

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2013
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman H. O'Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: J. Bauman, S. Gresh, B. Hopping, J. Loeb, and C. Nylan. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb; Finance Director J. Cuff; Student Representative M. Werner; Head Custodian P. Bedard, and the four Principals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held.

Professional Development Day will be held on January 28, 8 a.m., Middle/High School

Tri Board will meet on January 28, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Room A

Technology Education Subcommittee will meet on January 30, 3:30 p.m., Middle/High School Guidance Conference Room

Central Office, Doyon School, and Winthrop School FY14 Budgets will be presented to the Ipswich School Committee, February 6, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

School Committee will meet on February 7, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room, for a regular meeting and Middle/High School budget presentations

Policy Subcommittee will meet on February 11, 5:30 pm., Payne School

Schools will close for winter vacation the week of February 18-22, 2013

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Estate of Laurie Hershberg Donation of \$10,000 to Winthrop School

Sheila McAdams read a eulogy to Laurie Hershberg in regard to her love for teaching and the children and books for them. She left in her estate a \$10,000 donation to the Winthrop School library.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the gift donation of \$10,000 from Laurie Hershberg. UNANIMOUS.

Kim Chalifour and Judy Armelin

Mr. Fabrizio related the emergency situation of a Middle School boy who, with food caught in his throat, was administered to in a calm, efficient manner by Judy Armelin and Kim Chalifour to save the boy's life. They received a standing ovation from the audience and the School Committee in thanks.

CONSENT AGENDA

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the consent agenda as follows:

- Acceptance of the Minutes of January 10, 2013, Open Session
- Approved the Grade 8 Class Overnight Field Trip to the Adirondack Mountains, New York State, May 29-31, 2013
- Accepted the donation of \$1,000 from the Forest Foundation, Caron Marie Nardi Holiday Grant, to support the Birth to Three Center
- Accepted a donation of \$1,000 from B. Sarah Hackett as part of the Winthrop School Annual Fund Drive. **UNANIMOUS.**

IHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Madeleine Werner reported that classes have changed for a new semester and new ones seem to be running very smoothly without the need for changing classes/rooms by students. She also reported that the heat in the orchestra, chorus, and band rooms was much better today than recently.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Mr. Korb presented the Board with a copy of the Professional Development Day schedule for January 28. Ms. Kathy McMahon, co-chair of the committee, explained further the agenda and the speakers who are coming in to lead the faculty through the gathering-evidence process and curricular or educator evaluation goals.

2. Mr. Korb reported that Paul Bedard had completed the status report identifying deficiencies. Mr. Bedard said that rather than replacing the solid maple doors at the Winthrop School (\$10,000 for two doors), retrofitting is now possible with panic bars, etc. to save the heavy solid doors. Replacing the boiler room door in addition to the retrofitting carries an estimated cost of just under \$14,000. Mr. Korb will be recommending the movement forward when bid prices come in with funds reserved for safety issues in the FY13 budget.

3. The walk-through of the buildings by BCM of Woburn took place today. The gentleman's tour of the schools included the Birth to Three Center, and he indicated that a comprehensive report will be presented for phasing in safety measures to the Task Force composed of administrators, teachers, police, parents, and Maddie Werner, student representative, which met for the first time on Wednesday evening January 23. The Police Chief reported that 22 of 25 area communities surveyed have active buzz-in locked doors within their districts. No direct sight-line from the secretaries' desks to the major doors exists in any of Ipswich's four school entrances. Mr. Korb hopes to act on the Task Force recommendations in February or March.

In discussion, the Board decided to mention this safety issue as it might affect the Capital Improvement Plan at the Tri-Board meeting on January 28.

Police presence in and outside the school buildings continues and Maddie has noticed that there is less hanging around outside the building and less vandalism.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. MANNING FUND RESOLUTION

Dr. O'Flynn reported that the Attorney General has concluded that the financial records of the Manning Fund are intact, contiguous, and appropriate and that she had no findings to substantiate anything else. Choices for the School Committee, as Mr. Whiston chooses not to oversee the Manning Fund (which disburses monies to the four school libraries on a rotating basis) any longer, are to add it to the Town Trust funds (now over \$425,000 according to Mrs. Emerson, Trust Fund Commissioner) or add it to the Feoffees funds as some have suggested.

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON GUN LEGISLATION

Dr. O'Flynn asked the Board if they wished to take action on gun legislation.

