

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 17, 2013  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Barry Hopping, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: H. O'Flynn, S. Player, J. Bauman, S. Gresh, and R. Roesler. Also present were Superintendent W. Hart, Finance Director J. Cuff, Middle School Principal D. Fabrizio, Assistant Principal K. McMahon, and Student Representative M. Werner.

**READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

Maddie read the following: The Ipswich school community is committed to developing in all students the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to succeed and excel throughout life.

**A. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held this evening.

Pressbox dedication will take place on October 25, 6:30 p.m., High School Football field followed by kickoff with Newburyport at 7 p.m.

School Committee will meet on TUESDAY, November 5, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

**B. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**C. SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Dr. Hart acknowledged Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director, as Athletic Director of the Year District A, awarded by the Executive Board of Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletics Association having been nominated by their respective district Athletic Directors. There are 60 member schools in MIAA. Accolades were given by Dr. Hart, Dr. O'Flynn, S. Player, S. Gresh, M. Werner, J. Bauman, and B. Hopping for his long hours spent all year long, his calm demeanor, his proactive, detailed, and caring attitude for his students and the athletes of Ipswich which go way beyond the typical Athletic Director. He was presented with a plaque, a picture, and an envelope.

**D. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Maddie reported that, because Ms. Panciera won a Feoffees mini-grant for poetry presentations, the annual event has expanded into downtown Ipswich, engaging technology students in design, and art students in painting. Other students have been recruited, and it is now high-school wide. Her second report was on the upcoming Spirit Week and a compliment on the food in the cafeteria (white whole wheat rather than wheat bread)!

#### E. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart introduced Rose Detullio, his coach as a new superintendent, who attended to observe Dr. Hart and give feedback. He gave a brief bio of her experience, and she explained that she will be spending eight hours a month with him.

Dr. Hart reported that progress continues with his Vision Strategic priority, having met with well over 400 people (including students at all four schools) participating in the most powerful learning experience and most powerful person exercise. He has met with the administrative team regarding a SMART goal and they have met with a Good Decisions organization to identify goals designed to balance site-based management with district coordination which will be the focus of a full-day workshop on October 29. The School/Town collaborative efforts continue regarding the Doyon School parking lot traffic patterns and repaving, exploration of website hosting companies, and capital plan projects. Having talked with Representative Brad Hill and Senator Bruce Tarr, Dr. Hart spoke about inequities of the Chapter 70 formula and what he described as a long process to better align Ipswich with similar districts. The procedure needs to be pursued aggressively; Mr. Hill is working to pull it together.

#### I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

##### A. CELEBRATION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Laura Schofield and Tina Ciarametaro, 8<sup>th</sup>-grade science teachers and two of their students, with PowerPoint, presented "#thrutheeyesofipswich," the goal of which is "the more you look, the more you see." The plan: fall, winter, and spring timeframe, students submit two photos choosing a natural object. The outcomes: students are spending time looking and noticing their natural world, are talking to one another about it, are problem solving to capture their photo. The teachers remarked that the quiet students who rarely participate orally in class were the first to submit photos without having to speak. The project is being funded by a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. All their work is done outside of class online, and digital cameras are available to borrow from the classroom if the student does not have access otherwise. The Board members were pleased to learn of this project, and Dr. Gresh quoted Annie Leibovitz as saying her iPhone was the best camera to use when asked which camera she preferred. Mr. Hopping thanked the teachers for getting students sharing and taking pictures.

##### B. OVER-25 SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Tim Galanis, Treasurer of the League, projected on PowerPoint the Doyon field problems with grub damage and uneven ground. Mr. Hopping explained that the Over-30 league had been responsible for field maintenance there, but their numbers had dwindled. Reformed as the Over-25 Softball League with 75% Ipswich residents, they request use of and upgrade of the Grimes field at Doyon for their events every Sunday morning from May through August. They outlined the plan for painting the perimeter infield, removing home plate, pitcher's mound, and bases, skinning 4" of grass and dirt and hauling it off, filling in with grass/sand mix, leveling, rolling and dragging and restoring the bases and pitcher's mound. The players have equipment and machinery to contribute to the project. Mr. Bedard spoke of field restoration (grub destruction, seeding, watering) which needs a good plan (after talks with the Athletic Director), preferably to be done in early summer when fields are not used, with a specialist and mandatory irrigation. Dr. Gresh commented that

the need is for the community to help in this issue with the estimated 2,000 people using the fields ; Mr. Galanis commented that it would be great if the athletic community could come together with a 5-10 year plan.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to allow the Over-25 Softball League the use of the two softball fields behind the Doyon School. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to allow the Over-25 Softball League to make necessary improvements to the two softball fields behind Doyon School as requested by them in a proposal presented to the School Committee. UNANIMOUS.

#### C. REVIEW OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Mr. Hopping thanked the Board members who spoke to the Articles. Dr. O'Flynn and Dr. Gresh felt that, in the future, constituents need to be called to support school/athletic causes at Town Meeting, and he would be happy to volunteer in that respect. Ms. Player advocated for a Warrant Article brochure if the nature of the Fall Town Meeting will be changing. Dr. Gresh called for speaking time limits. Mr. Hopping sent a note of thanks to the Town Moderator for the courtesy he extended to the School Committee re speaking to a motion.

#### D. REVIEW OF DRAFT SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS

Mr. Hopping projected drafts of 6 goals, stating that he would like it narrowed to 3 or 4.

##### Goal 1 – Shared services programs with municipal side of Town government.

Mr. Hopping asked how the School Committee gets past the barrier of perception of School Committee offloading a burden and municipal side taking on another expense. Dr. Hart had had conversations about the playing fields, and Mr. Hopping had spoken with the Board of Selectmen Chair. Mrs. Bauman suggested that the Superintendent and Town Manager have regular monthly meetings.

