

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2011
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following members present: R. Roesler, J. Bauman, L. Dietz, H. O'Flynn, and S. Gresh. Also present were Supt. Korb; Fin. Director Cuff; V. Paduchak, Student Representative, Elementary Principals S. McAdams and S. Conley, MS Principal C. Forster-Cahill, HS Principal B. Cahill, SPED Director M. Gallant, Head Custodian P. Bedard, and Asst. Principals D. Dalton and K. McMahon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

Policy Subcommittee will meet on November 21, 7 p.m., Payne School

Schools/offices will release early on November 23 and be closed November 24 –
November 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday

Feoffees Working Group will meet on November 29, 7:30 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble
Rm.

School Committee will meet on December 1, 2011, 7 p.m., M/H School Ensemble
Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

VOUCHERS/BILLS

1. SCHOOL COMMITTEE/ADMINISTRATORS BUDGET PRIORITIES FY13

A. FY13 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Mr. Korb introduced the discussion for the evening: budget matters and priorities for FY13. He briefly reviewed the FY12 budget and the \$43,200 approved at the November 14, 2011, Town Meeting for professional development.

Ms. Cuff reviewed the FY12 appropriated budget and the outside funding to support it. Including the FY12 grant funding as well, the total FY12 budget is \$26,563,617. Mr. Markel estimates that a 3% increase is possible, but the School Committee felt the need to go with 2½ percent.

Total revenue projection for FY13 is \$24,065,833 and costs of negotiated salary increases for all employees plus a 10% increase on health insurance costs means a negative of -\$478,482. Other reductions include Pre-K revolving, Choice, Lunch revolving, and education grants, a total of -\$954,670.

The document entitled FY13 Administrator's Budget Priorities, dated 11/17/11, was discussed in detail. Professional development (\$100K), lacking for a number of years and studied on two occasions by Mr. Dalton and Mrs. Forster-Cahill, who showed needs for \$100-200,000 before Common Core standards, is necessary to implement Common Core in FY13 (ELA and math) and FY14 (science). Accreditation (a two-year process) comes up in FY14-15. Mr. Cahill briefed the group on costs for accreditation in 2004-5—about \$25,000 for rewriting curriculum and the visiting team of 15 people who are hosted by Ipswich.

Mrs. Gallant reported on two portions of the Coordinated Program Review--Special Education and Civil Rights, but has not received feedback on ESL. Professional development will be needed for the ESL tutor and on the new standards plus annual training for restraint training, CPI, and CPR and assistive technology. Mr. Korb said that application has been made for a SPED grant, but it will not cover all the expenses.

Mr. Hopping joined the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Under the staffing column, much discussion ensued with the Superintendent's call for a Director of Curriculum and Instruction. SACs and team leaders have served the system well for approximately twenty years, but changes are so vast with concepts and crossovers, that these staff members are being asked to do too much and can't keep up the pace. Mr. Hopping suggested that the position be entitled Director of Curriculum and Assessment. Administration also recommends increasing the Director of Pupil Personnel Services time, and Mr. Hopping was in favor of a full-time PPS Director and commented that the appeal for an override should be an informative approach toward running a quality school district.

Mr. Cahill advocated for the lower middle group of students at the high school in large classes who are apt to lose focus. With a learning lab teacher who would work with these students in remediation, they would not be lost to the system. Mr. Cahill and Mr. Dalton spoke of their experiences on accreditation teams at other high schools where every single school had programs and services that would take care of struggling students.

Other personnel increases recommended by administration were Middle School Assistant Principal to fulltime, adaptive K-12 Physical Education (.2FTE), IHS job coach/COTA (1.0 FTE for life skills and on-the-job training) with the addition of a SPED van for \$30K. In the latter case, Mr. Cahill stated that the cost would be less than moving one SPED student out of district.

Further personnel increases mentioned a .5 FTE in elementary math support at Doyon, and consideration for the size of classes. Mrs. McAdams said that she will be ready to present a report in about a month on the co-teaching schedule at the Winthrop School. A Performing Arts Center Coordinator is in serious need. Mr. Loeb asked for more data on outside use and in-house expenses. Mrs. Roesler suggested that, as a community space, there may be an opportunity to collaborate with the Town on the PAC.

