

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**IPSWICH TOWN HALL, ROOM A**  
**25 Green Street**  
**WEDNESDAY, Mar. 16, 2016, 7:00 PM**  
**Accepted June 14, 2016**

**FINCOM Members in Attendance:** Mitch Feldman, Chairman, Janice Clements Skelton, Rob White, Richard Howard, Walt Hartford, Kevin Murphy, and Ingrid Miles. Michael Schaaf arrived at 7:16 pm. Jamie Fay was absent.

Call to order at 7:08 pm with 7 (seven) members present. ICAM was recording, and Cindy Quinn, the Minutes Secretary, was present.

**Others in Attendance:** .Supt. William Hart, School Committee members Carl Nysten, Jen Bauman, Hugh O’Flynn, Sarah Player, Feruza Krason, and Barry Hopping, Jean Emerson (SC Secretary), Sheila Conley (Doyon Principal), Dave Dalton (High School Principal), Dave Fabrizio (Middle School Principal), Beverly Hegedus (Dir. of Pupil Personnel), and Tracy Wagner (Dir. of Teaching and Learning).

**Abbreviations used:** FINCOM Finance Committee, BOS Board of Selectmen, SC School Committee, IPS Ipswich Public Schools, MCAS Mass. Comprehensive Assessment System, RTI Response to Intervention, SHOM Successful Habits of Mind, SPED Special Education, STEAM Science Technology Engineering Art Math

**Documents used:**

- Agenda 03/16/16 and Minutes from 3/8/16
- Videos of the IPS, Supt. Bill Hart
- FY16 Grant Status Sheet, Supt. Bill Hart, 1 page
- Choice Accounts, Supt. Bill Hart 1 page
- IPS Office of Finance and Operations, various accounts and grants , 5 pages
- Gift Funds—Quarterly Report FY 16

**CITIZEN QUERIES:** there were no citizen inquiries.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes from 3/8/16. The vote was 7-0.*

**RECAP OF PRESENTATION/FOLLOW-UP**

Carl Nysten introduced some of the students to share their poetry project, part of a mini-grant last year. Some 550 students participated at the classroom level, and some went on to the regional and state finals. Two of the students spoke about their projects including Nina who is one of the top state winners. M. Schaaf arrived at 7:16 pm. Supt. Dr. Hart showed some videos emphasizing SHOM, Common Core, STEAM, co-teaching, programming skills, collaboration, and critical thinking.

**DOYON/WINTHROP**

Doyon Principal Sheila Conley described some of the work that Doyon and Winthrop staff have been doing for the past 5 years—the Salt Marsh trip, STEAM, kindergarten study of the constellations and music, engineering, multidisciplinary, science fairs, STEAM expo, technology usage, coding, and interactive boards in the classroom. To take care of the social and emotional needs, she went on to talk about the extended day opportunities and students connecting with the community.

Next, she covered some of the budget areas concerning co-teaching, instructional material, class size, literacy camp, and project learning. At both schools, staff is working together on the new science and math standards in order to strengthen the curriculum. Sheila defined the Makerspace design where the classroom space could be altered. Some of the other new ideas are the flexible learning environment, global citizenship, literature tools, apprenticeships, unique field trips, and combining topics. She mentioned having two new full-time teachers that float and assist where needed. Both of these positions have benefits but are not in the teachers' union.

As students move from elementary to middle school and then to high school, she hopes the move is seamless with SHOM. Sheila identified those programs that are back in the budget. Class size has increased at the pre-school and grade one levels with some changes in the population. There have been joint faculty meetings with some of the meetings on-line.

Then she explained some of the challenges. Doyon has focused on STEAM, while Winthrop has concentrated on global citizenship. Even with the co-teaching model with SPED and regular classroom teachers, there is a need to do some small group instruction. For critical thinking, she went on to say how there is more communication, more students talking, and less talking from the teacher as they come up with ways to get an answer and share it with others. This is about encouraging students to think aloud.

Tracy Wagner stated that this is a work in progress to align both schools. The state had adopted some standards from Common Core and revised others, which will be reflected in the MCAS in 2017-18. Sheila elaborated on RTI (the intervention program) and the different tiers. The team develops a plan for each student for 6-8 weeks with weekly reviews and a tracking system. Parents are notified.

According to Barry Hopping, RTI is not SPED but a pre-referral with three levels of intervention and assessment. If a student does not improve, he or she goes to the next level. At the top, the referral to SPED begins. Sheila continued that RTI would also help families deal with issues. On a separate note, the schools have hired a new Birth to Three director.

She addressed some of the concerns at both schools, particularly the size of the classrooms, and Kevin listed the specifics about the current sizes. The numbers represent about 80% of the recommended class space. Supt. Hart summarized some of the themes—the shared vision, environment, integrating disciplines, and keeping the promise.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION**

Supt. Hart went over the handouts on the grants, Choice, and the other accounts—revolving, gifts, Feoffees, Payne Grants and mini-grants. Beverly Hegedus reported on Circuit Breaker and SPED, and there are no major changes. Most of these funds will go to student placements, and Dave Dalton noted that the High School has the biggest share of the SPED costs. They do try to keep some in reserve. The Manning Fund is now managed by the Feoffees, and the outlook for all of the accounts varies by the account and various factors.

Concerning private donation, they cannot be utilized for personnel, but one can donate for a purpose. For the Feoffee account, there will be more expenditures, and the extra rolls back into the Feoffee's. There was a chart of their expenditures and the monies encumbered. At their next meeting, the SC will determine how to split the funds between the grants. Mitch thanked the SC for all of their information.

**NEW BUSINESS**—there was no new business.

*It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 9:24 pm. The vote was unanimous.*

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia D. Quinn, Minutes Secretary