

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 7, 2013
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman H. O'Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: J. Loeb, J. Bauman, B. Hopping, C. Nylén, R. Roesler, and S. Gresh. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb, Finance Director J. Cuff, Principals S. McAdams, S. Conley, D. Fabrizio, and D. Dalton, Director of Pupil Personnel Services M. Gallant, and Student Representative M. Werner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held this evening

Policy Subcommittee will meet on March 11, 2:30 p.m., Payne School

Communications Subcommittee will meet on March 12, 8 a.m., Payne School

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on March 12, 6 p.m., Middle/High School
Guidance Conference Room

District SOI submission will be presented to the Board of Selectmen for approval
on March 18, 7:30 p.m., Room A, Town Hall

FY14 Budget Presentation to the Finance Committee will be held as follows in the
Middle/High School Ensemble Room, starting at 7:30 p.m.:

March 19, Central Office and SPED Budgets

March 20, Doyon and Winthrop Budgets

March 21, Middle and High School Budgets

Tentative TriBoard Meeting is scheduled for March 28, 7:30 p.m., Meeting Room A,
Town Hall

Ipswich School Committee will meet on April 4, 2013, 7 p.m., Middle/High School
Ensemble Room

Bean Counting has been changed to April 6, 9 a.m., Town Hall Meeting Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb introduced Gerry Beauchamp, YMCA Director, who presented a check for \$1,400, half of the amount raised at the New Year's (Day) Resolution Run where 120 runners ran 2.013 miles in 20 degree weather. The Ipswich High Track team (Gardy O'Flynn, Coach) is the recipient of the \$1,400. Mr. Beauchamp thanked the sponsors and G. O'Flynn who helped to organize the event. Mr. Korb and Dr. O'Flynn thanked the Y for their significant support in this and other endeavors.

RULE OF NECESSITY

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to invoke the Rule of Necessity so that four School Committee members, who have family members employed by the District, would not be disqualified from voting on the budget. UNANIMOUS.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Maddie Werner reported that the Ipswich High School jazz band performed to a very appreciative audience at the Winthrop and Doyon Schools. The band was awarded a gold medal and an MVP in competition with seven other schools. A Peace Concert went over really well. The girls' basketball team went to the post season until Pentucket just beat them. Her friend, Lily Stewart, dog sledder, just won third place "in the entire world."

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb reported monitoring carefully the approaching storm and flooding at high tides on the Neck.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. PEACE POLE PROJECT PROPOSAL

Libby Cornacchio of the High School Interact Club acted as major spokesperson in asking the School Committee's permission to place a peace pole (a facsimile was exhibited) at each of the four schools, and be responsible for their care and maintenance. The group hopes to start conversations about what peace means at each of the schools. Mr. Korb commended the group. Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the Peace Pole project as presented. UNANIMOUS.

B. SCHOOL CHOICE NUMBERS

Ms. Conley, Doyon Principal, recommends six Choice spots as follows:

Grade 1 - 1; Grade 2 - 2; Grade 4 - 3.

Mr. Fabrizio, MS Principal, recommends:

Grade 6 - 8 Choice slots; Grade 7 - 4 Choice slots; and Grade 8 - 8 Choice slots.

Mr. Loeb approved Choice but with the proviso that Choice monies received from these slots not be used in the FY14 budget. Mr. Korb assured him that it is not included in the FY14 budget but add-backs will come from State revenue which are estimated at this time at \$250,000 - \$300,000. Board members questioned the Middle School and High School principals re the recommended Choice numbers. Mr. Dalton recommends a top high school enrollment of 650 students. Mr. Nylen felt uncomfortable without a history of "Choice." A philosophical discussion ensued regarding the financial benefits, burden on staff, support of the Middle School model to balance class sizes, override, reliance on Choice for budget survival. There was an educational component, Mr. Loeb and Dr. O'Flynn concluded, but the driving force on the Choice decision has been financial.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to authorize additional Choice students as recommended at the Doyon School; that is, Grade 1 - 1; Grade 2 - 2; Grade 4 - 3 Choice students, totaling 6. IN FAVOR - Loeb, Gresh, O'Flynn, Bauman; OPPOSED - Nylen, Hopping, Roesler.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to authorize additional Choice students at the Middle School as recommended: Grade 6 – 8; Grade 7 – 4; and Grade 8 – 8, totally 20. IN FAVOR – O'Flynn, Loeb, Gresh; OPPOSED – Hopping, Bauman, Roesler, Nylen. Motion failed. Mr. Loeb remarked that Choice numbers can be voted on until June 30.

