

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2011
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Pro Tem Chair, called the meeting to order at 7: 10 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz, E. Traverso, and B. Hopping. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; and J. Cuff, Financial Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategies regarding collective bargaining, strategies regarding litigation and real estate matters, and strategies regarding negotiations with non-union personnel, after which the meeting will adjourn to Open Session

Bean Counting will take place on April 9, 9 a.m., Town Hall Meeting Room A
Support Staff Negotiations Team will meet on April 22, Payne School: 11 a.m., Clerical; 1:30 p.m., Food Services; 2:15 p.m., Custodians; 4 p.m., Bus/Van Drivers

Spring Vacation: April 18 – 22, 2011

TriBoard Working Group will meet April 20, 7:30 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble Room

Policy Subcommittee will meet on May 2 at 5:30 p.m., Payne School

Chairs of School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen will meet with the Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools on May 3, 7 p.m., Town Manager's Conference Room

TriBoard will meet on May 4, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room A

School Committee will meet on May 5, 7 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble Room

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director, announced that there were several conflicts with athletes in other activities, gave out winter sports awards in Boys' and Girls' Basketball, in Boys' and Girls' Track and in Diving. Hannah O'Flynn was being feted at the Danversport Yacht Club by the Salem News for being named Cape Ann League Division II Player of the Year.

B. STUDENT PARKING FEES

Based on research of comparable school districts where fees ranged from \$35 - \$200 and \$0 in three districts, Mr. Korb, speaking on behalf of Mr. Cahill, Principal, recommended a fee of \$50 per student driver per year for parking in an assigned area, \$25 for the second half of the year. Anticipated revenue is \$7,000 per year. Mr. Cahill included a sheet of additional procedures regarding the student parking fee. Fees collected would be used by the high school for a variety of purposes. School Committee members asked several questions and the suggestion of laminating a placard for placement on the dashboard because of multiple family vehicles was well received. Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the recommendation for a \$50 parking fee for each student driver per year. UNANIMOUS.

C. SEPAC

Karen Donovan, SEPAC President, began the presentation (with a team of SEPAC members), by saying that her group is mandated by law to advise the School Committee on special education policy. SEPAC members are experts, and they want to be a resource to the Committee.

In the course of the PowerPoint presentation, several members of SEPAC addressed issues which SEPAC has with the recommendations made by Futures. These include legal, financial, and educational implications, and the FY12 budget indicates partial implementation of some of Futures' recommendations prior to professional development and School Committee policy discussion.

SEPAC feels that a good foundation already exists to contain the cost for out-of-district placement. They had questions with RtI in the Futures report. The Rennie Report (Rennie Center for Education, Research, and Policy, Cambridge, MA) was recommended to the School Committee by SEPAC.

Mrs. Donovan expressed a desire to return to the School Committee to talk about some of the issues in depth. Mr. Loeb thanked the group for their concerns and commented on the pride that Ipswich has in keeping SPED students in the Ipswich schools as opposed to out-placement. He and Mr. Hopping welcomed ongoing dialogue. Mr. Korb commended the presenters. The ultimate decision will lie with a very careful analysis and review by the SPED Director and SPED staff who talk every day regarding the Futures report on what recommendations are substantive and what are not. He promised that the SPED staff will study the SEPAC information just presented

D. FY12 BUDGET FINCOM PRESENTATIONS RECAP

E. REVIEW OF WARRANT ARTICLES FOR SPRING TOWN MEETING
MAY 10, 2011

Mr. Loeb led the review of each article as follows:

Article 7, FY11 School Budget Amendment

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to support transfer of \$35,605.75 from insurance reimbursement for storm damage to the MS principal's office and reception area in Article 7. UNANIMOUS.

Article 8, FY12 School Budget

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to support Warrant Article 8 for an FY12 budget of \$20,864,165 including Chapter 70 school aid program of \$2,559,500. UNANIMOUS.

Discussion ensued regarding OPEB and capital improvements and Mr. Korb's meeting with the Town Manager and Mr. Seidler and, further, with the Board of Directors of the Electric Light Department regarding the wind turbine. He gave the Electric Department details of energy conservation measures taken over the last several years and reviewed with them the lighting upgrades needed at the MS/HS (under Capital Improvements, Phase II) asking for study for a grant to cover the upgrades. He asked about electric rate adjustments as well — a

commercial rate would be a better category than the municipal rate Mr. Traverso suggested. Some teacher retirements have been confirmed to make it possible to recommend returning two elementary teachers to address the class-size issues for FY12.

Article 9, HS/MS Debt Project

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to support Article 9 for \$2,534,075. UNANIMOUS.

Article 10, FY12 Whittier Regional High School Budget

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to support the budget of \$270,246 (decrease from FY11) for Whittier Regional High School. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Korb publicly thanked Mr. Hopping for his work with the Whittier School budget.

Article 12, Citizen's Petition "An Act Modifying the Appointment of the Feoffees of Ipswich Grammar School"

Mrs. Roesler explained that, in extensive research, she now has documentation that the legislature was involved as late as the late 1900's and asked for School Committee support. Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to support Article 12. UNANIMOUS.

