

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: J. Bauman, L. Dietz, S. Gresh, R. Roesler, H. O'Flynn, and B. Hopping. Also present were Superintendent Korb; Finance Director Cuff; Principal McAdams, and V. Paduchak, Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held for the purpose of strategies regarding ongoing litigation in relation to real estate matters, and regarding collective bargaining with non-union personnel after which the meeting will return to open session.

Policy Subcommittee will meet on September 19, 5:30 p.m., Payne School

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on September 20, 6 p.m., Middle/High School
Guidance Conference Room

Feoffees TriBoard Working Group will meet on September 27, 7:30 p.m., Middle/High
School Ensemble Room

Pre-Fall Town Meeting on October 3, 7 p.m., Meeting Room A of Town Hall

School Committee will meet on October 6, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble
Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb introduced Sue Brengle of the Ipswich Education Foundation who presented a check for \$811.73 which represents the interest from the Carolyn Davis Endowment Fund, \$543.86 of which goes to the Winthrop School with the remainder divided equally among the Doyon, Middle, and High Schools.

Mr. Korb deferred to the co-chair of the Winthrop School Council, Jen Bauman, who presented to Sheila McAdams, Principal of the Winthrop School, the National Board Certificate for Principals and listed the criteria to receive the certificate which included instructional leadership, organizational change, and site-based evidence. She is one of 200 principals named out of 98,000 principals across the country. She received a bouquet of flowers and applause from the group.

Mr. Korb mentioned Boston Magazine's recognition of the Ipswich system in the top 50 districts in the Commonwealth, including AP classes, athletic teams, and per pupil expenditure, and thanked Mr. Traverso for his letter to the Chronicle on the subject. Dr. O'Flynn remarked that, in spite of MCAS numbers being extremely high, SAT scores in Ipswich are surprisingly low and questioned how Ipswich could improve the scores to enable students to get into great colleges. Mr. Korb promised follow-up with the High School administration.

Mr. Korb recalled his meeting with Tim Collins, CEO of EBSCO, and Governor Deval Patrick who was visiting the firm. Mr. Korb thanked the Governor for support in education, innovation, and infrastructure and realized that he was very well informed about the Ipswich community including the mention in Boston Magazine.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. FINANCIAL REPORT

B. BUS TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Financial Director Cuff reported that the bussing program is well underway with total revenue of \$77,375 from 790 passes. Busses are running at capacity. While three families were reimbursed, now the calls and questions have ceased.

She reported 152 parking passes for senior at IHS, at \$7,600, the money to be put into a revolving account managed by the Town Accountant and used to offset building/maintenance costs for the parking lot. Discussion ensued regarding juniors who receive licenses later in the school year. Ms. Cuff suggested watching how the process plays out for the first year. Mr. Dalton will be called to a future School Committee meeting to discuss the parking pass issue.

Ms. Cuff elaborated on the successful installation of 84 energy-efficient halogen bulb fixtures, final cost of \$25,163. The Ipswich Utilities Department is rebating \$25,000 to the schools which will be refunded to the FY12 budget. She mentioned encumbrances made across the system and cross-training in the Central Office.

C. ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT NUMBERS UPDATE

Mr. Korb reviewed the elementary enrollment changes of one student in each building and reported no change in Powder House Village numbers.

D. SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the Superintendent's Evaluation as presented. UNANIMOUS. The synopsis, read by Mr. Loeb, covered a two school-year period of 2009 through 2011 with commendations of Mr. Korb as an excellent communicator with students, staff, School Committee members, and the community at large and an outstanding representative of the Ipswich Public Schools. He received good comments regarding recommendations of candidates for the system, allowing independence with his administrators, fostering creativity and educational growth. He was urged to invigorate the district with fresh goals, a more creative budget in these challenging times, and innovation in educating the community of the challenges. He needs to energize his staff and himself with professional development resources by examining best practices in other school districts across the country. Mr. Korb thanked the current Committee and its former members, appreciates the recommendations, and will go forward with long-range plans for budget and professional development. In discussion, the Committee mentioned putting together their own goals, long-range planning for 5-10 years, and a study of the program of elective subjects at the High School.

E. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Mr. Loeb reported that a deposition of one of the Little Neck appraisals had just taken place this week.

