

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair Pro Tem, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz; S. Gresh; and E. Traverso. Also present were J. Cuff, Financial Director; R. Korb, Superintendent; and Abby Skelton, Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

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

Schools will be closed February 21-25 for winter vacation

The regional meeting of local officials to discuss state finances with Representative Hill and Senator Tarr will be held on February 23, 7 p.m., Town Hall

School Committee and Administrators Budget Workshop will be held on March 1, MS/HS Ensemble Room, 7 p.m.

TriBoard Working Group will meet on March 2, 7:30 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble Room

School Committee will meet on March 3, 7 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble Room. This meeting will be the Public Hearing on the FY12 Budget

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

RULE OF NECESSITY

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to adopt the Rule of Necessity.
UNANIMOUS.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

**A. JOINT SCHOOL COMMITTEE/IPSWICH TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH INSURANCE**

Mr. Korb announced that Jeff Krieger, ITA President, will be appointing two members of ITA and is looking for two members from the School Committee to form a joint committee to work on health insurance issues. Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to appoint J. Loeb and B. Hopping as members of the joint committee on health insurance. UNANIMOUS.

B. FY11 FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Cuff reviewed the year to date by announcing the Doyon School over expenditures of \$70,000 due to unanticipated tuition costs of outside placement. She reported that utilities are running slightly below estimates and emergency snow removal cost \$9,751 due to the excellent custodial and DPW staff when neighboring school districts spent as much as six figures with their snow removal.

C. FY12 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS RECAP

Mr. Korb recommended from meeting with administrators that they should present a budget of 2.5% increase based on revenue, a \$200,000 cut from a 3.25% budget. The plan is to advocate for additional revenue because of the dire straits in which the schools find themselves. He mentioned increased fees, a better bid for health insurance, utilities picked up by the municipality and, most of all, an increase for the total Town budget pie for the schools from 61.7% to 63% as ways to increase revenue. He asked that the workshop scheduled for March 1 be used for priorities with an add-back list.

Mr. Loeb and Mr. Traverso disagreed with the presentation of the 2.5% budget, saying that even the 3.25% isn't enough. Mrs. Dietz agreed that neither percentage is adequate and advocated a look at the broader picture and dispute the perception that the schools are fine. Mr. Loeb urged looking outside the box, and Mr. Korb promised that discussion would take place on March 1 on changes wanted.

D. FEOFFEEES

Mr. Loeb noted that the motion filed by the Feoffees for summary judgment heard on January 31 has been denied by Judge Sahagian. The litigation will continue. The judge gave no orders regarding pre trial conference. She ruled that the three Selectmen Feoffees could separate themselves from the four Feoffees as plaintiffs but could not become defendants. She accepted as well the amicus brief, but not its attachments, filed by a group of citizens. The Attorney General, on January 28, filed that deviation from the trust is permissible "to effectuate Payne's dominant intent" which is to benefit the schools.

Dr. O'Flynn joined the meeting at 8:15 p.m. and assumed the Chair.

Mr. Traverso reported that the TriBoard recommended that all of the unpaid bills be sent back to the other Boards for payment. The assessor has devalued the 42 vacant lots on Little Neck from \$2,700,000 to \$600,000. More than 100 tenants have now applied for rebates on property taxes because the appellate tax board has allowed the applications. The Town Counsel represents all the handling of the rebates – they are reviewed on the issue of "standing" not on the "value."

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

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE
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. FEOFFEEES SUBCOMMITTEE

8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Traverso related that 5 towns in the district have appropriated funds to bring a suit against the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in hopes of finding Chapter 70 unconstitutional on the basis that it violates the constitutional provisions that taxes must be the same across the Commonwealth.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, that the Committee supports the issue but does not intend to fund it. UNANIMOUS.

9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb offered an apology to Mr. Korb promising to meet with Mr. Hopping between now and March 3 regarding the Superintendent's evaluation.

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. School Committee Organizational Meeting BCA Proposed Revision, (first reading)

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to approve the policy for first reading. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Traverso suggested that policy should be established regarding snow days and reservations made by parents/teachers. Mr. Korb commented that a note could be added to the school calendar when it is published after votes by ITA and the School Committee for FY12.

11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE**12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)****13. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE****14. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Abby reported on the "green initiative" with buckets in the cafeteria for separating and recycling items. The medical forms for the trip to England are due.

15. OTHER**III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT****A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Korb announced that he will be out of the district for the coming week and wished everyone a chance to relax before the final budget push.

IV. CONSENT**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Acceptance of Minutes of February 3, 2011, Open Session
UNANIMOUS.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. O'Flynn said that he had reserved the time for discussion but all agreed that there was nothing urgent to report in Executive Session.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. UNANIMOUS.