Mr. Nylen reported that MASC has put together model language around a School Committee position on gun safety. After a brief discussion, Mr. Nylen was asked to provide the MASC material to the Board members for a February 7 discussion. The subject will be mentioned at the TriBoard meeting with an eye to getting the Board of Selectmen to issue a joint statement with the School Committee on the subject.

C. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Mr. Loeb mentioned that on February 14 the Feoffees will be considering any changes to be made to the Administrative Trust Order. If everybody is in agreement with it prior to the meeting with Judge Sahagian, it could facilitate the approval of the Trust.

D. POLICY

1. Feoffees Disbursement Policy, Proposed Adoption, Second Reading

Mr. Hopping urged that the application forms for grants be developed shortly and that the selection committee to approve said grants be selected. The application form process is fairly easy. Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the Feoffees Disbursement Policy for adoption. UNANIMOUS.

Superintendent's Search. Dr. O'Flynn set a January 31 date at 7 p.m., Payne School, to discuss the applications for the Superintendent Search Committee. The online survey deadline has come as well. Mrs. Bauman was thanked for her involvement with the focus groups which have really helped to form the superintendent's profile.

II. FY14 BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Korb thanked the administration for their work on the FY14 budget.

Each of the principals reviewed his/her goals as expressed earlier in the year and detailed the needs that aren't being addressed in this FY14 budget because of financial constraints. Maintaining student achievement with academic support levels and remediation assessment materials is important at all the buildings. Mr. Korb reported that \$50,000 has been designated for technology in the Capital Plan. On January 30 the Technology Subcommittee reconvenes.

Ms. Conley specifically needs a literacy specialist; Mr. Fabrizio needs an adjustment counselor and school psychologist, world language and maintenance of the assistant principal and staffing at the media center; Mr. Dalton identified needs in maintaining current staffing and media staffing, expanding academic support services, accreditation initiatives, and developmental programs in emotional/social behavior.

Mr. Hopping questioned the category of substitute money which is still underfunded. Mr. Loeb cautioned about using \$300,000+ of Choice monies.

Mr. Korb reviewed his district goals, most of which cannot be met because of budget constraints.

Ms. Cuff reviewed the FY14 proposed cuts and increases in staffing. She reviewed line items that have to be put back in the FY14 budget that were not there in FY13, and items that are fixed costs. SPED tuitions appear to be down, but they really are not because the Circuit Breaker is being used to relieve pressure there. Mr. Korb and Ms. Cuff discussed Choice monies and recommend that \$502,685 be used to address the deficit leaving \$113,000 in the Choice account for FY15. Considerable discussion resulted from this recommendation, philosophically and financially. Mr. Loeb asked for additional Choice enrollment numbers from the four principals for FY14. Mrs. Bauman asked if EDP's allocation could be changed to increase its contribution to the budget.

Mr. Korb read from "Shifting Trends in Special Education" (May 2011), Fordham Institute and District Analysis and Review Tool, 2011 as follows:

"Since 2004/2005 the number of students with disabilities has declined to a reported rate of 13.1% of all students nationwide. (Reporting by different states varies greatly.) **2010/2011 DART tool indicated 14.2% for Ipswich.** 41% of all increases in education spending between 1996 and 2005 went to fund special education. 85% of special education spending supports personnel. 65 special education teachers are employed per thousand. (Ipswich employs 61%--just shy of this trend. Ratios of sped instructional support and SPED-related staff have declined over the past three years.) The number of special education paraprofessional increased in number and ratio throughout this past decade. (Ipswich has held relatively steady over the past three years.)

“Massachusetts ranks second in terms of its share of students with disabilities. The Fordham Institute concludes that Massachusetts has nurtured a “culture” in which it considers itself a leader in special education services. They were the first state to establish a special education law and this law served as the model for the IDEA legislation.

“Students identified with “specific learning disabilities” have declined; however, the number of students identified as autistic quadrupled in this same time period.

“The more recent decline in identified special education students may be explained, in part, to Response to Intervention strategies and early reading interventions. In 2010, 61% of all districts nationally reported some implementation of Response to Intervention programs.”

To Mr. Hopping’s question of a decline in IEPs as students reach Middle School, Mrs. McAdams replied that staff is working on it, but the interventions are not solid. Parents become anxious that support will not follow their children in Middle School.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.