F. OCTOBER 17, 2011, FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES

Mr. Loeb voiced the expectation that the School Committee will take a position on Warrant Articles affecting the schools for the run-through on October 3.

Article 2. After discussion, Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to approve 61.7% of the supplemental local aid and \$80,968 for Medicaid funds deposited into the General Fund during FY11 as spelled out in Article 2. UNANIMOUS.

Article 1. In discussion of the status of the Recreation Department and the reduction of its budget, Committee members voiced opinions on the necessity for after-school activities for elementary and middle school students. Dr. O’Flynn opined that the Recreation Department was hit, the municipal area stayed intact, and it is the School Committee’s responsibility to defend the interests of the children. Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to reject Warrant Article 1 as presented. UNANIMOUS.

Following discussion, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, that Article 1 use \$31,467 (62% of the \$51,000 currently proposed under the Summary of Article 1, paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 from the Recreation budget) for the schools as an alternative proposal which would be transferred to the School Department for the purpose of funding after-school programs in the elementary and middle schools. UNANIMOUS.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE
4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE
5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE
7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE
8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb reported that the Superintendent evaluation form does not please the Committee. Mr. Hopping commented that as the national Common Core moves forward, it will drive evaluation of teachers and administration in a new way.

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

Dr. Gresh questioned transportation services for out-placement students as being as much as two hours each way to and from their daily school placement. Mr. Korb explained that two SPED students who were affected will be placed with a new service provider next week. Collaboration with other towns for cost cutting is a trial/error process and sometimes other arrangements must be made.

13. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dietz reported that, in discussion before the Finance Committee on November 8, the recommendation has been made that OPEB normal costs be taken off the top of the proposed budget number before it is designated to the municipal and school departments. Secondly, the Town Accountant asserted that Ipswich's budget process is very different from other municipalities, and Ms. Cuff replied that it is as varied as there are towns. Thirdly, it was suggested that the School Committee meet with the Finance Committee more often than presently happens. Ms. Cuff, as a member of the committee, added that the comment was made that the School Committee should be able to appoint members to the Finance Committee. Dr. Gresh commented that the Finance Committee serves as an advisory board but doesn't seem to function that way.

14. OTHER

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of Minutes of September 1, 2011, Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of September 1, 2011, Executive Session

Acceptance of the anonymous donation of \$750 from the parents of a Middle School student to be used by the Grade 6 Team to benefit students

Approval of the Advanced Project Adventure overnight field trip to Conway/Albany, New Hampshire, Blackberry Crossing Campground, Mt. Chocorua, for October 14-16, 2011.

UNANIMOUS.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to go into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss strategies regarding ongoing litigation in relation to real estate matters. **IN FAVOR** - Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz, O'Flynn.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of strategies regarding collective bargaining with non-union personnel after which the meeting will return to Open Session. **IN FAVOR** - Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz, O'Flynn.

Open Session resumed at 9:52 p.m.

Mr. Loeb, having invited Mr. Korb to return, asked for a vote regarding the Superintendent's contract. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to award a raise of 2% on the Superintendent's contract for the FY11-12 school year. **IN FAVOR** - Loeb, O'Flynn, Dietz, Gresh; **OPPOSED** - Hopping, Bauman, Roesler.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to adjourn at 9:53 p.m. **UNANIMOUS.**

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED IN OPEN SESSION:

Elementary Enrollment Update for 2011-12

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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8:20 p.m.

In attendance: School Committee members H. O'Flynn, J. Loeb, L. Dietz, B. Hopping, S. Gresh, R. Roesler, J. Bauman
Superintendent R. Korb, Finance Director J. Cuff

Non-union personnel

Mr. Korb requested, having already received an extension of his contract by vote on April 7, 2011, that he be given a 2% increase in salary which has already been granted to other administrators in the system and to the Town Manager (by the Board of Selectmen).

Ms. Cuff and Mr. Korb left the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Mr. Loeb reported that Operations Subcommittee does not have the authority to vote individual increases for personnel.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to grant the Superintendent a 2% increase for FY11-12. After much discussion, vote was IN FAVOR - O'Flynn, Dietz, Loeb, Gresh; OPPOSED - Hopping, Roesler, Bauman.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to return to Open Session at 9:50 p.m.
Roll call IN FAVOR - O'Flynn, Dietz, Hopping, Loeb, Bauman, Gresh, Roesler.