

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. H. O'Flynn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz, B. Hopping, J. Bauman, S. Gresh, R. Roesler, and J. Loeb. Also present were: R. Korb, Superintendent; J. Cuff, Financial Director; and Principals S. McAdams, D. Archambault, and C. Forster-Cahill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategies regarding ongoing litigation in relation to real estate matters and strategies regarding collective bargaining after which the meeting will return to open session.

High School Honors Reception will be held on May 24, 7 p.m., Performing Arts Center
Memorial Day Ceremonies will be held on May 25, 8 a.m., at Ipswich High School and ending with lunch being served at Doyon School at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Teaching Assistants Negotiations Team will meet on May 25, 3:30 p.m., and also on May 26, 3:30 p.m., Payne School

High School Senior Prom will be held on May 26, Castle Hill, 6 p.m.

Memorial Day Holiday will be observed on May 30. All schools/offices will be closed.

Athletics Subcommittee will meet on May 31, 6 p.m., Room B229, Middle/High School

High School Baccalaureate will be held on June 1, 7 p.m., Performing Arts Center

Tri/Board Working Group will meet on June 1, 7:30 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

High School Graduation will be held on June 5, 2 p.m., Middle/High School Lower Gym

Policy Subcommittee will meet on June 6, Payne School, 4:30 p.m.

Middle School Honors Night will be held on June 6, 6:30 p.m., Performing Arts Center

School Committee will meet on June 2, 6 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Mootafian, from the audience, asked about the feasibility of having one elementary principal oversee Winthrop and Doyon Schools. He gave his thoughts for coverage of personnel and cost savings and asked for formal discussion. Mr. Korb explained that nine candidates will begin interviews next week selected by a thirteen-member screening committee and felt that it is critical, with two very distinct cultures at the elementary buildings, that each school deserves its own principal. Savings would be minimal and research shows that a single principal over multiple schools does not work.

Mrs. Roesler said that she liked one culture, Mrs. Bauman believed that the whole process should be thought out more, Dr. Gresh wanted to study the theory of one principal, and Mrs. Dietz, Mr. Loeb, Mr. Hopping, and Dr O'Flynn all spoke against the one principal because of lack of savings, and because of site-based management. After more discussion Mr. Loeb pointed out that he didn't think that it is within the purview of the School Committee to act. Mr. Korb welcomed a committee member to listen to interviews for the Doyon principalship, urging, however, that a three-night commitment is necessary to hear ALL the candidates.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn welcomed Mrs. Bauman and Mrs. Roesler to the School Committee. Mr. Hopping expressed concern over the many blanks on the ballot and thought that perhaps the School Committee needs to address the credibility issue in the community. The subcommittee realignment takes place at the first meeting in July.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. MATHEMATICS SUBJECT AREA COMMITTEE**

Meg Smith, Chair, working with a PowerPoint presentation, began with the goals achieved and continuing, and Mrs. McAdams, liaison, presented the MCAS results in math showing plateaus in growth. New textbooks and professional development needs were discussed as important for MCAS growth, especially for the newer teachers. Questions and discussion regarding the Middle School and High School curricula were answered by Betsy Hutton and Kelly Scott.

Mr. Loeb (Dr. O'Flynn having been called back to work at 8:26 p.m.) assumed the Chair Pro Tem and thanked the group for their presentation.

B. PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK CHANGES

Mr. Korb announced that there were no changes at the High School or in the Athletics Handbooks. After a short discussion, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the Middle School handbook changes as presented. UNANIMOUS.

With one minor change in the elementary handbook, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to approve the elementary handbook changes. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Korb and Mrs. Forster-Cahill spoke briefly about the 100th anniversary of Crane's Beach Picnic Day.

C. FINANCIAL REPORTS**1. FY11 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ms. Cuff reported on the final weeks of the FY11 budget and the FY10 End-of-Year Report audit, and the DESE Coordinated Program Review which has requested some new procedures for cash forecasting and policy for petty cash limitations as well as further security for personnel information.

2. FY12 BUDGET STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Korb reported seven retirements have been accepted. As a result, some additional revenue has come about in Medicare reimbursement and health insurance savings and the anticipated transportation fee. With \$127,178 available, Mr. Korb recommended that two teachers be restored at the Winthrop School in Grades 2 and 3, allowing each grade to have four sections. Ms. Cuff commented that, were the Social Studies teacher under restoration recommendation by Mr. Korb not to happen, \$35,000 would have to be paid to that teacher for unemployment. She felt very comfortable knowing that there will be saving in utilities this coming year.

Mr. Loeb contended that nowhere was the savings in unemployment shown; Ms. Cuff replied that \$145,000 is budgeted for unemployment for FY12.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the administrative recommendation to restore three positions as follows:

Winthrop Grade 2 teacher

Winthrop Grade 3 teacher

Middle School Social Studies teacher.

