

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2015
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair C. Nylén called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: H. O'Flynn, S. Player, C. Whitten, J. Bauman, B. Hopping, and F. Krason. Also present was Superintendent Hart.

MISSION STATEMENT

Feruzza Krason read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Nylén read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held for the purpose of discussing personnel matters after which the meeting will adjourn

Operations Committee meeting will take place on Nov. 23, 5:30 p.m., Payne School

Thanksgiving Break from Nov. 25 (dismissal at 12 noon for elementaries and 11:20 for MS/HS) and Nov. 26 and 27 -- no classes

Turf Subcommittee will meet on Dec. 2, 7 p.m., Payne School

Budget Subcommittee will meet on Dec. 3, 6 p.m., MS/HS Guidance Conf. Rm.

School Committee will meet on Dec. 3, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

An eighth-grade girl expressed concern over the sudden announcement by Mr. Fabrizio which takes away the opportunity to do homework during the PA(project assistance) period. She had emailed her Principal and he had declined her offer to talk about it. Dr. Hart questioned her and promised to look into the situation. Mr. Hopping explained that, while Middle School "study" periods do not fit under the 990 hours/year required of secondary education, "directed study" and "project assistance" do. Elementaries have 900 hours required per year.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart congratulated Emily DiMarco and Reed Dolan for their athletic prowess. He also mentioned the recent forum on opiate use in Massachusetts which was held in collaboration with local police, state agencies, the Ipswich Public Schools, and Rep. Brad Hill.

Mr. Hopping requested and Mr. Nylén led the group in a moment of silence in memory of John Yeannakopoulos who recently passed.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Reed Dolan, who had joined the meeting, commented on the success of ALL STATE runners in cross country and the UN trip in NY by INTERACT as having gone well.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported that the Synthetic Turf Committee met with Chris Huntress, the architect, who took them through the next steps. The Committee has toured several artificial turf sites.

A group of Ipswich educational staff attended a state-wide STEM conference, participating in workshop sessions which included STEM ideas from pre-school through high school.

Dr. Hart met with BOS Chair Mootafian and FinCom Chair Feldman in discussion of progress made with override funds. The new teacher leadership positions and the book Making Thinking Visible (both men were provided copies) were discussed in relation to teaching "thinking."

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**B. DISTRICT INITIATIVES**

Dr. Hart introduced Becky Slawson, English teacher, who, he said, did a wonderful job facilitating curriculum development over the summer and just recently got together with PLC and Compass groups. Mr. Dalton spoke highly of Ms. Slawson as a dedicated, hard-working faculty member of an extraordinary English Department. He is excited that she will be showing work about culture and the climate of learning.

Poetry Out Loud, introduced by Ms. Slawson, is a National Recitation Contest, focusing on a common unit to English studies and an area of skilled public speaking, and active in every single state. She spelled out three areas for curriculum development: Powerful Learning descriptors (21st Century skills) where students are engaged in meaningful activity. Critical Thinking (Successful Habits of Mind), and the Common Core, where an analytical piece (poem) is focused on to decide who becomes a champion in the local, state, and national contests. A mini-grant (Feoffees) called "Flatline Poetry" has enabled the English Department to have a 1½-hour tie with students to be trained to better understand how to present and dramatize the poetic piece each student has chosen. These students are coming from the four levels of English Language Arts in equal and supportive mode on Thursdays. "Louder than a Bomb" is an after-school activity where the kids create and recite their own poetry. Portfolio and creative writing classes are taught by Jennifer Kane.

Ms. Slawson called for volunteer judges for the contest and Mr. Hopping responded.

A. HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Mrs. Bauman prefaced the presentation with a background of timing beginning in October of 2014 to work on a new high-school schedule with the Ipswich Education union. Criteria was: 70-minute classes, year-long courses, embedded common-planning time. Of the five options, the five-day rotation plan was selected.

Mr. Dalton said the high school has had the longer-block schedule (90 minutes) for twenty years in a two-semester (90 day) arrangement with one hybrid class that meets all year long. He reviewed the potential problems: AP scheduling and students who won't receive this well. Teachers will have 5 subject preps, 3 common-planning times, and 1 personal free period. The budgetary

impact is that a number of textbooks and supplies will now have to be purchased, but there may be savings in AP-directed study with less added personnel to teach. The implementation committee will study and ultimately, by the end of Jan/beginning of Feb, be able to launch courses of study. Mr. Dalton will report further at budget time.

Mr. Hopping asked if Middle Schoolers would be able to take high school courses; Mr. Dalton replied that the Resource periods at the end of the day could accommodate them.

