

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2011  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. O'Flynn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: J. Loeb, B. Hopping, N. Sheppard, L. Dietz, E. Traverso, and S. Gresh. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent; the four principals; J. Cuff, Financial Director; SPED Director M. Gallant; and Abby Skelton, Student Representative.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss strategies regarding collective bargaining and strategies regarding litigation and real estate matters, after which the meeting will adjourn

Athletic Subcommittee's March 8 meeting has been canceled

Public Safety Facilities Committee will meet on March 8, 7 p.m., Town Manager's Conference Room

School Committee will meet on March 17, at 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

School Committee's FY12 Budget Presentations to the Finance Committee as follows:

March 22, 7 p.m., Meeting Room A, Town Hall – Central Office and Special Education

March 23, 7 p.m., Meeting Room A, Town Hall – Middle and High Schools

March 24, 7 p.m., Meeting Room A, Town Hall – Doyon and Winthrop Schools

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**RULE OF NECESSITY**

Dr. O'Flynn read the names of the School Committee members whose relatives are on staff with the Ipswich Public Schools. Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to invoke the rule of necessity in order not to be disqualified. UNANIMOUS.

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. FEOFFEEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Mr. Traverso announced that the Annual Meeting of the Feoffeees will take place in Open Session on March 9 at the VFW hall on County Road at 6:30. An audience member announced that the time is 6:30 a.m. At that time the Feoffeees usually distribute their annual report and will announce their distribution to the schools if there is one.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS****A. VOUCHERS/BILLS****B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE
2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that the “techies” are evaluating all 33 recommendations made by the Collins report. Mr. Korb named Mrs. Dietz, Mr. Hopping, Ms. Cuff, and himself as members along with Town officials.

4. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
5. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that behind-the-scenes discussions are being held with Head Start of Gloucester (2-3 children are currently bused there from Ipswich) and Beverly Hospital’s Cable Hospital emergency room. The decision lies with Head Start; Ipswich can potentially qualify 30-40 children.

7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE
8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb announced that Operations is scheduling a meeting at 6:30 p.m. before the regular School Committee meeting on March 17 at the Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. School Committee Organizational Meeting, BCA, Proposed Revision  
Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to approve the policy for second reading. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping asked for clarification on Dr. O’Flynn’s request to review the current policy that allows Ipswich teachers to bring their own children to attend Ipswich schools tuition free. Dr. O’Flynn indicated that he would like to expand the practice of allowing tuition free student status to other school employee groups in addition to professional teachers. Mr. Korb explained that the School Committee must vote to accept any tuition free student. If there are Choice openings which are not filled through the regular process, the system can claim tuition free students for those Choice slots. Mr. Hopping will take the issue back to Policy Subcommittee.

11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
12. SPED PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

## 13. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb read an update from Tim Henry regarding the arrival of the turbine parts from Iowa and Florida in March by truck (8 in all), staggered and at night, reportedly through 1A (Lord Square), the blades, alone, each on its own truck, being 132' long!

## 14. SCHOOL COMMITTEE/ITA HEALTH INSURANCE COMMITTEE

## 15. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Abby Skelton reported the students happy to be back after vacation and extended warm congratulations to the girls' basketball team who are entering the semifinals.

## 16. OTHER

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS****B. OPEN HEARING AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED FY12 SCHOOL BUDGET**

Dr. O'Flynn declared the hearing Open at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Korb recommended to the School Committee to adopt a budget with a 2.5% increase to the foundation base of \$23,398,240. This budget contains a significant amount of cuts and reductions to personnel. He reviewed the cuts in detail, stating that the deficits do not come as a result of the ITA contract. He urged continued study of the revenue stream and enumerated options which include an increase to 63% from 61.7% of the total town budget (\$500,000). Other areas to explore for revenue are a meals tax (\$150,000), parking meters (\$20-40,000) at the train station which does not include the parking lots, Electric Light Department which would not charge municipal and school buildings for usage but increase the resident rate (excess of \$300,000), bus fees (currently ridership counting is being done by bus drivers and building principals), early retirement incentives for personnel, a kindergarten fee (which would cancel the current \$64,000 grant), and a pull-back of one school day (\$75-80,000) which would be subject to ITA negotiations. Mr. Korb commented that the capital improvements could pass for FY12, but Feoffees' lack of money distribution and non-funding of OPEB and technology are issues. Dr. Gresh commented that the Town should consider items which are broader than the School Committee and mentioned the Long-range Planning Committee of the Finance Committee which has realistic ideas, one of which is increasing taxes. School Committee members discussed their dislike of imbalance of class sizes at Winthrop and Doyon. Mr. Korb agreed that administration was in full agreement to put teachers back in the classrooms where possible.

Three audience members spoke about needs.

**C. CLOSE HEARING ON PROPOSED FY12 BUDGET**

Dr. O'Flynn declared the hearing closed at 8:25 p.m.

**D. VOTE OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON FY12 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Mr. Loeb moved (grudgingly), seconded by Mr. Hopping, to adopt an FY12 Operating Budget of \$20,864,165. Members discussed philosophical differences and times/dates when decisions on class size and revenues must be made. Vote was IN FAVOR - Traverso, Sheppard, O’Flynn, Hopping, Loeb, and Dietz; OPPOSED - Gresh.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to approve the FY12 debt service amount at \$2,534,075. UNANIMOUS.

The budget and cut list will be put online on the school site.

Mr. Korb reminded administrators and School Committee members to set a meeting to begin working on their budget presentations to the Finance Committee. Central Office and SPED is H. O’Flynn and E. Traverso; Middle School, S. Gresh; High School, L. Dietz; Winthrop, B. Hopping; and Doyon, J. Loeb.

**III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**IV. CONSENT**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of February 9, 2011, Budget Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of February 10, 2011, Budget Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of February 17, Open Session.

UNANIMOUS.

**V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There being no business to discuss in Executive Session, meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. UNANIMOUS.