IN FAVOR - Bauman, Roesler, Dietz, Gresh; OPPOSED - Hopping, Loeb. Mr. Korb reported that Dr. O'Flynn indicated that he would support the restorations of the three teachers before he left.

D. FIRST GRADE CHOICE SIBLING REQUEST AT DOYON SCHOOL

After a short explanation, Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Gresh, to accept the sibling request submitted to Principal Archambault by a parent whose two other children already attend Doyon, to admit a first-grade child as a Choice student. IN FAVOR - Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Dietz; OPPOSED - Hopping.

E. ATHLETIC FEE PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

The Athletic Subcommittee recommends unanimously that the current fee of \$400 per year go to \$500 for the first athlete and \$650 per year to \$750 for the family maximum. Anticipating \$30,000-\$35,000 in revenue, Mr. Hopping said that it still is among the lowest of the surrounding areas and a per-year fee covering every sport. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the proposed increase of athletic user fee to \$500/\$750 one/family by the Athletic Subcommittee recommendation and support of the Athletic Director. UNANIMOUS.

F. TRANSPORTATION FEE PROCESS UPDATE

Mr. Cuff explained that she was helped by Newburyport people who use a fee-based system for bus transportation. The fee is \$250 for the first rider, \$250 for the second rider, and \$500 as the family cap, offers a \$25 discount for early registration, \$25 charge for returned checks, \$25 charge for late registration, and \$10 charge for lost card replacement. Exempt riders include K – 6th grade who reside two or more miles away from the school they are entitled to attend. Other restrictions apply.

1. ESTABLISH REVOLVING ACCCOUNT TO RECEIVE TRANSPORTATION FEES

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to establish a school bus transportation revolving account to receive transportation fees. UNANIMOUS. Yet to be determined are distances from the school and a wait list for applicants. Mr. Hopping suggested that the proposed transportation fee procedures be taken up at the June 6 Policy Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Cuff is taking on this whole process.

G. FEOFFEES

Mrs. Roesler asked for an update, and Mr. Loeb replied that all interrogatories and all responses to the admissions were signed and served last week.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping reported a concerted effort to insure that athletic fields and expenditures remain a priority.

3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that tech people are making final recommendations. Ms. Cuff commented that contracts for the Town and schools may be combined for savings.

4. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh reported that pictures and a short bio of School Committee members are being put together.

5. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE

7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Dietz reported that three School Committee members came but nobody else did.

8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb announced that orientation for the new School Committee members will be on May 31 at 7:30 p.m., Payne School.

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Emerson reported that a good meeting was held with an important decision of a confidential nature, and Mr. Korb added that the motion goes to the Board of Selectmen.

12. SEPAC

13. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that it will be running on Saturday, May 21.

14. SCHOOL COMMITTEE/ITA HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb suggested that it be eliminated.

- 15. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
- 16. OTHER

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

No report due to the late hour.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of the Minutes of May 5, 2011, Open Session

Acceptance of the Minutes of May 5, 2011, Executive Session

Acceptance of the donation of \$4,200 from the 2 Depot Square Ipswich

Charitable Foundation to the Doyon School Student Leadership Program

UNANIMOUS.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategies with ongoing litigation with relation to real estate matters at 10:55 p.m. **IN FAVOR - Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategies in collective bargaining after which the meeting will adjourn. **IN FAVOR - Bauman, Gresh, Roesler, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.**

VI. OPEN SESSION

Resumed at 12:18 a.m.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to authorize the Superintendent and School Committee Chair to execute the Settlement Memorandum between the Ipswich School Committee and AFSCME 2905, Custodians, Bus and Van Drivers from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013. **UNANIMOUS.**

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to adjourn at 12:20 a.m. **UNANIMOUS.**

In attendance at 11:00 p.m.: J. Bauman, S. Gresh, R. Roesler, J. Loeb, B. Hopping, L. Dietz, Superintendent R. Korb, Financial Director J. Cuff.

Collective Bargaining

In a continuation of discussion from the last meeting of the School Committee and with Nathan Kaitz, Mr. Korb reported that Fair Labor Standards exempt the position of Maintenance Custodial Supervisor. Mr. Bedard's 40-hour work week will be flexible. He can earn detail money at the discretion of the Superintendent but not be entitled to overtime.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the custodial agreement as submitted. ROLL CALL: IN FAVOR - Gresh, Roesler, Loeb, Dietz; OPPOSED - Hopping; ABSTAINING - Bauman.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to go out of Executive Session to return to Open Session at 12:17 a.m. ROLL CALL IN FAVOR - Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.