Dr. Gresh was concerned about the foreign language program loss. Mr. Korb wishes to continue his Vision 2020 with reference to the 2002 strategic plan. The remaining two areas of \$450K for technology which is the beginning of a five-year process to get to where we need to be, and of \$300K for capital maintenance, a four-year plan, were discussed briefly.

At this point, Mr. Loeb asked for School Committee input. The following is a summation of remarks made by each Board member for his/her priorities:

Roesler: Concern for the MS model of lack of foreign language; class sizes

Gresh: Support staff (enough people in place); class size; supplies for students (parents and teachers should not have to pay), professional development, technology, support of foreign language

Bauman: Student achievement; foreign language concern; class size

O'Flynn: Budget prioritization (long-term capital not addressed in this budget); support for increased personnel as recommended by admin.; curriculum development as a philosophy

Dietz: Professional development; class size everywhere (40 sections lost at the high school over a period of years!); technology (wants to look at the plan)

Hopping: Professional development; emphasis on curriculum and assessment; leadership instruction; against Choice paying for programs

Loeb: Maintenance of personnel/programs as presently but without saying it is the best we can do; professional development; concern for class sessions lost at the high school (advocates for more online classes, etc.); need classroom slots filled before administrative slots; against added fees by parents

In further discussion, Mr. Korb asked for a sense of the Committee regarding a budget based on the priorities or a budget based on a 2 ½ % increase. School Committee members asked for a 2 ½ % increase with a \$24,065,833 revenue projection with negotiated salary increases, health insurance increases, loss of education jobs grant, and Choice. The budget will be about a million dollars worth of cuts which will affect staff, programs, etc. Dr. Gresh asked about best practices elsewhere to tackle curriculum and save money. Virtual high school in Ipswich currently has 50 slots, and Mr. Cahill said it could be doubled with another .2 teacher and a \$6,000 membership and Victor, as a user, approved of that suggestion. Dates for budget meetings were discussed.

Michelle Wurtz, cochair of the Winthrop Council, wanted the parents to submit their priorities as well, and Mr. Loeb suggested that the citizens can speak at the beginning of every meeting and the budget presentation meetings are great opportunities for parents to speak.

Lobbying should be done at a Council level and through principals. Mrs. Dietz commented that people can email or call her. Mrs. Roesler commented that parents need to be at administrative workshops so that they understand the needs. The override, she said, will be parent-driven.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Victor reported that his Northeast Regional Student Advisory Council had formed subcommittees for letter writing to the committee chairs and towns re the Chapter 70 amendment.

2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. O’Flynn reported on fund raisers, smaller numbers of students out for winter sports, user fees which are behind, fall sports outcomes were reviewed, and new banners are coming up. The concussion policy is mandated by March 1.

3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

6. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh explained the plan to create a six-month timeline for a particular category on the school website, turning presentations into a PDF. Awards and recognitions will have pictures, and articles will be shared from time to time.

7. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

8. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

9. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Mrs. Dietz announced that there will a meeting in December. No BOS members attended the Long-Range presentation.

10. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

13. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

14. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

15. OTHER

Mrs. Roesler asked about a Doyon principal search. Mr. Korb replied that he is meeting with staff and parents, that Ms. Conley is very interested in continuing, and that a decision will be made before the December vacation interval to reopen and move forward or extend the contract to her.

Mrs. Roesler also mentioned that a meeting on technology will be held at Burlington High on January 12 from 9 – 12 noon.

Mrs. Bauman attended the MASC/MASS conference and will send a report.

III. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented:

- Acceptance of November 3, 2011, Minutes Open Session
- Acceptance of November 3, 2011, Minutes Executive Session
- Acceptance of \$1,582 from Geskus Photography as the Ipswich Middle School's portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs. UNAN.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 10:27 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED IN OPEN SESSION

FY BUDGET RECAP/FY PROJECTED BUDGET DEFICIT/FY13
ADMINISTRATORS' BUDGET PRIORITIES