

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2011
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. O'Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. with the following members present: E. Traverso, S. Gresh, J. Loeb, B. Hopping, and L. Dietz. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb; J. Cuff, Financial Director; Principals B. Cahill, C. Forster-Cahill, S. McAdams, and D. Archambault; and M. Gallant, SPED Director.

CITIZENS' QUESTIONS – None.

I. CENTRAL OFFICE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FY12 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

A. CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

Mr. Korb presented the overview FY12 budget of \$23,463,705 with a 3.25% target to the base operating budget. The Finance Committee suggests a 2.5% increase. With a 3.25% increase, the Town will be \$53,000 under the levy limit; with a 2.5%, \$300,000 under the levy limit. Members discussed the reality of the 3.25% increase.

Mr. Korb reviewed the Central Office budget, specifically giving credit to Police Chief Nikas for including the schools' SRO in the police budget. He reviewed cuts on his PowerPoint presentation with figures for each school's and district-wide budget adjustments and then reviewed additional cuts which would be needed to meet the 2.5% target including 1 custodial cut (MS/HS), reduction of a bus, and reduced substitute funding. Dr. Gresh expressed concern for children who must walk from Southern Heights and watch cars carrying one parent/one child drive by. Other revenue options to ease the deficits were discussed. Mr. Korb advocated for (and received support from the Committee) at least a 63% chunk of the total Town budget. Ms. Cuff reviewed the planned use of outside funds. Ipswich's per student cost at \$10,900 is one of the lowest in the State. The State average is \$13,057 and Ipswich is 16.5% below it. Ms. Gallant, SPED Director, spoke of the trends in Ipswich including increased out-of-district tuitions. She briefly reviewed the recent Futures Health Core Report. She will elaborate on "co-teaching" at the Finance Committee meeting. It was moved and seconded to take the Central Administration budget under advisement. UNANIMOUS.

B. DOYON SCHOOL BUDGET

Mr. Archambault, in his PowerPoint presentation, named his priorities of child safety and a curriculum available for every child. Grade 4 and 5 anti-bullying program and writing and math labs have been created. They are working in collaboration with Winthrop in professional development, in an enrichment program, and institution of recess before lunch. In discussion, the Committee found classes of 27 in Grades 4 and 5 unacceptable. Reduction of TAs and numbers of IEPs were discussed. Mr. Korb called for parent and community support to increase funding. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to take the Doyon budget under advisement. UNANIMOUS.

C. WINTHROP SCHOOL BUDGET

Mrs. McAdams reviewed her budget on PowerPoint combining MCAS results as she went. She reviewed proposed cuts and proposed a new schedule which would reduce paraprofessionals and change the service delivery model. Her secondary goals are for an expanded preschool program and busing for walkers who miss school when it's too cold. She looked at reduction of clerical, SPED, and library personnel. After discussion with the Committee, it was moved and seconded to take the Winthrop budget under advisement. UNANIMOUS.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to adjourn at 10:53 p.m. UNANIMOUS.