

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 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, B. Hopping, R. Roesler, H. O'Flynn, L. Dietz, and S. Gresh. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb; Finance Director J. Cuff; and V. Paduchak, Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held for the purpose of strategies regarding ongoing litigation in relation to real estate matters, after which the meeting will adjourn.

Opening Day for staff will be on Monday, August 29, 8 a.m., Middle/High School Cafeteria

Senator B. Tarr and Representative B. Hill will meet with the Feoffees Working Group on August 30, 6 – 7 p.m., Town Hall, Meeting Room A. Mrs. Bauman urged citizens to attend this meeting.

First day of school for students is August 31, 2011.

School Committee will meet on September 1, 2011, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb acknowledged the contributions made by recently deceased Winthrop employees Ken Nickerson and Laurie Hershberg with a moment of silence in their honor.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. STAFFING REPORT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012

Mr. Korb introduced the three principals and Assistant Principal David Dalton who was substituting for Principal Cahill. Each of them reviewed the status of positions/openings updated on 8/18/11.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT/BUSSING UPDATE

Financial Director Cuff made a report on the bus registration process. She spoke of the work on establishing routes and the possibility of saving \$47,000 in the event that one bus might be reduced. Presently receipts total \$66,000. Passes will be available at the Superintendent's office the last week of August and on the first few days of school. Pickup times will be published and the Town authorities have been made aware that school busses must move through construction sites on High Street bridge and Washington Street.

1. Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to establish a revolving fund for managing cash receipts and expenditures associated with maintenance of the High School parking lot. Mr. Dalton reported that staff will have designated parking and there have been 120 student inquiries. UNANIMOUS.

C. ELEMENTARY CLASS SIZE UPDATE

Mr. Korb and the elementary principals reviewed enrollments (using a sheet dated 8/17/11) and increases in students in both elementary schools. Mr. Korb remarked that the numbers are moving targets and Powder House Village could still impact the Winthrop and Middle Schools.

D. WINTHROP LIBRARY TEACHING ASSISTANT

Mr. Korb apologized to the anonymous giver of a \$25,000 donation to the Winthrop School referencing the supposed specificity as discussed at the July 21, 2011, School Committee meeting. The letter expressly says “funds...used exclusively to support Winthrop School in its area of greatest need as determined by the principal.” Following discussion, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to accept the generous anonymous donation of \$25,000 to be used at the Winthrop School Principal’s discretion. School Committee members publicly thanked the family who donated. UNANIMOUS.

E. FY12 BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Korb remarked about the continuing “Budget Story”, the tale of FY12 Budget Considerations, 8/16/11. The group reviewed with Ms. Cuff the FY12 budget numbers and unanticipated/expected new revenues along with known new expenses leaving a balance of \$143,885. Chapter II, Choice, has \$165,626 uncommitted, and Chapter III shows projections for FY13 with a shortfall of \$367,703.

In discussion, Head Custodian Paul Bedard explained that Mile Lane well drilling (800’ down) has been scrapped because there was no water found. At the stadium, a burned-out motor was replaced with a new one, and, also without water, a new well had to be built (\$7,000).

Following the review, Mr. Korb reported his dilemma of leaving the FY12 uncommitted funds for the shortfall of FY13, or using the money to restore positions and make FY12 easier. Mr. Loeb expressed fears for FY13 cuts which would be in excess of \$1.5 – 2 million. Dr. O’Flynn estimated \$800,000 in the hole because of contractual obligations for FY13, a fact pointed out by Mrs. Dietz that schools are run by teaching personnel, the most important and largest piece of the school budget. To Mr. Hopping’s question of Choice shortfall, Ms. Cuff reported that this is the first occurrence of shortfall, and Mr. Korb commented that there is a decrease of Choice students and thus no replacement of funding.

Mr. Korb went on to make four recommendations to restore positions. While Dr. O’Flynn wished to support all, the Chair preferred that they be taken up individually.

After discussion of the need at Doyon, Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, that the recommended added teacher at Doyon’s fourth grade be accepted. UNANIMOUS.

After a short discussion on the subject of libraries, Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the recommendation of .4 TA personnel at each of the two elementaries. IN FAVOR – O’Flynn, Dietz, Hopping, Bauman, Gresh, Roesler; OPPOSED – Loeb.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to accept the sixth-grade, additional social studies teacher at the Middle School. Seconded by Gresh, the motion underwent considerable discussion with some convinced that it would be a one-year position and others agreeing that it would be appropriate to give the Middle School a year to study their model which could eventually be three sections everywhere in the elementary and middle schools without an override. Mrs. Forster-Cahill was later directed to study alternatives for another year. Victor Paduchak recalled that he had been taught history in the Middle School by a math teacher which he didn't find too successful. IN FAVOR – O'Flynn, Dietz, Bauman, Gresh; OPPOSED – Hopping, Loeb, Roesler.

The fourth recommendation was moved by Mrs. Dietz to support the recommendation to extend MS/HS library aide time for an extended hour, Mondays through Thursdays, later withdrawn. Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to extend MS/HS library aides by two hours per day, Mondays through Thursdays, at an approximate cost of \$5,500. IN FAVOR – Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Dietz, O'Flynn; OPPOSED – Hopping.

Mrs. McAdams asked the School Committee to set their priorities early for the FY13 budget. Mr. Hopping commended Mr. Korb and Ms. Cuff for coming forward with bold recommendations.

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. Hopping reported the second phase of the Superintendent's evaluation; that is, drafting the responses from the Board for the past year's performance. The Subcommittee will meet in Open Session on August 31 with the next step. The public evaluation will be on the September 15 agenda.

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. Community Use of School Facilities, Application Process, KG-A
Proposed Revision, Second Reading
- b. School Councils, BDFA
Proposed Adoption, Second Reading
- c. Conduct of School Council Business, BDFA-E
Proposed Adoption, Second Reading

- d. Petty Cash Funds, DJC
Proposed Adoption, First Reading
- e. Administrative Organization Plan, CC/CCB
Proposed Revision, First Reading
- f. Funding Proposals and Applications, DD
Proposed Revision, First Reading

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept a., b., and c. for second reading, and d., e., and f. for first reading. UNANIMOUS.

- 11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
- 12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)
- 13. OTHER

C. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS/FY13 BUDGET TIMELINE

Mr. Loeb noted that budget presentations are earlier than last year. Mrs. Dietz commented that the administrators need to know School Committee's priorities. Mr. Hopping hoped that the School Improvement Plans will be reinvigorated and the Futures Report should be included in discussions.

D. FINALIZE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Audit Committee – remove Bauman
Budget Subcommittee – O'Flynn, Roesler

E. ASSIGNMENTS FOR INSPECTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Doyon School – R. Roesler
Winthrop School – S. Gresh
Middle School – H. O'Flynn
High School – J. Bauman

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb mentioned that the Long Range Planning Committee raised issues when Ms. Cuff was present without Superintendent and School Committee representation. Mr. Korb would like to work in a cooperative manner.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:
Acceptance of Minutes of July 21, 2011, Open Session
Acceptance of donation of \$972.95 from the Doyon Friends of Ipswich Elementary Schools (FRIES) toward the purchase of an updated math program and its associate technology component
UNANIMOUS.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategies regarding ongoing litigation in relation to real estate matters at 10:15 p.m.
IN FAVOR – Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz, and O’Flynn.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. UNANIMOUS.