

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the following members present: J. Bauman, L. Dietz, H. O’Flynn, R. Roesler, and B. Hopping. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb; Finance Director J. Cuff; and V. Paduchak, Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

Feoffees Working group will meet on October 25, 7:30 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

Finance Committee Long Range Planning Committee will meet on October 26, 7 p.m., Town Manager’s Conference Room, Town Hall

School Committee will meet on November 3, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Chris Burke, Technology Integration Specialist, and Amy Gregory, Doyon teacher, presented a recap of the three-day summer course which consisted of learning about online teaching tools (Web 2.0). Monies from FRIES, Rotary, and fundraising have provided attendance for the two of them at the Massachusetts Computer Users conference for teaching and learning. They presented a video of the Doyon School students (with emphasis by Ms. Burke that these concepts take place throughout the district) using technology in the classrooms. Ms. Burke and Ms. Gregory put together a proposal for using online tools by teachers which was accepted and will be presented at Gillette Stadium in the coming days.

Ms. Burke lamented the fact that the 11-year-old Middle/High School infrastructure cannot support the traffic that comes into the school, and the need to address technology and professional development is acute. Wide-area network comes into the Middle/High School but is not useable without funds to make it work internally. Victor Padchak was concerned that he was unable to do his work this week when the internet went down. He suggested a long-term plan for state-of-the-art technology rather than ten-year upgrades. Mr. Loeb referred to his idea from six years ago of leasing, thus forcing upgrades when the lease term expires. Dr. O’Flynn opined that, for purposes of an override, a capital plan must be developed. Collaboration between the Town and the schools has not been successful because the users’ needs are different. Mr. Korb explained that EBSCO intends to provide the schools with 200 computers (two years old), but monitors and keyboards must be purchased for compatibility with the system. Philosophic discussion ensued regarding the future of the “tablet” as an electronic computer for the student and a full-time person to monitor technology developments.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Cuff reported that local aid has not been received from the Commonwealth. When it does, it will go into the OPEB line of the budget. Circuit Breaker funds have increased by \$137,000 and, if FY12 expenditures for SPED services stay within the budget, there will be \$247,000 available in the revolving account for FY13. Ms. Cuff reviewed the three scattergrams for teaching staff for 2011, 2012 and 2013 with discussion by Board members including Mr. Hopping's comment that teachers' costs for certification out of pocket (\$15,000) are only reimbursed at \$7,000 by their increased salary on the next year's step. The Budget Subcommittee will be meeting in late November with Ms. Cuff on the FY13 budget.

C. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Mr. Loeb gave an overview of the October 18 hearing at the State House regarding the Town Meeting's vote last spring for public governance of the Little Neck Trust issue. The hearing room was full with standing-room only (40 persons went to Boston from Ipswich by bus). Representatives from the Tenants Association and their attorney spoke as well as two panels of four people who were in favor. Mr. Loeb felt that the hearing committee had been sent many e-mails and letters and was, therefore, prepared and receptive to the issue.

The School Committee as a whole thanked Jen Bauman and Rachael Roesler for their work to get citizens to attend and Mr. Loeb for his words at the hearing. Attorneys who volunteered their representative services were also thanked.

Mr. Loeb informed the Board that \$30,000 left over from the FY11 budgeted item for legal payments will be put on the November, 2011 Warrant as an article to be removed from Free Cash and added to the \$250,000 for FY12.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

At a meeting held two weeks ago by the North East Regional Student Advisory Council, Victor mentioned that the Ipswich School Committee is sending a letter to the Board of Education regarding Bill 1821 and Bill 3538 regarding Chapter 70 funding, both sponsored by Representative Brad Hill. He is going to try to influence them to send letters to the Board of Education asking for support of the Bills.

2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

The light pole at Green Street was put up the day after the School Committee approved.

