

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2013
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Barry Hopping, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following members present: S. Gresh, S. Player, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, H. O'Flynn, and C. Nylen. Also present were Superintendent W. Hart, and Student Representative M. Werner.

READING OF DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Maddie Werner read the Mission Statement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Hopping read the following announcements:

There will be no Executive Session

Schools close on December 20 and reopen January 2, 2014.

School Committee will meet on January 9, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble Rm.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Maddie commented that the High School winter concerts have finished and the student body is excited to have a winter break. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Dr. Hart introduced Jean Frash, the new IT Director, who, he said, has hit the ground running. He informed the audience that she has a BS degree in mechanical engineering, has worked in towns, hospitals, and in Andover, Amesbury and Pentucket Schools. Ms. Frash spoke of her experience and her excitement of planning for the Ipswich system so that parents can log in and get consistency at all the schools. She was also excited about working with Chris Burke who understands what the teachers need. She was welcomed by the School Committee.

Dr. Hart spoke of the failure of the Massachusetts School Building Authority to accept the Winthrop and/or Doyon School Statements of Interest. The Board discussed review/revision of the SOIs to be put forward for 2014 for the two schools with possible suggestions from those towns which have been successful with the process, while being assured that most applicants must apply several times

before being accepted.

Dr. Hart reported that Diana Minton, former/retired Pupil Personnel Services Director, has agreed to act as Interim Director of PPS through June, 2014, and the open position will be posted after the first of the year so that a comprehensive search can be done during the regular hiring season.

Professional development goes into high gear in January with a two-day curriculum retreat on January 6-7 for 24 teachers (4 schools) who will begin unpacking the Common Core and aligning the new standards with internally developed 21st Century standards. On January 17, the entire staff has a full Professional Development Day focusing on building staff understanding of Professional Learning Communities and 21st Century Curriculum district initiatives. The Payne Grant (Feoffees) is funding all of this professional development with over a dozen internal professionals who will be facilitating groups of other staff members.

Dr. Hart, working with the Town on a building facilities directorship, has talked with Bill Hodge, the Town's Building/Grounds Director. This collaboration could allow reallocation of some resources and is yet to be finalized. The High School is woefully understaffed.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, CLASS OF 2014

Dr. Hart expressed his pleasure in giving this award. Having asked for a list of ten best and brightest in the school, he studied bios and said this person came from a group of "cream of the crop" across the State. He read her impressive schedule of AP English, AP Calculus, Honors Bio/Chemistry, Honors World History, Honors Spanish, and varsity soccer (for which she was later awarded an All-Star category at the Fall Sports presentation). Mr. Hopping and Dr. Hart then presented Emily Brengle her Award for Academic Excellence.

B. FALL SPORTS AWARDS

Athletic Director Tom Gallagher presented awards for fall sports to Coach of the Year (Baker Division) Sarah Merullo and Championship Ipswich Cheerleaders, Division 4 North and Division 4 State Champions, and to All-League Cheerleader Stephanie DeAngelis. Players of the Year were Austin Rubino in Golf and David Dick in Soccer. Boys' Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Boys' and Girls' Soccer awards were also made.

C. MODIFIED MASSCUE PRESENTATION

Chris Burke, Technology Integration Specialist, and Amy Gregory, Doyon 5th grade teacher, presented a modified version of their recent MASSCUE presentation

which was given to a standing-room only crowd of 200 at Gillette stadium. Google apps are allowing Ipswich to continue to work collaborating, and support the Common Core, and is a good fit for Ipswich because it takes incompatible software and allows a seamless home/school connection. There is an abundance of information online which allows communication and collaboration, creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving in a one-stop-shopping manner for students and staff. The benefits of the classroom model are sharing and collaborating. The ladies demonstrated student documents (assignments) processing collaboration and portfolios in a serious (not socialization, i.e., texting) setting with complete-sentence structure. Also, they explained the use of forms for teachers and students, research capabilities, and cultural institute, i.e., walking through a museum. Students have a user name and passcode and there is no personal information. Mr. Hopping urged vigilance on the security piece, giving his own experience of being compromised as an example.

Dr. Hart mentioned discussions at the technology meetings including a cohesive technology plan, what the classrooms will look like, and the infrastructure decisions made for the powerful learning experience. The need for a consultant has led the group to contact companies for direction.

Maddie spoke of Ms. Billings-White's use of a program in Honors chamber orchestra where students can submit their portfolio for application to music schools. Mr. Hopping expressed appreciation to the two teachers for their work.

Mrs. Roesler asked about the use of script in the future. Mrs. Gregory mentioned that third-grade keyboarding really needs to be moved down to the second grade and that she has projected antique official documents for her 5th graders to "decipher" in an attempt to show them script writing.

D. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICIES JECC AND JECC-P

Mr. Hopping felt that, since policymaking is one of the three charges to the School Committee, it warrants a separate agenda item. Mrs. Roesler presented the proposed policy which the Subcommittee had simplified. Mr. Hopping questioned the need for the sentence in the new policy: "There will be no charge to any in-district transfer student." Dr. O'Flynn asked Dr. Hart, because the new policy directs parents/guardians to request in-district transfers to the Superintendent rather than the elementary principals, if he would be consulting the principals, and he commented that he would be working with them and the parents to try to make an objective decision rather than causing angst among the sending and receiving principals.

