

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2015
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOME TO NEW HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Nylen and Dr. Hart welcomed Reed Dolan, a member of IHS junior class. Reed spoke to his accomplishments at the High School including being captain of cross country team, involved in track, a member of bands, orchestra, and chorus, and secretary of the Interact Club, stating that he is very excited to be working with the School Committee.

MISSION STATEMENT

Reed read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylen read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategy with administrative salaries after which the meeting will return to Open Session

Policy Subcommittee meets on September 22 at 7 p.m., Payne School Conf. Rm.

School Committee workshop will take place on September 23, at Turner Hill Doyon School's 50th anniversary celebration will take place on September 26, 10 – noon, Doyon School

School Committee will meet October 1, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Nylen acknowledged Sean Gresh as the departing member of the School Committee who has given almost six years of service, has brought a very strong commitment to the kids of Ipswich, and has been a big help in communication, being very active with the camera.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed Dolan spoke of his involvement in an environmental class. Last March he visited Costa Rica with the Sustainability group. Now the class is working on local issues working with samples of detergents which flow into the Ipswich River and "raising awareness for low flow in the Ipswich River."

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reviewed the different ways that he is communicating with Ipswich parents and residents; that is, the IPS District website, the Superintendent's Blog, Dialog with Dr. Hart (ICAM), and a quarterly newsletter from the Superintendent to parents. He mentioned two new Central Office occupants: the new Director of Administrative Services, Lorraine Lee, who will be the new Executive Secretary to the Superintendent, and has additional supervisory, licensure, contracting, and special event duties. Tracy Wagner is the District's first Director of Teaching and Learning, responsible for K-12 curriculum development, classroom instructional methodology and ongoing assessment practices. District priorities this year will focus on integrating Critical Thinking into practice and expectations for students and each professional will create/modify a curriculum unit that embeds Critical Thinking in an explicit way.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS ON BULDING INSPECTIONS**

Mrs. Krason reported that she had visited the Middle and High School with Mr. Caravillano and observed that they looked better than they have in years, commenting on the restored gym floor, the work of the new librarian getting old books lined up, and happy teachers liking the "look" as well.

Mr. Hopping toured the Winthrop School with Mrs. McAdams and met with the custodians. He commented that the place looked phenomenal for its age. The teachers' room is back and the focus is on co-teaching, many of the staff are sharing and enthusiastic about the override success. While he cited a problem with swollen outside doors making security difficult, Dr. Hart reported that Doyon's and Winthrop's doors have since been fixed by an outside company.

Ms. Player, having visited Doyon, commented on improvements to the foyer and the front office allowing a space for parent discussion of IEPs in the front area. The media specialist at Doyon has revamped the book areas. The driving and parking are far better with the advent of paving by the Town and extra parking.

Members questioned the buzzers and Mr. Hopping commented that the schools' culture has absorbed this new security measure. Dr. Hart especially thanked Mr. Hodge for his accountability to the schools.

C. NEW SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Mr. Nylén announced that at 6 p.m., the Board of Selectmen and School Committee had met jointly and interviewed Charles "Chub" Whitten, the single candidate to fill the interim slot (until May, 2016 elections) of School Committee member vacated by Sean Gresh. By unanimous vote of both Committees, Mr. Whitten was selected to fill the seat. Nylén welcomed the new member who was seated at the table but unable to vote until the Town Clerk swears him in.

D. BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Nylen expressed the plan to review the budget status on a regular basis, in particular because of the passage of the override. A follow-up will take place at the second School Committee meeting in October.

