

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2013
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Carl Nylén, temporary Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: S. Player, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, and H. O'Flynn. Also present were Superintendent W. Hart, Finance Director J. Cuff, and Student Representative M. Werner.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Maddie Werner read the Mission Statement.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mark Allman, parent of second and third grade Winthrop students wants to foster and work on a long-range plan for mathematics in Ipswich schools. He is concerned about students who are exceptional in math and providing an opportunity for students to do exceptionally well. Dr. O'Flynn responded with his own experience in the Ipswich schools, with the program for gifted and talented which was subsequently disbanded, and with a need to expand the vision in Ipswich to an entirely different type of curriculum with continuous instruction beyond what there is now. Currently, accelerated math programs include a new AP Statistics at the High School with Feoffee grant funding, accelerated math at Doyon, and 45 minutes once a week in accelerated math at Winthrop. Dr. Hart urged a comprehensive approach in all the disciplines. In talking with teachers and administration, walking through classrooms, and identifying issues, he is leading curriculum development and has begun the Professional Learning Community workshops. A foundation is needed in order to avoid picking an issue. He encouraged interested parties to participate in the curriculum work.

Mr. Hopping who had joined the meeting during the discussion (7:15) and taken the Chair's seat, suggested that Mr. Allman meet and formulate a game plan with Dr. Hart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

There will be no Executive Session

Policy Subcommittee will meet at 5:30 p.m. on December 9th at Payne School

Budget Subcommittee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on December 12th at Payne School

Communications Subcommittee will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 18th at Payne School

School Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. on December 19th at the Middle/High School Ensemble Room

Mr. Hopping asked that at least one School Committee member attend the Opening Meeting Law Training session at Town Hall on December 9th as emailed by Jen Breaker.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Hopping sent kudos to everybody involved in the Middle School winter Concert held on December 4.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Maddie reported on concerts at the High School: December 11 – small ensembles and December 18 – the large groups of band, orchestra, and chorus. She also commented on how her education has been affected by the Feoffees grant award to Ms. Panciero when there will be a poetry writing event outside the post office downtown on December 14 from 10-12 noon; also, a date yet to be determined at the NorthShore Mall in writing poetry and in Newburyport for National Poetry month where there are always as many as two dozen students who participate. Additionally, she spoke of the new AP Statistics course which is on track even before the end of the semester.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart was very pleased to report that he has selected Jeannie Frash as the district's part-time Director of Technology. She has great experience as a school technology director and network administrator, systems engineer and network systems analyst, and is already on the job with contacts to the supportive people in the district.

He showed the audience by computer the cameras' views of interior and exterior Middle and High School views, available to school personnel and the police at all times. To Mr. Hopping's question of viewing night images, Dr. Hart replied that it is a matter of lighting and Ms. Conley at Doyon is concerned about the need for more. Spotlights and motion detectors were mentioned.

Dr. Hart reported that he will be meeting with building administrators reviewing 2013-14 professional goals, two of which are SMART goals supporting a 21st Century curriculum and establishing Professional Learning Communities district-wide. Dr. Hart will be launching his own blog to enhance communication with the Ipswich community in a weekly update on school district initiatives.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. APPOINTMENT ON WHITTIER SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hopping postponed the item because the candidate was not present.

B. FY15 REVISED BUDGET TIMELINE

Ms. Cuff reported the Town's dates fit in well and the need is to get the timeline out to administrators. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mr. Nysten, to accept the budget timeline. UNANIMOUS.

C. PHASE II OF SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN**Comprehensive Risk Assessment Process**

Meg Finnegan, School Psychologist, was thanked by Dr. Hart for her ability to work hard and quickly and called it refreshing! She and Sean Smith, School Resource Officer, had reviewed the School Crisis Prevention and Intervention Training Curriculum: WS1 Handout 6: School Building Vulnerability Assessment; WS1 Handout 14: Crisis Team Response Plan Components, Crisis Team/Administrator Emergency Response Go-Kit Contents; WS1 Handout 17: School Staff Response Plan – Components; and WS1 Handout 22: evaluating Crisis Plan Preparedness (Needs Assessment) with each administrator. She will be meeting with Dr. Hart next Monday to look at the data and move on to the next step. To Mrs. Bauman's question, Dr. Hart responded that results of this data will be made public in the form of an action plan. Ms. Finnegan said that this curriculum (from the National Association of School Psychologists) has been well received in Massachusetts, used in the mid-West, and falls in line with all the Federal guidelines. The training itself is one day; the crisis plans will be ongoing. She stressed that this plan covers all areas of crisis including hurricanes, floods, injuries on the playgrounds, and intruders. Mr. Hopping asked for updates on this plan for consistency district-wide.

