

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2013
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pro Tem J. Loeb called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: J. Bauman, S. Gresh, R. Roesler, and C. Nylen. Also present were Sup't. Korb; Finance Director J. Cuff; Student Representative Madeline Werner; and Head Custodian P. Bedard. Mr. Hopping, having introduced the high school focus group meeting, joined the meeting a short time later.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held.

Policy Subcommittee scheduled for January 14 has been canceled

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on January 15, 6 p.m., M/HS Guidance
Conf. Rm.

Schools will be closed January 21 in observance of the Martin Luther King
holiday

Tri Board will possibly meet on January 22, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Conf. Rm. A

School Committee will meet on January 24, 7 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble

Room for a regular and Administrators' Budget meeting.

Professional Development Day for teachers and no school for students will be
on January 28

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mr. Korb thanked the Action Ambulance company for their gift of an emergency stair chair valued at \$200 to the Winthrop School. Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to accept the gift. UNANIMOUS.

IHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Madeline Werner, referring to the policy change for drinking in the classroom, reported that staff and students numbering over 300 had signed a petition, and students can now have hot drinks first period if the teacher approves.

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb made a seven-point report as follows:

He announced a FY13 budget freeze which has been implemented through March, recommended by the Finance Director Cuff. In April the freeze will be reconsidered. Ms. Cuff named a series of unanticipated costs; namely, health insurance enrollment changes, superintendent's search, work done in the M/HS

building on communications, additional assessment for Worker's Comp, Choice Out increase, increased personnel costs for ESL tutor, FTE and TAs in behavior specialists, and delays in receiving SPED revenue tuitions to Ipswich, estimated unanticipated costs totaling \$350,000. Mr. Loeb expressed his opinion that information of this importance should have been sent to the Board in advance. Also, he asked if administrators were in a good position with encumbrances to deal with the freeze. Ms. Cuff said the four principals are pretty equal in encumbrances.

Maddie mentioned uneven heat in the HS building; Mr. Bedard answered that in a building of this size, there is a failure rate of 20-25% at any given time and parts must be ordered when a written failure report is received.

Mr. Korb reported that administrators' budgetary work has reduced the numbers for the FY14 budget. SPED and other program services coming forward and elimination of priorities still result in a \$1 million deficit. They will have a balanced budget to present to the Board on January 24, recommending some personnel and program cuts. The revenue side is unknown, but he has been in contact with local legislators.

Michele Wertz, from the Winthrop School Council, referred to last year's Finance Committee attitude of "what would you like". Mr. Korb replied that the Fin Com Chair, whom they work closely with, is looking for a tighter budget this year.

Mr. Korb reported that the SOI (open from January 9-April 15) process with the elementary schools is in high gear. Ms. Cuff says if we get it in to MSBA early, perhaps we will be placed higher on the short list for approval. School Committee and Board of Selectmen must approve; reimbursement would be 60-65%.

The Manning Fund is under legal review.

The Board discussed the Attorney General's failure to answer the specific questions asked by former School Committee member Traverso re the (old) Feoffees' management of funds. The Board is trying to avoid legal costs.

The newly activated Technology Subcommittee, consisting of R. Korb, S. Gresh, R. Roesler, C. Burke and D. Fabrizio, will be meeting on January 30.

The Educator Evaluation process is moving forward: evaluations and classroom visits begin next week, and January 28 is a full-day professional focus on Modular No. 5, collecting evidence.

Mr. Loeb urged Mr. Korb to move the district goals mid-year report to March because of the vast amount of presentations on February 7.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. SCHOOL SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE**

Mr. Korb and Chief Nikas reviewed the five points on the sheet entitled SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN. Mr. Korb stated that, since December 20, four meeting with principals, three, with police and Town Manager, have been held. The lack of specifics in this document is intentional.

Maddie had several questions. She was assured that student outdoor activities at the M/HS would not stop and that intercom issues are being addressed. She asked about investing in mental health issues and is meeting w/Mr. Dalton and Mr. Carovillano and other students re this issue.

