

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2015
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hopping called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, C. Nylen, 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 be held to discuss personnel matters and strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA
Negotiations Subcommittee will meet on January 10, 8 a.m., High School Room B105

Negotiations Subcommittee will meet on January 15, 5:30 p.m., High School Room B105

School Building Committee will meet on January 15, at 7 p.m., M/H School Guidance Conference Room

Athletics Subcommittee will meet January 20, 6 p.m., M/HS Guidance Conf. Room

School Committee/Administrators Budget Workshop will meet on January 21, 5:30 p.m., M/H School Guidance Conf. Room

School Committee will meet on January 22, 7 p.m., M/HS Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Dana Allen, B23 Director, announced that her facility has full enrollment at the beginning of 2015. She mentioned that B23 hosts Partners of Ipswich which meets once a month with early childhood issues and are talking about the kids who aren't in any of the programs.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. Hart commended and wished to publicly recognize his administrative team who are very challenged in developing a financial budget that is creative yet within their means and working very hard.

PRESENTATION/ACCEPTANCE OF CHECK FROM THE MANNING FUND TO THE FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

Mr. Hopping, introducing George Markos, Chair of the "new" Feoffees; Donald

Whiston, Manager of the Manning Fund Trust; and Bill Sheehan, Attorney, announced that he was happy after a very lengthy process, to announce that formal transfer of funds is taking place. Mr. Markos thanked the Trustees, Mr. Pistorio and Mr. Whiston, and is very grateful on behalf of the school children of Ipswich, to receive this Manning Fund endowment. Each distribution will be given recognition that it came from the Manning Fund. Mr. Hopping read the press release from the Feoffees, dated January, 2015, that the leaders of the Fund, James Pistorio, and Donald Whiston, through the Attorney General’s office, have transferred \$419,777, a “defining entity within the Feoffees Trust.”

Mr. Whiston remarked about the history of the Manning Fund and his involvement with its original shares from the Ipswich cooperative Bank, which when transferred to the Institution for Savings, became \$60,000.

Dr. Hart, Dr. O’Flynn, and Mr. Hopping expressed their thanks for the ability to offer advantages beyond what public funding can do.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Matt mentioned the 19 members of IHS who will be participating in the Senior District festival as members of the various music programs. The ratio of Ipswich students engaged in music to student body size is much greater than the other districts.

Mr. Hopping mentioned that Maddie Werner, last years’ student rep, and freshman at University of Massachusetts, visited before the meeting and is welcomed home.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. FALL SPORTS AWARDS

Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director; Dr. Hart, and Mr. Hopping congratulated personally each student athlete who received his/her certificate for All-Star cheerleading, field hockey, football, golf or soccer. Mr. Gallagher announced that Coach Bartholomew had received the honor of Coach of the Year; the cheering squad had received second place at the Regionals Competition; and the golf team had received an award. Mr. Hopping thanked the parents for their support.

B. SUPERINTENDENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart reported that, on December 8th, the School Committee and Administrative team met in a three-hour workshop to effectively collaborate to educate, communicate, and inform the Ipswich community concerning a new district vision and the financial gap to bring that vision to fruition. Strategies emerged for communication and collaboration with key groups in the Town.

The Administrative team is working on the FY’16 budget, identified as significantly short of projected budget increases (\$600-650,000 needed). They

continue to work together to present a non-override budget to attempt to minimize the damage to the schools. Two studies underway, an operational audit and School Choice evaluation, are moving forward with questionnaires and stakeholders to gather information. A STEAM Program strategic process will soon begin with a comprehensive local needs analysis.

B. IPSWICH YMCA SCHOOL FUND-RAISING AND EXPANSION PLANS

Gerry Beauchamp, Executive Director, and Jeff Loeb, (former School Committee Chair/Member) Y Board of Directors member, have gone public this week with expansion plans to the Board of Selectmen and now School Committee. Mr. Beauchamp presented a check raised from their Pie Run and Resolution Run for the elementary schools and track team. Also, the Y has raised in 2014 another \$10,000 for the schools and shared \$4,000 with the Ipswich Educational Foundation.

Mr. Nylén moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the \$2,600 check from the Ipswich YMCA fund-raising events. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Beauchamp explained that the 15-year-old Ipswich Y which opened in January, 2000, on 20 acres currently has 5100 members. They have raised \$2.4 million dollars and need \$3.6 million to expand (money in hand by the end of March) with an outdoor pool, expanded program space for teens and adult lockers, and a spray park. Ground breaking will hopefully take place in the spring of 2015 with the finish in May, 2016, and a splash party in June, 2016.