Mr. Hopping suggested "extraordinary circumstances" be added, but there was no move to include the term. Mr. Nylen moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to

accept the proposed In-district Transfers policy, JECC, striking out the sentence: "There will be no charge to any in-district transfer student." UNANIMOUS.

Dr. Hart recommended abolishing the administrative procedure JECC-P, currently in the Policy book. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Nylén, to remove (delete) the JECC-P administrative order from the policy manual. UNANIMOUS.

E. CREST COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

Dr. Hart spoke of the former GLEC (Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative) changing to CREST (Collaborative for Regional Educational Services and Training) and the need to vote by the School Committee and approval by member districts and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Mr. Nylén, to appoint Dr. Hart as the representative to CREST from Ipswich. UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to approve the Amended and Restated Articles of Agreement of the Collaborative for Regional Educational & Training (CREST) and authorized the School Committee Chair to sign on behalf of the School Committee. UNANIMOUS.

F. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Hart went to the projector and showed a piece by Ken Robinson on creativity. The speaker commented "It is as important as literacy and we should treat it with the same status." Later he said "When people make mistakes, they are chastised." Dr. Hart asked "What is the role of promoting creativity in the schools and how should we be doing this?" Each Board member offered comments including encouraging students to take risks, offer strong curriculum with creativity fused into it so that it makes for a strong district, and creativity is the best way to have students tell you what they mean.

G. SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET OVERRIDE

Mr. Hopping reported that the three-person subcommittee on Budget, Ms. Cuff, and Dr. Hart met. Dr. O'Flynn reported that administrators met and know the level-of-services budget. They were briefed on how to handle Choice and integrate it in the budget. Also, a tool that allowed development of impact over five years with a growth factor over each year was discussed. The Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee met with the Budget Committee for feedback. The Budget Subcommittee discussed override among themselves, and Mr. Hopping feels it is important to have a workshop one more time. The Board decided on a budget workshop to meet at 6:30 p.m. on January 6 at the Payne School.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

3. BIRTH-TO-THREE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman reported that a grant application for \$100,000 has been submitted for a Cummings Grant.

4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman reported on three goals: (1) Publishing articles, (2) Feoffee grant letter in January, and (3) Website—forwarded to Jean Frash. Mr. Hopping thanked the Communications Subcommittee for the frequent articles in the Chronicle.

6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

7. GRANT SUBCOMMITTEES

Mrs. Roesler reported that the Instructional Mini-grant Committee and Payne Grant Committee will meet together.

8. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

9. MUTUAL CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE

10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

Dr. Gresh reported that the March meeting will feature the author of The Big Disconnect and, tentatively in April, the group will present the subject of apps for children associated with disabilities.

13. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Nysten reported that there will be an interview tomorrow with another company. The Tech Subcommittee is focusing on strategic planning in the 21st Century.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Roesler mentioned the poetry kiosk at the Post Office where 10-12 poetry writers from the High School were stationed.

Dr. O'Flynn reported hearing from Beth Meyer that ICAM is up for negotiation and said it would be good for the schools to have some input. The Board informed him that he had been appointed to the Cable Advisory Committee four weeks ago when he wasn't present at a School Committee meeting.

Ms. Player asked about a date to begin negotiations with IEA , and Mr. Hopping replied that he had been in touch with IEA and two four-hour sessions are being scheduled in January on Mondays with a facilitator.

Mr. Nysten wondered how administration and faculty are handling the bad news from SBA. Mr. Hopping replied that Mrs. McAdams wasn't feeling encouraged after the walk-through with SBA. In discussion, Dr. Hart said he would call SBA, asking about a rubric and ranking. Historically, requests must be submitted several times to SBA. Mr. Hopping commented that something somehow must be done for the elementary schools. Dr. Hart quoted Mr. Hodge at \$600-650,000 to do the Doyon roof.

Mr. Hopping has learned that Mr. Sheehan, an attorney, is circulating a petition with the intent to add the Manning Fund to the Feoffees trust and the transfer won't be official until sometime midyear. The plan is to have the Feoffees oversee the fund, rolled in when disbursed each year, but kept as two separate checks (one for the Manning Fund) and recognizing the Manning family when the check is received. The same guidelines that the Feoffees have in place in the Administrative Order will be used for the Manning Fund, and others are encouraged to contribute to the Feoffees trust as well.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of December 5, 2013, Open Session Minutes

Acceptance of a donation from the Anderson family to the Winthrop School in the amount of \$1,000 with a matching donation from Novartis

Acceptance of a donation from the Cusack family to the Middle School in the amount of \$500

Acceptance of a grant from the Ipswich Family YMCA to the Birth to Three Family Center in the amount of \$5,000

Acceptance of a donation from Hockmeyer Studios to the High School in the amount of \$1,635.29

Acceptance of a donation from Raytheon to the High School for the Student Racing Challenge in the amount of \$1,000

Acceptance of a donation from the Connor Charitable Foundation to the High School in the amount of \$1,000

Approval of the Middle School sixth-grade class overnight field trip to the Ferry Beach Ecology School, Saco, ME, April 29-May 2, 2014.

UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Bauman wished to hear more about the Connor Charitable Foundation.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:49 p.m.