Dr. O'Flynn joined the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Mr. Hopping asked for immediate institution of the visitor's badge for anyone entering any one of the schools. If there are dead zones of intercommunication, they need to be addressed immediately as well. Dr. Gresh requested that a student be included on the Task Force. He was reminded that there are executive issues with this Task Force, and Maddie, who volunteered, said she would be prepared to leave at that time. Mr. Korb reported contacts with Mr. Tarr and Mr. Hill regarding Federal grants.

Several parents expressed concerns for their children at the schools. Mr. Hopping expressed concern as well that everyone (including students) take these matters seriously and develop a new culture of awareness and safety. He asked Paul Bedard to get a punch list ready for budgets at the January 24 Sch Com meeting.

Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Mr. Nylén, to accept the SAFETY AND SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN, removing #2 and adding a "high school student" to the Task Force (#4). UNANIMOUS. With School Committee consensus, the revised salmon sheet on school safety will be put on the website on January 11.

Mrs. Roesler asked that updates, as a result of this Task Force, be made at the January 24 meeting rather than the February 7 one. Dr. O'Flynn named Rachel Roesler to the School Safety and Security Task Force. Mr. Korb thanked all the parents who came/spoke and the School Committee for feedback and input.

B. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In discussion, Dr. O'Flynn emailed Atty. Perry and Mr. Twining, Feoffee, on pending issues of the Trust. Also, an \$80,000 sum of collected back rents doesn't show up individually anywhere in the accounting

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. VOUCHERS/BILLS
- B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

- 2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

- Mr. Nylen spoke about two projects; namely, the Mile Lane fields and the high school artificial turf, neither of which are on the Capital Planning list, and a vote to have a feasibility study done to determine costs.

- 3. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 4. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 5. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 6. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 7. FACILITIES SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 8. FEOFFEEES SUBCOMMITTEE
 - 9. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

- 10. OPEB SUBCOMMITTEE

- Mrs. Roesler discussed the meeting and a goal toward 50% that covers both the schools and the Town. Use of "Free Cash" has been advised by the Town Manager.

- 11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

- 12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. Feoffees Disbursement Policy, Proposed Adoption, First Reading
 - Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to accept the policy for first reading. UNANIMOUS.

- 13. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

- 14. SUPERINTENDENT'S SEARCH COMMITTEE

- Mrs. Bauman reported numbers at the SEPAC, M/HS staff, and M/HS parent focus groups. Mr. Hopping thanked Karen Cecilio at Central Office for getting the information on the superintendent's search online. He reported that applications for the Search Committee are slow coming in and he encouraged teachers to apply.

- 15. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

- 16. OTHER

- Mrs. Roesler advised that the Winthrop playground committee is fund raising and moving ahead with two companies for a schematic. Mr. Hopping asked

about the absentee rate in the schools with the flu epidemic elsewhere in the state— Mr. Korb said there was no change. Mr. Korb reported that the Masquerade Ball profits with a matching grant will net \$15, – 20,000 to the Ipswich Police Department and the seventh grade “Making it Real” program.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of 12/20/12, Open Session

Acceptance of anonymous donation of \$10,000 to help support the Birth to Three Family Center

Acceptance of the donation of \$1,000 from North Shore Pediatrics, P. C., to support the Birth to 3 Center

Acceptance of \$947 from Geskus Photography as the Winthrop School’s portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of \$986 from Geskus Photography as the Doyon School’s portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of \$1,601.34 from Hockmeyer Studios as the Ipswich High School’s portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of \$789.20 from the Box Tops for Education program to benefit the Winthrop School

Acceptance of a total of \$6,100 for the following donations to the Winthrop School Annual Fund: \$2,500 anonymous donor, \$1,000 anonymous donor, \$500 Mark/Kelly Baker, \$500 Douglas DeAngelis, and \$1,600 from the Kent-Lucas Foundation (\$800 on 12/7/12 and \$800 on 12/12/12)

Acceptance of \$750 from the Heidgerd Family/Audrey Connor Charitable Foundation as part of the Middle School Annual Fund Drive.

UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to adjourn at 10:20 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.