Article 17, General Override

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to remove Article 17 from the Town Warrant. UNANIMOUS. Mrs. Dietz felt that a better degree of success can be achieved with the Finance Committee and School Committee working together on a long-range budget plan. Mr. Loeb urged that the budget process be pushed back next year to December to give more time for conversations. While numbers will be soft, a sense of felt need can be achieved.

Article 19, Chapter 90

Mr. Hopping asked that School Street be added to the list of street and road improvements, the State's fund contribution to the Town being \$442,110.

Article 21, Open Space and Athletic Fields Bond Authorization

Members and Mr. Korb discussed the issues. Mr. Hopping reported that the Athletic Field Study Committee voted 7/1 to support the Warrant Article, and they will speak to the Article at Town Meeting regarding needs for additional playing fields. There is still \$1.4 million of the original \$10 billion bond available, and it is a ballot question. After discussion, Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to amend Article 21 so that the trigger for Town Meeting would mean approval of \$500,000 rather than the \$1.5 million and support the Article with the reduction. IN FAVOR - Traverso, Loeb, Dietz; OPPOSED - Hopping.

Article 27, Meals Tax

Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to support Article 27 for a rate of .75 percent of the gross receipts, a sales tax imposed upon restaurant meals originating within the Town.

Article 28, Changing the Quorum Requirement for Town Meetings

Discussion ensued versus the pros and cons of a meeting quorum. Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to support the Article proposal for reducing the quorum requirement for Town Meetings from 200 to 0. IN FAVOR - Traverso, Dietz; OPPOSED - Loeb, Hopping. Split vote; therefore, no position.

Article 29, Feoffees Trust

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity to change guidelines included within the Article. Without discussion within the TriBoard last week, these wordings are unacceptable to the School Committee whose strategies belong to the School Committee. Litigation bill payments go through the Working Group for review and then to the three Boards for approval. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to reject Article 29 as written. UNANIMOUS.

F. HEALTH INSURANCE RESOLUTION

Mr. Korb distributed a draft of a Municipal Employee Health Insurance Reform Resolution which has come from the Town Manager. Mr. Korb has met with ITA's President Jeff Krieger, but he has not received official feedback from MTA. This concept will be put on the May agenda.

G. BEAN COUNTING

H. FEOFFEES

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping reported that there will be a recommendation for increased user fees. The Mile Lane well work has not paid off in terms of water availability. Permanent lines on the Green Street fields will come up in May. He also asked for strategies in recognizing athletes at School Committee meetings, and Mr. Gallagher has agreed to talk with the School Committee Chair.

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

4. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

5. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE

7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

13. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb spoke of video of the arrival of the blades and other parts of the turbine down Linebrook Road, through Lord Square, and to the destination off Town Farm Road. Mr. Korb asked for authorization to start selling renewable energy credits (RECS). Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to authorize the Chair of the School Committee to sign on behalf of the School Committee as follows:

The Town of Ipswich hereby agrees to authorize T. Henry, Director of Utilities, to execute a Statement of Qualifications Application to be filed with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the registration of its 1.6 MW wind turbine for the purpose of selling renewable energy credits.

UNANIMOUS.

Each party (Schools and Town) are responsible for selling their own RECS.

- 14. SCHOOL COMMITTEE/ITA HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE
- 15. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
- 16. OTHER

III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb reported that the end-of-the-year schedule is on its way.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of March 17, 2011, Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of March 22, 2011, Finance Committee/School Committee Budget Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of March 23, 2011, Finance Committee/School Committee Budget Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of March 24, 2011, Finance Committee/School Committee Budget Session
- Acceptance of donation of \$849.47 from Doyon FRIES to purchase a cafeteria table for the Doyon School.

UNANIMOUS.

Dr. O’Flynn joined the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy for collective bargaining. Roll Call IN FAVOR: Traverso, O’Flynn, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy with respect to litigation because discussing these matters in Open Session may have a detrimental effect on the Committee’s litigating and negotiating positions. IN FAVOR - Traverso, O’Flynn, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to go into Executive Session, to return to Open Session, to discuss strategy for collective bargaining with non-union personnel because discussing these matters in Open Session may have a detrimental effect on the Committee’s negotiating position. IN FAVOR - Traverso, O’Flynn, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to go into Executive Session at 9:46 p.m.

10:40 p.m.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to increase the Superintendent's base salary for FY11 by 3% and extend his contract for another year. UNANIMOUS.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to adjourn at 10:41. UNANIMOUS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

4/7/11

PAGE 7

In attendance: J. Loeb, E. Traverso, H. O'Flynn, B. Hopping, L. Dietz.
9:50 p.m. R. Korb, J. Cuff

Collective Bargaining

Mr. Korb reported progress with support staff negotiations and he reviewed proposals of 0/2/3% in three-year contracts along with MIAA Tier 3 health insurance. He reviewed van drivers, custodial, and clerical discussions. Negotiations continue.

Mr. Korb and Ms. Cuff left the meeting.

Collective Bargaining/Non-Union Personnel

In regard to the Superintendent's contract, Mr. Loeb and Mr. Hopping led discussion to the decision to deal with compensation for FY11 now and the Superintendent's evaluation after Town elections at which time N. Sheppard and E. Traverso, soon to be retired, may take part if they wish.

After discussion, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to increase Mr. Korb's salary by 3% for FY11 and to extend his contract for one more year. IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to return to Open Session at 10:37. IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.