Ms. Cuff reported that the FY15 budget came to a close as planned at \$0 and with the payment of \$182,000 owed to the Town for the loan incurred by Feoffees' transactions, fulfilling the schools' obligations. The year closed with \$2,700,000 available in gift and revolving accounts. Two weeks spent with the Town auditors revealed no significant changes. New hires (46) fill replacements, retirements, and new staff and puts the finances well within the staffing budget, helped in part by saving \$150,000 (in changing experienced [older] staff with younger staff) which will help the health insurance expense. The sum of \$604,000 is already encumbered for the holding account for the five-year long-range stabilization fund. Purchases and mini-grant purchases are on track. Transportation receipts currently are \$39,000 (\$30,000 last year) with \$70,000 budgeted. The new bus contract (only one bidder) is up slightly to \$435,825. Ridership is slightly above 800.

She cited unknowns/concerns with health insurance and buildings/grounds. There are some severe issues with roofs of M/HS related to the weight of the snow. Insulation under the eaves is lacking. Chapter 70 funds are down to \$68,000, less than usual. Food Services Department is owed \$9,000 despite urgent notices to parents for unpaid lunches. The new Food Service Director will address the issue. Central Office building outside work is pretty well done. To Mr. Nylen's question of the Capital Plan, Dr. Hart spoke of meeting with Mr. Hodge to identify priorities. Focus, according to Ms. Cuff, will be on the M/HS until definite plans are made re the elementary schools.

E. TURF FIELD PLAN UPDATE

Dr. O'Flynn asked the School Committee to consider several issues: to set prices and goals and support the Warrant Article at Fall Town Meeting. He quoted the Town Manager's phrase "highest capital priority" as the decision needed by the School Committee.

There is a Synthetic Turf Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting next Monday night. Dr. Hart said that Fin Com and Board/Selectmen have met and feel that the project is reasonable and of value for the schools. Mr. Hopping commented that those Boards have many questions, particularly around the funding for maintaining and responsibility of the field and adjacent building, stressing that the recommendations by School Committee be unanimous. Mrs. Bauman emphasized that this is a Town facility now and not just one for the schools.

Strategies for funding will be discussed at Monday's meeting, settled up by October, the bid in place by December, the contractor hired in January, and construction beginning before school ends. The building comes the following year.

Because support for the bond before Town Meeting was Dr. O’Flynn’s request, Mr. Nylen decided to put Capital Priorities on the October 1 agenda, when Huntress Associates will have been asked to attend, and put it up for a vote.

F. SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS

Discussion took place re the 2015-16 goals for the Committee, comparing the four made in 2014-15. Following that, Mr. Nylen set October 1 using the SMART goals, working on the Budget goal himself and asking Dr. O’Flynn to work on the Superintendent Support goal, Ms. Player to work on the School Performance Metrics folding in the Audit, and Mrs. Bauman to work on the Communications Goal incorporating the Ipswich Chronicle, student and teacher presentations, and promoting bequests for Feoffees.

G. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Added to the Subcommittee assignment list of the 9/3/15 meeting:
COMMUNICATIONS – Krason, Bauman
MASC – Whitten
SCHOOL BUILDING – Hopping, Player, Whitten

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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| 1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE | Mr. Nylen urged the newly |
| 2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE | manned committees to call |
| 3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE | meetings and name |
| 4. GRANT COMMITTEES | chairpersons. |
| 5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE | |
| 6. POLICY | |
| 7. NEW BUSINESS | |

Mr. Hopping repeated that Seth Ward, of the Feoffees, is pushing for a celebration of the Payne Grant and Mini-grant funded accomplishments. Members discussed presentations at the PAC lobby with tables and presenters including students, and refreshments.

A new Feoffee must be appointed by the School Committee.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of September 3, 2015, School Committee Meeting, Open Session. UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to allow C. Whitten to attend Executive Session as a non-voting member of the School Committee. Roll call IN FAVOR- Krason, O'Flynn, Player, Nysten, Hopping, Bauman.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to go into Executive Session at 9:42 p.m. to discuss administrative contracts after which the meeting will return to Open Session. Roll call IN FAVOR- Krason, O'Flynn, Player, Nysten, Hopping, Bauman.

Open Session resumed at 10:58 p.m.

Mr. Nysten announced that there was no action taken on administrative salaries.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to adjourn at 10:58 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.