

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

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. H. O'Flynn, School Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: E. Traverso, B. Hopping, S. Gresh, and J. Loeb. Also present were A. Skelton, Student Representative; R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; and J. Cuff, Financial Director.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. O'Flynn made the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

Policy Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Monday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the Payne School

Central Office, Special Education, and the Doyon School and Winthrop School FY12

Budget Presentations will be made to the School Committee on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle/High School Ensemble Room

Support Staff Negotiations Team will meet on Thursday, February 10, and Wednesday, February 16, at 3:30 p.m. in the Payne School

School Committee budget meetings take place as follows: February 9 – Central, SPED, Winthrop and Doyon budgets, February 10 – Middle and High School budgets, all to begin at 7 p.m. at the Middle/High School Ensemble Room

TriBoard Working Group Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle/High School Ensemble Room

The next Regular Ipswich School Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle/High School Ensemble Room

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. FY12 BUDGET**

Mr. Korb reported on the most recent numbers from the Town Accountant. To stay under the levy limit, it would be possible to use a 3.25% increase and remain \$53,000 under. While other Town Boards don't agree, school administration feels it does keep under the levy limit. A 2.5% increase would mean another \$175,000 worth of cuts. Sadly either budget means cutting additional staff; eight teachers and five teacher assistants or more.

Mr. Korb intends to advocate strongly for an increased revenue share from the Town and has had an honest and candid conversation with the Town Manager. Next week, two budgets of 3.25% and 2.5% increase will be presented. The numbers are always changing.

Mr. Korb remarked that there were no personnel cuts on the municipal side in the FY11 year, unlike the schools' cuts, and this is an equity issue for the community.

Mr. Traverso recommended the study of a meals tax. Mr. Hopping had information on ways which might increase revenue. (1) Ipswich is one of the few school districts that the Choice Out students are charged to the School Department. Many towns take the sum out of the whole pie. (2) Similarly, many towns absorb the health insurance of all of their employees. (3) Parking meters could be installed downtown. Revenue generated from that (excluding the first year when installation expenses would be involved) is pure profit. Mr. Traverso and Mr. Hopping felt that the time is now to work as a group and felt disappointment that the ad hoc collaborative couldn't have been thinking these things through. Mr. Loeb was in favor of increasing the ratio for the School Department, liked the idea of a meals tax, but the need to know how much could be generated should come first. He felt that there are revenue possibilities from a tax standpoint and the three Town Boards must look into them.

Mr. Korb stated that two other budgetary issues are not being discussed next week: OPEB liability insurance and ongoing litigation fees regarding the Feoffees. He questioned how many teachers must be let go because of legal fees. Capital expenses are not addressed. Mr. Korb gave the next two capital items on the long-term list: Phase 3 of the Doyon roof and the replacement of MS/HS lighting in the gym which can be put off for a year or two. Dr. Gresh remarked that the long-term view put out by the Finance Committee should be looked at again.

Mr. Hopping asked about the budget presentations. Mr. Korb replied that administration will speak about educational goals, elementary principals will speak of core academic planning time, and the SPED Director/Principals will speak on co-teaching plans. Mr. Hopping asked for reflections in response to enrollments/class sizes and not to see equal cuts in all schools when it might make more sense to have more cuts in one building and less in another.

#### B. FEOFFEES

Mr. Traverso apologized for not making the Probate Court in Salem hearing on January 31 on the summary judgment submitted by the Feoffees. Mr. Howard, Finance Committee member, was there and filled in Committee members on what transpired. The Attorney General had filed a motion just before the hearing. There were three focuses of the hearing: whether or not the three Selectmen Feoffees could split from the majority of Feoffees and oppose the sale in court; whether the court would accept a friend-of-the-court brief signed by 700 residents opposed to the sale; and the summary judgment itself which was argued by William Sheehan, Feoffees attorney, for over two hours. Mr. Perry, attorney for the School Department, argued that facts were indeed in dispute and gave details. Judge Sahagian will try to rule in two weeks.

Dr. O'Flynn voiced appreciation for the parent group who attended the court hearing.

## 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
5. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

**6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Korb reported that plans are ongoing about Head Start and Birth-to-Three at the Cable Emergency Center.

**7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE****8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING****9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE****10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Two issues came up for the Subcommittee: (1) Dr. O’Flynn’s request that School Department employees beyond teachers be allowed to bring their children into Choice; and (2) the need for policy specific to the School Committee reorganization at the first meeting in July.

**11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES COMMITTEE****12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE****13. WIND TURBINE****14. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Abby Skelton reported that High School students were enjoying the snow days and into the second semester. Mr. Hopping questioned the graduation date in lieu of the five days off for snow.

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

Mr. Korb commended Paul Bedard, Head Custodian, and Rick Clarke of the Department of Public Works, for cleanup of the snow and sidewalks for the children and staff. Mr. Korb and Mr. Bedard assured everyone that the roofs of all three school buildings were safe structures with snow weight. Mr. Bedard commended the joint effort with the Town – Frank Antonucci and Rick Clarke – and the DPW in general.

**IV. CONSENT****A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Acceptance of Minutes of January 20, 2011, Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of January 20, 2011, Executive Session

Acceptance of donation from Michael and Jeanette Hedderman and Galicki

Electrical of \$1,200 in materials and labor to mount a TV monitor in the Doyon School front lobby to promote the Doyon Arts Program

Acceptance of the 2011 Margot Stern Strom Teaching Award of \$1,750 to

Middle School teacher Karen Langlais. The award is to be used for “Facing History and Ourselves” related activities at the Ipswich Middle School.

UNANIMOUS.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to adjourn at 8:55 p.m.  
UNANIMOUS.