C. MANNING FUND

After a short discussion led by Mrs. Roesler, Dr. O'Flynn asked that representatives from the Feoffees and the Trust Fund Commission attend the next School Committee meeting.

D. STATEMENTS OF INTEREST FOR WINTHROP AND DOYON SCHOOLS

Mr. Korb announced that these SOIs go to the Board of Selectmen to be signed at their March 18 meeting. Mr. Loeb and Mr. Hopping questioned items on several pages of the lengthy documents of both schools. They both stressed the need for accuracy and consistency in wording/need in both schools and a lack of detail and specificity in the Doyon document. Mr. Hopping's experience with these same types of documents gave the principals valuable suggestions including asking for correction of the drainage problem at Winthrop. Review and revisions of the two documents early next week will allow the School Committee to edit again for presentation to the Board of Selectmen on the 18th. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to approve as follows:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 7, 2013, the School Committee of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form that will be submitted to the MSBA by no later than April 10, 2013, for consideration in FY2013, for the Winthrop School located at 65 Central Street, Ipswich, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

Priority 2 - Elimination of existing severe overcrowding – Inadequate classroom, gymnasium and cafeteria space combined with the need to provide specialized instruction and therapies outside of the traditional classroom has placed an unprecedented demand on existing limited space at the Winthrop School.

Priority 5 – Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy-related costs in a school facility – Significant improvements need to be made to HVAC system, windows, electrical system, bathroom facilities and kitchen in order to extend the useful life of the building.

Priority 7 – Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements – Space limitations in an overcrowded building and a modular building that is being used well past its expected life span, need to be addressed in order to improve the facility and provide our students with the best educational experience possible;

And hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting the Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. UNANIMOUS.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to approve as follows:

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 7, 2013, the School Committee of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form that will be submitted to the MSBA by no later than April 10, 2013, for consideration in FY2013, for the Doyon School located at 216 Linebrook Road, Ipswich, Massachusetts, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority categories for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future.

Priority 2 – Elimination of existing severe overcrowding – To address the current situation of the Doyon School holding instrumental music, physical education, small group instruction for reading tutorial and math remediation and English Language Learning in non-traditional classroom spaces due to overcrowding conditions at the building.

Priority 5 – Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy-related costs in a school facility - Replacement of the roof and installation of a ventilation system in the school kitchen, along with the renovation of the kitchen, bathrooms and driveway configuration at the school would serve to greatly improve the building's infrastructure.

And hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting the Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority. UNANIMOUS.

E. OPEN HEARING AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED FY14 SCHOOL BUDGET

Dr. O'Flynn declared the Hearing on the Proposed FY14 School Budget OPEN and asked for Board questions:

Mr. Roesler questioned Mr. Dalton on social/emotional needs requests. Retaining the support person plays a significant role but there may be a need for a counselor. Mrs. Roesler asked about and was told that without a shared library assistant (Middle School and High School), the after-school program will not be staffed.

Mr. Loeb and Dr. O'Flynn discussed the Superintendent's budget recommendation of using large Choice funds in the FY14 budget and desire to replace those funds if/when additional funds become available from the State. Spending Choice funds the same year it is being received means that twice as much money will be spent this year as will be available in FY15.