D. MCAS RESULTS PRESENTATION

Dr. Hart reviewed the 2013 MCAS Review distributed to the Board and concluded that there is a lot to be proud of because the average is close to 10 points above the State average. Because the emerging vision is to have a top school, it is necessary to go from "good" to "great." He attended the Long Range Financial Planning meeting, reporting that Ipswich has done an exceptional job of keeping highly skilled teachers in reasonably good-sized classes but does not have enough professional development. Feoffee funds are being invested well and strategically in the journey to go from "good" to "great." Dr. O'Flynn asked if we are a low-growth district; Dr. Hart responded that certain areas show a decent job and others need more work. Mr. Nysten asked about use of the MCAS data, and Dr. Hart responded that it speaks about growth but that means that empathetic, thoughtful leaders must work with well-rounded students who become successful. Ms. Player spoke of teachers who work together, and Mr. Hopping added that, in identifying each question, the information is used for questions for next year. The open response question has been used since MCAS' inception and Maddie offered

that students review the questions, rate them 0 – 4, and assess them.

Following that review, Mr. Hopping commented that students will then reflect on what constitutes worthy open-response essays. The PARCC assessment model, theoretically to focus on thinking, will replace MCAS in the next couple of years. A conversation regarding the 6th grade taking the PARCC test in lieu of or in addition to the MCAS test is currently taking place in the district with points on both sides. PARCC is national; MCAS is Massachusetts. Mr. Hopping cautioned about several factors including “advanced” and “proficient” transferrals (up/down), scoring better than the State is not being really impressive, and red flags in some grade levels which are higher in “needs improvement.”

Dr. O’Flynn mentioned lack of a focus on SAT testing and the fact that SAT scores restrict very clearly where a college candidate can go. Dr. Hart agreed that the need exists, and Maddie commented that SAT prep is definitely needed, especially in math, and cited that her SAT 700s don’t satisfy colleges for the engineering choice she prefers. Mr. Allman interjected that colleges aren’t using SAT scores as much but do include economic background of the candidate, class rank measured as a percentage of the class total number, and highest education of a parent.

E. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Hopping reported that Ms. Cuff, Dr. O’Flynn, Mr. Nylén, and he met and will seek an override which needs to be a stand-alone School Committee agenda item. In discussion, Ms. Cuff brought her projections for a variety of override scenarios. Also, they discussed how to explain things to the different Boards. After the next meeting with administrators whose thoughts will then be available, the School Committee agenda on the 19th will include override discussion. Mr. Hopping asked the Board to be thinking of people for the parent-based campaign after the first of the year. School Councils should be contacted first. Necessary information will be graphs, tables, historical and future information, definition of Feoffee funding, and how Feoffee money will be spent in the next five years.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Nysten reported that, because there is a question on the delineations of wetlands at Mile Land, a study must be repeated before the Conservation Commission can consider accepting new athletic fields.

3. BIRTH-TO-THREE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Roesler asked and Mrs. Bauman had looked into the fact that Feoffee grants are applicable to the Birth to Three program. Mr. Hopping and Dr. Hart urged the management to apply for enhancement to get children school-ready.

4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman and Ms. Player expressed interest in the new IT person who can help with the selection of a vendor for a new website. The letter to the community regarding the Feoffees is in its final draft. The Board decided to wait until after the holidays to send it by bulk-rate mail. Mr. Nysten mentioned that the letter could be circulated in other ways earlier than January.

6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

7. GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES

Mrs. Roesler spoke of refining the Payne application into two versions: \$10,000 and up, and less than \$10,000. Ms. Cuff mentioned the problems in the follow up process with both types of grants—making sure the work is completed and signed off. Mr. Hopping suggested firming up timelines in a combined meeting of the two grant committees in January.

8. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Mr. Nysten spoke of the many subjects discussed including OPEB, economic development, EBSCO's importance to the community, the schools' performance relative to other districts, and five-year planning.

9. MUTUAL CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE

10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

Mrs. Bauman spoke of the Ipswich Education Foundation working collaboratively and their letter of support for a NE Biolabs grant for SEPAC.

13. TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Nylen will be meeting the new IT Director next Monday and doing information interviews for vendors for the networking project and the procurement process.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Roesler asked about the Manning Fund, and Mr. Hopping will plan to speak to Mr. Whiston's legal counsel.

Mr. Hopping announced that interest-based bargaining training will wait until after the holidays to get all parties together.

Mr. Hopping extended best wishes to Brad Hill who is recuperating at home.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of November 21, 2013, Open Session Minutes

Approval of the Ipswich High School Varsity Cheerleading Team's overnight trip to attend the NCA Cheerleading Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky, February 20-23, 2014.

UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Player moved, seconded by Mr. Nylen, to adjourn the meeting at 9 o'clock. UNANIMOUS.