

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2013
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair H. O'Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: J. Loeb, J. Bauman, S. Gresh, B. Hopping, C. Nylen, and R. Roesler. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb; Finance Director J. Cuff; Student Representative M. Werner, and Principals D. Dalton and D. Fabrizio.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held this evening.

Bean Counting will be held on April 6, 9 a.m., Meeting Room A, Town Hall

Policy Subcommittee is rescheduling for April 22, 7 p.m., Payne School

The three Superintendent Finalists will be in-district for day-long meetings on

April 9, 10, and 11 and will meet for a public interview with the School

Committee at 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

April 15 – April 19 will be Spring Vacation for schools

Site visits with the Finalists will be April 23 and April 24

School Committee will meet on April 25, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

A parent at Doyon, resident at 177 Linebrook Road, and Planning Board member, spoke on a draft Warrant Article item regarding Linebrook Road. It is due to be repaired, the figure is \$2 million (debt exclusion), and it asks for approval and adding bicycle insignias along the road, but it does not include sidewalk installation nor signage in the school zone. It does include widening of the shoulders but sidewalks are to come later. She presented the Committee with several pictures depicting the deplorable trail which exists instead of a sidewalk and one in particular which depicts a bicycler, a truck, a Marini tractor, and a bus all negotiating in the vicinity of and a typical scene at the Doyon School. Dr. O'Flynn thanked her for bringing the matter to the Committee's attention.

Mr. Loeb suggested that an Executive Session needs to be scheduled next week to review the contract for the new Superintendent.

RULE OF NECESSITY

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to invoke the Rule of Necessity so that all members of the School Committee may vote on budgetary matters. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to modify the agenda to include Discussion/Action under F. ADMINISTRATORS' PRIORITIES SHOULD ADDITIONAL FUNDING BECOME AVAILABLE. UNANIMOUS.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Maddie reported that high school students took an online survey about the Tiger Advisory program which will be involved with individual and group needs of students. The program will begin in a week.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. WINTER SPORTS AWARDS**

Mr. Gallagher, AD, reviewed the noteworthy accomplishments of the athletes of IHS as follows:

Sarah Kieran: CAL Small Athlete of the Year

Robbie Fay: CAL Small Athlete of the Year

Julia Davis: CAL Small Co-Player of the Year

Masey Zegarowski: CAL Small Co-Player of the Year

Matt Jaeger: McCoy Award for Courage (return from kidney injury sustained in soccer)

Girls Basketball Team: CAL Small Champions (seventh time in past eight years)

Girls Track Team: CAL Small Champions (undefeated 9-0 & CAL Open Meet Champions)

Boys Track Team: CAL Small Champions

Mandy Zegarowski: CAL Small Coach of the Year

Gardy O'Flynn: CAL Small Girls Coach of the Year

Marty Binette: CAL Small Boys Coach of the Year

Boys Indoor Track: CAL Small Sportsmanship Award Winners

Boys Basketball: CAL Small Sportsmanship Award Winners

The student-athletes were recognized by Principal Dalton, Superintendent Korb, and School Committee Chair O'Flynn for Girls' Track, Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, and Swimming/Diving. Mr. Korb thanked the parents for supporting their student-athletes.

B. SUPERINTENDENT FINALISTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Hopping, co-chair of the Superintendent's Search Committee, read the Search Committee Report to the School Committee, dated 4/4/2013, naming the eleven-person Search Committee composed of 3 parents, 5 staff, 2 community members and the School Committee member, Mr. Hopping. He thanked Future Management Systems personnel (Herb Levine, Bill Garr, and Lyle Kirtman) for their leadership and assistance through the process. He outlined the process going forward with Ann Bradshaw on April 9 beginning at 8:15 a.m. at Central Office with Mr. Loeb as escort, touring the Middle, High, Doyon and Winthrop Schools until noon, lunch at the Central Office, meeting with School Committee member Mrs. Roesler, Mr. Korb and the Central Office staff with parents in the afternoon, dinner with the School Committee and interview with the full School Committee at 7 p.m. in the Middle/High School Ensemble Room. On April 10, Dr. William Hart will follow the same schedule with Mr. Hopping and Mrs. Bauman in the afternoon and the full Committee at 7 p.m. On April 11, Susan Viccaro will follow the same schedule with Dr. Gresh and Mrs. Bauman in the afternoon and the full Committee at 7 p.m. Site visits will take place on April 23 and 24 and parents are urged to volunteer for a site visit.

C. MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT SURVEY

Mr. Fabrizio reviewed the 6-question survey answered by 48 students who have applied to Whittier, Essex Aggie, or private schools. Those choosing Whittier or Essex Aggie explained that they had a specific career path that is offered outside of Ipswich High School and believed they would get a better education of their choosing there. Reasons for leaving Ipswich High School were varied. He explained that this area is fortunate to have fine prep schools and, if the student has the opportunity to attend, the student might want to take it. He didn't see this as an indictment of IHS. He commented that it is unscientific in this first year and will check in September to find out who went (out privately) and who didn't. Mr. Loeb suggested a check again in the 10th and 11th grades after the student doesn't succeed (out privately) and s/he returns to IHS. Mr. Fabrizio quoted two parents as wishing for academics and trades at IHS.

D. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Gresh and Mr. Nysten reported that their efforts at reaching out to the Community with Principals, the Town Manager, Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, FRIES at the elementaries, IMADA, and online (about 50 people) were well received and the nine questions were answered with thanks to the two men for coming to them. Suggestions were offered for ICAM (glitches sometimes occur in broadcasting and aren't loud enough) and the Ensemble Room where setup could be improved to lessen the intimidation of School Committee to the audience. There were short-term recommendations for School Committee meetings, the media (more Chronicle articles and more press releases) and community outreach where Board members would attend other Board meetings. Long-term recommendations involved online chat at School Committee meetings, redesign of the website, blog/Facebook. Dr. O'Flynn and Mr. Hopping thanked the men for their hours and suggested that two or three items should be focal points so that progress can be made.

Website uploading and interactive School Committee meetings prompted Mr. Korb to mention that School Committee meetings are business meetings and not a meeting of the public. He suggested that call-ins might be accomplished with alternate Thursday meetings beyond the normal first and third Thursday business meetings. Mr. Loeb recalled that at one time before meetings began at 7 p.m., there was a half-hour period when citizens could come in and speak and another TV program with the Town Manager which were canceled for lack of interest. Dr. O'Flynn remarked that specific recommendations be made with this report for engagement with the new Superintendent.

E. MANNING FUND FOLLOWUP

Mrs. Roesler reported having conversations with Mr. Twining (of the Feoffees) where the Feoffees were willing to incorporate the Manning Fund or manage it separately. In discussion, Mr. Twining felt that they would be good shepherds for the fund but want to honor Manning. The Attorney General was fine with cashing out the fund and rolling it into the Feoffees fund with no legal impediment. In discussion with the Board, Mr. Loeb, Mr. Hopping and Dr. O'Flynn were in favor of keeping the fund as it is with the tradition of library funding and invite Mr. Colby (Ipswich Trust Fund Commissioner) to speak to the Board.

E. ADMINISTRATORS' PRIORITIES SHOULD ADDITIONAL FUNDING BECOME AVAILABLE

Mr. Korb presented the list of 13 priorities should additional funding become available. The Governor's budget, with an increase which Mr. Korb considers beyond reality at present, will not become law until August. Mr. Loeb commented that the Finance Committee Chair predicts a "slight adjustment." The #1 priority (\$100,000 for additional tuitioned-out SPED cost) must absolutely cause further cuts. A new retirement at the High School has freed up a possible \$40,000 saving, reducing the #1 priority to \$60,000. Birth-to-Three (Priority #3) support at \$15,000 represents a sharing by the Town of an equal amount because Birth-to-Three needs \$30,000. The Town Manager has offered the School Committee the Recreation Department figure labeled "enrichment and enhancement." Mr. Korb asked for the return to full-time of the Pupil Personnel Services Director (\$45,000 – Priority #2). Priorities #4 -9 represent cuts to additional needed staff. Mr. Loeb spoke about Priority #12 referring to the original concept of paying back the Feoffees loan of \$60,000 to the Town as an appropriation out of Feoffees' money rather than the Operating Budget. Dr. O'Flynn would be happy to move that \$60,000 and the replenishing of Choice funds (taken out for the FY14 budget) to the top of the priority list.