Goal 2 – Develop and implement a sustainable budget to enable measurable student growth. While Mr. Hopping had three measurement items to achieve this goal, there was discussion of the timelines on these measurements: negotiating contracts (June, 2014); finalizing and documenting the system's budgetary needs (Dec. 2013); and identifying and securing the funding necessary to support those budgetary needs (June, 2014).

##### Goal 3 – Increase community use of school facilities.

Goal 4 – Communication. Measurements here were: launch a new website by 3/1/14, announce information regarding Feoffees grants via news releases by 1/14, and Publish 3-4 articles regarding school activities.

Goal 5 – Professional development for School Committee. Participate in a professional education program during 2013-14 School Year that provides training in the following topics and other strategies deemed necessary and appropriate by the Ipswich School Committee: student achievement; student assessment; school accountability; data interpretation and analysis; new teacher evaluations; professional learning community; and common core standards.

Goal 6 – System-wide technology vision. Assuring the completion of the network infrastructure with structure upgrades in all schools by 8/14. Support the Superintendent in developing a draft technology plan before 6/14.

In discussion and with Superintendent emphasis that three goals allowed a better focus, the School Committee reached consensus that the goals should be on budget, communication, and shared services with the Town. Goal 3 could be put under an umbrella; goal 5 was thought to be very important by Mr. Hopping, but Mrs. Roesler expressed concern about the time needed and should be shelved for another year when there aren't contracts to settle along with other issues. Dr. Hart suggested incorporating professional development for the School Committee into School Committee meetings which Mr. Hopping and Dr. Hart will encapsulate.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to adopt the goals of budget, communication, and shared services in school and municipal collaboration as the three goals for 2013-14. UNANIMOUS.

#### E. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – TEXT RENDERING PROTOCOL

Dr. Hart reviewed the use of protocols. Around the table, each person read his most important sentence from the article "What is a 'Professional Learning Community?'" by Richard DuFour. In discussion of the subject, Dr. O'Flynn brought up the importance of the PSAT and SAT exams and the fact that teachers don't teach to that. Dr. Hart remarked that the skill sets that a person needs to be a highly successful writer and the complexity of thinking make him/her stand out from the rest. A stimulating environment allows the student to excel day after day.

## II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

### B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE
3. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE
4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

### 5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman reported a workshop and a vendor who came to talk about upgrading and a virtual path for the website.

### 6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

### 7. INSTRUCTIONAL MINI-GRANT AND PAYNE GRANT COMMITTEES

Mrs. Roesler reported tweaking the grant applications and Feoffees meeting discussion about quorums and procedures. Ms. Player reported 8-9 new submissions from the 23 which were not accepted.

## 8. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Dr. O'Flynn reported sparse attendance, discussed sources of increases in Free Cash as almost a one-time money, and had a brief discussion on the other committees of the Long-Range Committee.

## 9. MUTUAL CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE

## 10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

## 11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Roesler reported scheduling regular meetings. She presented the first draft of changes to the Concussion Policy which the Policy Subcommittee unanimously accepted. Dr. O'Flynn voiced his concern as a physician and his increased challenge to diagnose a concussion when the increasing standards are non-existent and was directed to speak with the Athletic Director. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the changes to the Concussion Policy for first reading. UNANIMOUS.

## 12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

Dr. Hart reported that the search process for the Pupil Personnel Services Director is continuing on the timeline.

## 13. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

## 14. NEW BUSINESS

a. Mr. Hopping announced that Raymond Morley, having served for 15 years, is resigning as Whittier representative. He asked that interested parties regarding the position of Ipswich representative to the Whittier Regional Vocational High School School Committee send a letter of intent to the School Committee.

b. Ipswich Education Association has requested a date in November to begin discussion about negotiations. Nathan Katz will be attending an Executive Session with the School Committee at 6 p.m. on November 5.

c. Mr. Nylen and Mr. Hopping feel it appropriate to send an open letter to the community, updating them on matters relating to the School Committee and the Feoffees. He would like to do this in conjunction with the Feoffees and will call Mr. Twining. He asked the Communications Subcommittee to begin drafting a letter and Dr. Gresh commented that a chart might help visually.

d. Mr. Hopping wished to clarify misinformation regarding NE BioLabs' property used as soccer fields. These fields are not leased. A written agreement which runs through 2016, with the option to request two additional five-year lease periods beyond 2016, would bring that year to 2026 for in-town teams only.

e. Mr. Hopping scheduled one more workshop meeting prior to the TriBoard meeting on November 19. Issues to be discussed are the current budget gap and long-range issues. The workshop was set for November 12, 7 p.m., Payne School.

**III. CONSENT**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to accept the following consent agenda items:

Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of October 3, 2013, Open Session Minutes

Acceptance of anonymous donation of \$2,590 to be used toward the Grade 5 Plimoth Plantation Field Trip for the Winthrop School. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping reviewed the issues pertaining to the Consent Agenda item which had been pulled for discussion. The departure time for the Project Adventure is tomorrow, October 18. Policy of the School Committee for overnight trips is two months in advance. (Central Office had misplaced it.) This is required to try to ease fundraising, chaperone contacts, etc., before the School Committee is even aware of the request for a fieldtrip. He reminded teachers/administrators of this requirement. Secondly, with the closure of national parks, Ms. McVann had to find another campground which was still open, and, with a slight increase of \$5 to each student, she chose Pine Knoll. Travel time will be longer but the place is great. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve the Ipswich High School Advanced Project Adventure overnight field trip with the flexibility to stay at either the national park (if open) or Pine Knoll near the Kancamagus Highway for October 18-20, 2013. UNANIMOUS.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to adjourn at 10:10 p.m. UNANIMOUS.