Mr. Loeb showed 3 schematics to the School Committee Members who asked questions: loss of fields (one to be lost, 2 soccer-sized fields remain); impact to VFW (none); funds from Ipswich residents (yes—only Ipswich); plans for going outside with fundraising (currently working for communities within the Ipswich Y); membership costs (will not go up); the teen component (will be designed by them). The two men said that all efforts are being made for going “green” in construction and development. The School Committee was excited and thanked them for their presentation.

D. WINTHROP SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Kevin Murphy, Chair, spoke about the delay caused by the MSBA computer algorithm analysis on birth rates reducing pupil enrollment projection to 400 at the Doyon and 375 at Winthrop, roughly 100 short of the current populations. As a result of School Building Committee (SBC) information about overcrowding at the Doyon, MSBA will look at the Doyon School in the next few weeks. The students in flex areas between the Doyon and Winthrop Schools have not been considered by MSBA nor have the pre-school numbers. Construction at Turner Hill is estimated to result in as many as 90 students. Mr. Murphy explained that there are three options: one elementary school for 775 kids, two schools to house K-2 and 3-5 separately, and expansion of Winthrop. While the Ipswich SBC consensus is for one facility, the goal right now is to keep all cards on the table.

E. SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS: #4

The members, led by Mr. Hopping, made a few edits and Mr. Nysten moved, seconded by Ms. Player, to approve, as modified, Goal #4 as follows:

Goal 4:

Support and encourage the Superintendent in his endeavor to lead the school district as the (new) educational initiatives are implemented, provide an environment for open and honest dialogue, and provide direction and guidance as needed.

Individual School Committee members will meet with the Superintendent in order to help facilitate more effective communication.

Schedule a facilitated, quarterly workshop for general discussion of progress, looking at the current status of the Ipswich Public Schools. **UNANIMOUS.**

Dr. Gresh had submitted an addendum to Goal #2, Communication, which was discussed but not accepted. The four School Committee goals will now be put on the Ipswich Public Schools' website.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Three School Committee budget workshops were set up in discussion as follows:

January 20, 7 p.m., Ensemble Room

January 21, 5:30 p.m., Ensemble Room with Administrators

January 27, 6:30 p.m., Guidance Conference Room

3. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE – Meeting on January 16

4. GRANT COMMITTEES

Mrs. Bauman has spoken with Dr. Hart on getting out reports re the Payne Grants.

Mr. Hopping asked the members to focus on percentages of the \$650,000 figure to be allotted to Payne and Mini grants.

Ms. Player reported that new Mini-grant applications are coming in and original members of the committee will be coming off.

5. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

6. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Nylén reported that the committee is targeting three areas of policies: negotiations, technology, and updates to legislative references, with a few miscellaneous items as well.

7. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Hart reported that the School Committee must vote on the withdrawal of Hamilton/Wenham from the CREST collaborative by State mandate. After discussion about the displeasure of being left out of the vote, Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to support the Hamilton/Wenham withdrawal from CREST with the understanding that the Ipswich School Committee will be following up with an expression of displeasure at not being allowed to vote initially on the matter. UNANIMOUS.

Dr. Hart has asked Pupil Personnel Services Director Hegedus to conduct an analysis of Ipswich options for belonging to CREST and/or North Shore Consortium. Ms. Cuff explained that Ipswich pays for tuition and enrollments—four slots in CREST, which has worked out for Ipswich.

Dr. Hart will be visiting individual schools to speak with parents as follows:

January 14 @ Doyon, 6 p.m. – with S. Player

February 3 @ Winthrop, 5:15 p.m. – with C. Nylén

March 10 @ MS, 7 p.m. – with J. Bauman

April 6 @ HS, 5:30 p.m. – with B. Hopping and/or H. O'Flynn

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of December 18, 2014, Open Session.

Acceptance of check of \$674.90 from Box Tops for Education to the Winthrop School

Acceptance of a donation of \$500 from Edward Sindoni to the 2014 Middle School Annual Fund. UNANIMOUS.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 9:28 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and strategy with respect to and in preparation for collective bargaining with IEA after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call vote IN FAVOR- Bauman, Nylén, Hopping, Player, O'Flynn, and Gresh.