

IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUDGET MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2013
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. O'Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were B. Hopping, J. Loeb, R. Roesler, J. Bauman, S. Gresh, and C. Nylen. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb, Finance Director J. Cuff, SPED Director M. Gallant, and all four principals.

CITIZENS' QUESTIONS

A question from the audience as to the Birth-to-Three Center's inclusion in the FY14 School budget was put on hold for a possible answer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

No Executive Session will be held this evening.

Secondary schools will present their FY14 budgets on February 7, 2013, at 7 p.m.,
Middle/High School Ensemble Room

School Committee will meet on March 7 as a regular meeting and a Public Hearing
on the FY14 School Budget, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

I. CENTRAL OFFICE AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FY14 BUDGET PRESENTATION

A. CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

Mr. Korb gave a general overview of the Superintendent's budget requests, reviewing the target budget number of \$24,963,920. Outside funding this year total \$2,329,593 and grants, \$644,817, making the total request \$27,938,330. He reviewed the FY13 District Goals and their successful achievements with professional development, "high needs" subgroup needs, and training in the new educator evaluation model. He advocated administrative recommendation to maximize and increase use of Choice and Circuit Breaker funds to support the appropriated budget and ensure that the educational priorities are met.

He outlined specific costs which have resulted in a higher budget and enumerated increases/decreases in staffing for FY14.

Ms. Cuff reviewed pie charts in detail for the Superintendent's budget, SPED, and the revolving funds (Choice and Circuit Breaker included), comparing them to the FY13 budget. Grants are down by \$63,000. She also reviewed adjustments to fixed costs from FY13 to FY14; i.e., reduction of Superintendent's Search budget, wind turbine construction costs, and legal costs. Board members asked for clarification of various line items in the budget book and explanation of revenues/resources.

Mrs. Gallant, Pupil Personnel Services Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation on Special Education, detailing fluctuating enrollments, pointing out costs for private school outside tuitions, the benefits of collaborative tuition, and her "wish list." Currently there are 28 ESL students speaking languages across the globe. She asked for Middle School help for students who struggle with math and literacy, High School help for

social/emotional issues, and time-out rooms and greater access to technology for those who need it.

Mr. Nylen asked if items on the wish list would bring down district costs in the long run; she and Mr. Korb replied that it definitely would. Dr. Gresh added that the motivation isn't just an investment to save money, but would keep the children in their home environment.

Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to invoke the Rule of Necessity. UNANIMOUS. Dr. O'Flynn explained that all of the other School Committee members have family members who are employed by the District.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to take Central Office FY14 budget under advisement. UNANIMOUS.

B. WINTHROP SCHOOL BUDGET

Principal Sheila McAdams began her PowerPoint presentation with the theme for the year—persistence—a course of concentrated effort in perfection. She showed performance levels over three years in ELA, math, writing, differentiation and interventions for students with disabilities and indicated steady growth through persistence in maintenance of programs but without new, needed science materials.

She reviewed her school improvement plan goals and detailed the Salem State University program in which five young people are observing and instructing Winthrop students for a semester. It is a flexible instructional model and specific interventions have been successful. Board members had a philosophical discussion regarding reductions at the Winthrop School, citing a reactive mode rather than a proactive one. Ms. McAdams commented that with limited funds, the money should speak to the priorities. Mr. Hopping reiterated that he is troubled by the reliance on outside funds.

Mr. Korb stated that, if additional funds come in, the administrative team will put them toward reductions. Dr. Gresh commented that children without resources suffer from the digital divide and must have library and technological availability. To Dr. O'Flynn's question of how successful Ms. McAdams' schedule change in FY13 is, she replied that she expects homework from her staff and keeps a watchful eye on collaboration.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to take the Winthrop School budget under advisement. UNANIMOUS.

C. DOYON BUDGET

Ms. Conley began her PowerPoint presentation with the announcement that she could accept six Choice students and still only have twenty students in first, second, and fourth grade classrooms.

She reviewed her goals and stressed her need for a literacy specialist and more time for the math specialist. Professional development and social emotional learning and safety are her other priorities as well as technology. To enhance school culture, her school's theme is "Student to Student Values," supported by FRIES and the School Council and the after-school GrandFRIES, high school students, and community involvement.

The two elementary teachers spoke of continued collaboration when time permits. Mr. Loeb urged them to present their data to the Finance Committee in a cohort fashion and was concerned with lack of creative solutions and dependence on Choice funding. Mr. Hopping, Mr. Loeb, and Dr. O'Flynn spoke with concern about the lack of money, use of outside funds, and inevitable large override. Mr. Hopping again expressed the wrong idea by many that Feoffees money is not designed to address the inherent responsibility of the District to provide the curriculum which Common Core demands. Feoffees money is for enhancements.

The Birth to Three Program was still uncertain, and Mr. Korb said he would contact Mr. Cox to find out whether the Board of Selectmen had weighed in on the program at budget time. The topic will be taken up on March 7.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.