

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

H. O'Flynn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz, E. Traverso, N. Sheppard, J. Loeb, B. Hopping, and S. Gresh. Also present were J. Cuff, Financial Director; R. Korb, Superintendent; and Abby Skelton, Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held immediately following Open Session for the purpose of discussion of strategies relating to litigation and real estate matters, after which the meeting will adjourn

Professional day will be held for teachers/teaching assistants on January 24; no school for students

A discussion on State Finances with Bruce Tarr and Brad Hill will be held on January 26, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

School Committee/Administrators' Budget Workshop, January 27, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

Public Safety Facilities Committee will meet February 2, 7 p.m., Town Manager's Conference Room, Town Hall

School Committee will meet on February 3, 7 p.m., Middle/High Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb introduced Joan Arsenault, Rotary President, and Jennifer Bauman of the Ipswich Education Foundation. Mrs. Arsenault presented the Rotary Club donation of \$6,000 (proceeds of their masked ball) for 10 laptops and a mobile cart to the Ipswich Education Foundation/Ipswich Public Schools. This donation is part of the Initiative for Technology. Mrs. Bauman presented the Carolyn Davis Endowment Fund donation of \$811.73 for professional development to the Ipswich Education Foundation/Ipswich Public Schools. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to accept the two donations from Rotary Club (\$6,000) and Carolyn Davis Endowment Fund (\$811.73) to the Ipswich Public Schools. UNANIMOUS.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Mr. Korb introduced the two gentlemen from Futures Education explaining that the concept of conducting a comprehensive review of the SPED program had never been done before.

Dr. Michael Neiman thanked those who worked with him and the staff for their cooperation and time. He made a PowerPoint presentation including current challenges in SPED and the methodology employed in the comprehensive analyses. Findings of staff and community support, procedures, and organization structure; of program review; and financial considerations were presented and recommendations given in each of the three categories. Drs. Neiman and Levine spoke of the exemplary culture of student ownership and pride among the staff. SPED personnel in the classroom benefit all the students. Co-teaching and RtI (response intervention) were discussed with School Committee members. Dr. Levine made specific recommendations regarding transportation savings possible within the SPED program as follows: (1) require of your transportation provider accurate student assignment and route information – software for transportation will save significant money year after year; (2) develop a capital plan for replacement of your own vehicles; (3) develop an alternative strategy for bidding on transportation – it is not unusual to have escalation/de-escalation clauses regarding fuel; (4) maintenance of all vehicles should be partnered with the Town DPW in some way; and (5) with Mr. Korb serving on the Board of the North Shore Consortium, joint collaborative transportation units make possible the blending together of routes that save towns money.

Mr. Korb commented on the competent nature of the report. While the administration has had an opportunity to meet with the Futures Education group already, no recommendations can be made yet to the School Committee. Mrs. Mary Gallant, SPED Director, commented that changes will definitely be made where advisable, and she was not surprised by the report which will be posted on the school website.

Mr. Traverso was concerned about AYP relationships. The third grade MCAS reading test is critical to a student's eventual success according to experts, and lower income groups are essentially in the same category as poor readers. The Futures team recommended co-teaching and acceleration of reading in Grade 1. Other recommendations were life-skills training; eligibility criteria for services which should be uniform throughout the district, and administrative oversight is needed to develop professional common planning time for teachers and paraprofessionals.

Karen Donovan, President of SEPAC and parent of a SPED child, recommended looking at OT and PT in a broad way in order to understand how the whole child works.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Cuff, Financial Director, briefly remarked on her Financial Report regarding Choice-Out Tuition and SPED assessments, revolving and gift account assessments, and FY12 budget planning.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Hopping reported that updates were given on girls' lacrosse, winter sports tally, and study of user-fee increase for athletics. Mr. Loeb suggested an activity fee as an alternative to user fees, mentioning the use of an activity fee at the Middle School.

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE**3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Korb reported on a kickoff meeting at the Town Hall and analysis of 30 recommendations of the Collins report. He mentioned development of an RFP for technology/fundraising and wide-area network to connect all the departments in Town.

4. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh reported on a meeting with Chris Burke in working through the school's website in sharing in some categories (i.e. budget, finance), an attempt to involve students/parents in their awards nights, and bios of School Committee members.

5. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Cuff reported fundraising activities at the January 10 meeting and announced that six new infants will be joining between February and May.

6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb announced that discussions continue with North East Health Systems regarding Cable's Emergency Center at 42 square feet for space for early-childhood programs.

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****14. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE****15. OTHER****III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT****A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Korb reported on budget meetings, a \$1 million deficit, and aggressive study in a number of budget areas. Administrative/School Committee workshop takes place next week, January 27.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of Minutes of December 16, 2010, Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of December 16, 2010, Executive Session

Acceptance of the anonymous donation of \$20,000 to Ipswich High School to purchase textbooks

Acceptance of the donation of \$512.20 from Box Tops for Education to benefit the Winthrop School

Acceptance of \$999 from Geskus Photography as the Winthrop School's portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of \$1,184 from Geskus Photography as the Doyon School's portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of \$1,139 from Geskus Photography as the Ipswich Middle School's portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of \$1,767.53 from Hockmeyer Studios as the High School's portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs UNANIMOUS.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to go into Executive Session with members of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee at 9:15 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to ongoing litigation because discussing these matters in Open Session may have a detrimental effect on the Committee's litigating position. ROLL CALL IN FAVOR – Traverso, Gresh, Sheppard, O'Flynn, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.