4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE
5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
6. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
7. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

8. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE) meet
9. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING) next week

10. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING
11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping reported that Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director, has met with the subcommittee on the concussion policy which has to be approved by January 1, 2012. With two more subcommittee meetings before the December meetings of the School Committee, the policy can have two readings and approval. There was discussion of the facets of the policy including “intellectual rest” by the patient and an interactive video to the parent.

Mr. Gallagher’s second topic was the dogs on athletic fields. There is a Town ordinance with associated fines, but enforcement could be a problem. Signage needs to be upgraded. Mrs. Dietz suggested that a letter accompany the dog license information when it next goes out to dog owners.

13. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
14. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

15. OTHER

Mr. Hopping asked for an update on school lunch deficits. Ms. Cuff reported that a letter went out to fewer than 82 parents this week. She was asked to research software prices for parents to be able to monitor their students’ lunch accounts.

Mrs. Dietz asked about the process of obtaining health insurance through GIC. Mr. Korb reported that the Board of Selectmen is in charge of this, and MIAA is now running parallel to GIC. The IEA is discussing the issue, and Mr. Korb will speak to Mr. Markel on the health insurance matter.

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Vision 20/20 Initiative

Mr. Korb has spoken with three organizations that do strategic planning, with Ellen Kallman, who is employed by a firm which has had one done, and has found that a timeline would be to begin in the spring, continue through the summer, and have the stakeholders involved in the fall. He will send the definition of a strategic plan in the Weekly Update.

2. Common Core

Work is current with SACS in ELA and math to begin a rollout plan that will address the crosswalks and changes coming. Identification this year is a must because students will be tested in these areas next year. No template from the State has yet been received and, while they will offer free workshops, he doesn't know much about them. Other workshops do cost money, and he meets with administration next week to address needs for presentation to the School Committee on a request for funds designated to professional development. There are funds not yet committed from beginning FY11-12. In discussion, Mr. Korb said that "common core" will be taken up during the January professional day, and literacy, as a common strand, could be presented throughout the system on that day. The object is to develop a new assessment test (MCAS being out) that will be consistent with the other 36 states that are adopting it.

3. Recreation Grant

The School Department is requesting funds from the Town on a multi-year plan which is appropriate for the needs in each building.

4. Year 2 – AYP – Winthrop Library

Because Winthrop has not met the requirements for math in Year 2 (AYP) and because AYP has an impact on the Federal Grant (Title I), Mrs. McAdams feels that literacy materials are critical and would hope to open the Winthrop library full-time for the rest of the year for practice reading. A Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA) to improve handwriting at \$2,000 and \$11,000 to open the library fulltime would be necessary. Mr. Hopping asked if this is an effort to improve literacy, and Mr. Loeb questioned expense for benefits for the full-time library staff.

Mrs. Bauman felt that the 2002 strategic plan goals should be used as a starting point, and Mrs. Roesler felt that the School Committee is not ready for an RFP for another plan. Mr. Korb remarked that he is just researching at this time. Mr. Hopping asked Mr. Korb to respond to the last strategic plan about where the School Department is in relation to the four 2002 goals and he would like a position paper, a sort of "state-of-the-schools", things he would want to do in the future. Mr. Loeb wants to see a self-evaluation, not a consultant running the show, but rather a facilitator at some time period. Mrs. Dietz wanted information on what the stakeholders understand would happen with the plan – some creative solutions to problems that exist.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of draft Minutes of October 3, 2011, Town of Ipswich Tri-Board Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of October 6, 2011, Open Session of School Committee

Acceptance of Minutes of April 9, 2011, Bean Counting Open Session

Acceptance of donation of \$1,000 from the Ipswich Rotary Club to support technology at Doyon School

Acceptance of donation of \$600 from YMCA's Sand Stride to support the Ipswich Athletics Track Team

Accepted the anonymous donation of \$2,257 to Winthrop School to help defray the cost of the Grade 6 Plimoth Plantation field trip.

UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED IN OPEN SESSION

Circuit Breaker Reimbursement Calculation

Scattergrams (3) for professional steps/lanes by category of teaching staff