussion took place, pro and con, until Dr. Gresh suggested tabling the vote until a search can be made of other school districts’ policies, how they have worked, and how many teachers in the Ipswich system over a ten-year period have had special needs children. Ms. Player withdrew her motion and Mrs. Bauman seconded. UNANIMOUS. The policy was returned to the Policy Subcommittee for clarification on the question of referencing the child to Choice in the second year.

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping for discussion, to hold on the existing policy of Non-resident students and defer enforcement until there is clarity from the School Committee with an accepted new policy. Vote IN FAVOR- Gresh, O’Flynn, Krason, Nysten; OPPOSED- Bauman, Hopping; ABSTAINING- Player. Dr. Hart was given a moratorium in dealing with a faculty member who is involved under the current policy.

**G. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2015-16**

Appointments were made as follows:

ATHLETICS- Hopping, O'Flynn

BIRTH TO THREE CENTER- Bauman as representative

BUDGET- Nylen, O'Flynn, Player

COMMUNICATIONS- Krason

GRANT COMMITTEES

Instr. Mini Grant- Bauman

Payne Grant- O'Flynn

LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING- Nylen as representative

MASC- the new member

MUTUAL CONCERNS- Hopping, Player

OPERATIONS- Nylen, Bauman, O'Flynn

POLICY- Player, Hopping, Krason

SCHOOL BUILDING- Nylen, Player

SEPAC- Krason

TURF FIELD- O'Flynn (Chair), Hopping

NEGOTIATIONS- not filled

CLERK- Jean Emerson

NO-SCHOOL DESIGNEE- William I. Hart

PURCHASING AGENT- William I. Hart

SECRETARY- William I. Hart

**H. COLLABORATIVE FOR REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND TRAINING (CREST) APPOINTMENT OF W. HART TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2015-16**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to appoint Dr. Hart to the Board of Directors of CREST for 2015-16. UNANIMOUS.

**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
6. POLICY
7. NEW BUSINESS – due to the late hour

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the Consent Agenda as amended: Change Kate Eliot to Kate Norris on p. 2, Sustainable Education. UNANIMOUS.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to go into Executive Session at 11:10 p.m. to discuss administrative contracts and personnel matters after which the meeting will return to Open Session. Roll call IN FAVOR- Krason, O'Flynn, Player, Nylen, Hopping, Gresh, Bauman.

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Open Session resumed at 12:08 a.m.

Mr. Nylen announced that there was no action taken on non-union employees' salaries.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 12:08 a.m.  
UNANIMOUS.