

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2015
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, C. Nysten, F. Krason, and S. Gresh. Also present were Superintendent Hart, Finance Director Cuff, and M. DiBello, Student Representative

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Matt DiBello read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

School Committee budget workshop: January 27, 6:30 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conf. Rm.

School Building Committee: January 29, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Room

Policy Subcommittee: February 2, 5:30 p.m., Payne School Conference Rm.

School Committee: February 4, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm. for M/HS budget presentations

School Committee: February 5, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm. for elementary budget presentations and regular meeting

Mr. Hopping asked for a moment of silence in memory of Lucy Potter, 24-year elementary teacher.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart recognized the 19 students, members of the District band, chorus, orchestra, and jazz band, who attended the Northeast District Festival concert in Lowell on January 10.

Dr. Hart thanked the eight students (two from each of the four schools) who participated with him in the taping of the Superintendent's monthly meeting to be posted soon on Ch. 31 (Verizon) and Channels 8 & 9 (Comcast). Mrs. Bauman suggested that the presentation be put on the school website as well.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matt reported on final exams at the high school currently and a fresh start for the second semester on Monday with new classes.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported on administrative work developing budget—the first draft of a non-override budget and then day-long review and modification of the district override budget.

His first parent meeting took place on January 14 at the Doyon School, which was well attended by Doyon and other parents in the district. After a Powerpoint presentation, a 60-minute Q and A session took place. Meetings with the Superintendent are open to the community: Feb. 3, 5:15 p.m. Winthrop; March 10, 7 p.m., Middle; April 6, 5:30 p.m., High.

He will be taking the Polar Plunge on January 31 at 10:30 a.m. at Long Beach in Gloucester in a fundraiser sponsored by Ipswich Rotary's EarlyAct (for young people) and InterAct with older students.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**B. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Mr. Hopping reported that the group met last Thursday and talked about the most recent exchange with MSBA and their discrepancies on future enrollment numbers. A site visit to Doyon is scheduled for February 6 when MSBA representatives will view crowded conditions.

Dr. O'Flynn asked if proponents for one elementary school have a voice in the ongoing process. Mr. Hopping said yes, there will be ample opportunity for everybody, including School Committee members, to speak when the Education Consultant comes out. Ms. Player reported that documents are being prepared for the Doyon site visit. Dr. Hart commented that there are compelling reasons to raise the enrollment numbers; Mr. Hopping specifically mentioned the 40 flex students within walking distance of the Winthrop School and the Turner Hill building project.

C. FY15 BUDGET FREEZE

Ms. Cuff spoke to her memo of January 16, 2015, to implement a FY15 budget freeze effective immediately. The district has added staff (SPED: additional ELL teachers, behavioral specialist and Teaching Assistants) \$158,545; building/grounds additional overtime and substitute payments, \$16,000; and Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education memo informing Ipswich that the practice of using Food Service funds to pay for cafeteria monitors and food service workers' health insurance is not allowable, \$114,717. When Dr. O'Flynn asked if the School Committee should approach the Town for more money, Ms. Cuff said it is not necessary at this point.

D. REVIEW OF BUDGET WORKSHOPS

Dr. Hart, in discussing matters at the workshops with the School Committee and Ms. Cuff, mentioned fees that permeate the budget, losses in a combination of structures, extra costs in special education, and looking at a number of cuts again.

The history of cuts over the past six to ten years has made a cumulative impact on each of the buildings with a current cut of 11 staff and 14 support staff. The target budget means additional cuts with significant further impact. On the other hand with more funding, the administrators pictured a wonderful school system with the hard-working professionals getting to a point where they could maintain the special district that has existed in Ipswich.

Mr. Hopping met yesterday with the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee representatives in a very productive discussion and will meet again in the next couple of weeks (the TriBoard meeting scheduled for March 26 is too **late**) because it is imperative at this time to let other Town officials know the schools' plight. Mr. Nylen was encouraged to hear of their support and has admiration for the administration. Looking back to 2008, when the high school originally was most impacted, now the other schools are sacrificing as well in a team effort. No program or part of the schools is spared and all this comes at a cost in significant ways.

E. FEOFFEE FUNDS DISTRIBUTION TO GRANT COMMITTEES

Ms. Cuff, from a distributed Feoffees Financial Update, 1/22/15, reviewed the history of the **income** from Feoffees funds for the three-year \$800,000 sums including interest (FY15 representing only ½ year), and **expenditures** in FY14 mini-grants and Payne grants and awards for same in FY15. She estimates that \$693,887 will be available and feels that, with unknown interest and leftover funds, a \$700,000 figure is safe for awarding to the coming grant disbursements.

School Committee members felt the need to be more flexible with mini-grant award money and questioned the policy's language in that regard. After discussion, Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to recommend that the FY15 distribution of Feoffee funding of grants be \$700,00 with 25% going to the Mini-grants (\$175,000) and 75% going to the Payne Grants (\$525,000) subject to School Committee ability to adjust that distribution during the year if necessary.
UNANIMOUS.

F. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Dr. Hart showed a video on expeditionary learning entitled "Deeper Learning." The narrator, in speaking of mastering content knowledge, outlined five points: (1) mastering the ability to think critically and solve complex problems, (2) working collaboratively, (3) communicating effectively, (4) learning how to learn, and (5) developing an academic mindset. The Board discussed how Ipswich could, and in many instances already does, model these outcomes in its curricula. Dr. Hart commented that the curriculum work being developed in Ipswich, designed to take the Common Core using the Successful Habits of Mind (thinking, communication, etc.), is indicating that we know what highly successful skills and habits are. This doesn't happen without teachers regularly collaborating. Next year Ipswich teachers will be using and integrating the technology into their environment. Mr.

Hopping suggested showing the video on his cable broadcast and at the parent talks. Celebration of student work was again mentioned.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping reported that the Athletic Director had given his fall sports report and announced coaching vacancies in football, girls' lacrosse, and JV baseball, and work on a new job description for coaches. Ken Swenson gave an update on the Field Study Committee.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – meeting on January 27

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – meeting on January 29

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

Mrs. Bauman announced the need to appoint two new members to the Payne Grant Committee. Ms. Player said there needs to be a high school staff member on the Mini-grant Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of February. Mid-year reports are due February 2 from grant recipients.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping announced that the March 5 meeting will include the Public Hearing on budget and Dr. Hart's mid-cycle review.

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

At their meeting scheduled for February 2, Mr. Hopping urged "change of language" discussion on Feoffee grant awards and a review of Executive Session Minutes for release/vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Nysten announced a meeting on March 31, Town Hall Rm. A, 7 p.m. to Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen to present the findings on **school building needs**.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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Ms. Player moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows with the understanding that SC will receive information on 8th grade overnight field trip to NH:

Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of January 8, 2015, Open Session

Approval of the Ipswich Middle School 8th Grade overnight field trip to New Hampshire White Mountains, June 3-5, 2015

Acceptance of check for \$1,996 from LYNX System Developers, Inc. to the High School Student Racing Challenge for the first Robotics Program

Acceptance of a donation of \$1,675 from the Kent Lucas Foundation to the Winthrop School

Acceptance of donations totaling \$2,500 to the Doyon Gift Appeal in collaboration with the Ipswich Education Foundation from the following parents: Mr./Mrs. Mark Evitts, Dr./Mrs. Hugh O'Flynn, and Mr./Mrs. John Pitner.

UNANIMOUS.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Player moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. UNANIMOUS.