Dr. O'Flynn opened up questioning to citizens.

Karen Donovan, President of SEPAC, read a response to the SPED budget presentation in regard to lack of new programs and professional development by SPED staff. She expressed concern that the new Superintendent should select a Pupil Personnel Director of his/her own choosing. She said that State statute says that the Superintendent recommends and the School Committee hires the PPS Director. Dr. Gresh, as SEPAC member on the School Committee Subcommittee, will review the documentation and seek counsel for a clarification.

Trina Schell urged the School Committee not to accept the new program at the Middle School of reinstating world language and cutting other subjects.

The Board reviewed Ms. Cuff's add-back list which affects the FY14 budget numbers. Adjustments are needed in the proposed budget due to increased health insurance costs and category changes for personnel. Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to increase health insurance by \$60,000, category changes by \$30,000, (\$90,000), and to balance that increase with an individual retirement saving of \$11,000, elimination of a secondary-level position of \$32,500, and keeping the PPS position as it is at .5 FTE (\$93,500). IN FAVOR – Nysten, Gresh, Bauman, O'Flynn, Loeb, Roesler; OPPOSED – Hopping.

F. CLOSE HEARING ON PROPOSED FY14 BUDGET

Dr. O'Flynn closed the hearing on the FY14 budget.

G. VOTE OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON FY14 PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, that the School Committee support the FY14 administrative school budget total of \$22,428,539 of which Circuit Breaker, Choice, and other funds make up \$2,974,410. UNANIMOUS.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, that the School Committee support the FY14 High/Middle School debt budget at \$2,535,381. UNANIMOUS.

Format for budget presentations to the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Bauman spoke about a format where each School Committee member will connect with each administrator in pairing and presenting his/her budget focusing on the administrator's goals. Next week the School Committee members will work with the administrators as follows: District Overview – Nysten, Korb; SPED – Gresh, Gallant; Winthrop – Loeb, McAdams; Doyon – Roesler, Conley; Middle – Bauman, Fabrizio; High – O'Flynn, Dalton. Dr. O'Flynn will provide a summation of identified needs that were not in the budget.

H. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dr. O'Flynn reported that the School Committee continues to wait on whether to make any changes on the Trust Agreement and whether to go to the Attorney General, especially how it applies to the time when the money to the schools must be spent.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

3. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting scheduled for March 13 with the Town Manager, Richard Howard, Kitt Cox and others.

4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman reported on discussing Choice recommendations, the format for Finance Committee budget presentations, comprehensive research Food Service contract, and rental of the modular.

5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh sent out Minutes, is working on the survey, and will have specific recommendations at the April 4 meeting.

6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

7. FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE

8. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

9. LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

10. OPEB SUBCOMMITTEE

11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Agenda for Monday, March 11, 2:30 p.m.: flex area, Feoffees application for mini-grant.

13. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

Dr. Gresh reported that he will follow up regarding K. Donovan's statements, will meet with R. Korb and M. Gallant, and the decision was made to meet at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, before the Finance Committee budget presentations.

14. SUPERINTENDENT'S SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping and Ms. Sarah Player gave a synopsis of decisions made by the Search Committee: 9 semi-finalists selected, interviews being conducted on Monday and Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoon, March 11, 12, and 16 at EBSCO facilities, all semi-finalists are assistant or acting superintendents.

15. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Carl Nylén has assumed Rachel Roesler's position on the subcommittee. Dr. Gresh suggested that a top priority list would facilitate meeting time.

16. OTHER

Mr. Korb reported that the School Safety and Security Task Force met on February 27 and there is an update on the website.

Mr. Nylén reported on the Winthrop Playground group meeting on March 6 for design concepts, parent/student input and fund-raising information.

III. CONSENT

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

Acceptance of Minutes of February 6, 2013, Open Budget Session

Acceptance of Minutes of February 7, 2013, Open Budget Session

UNANIMOUS.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.