C. SUPERINTENDENT SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

Mr. Nylén read the three-page summative evaluation of the Superintendent's performance in Instructional Leadership; in Management and Operations: Environment and Fiscal System; in Family and Community Engagement; and in Professional Culture: Communications, Managing Conflict. Each element and indicator was scored based on a four-grading category of Exemplary, Proficient, Needs Improvement and Unsatisfactory. Recommendations came for accelerated progress with his leadership agenda and development of a plan to tangibly demonstrate, explain, and track the promised district progress. The area of alignment of and engagement with faculty and staff especially at the elementary schools was recommended for improvement.

The School Committee would have liked to have seen more careful planning and communication in key personnel hirings and to wisely manage the financial resources that the schools have been given by the community. He was urged to build strong relationships with Town Boards and with all members of the School Committee. In impactful communication, Dr. Hart must work on the fine-tuning of his messaging to the diverse stakeholders in Town and the specificity of his messaging to different audiences. Timely response to communications is essential.

Dr. Hart must improve relationships with his administrators to develop the highly effective team the District requires. Dr. Hart's overall summative performance for FY2015 was 2.7 (developing Proficient).

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the summative evaluation into the records. Mr. Hopping and Ms. Player both felt that their concerns were not adequately shown. Dr. O'Flynn felt that the School Committee should set very clear goals on next year's mid-cycle and summative evaluation. IN FAVOR- O'Flynn, Nylén, Krason, Whitten, Bauman; OPPOSED- Hopping, Player.

D. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Ms. Player reviewed the compiled answers to questions posed by Dr. Hart several meetings ago which were brainstormed by the Board:

(1)What is the ideal learning environment for Winthrop students?

The Ipswich SC defines the ideal learning environment for Winthrop students as a healthy and safe student-centered yet collaborative classroom. These spaces will also contain stimulating lab areas with challenging and interactive manipulatives to encourage active learning. This warm and welcoming environment will also have natural lighting, dedicated spaces for the arts, flexibility to support integration of all students, and current technology.

(2)What is the ideal work environment for Winthrop staff?

The Ipswich SC defines the ideal working environment for the Winthrop staff as well equipped, flexible, and efficient while also providing appropriate areas for collaborative team and parent meetings. This bright and pleasant environment should provide adequate lighting and optimal acoustics to maximize student engagement.

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

The Ipswich SC defines the ideal school environment that promotes public participation, as an attractive, inviting, and accessible building that contains meeting and recreational spaces that are both available and easy to schedule. Citizens should feel welcome at this resource-rich and student-promoted community building.

(4)What is the ideal school environment that will facilitate the advancement of the Ipswich Public School System as a whole? (Answers to this question have not been developed).

E. POLICY UPDATES

Mr. Hopping presented the revised Nondiscrimination Statement Policy and the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to accept changes in both GBA & AC policies as presented. UNANIMOUS.

F. TRI BOARD MEETING

In review of the recent meeting, Mr. Nysten asked for comments, and Dr. O'Flynn mentioned the distribution policy of \$220,000 from last year for the schools as cited by the Town Manager. He spoke of high delta funds to be captured on the school side. Mr. Nysten, Dr. O'Flynn, and Ms. Cuff will be on the committee as well as two members from each Board. Mr. Hopping thanked them for their watchfulness.

G. TURF FIELD - MOU

The Memo of Understanding regarding the financial arrangements, operation of the field, and the distribution of fees needed to be signed. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Whitten, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement regarding the Funding and Use of an Artificial Turf Field to be constructed at the Ipswich High/Middle School and authorized the Chair to sign on behalf of the School Committee. UNANIMOUS.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE – Dr. O'Flynn reported that Matt Simms of the Ad Hoc Committee to study participation in sports is starting as low as elementary and Middle School to get participants. Donations to a fund in memory of Norm Sheppard total \$800 so far. Recognition of Doug Woodworth's years and positions locally and with Cape Ann will be taken up at the next meeting.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE- Mr. Nylen reported a meeting before the Tri Board to prep for agenda items and Capital planning. The SC needs a clear statement of the Capital needs and obligations and an understanding , once again, that Feoffee funds are not to be used in Capital planning.

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE- Mrs. Bauman and Mrs. Krason went over the two/three key messages (goals) that they want to get done.

4. GRANT COMMITTEES-

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Mr. Nylen reported the work done on the Superintendent’s evaluation.

6. POLICY- meeting postponed

7. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

8. TURF FIELD SUBCOMMITTEE

9. NEW BUSINESS – Dr. O’Flynn reported that Glen Gibbs, Town Planner, is asking if sculpture(s) by a local artist could possibly be located on school property.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of Minutes of November 5, 2015, Open Session

Acceptance of the New England BioLabs’ contribution of \$10,000 to the Ipswich Schools per the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement for 2015, to be used for science education.

Acceptance of \$3,000 from the IEF Contribution to the Ipswich High School Robotics Program. UNANIMOUS.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Krason, to go into Executive Session at 10:05 p.m. to discuss personnel matters after which the meeting will adjourn. IN FAVOR- Hopping, O’Flynn, Player, Nylen, Krason, Whitten, Bauman.