Mrs. Roesler asked about #4, 1.0 FTE Director of Instruction and Assessment. Mr. Korb said that Subject Area Committees in all other areas but English, math and science (because of Common Core) have been disbanded—those savings have been used for Common Core needs.

Mrs. Roesler, referring to #8 1.12 FTE Middle/High School Media Teaching Assistant, mentioned the elementary Principals' creative instruction in lieu of a library assistant and wondered if there are ways to address the Middle/High School library with existing staff. In her questioning of Birth-to-Three, Mr. Korb suggested a \$25 fee in the after-school programs for the year to help fund Birth-to-Three.

A philosophical discussion ensued regarding the budget hardships, given that Choice and Circuit Breaker have been drained down, that Free Cash and OPEB are being mentioned by the municipal side, and the "appalling and unacceptable" staff cuts (expressed by Roesler) in which the Finance Committee fails to support the School Committee. The Finance Committee and Long-range Planning Committee understand the need for an override for next year.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, that, in the event there is additional money allocated at Bean Counting from the Town revenue (excluding additional Chapter 70), the order of priority be the order as set on the administrations' priority list except for the change in the top number to \$60,000 and, further, that if there is additional Chapter 70 revenue, that Item #1 be covered (if it is otherwise not covered) and the balance replenished to Choice funds.

Discussion ensued regarding maintaining new salaried positions in FY15 in the event an override fails. Replacing Choice funds, Mr. Korb opined, would give the public perception to go against an override. Mr. Loeb felt that the School Committee needs to go through two years of Feoffees' \$800,000 figures to the schools and show the community that it hasn't alleviated budget needs.

Mr. Hopping moved the question. Vote was 6 – 1 IN FAVOR of Mr. Loeb's motion.

F. FEOFFEEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dr. O'Flynn reported that Mr. Twining will show the Feoffees plan for distributing the Grants at Bean Counting. While the appearance in Court regarding the Administrative Order changes is still undone, Mr. Twining needs to be aware of the concern.

Dr. Gresh left the meeting at 10 p.m.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

After several minutes of discussion, Ms. Cuff suggested that information is not sufficient to solve the Muscular Dystrophy event scheduled for May 10 and 11 at the track. Decision was delayed until a School Committee meeting can be held next week with more information.

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

3. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE

4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman will set up a meeting on the first or second week in May.

5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

7. FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that the SOIs have been submitted.

8. FEOFFEEES SUBCOMMITTEE

9. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Dr. O'Flynn met last night and the Town Manager and Mr. Seidler feel that OPEB is a minor thing which is not to be worried about.

10. OPEB
11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping said that the intent is to make available the money for grants for the 2014 school year. It is important to get members on the grant committees. Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the policy draft of application form for the Payne Grant Allocations Committee and the Payne Mini-Grant Funding Committee for first reading. UNANIMOUS.

13. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)
14. SUPERINTENDENT'S SEARCH COMMITTEE

15. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Committee is visiting schools to observe their technology.

16. OTHER

Mrs. Bauman brought up the \$50,000 current allotment for technology and the Board discussed waiting until Feoffees' money becomes available for infrastructure for technology. Ms. Cuff will speak about leasing technology upgrades at Bean Counting.

Mr. Loeb brought up the Linebrook Road project and asked how much it would cost to pave the Doyon driveway while the project was being done. It will be discussed at Bean Counting.

Dr. O'Flynn announced that the Board is invited to the Junior Prom on Friday, April 26, at the Hellenic Center.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of March 7, 2013, Regular meeting and
FY14 Budget Public Hearing

Acceptance of Minutes of March 19, 2013, School Committee/Finance Committee
FY14 Budget Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 20, 2013, School Committee Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 20, 2013, School Committee/Finance Committee
FY14 Budget Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 21, 2013, School Committee/Finance Committee
FY14 Budget Open Session UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to adjourn at 10:55 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.