

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2012
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, R. Roesler, and C. Nylen. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb, Finance Director J. Cuff, Student Representative Madeleine Werner, Head Custodian P. Bedard, and Principal S. McAdams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Executive Session for the purpose of strategies regarding ongoing litigation in relation to real estate matters will be held following Open Session, after which the meeting will adjourn.

Finance Committee will review the Fall Town Meeting School Budget Warrant Article, Town Hall Conference Room A, October 9, 7:30 p.m.

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on October 11, 7 p.m., High School Room B108

Special Fall Town Meeting will start at 7:30 p.m., on October 15, Performing Arts Center, with possible continuation on the following night

Budget Subcommittee will meet on October 17, 7 p.m., Payne School

Policy Subcommittee will meet on October 22, 5:30 p.m., Payne School

School Committee Workshop will be held on October 25, 7 p.m. Town Manager's Conference Room, Town Hall

School Committee will meet on October 18, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Kristen Vigsnes, speaking on behalf of a subcommittee to address the playground at the Winthrop School, included an architect among the group of parents hoping to develop a program and funding to improve the old and outdated structures and acreage behind the Winthrop School.

Mr. Korb commented that the playground is the responsibility of the School Department, has been needed for a number of years, and is on the Capital Improvement Plan. He applauded the parents for their willingness to help and said that modifications would have to be approved by the School Committee.

IHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Madeleine Werner commented that the administrative team is working well together and the Math League took second place at their meet.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. INTRODUCTION OF IPSWICH TOWN MANAGER, ROBIN CROSBIE**

Dr. O'Flynn and Mr. Korb introduced Ms. Crosbie who began with her comment that school and town collaboration is her forte! In her previous employment at Longmeadow, MA, she provided human resources and other financial support. She outsourced school Food Services, consolidated IT operations, and worked on a collaborative process with a capital plan. She felt it was necessary to identify funding sources and incorporate a single capital plan. She is presently gathering data (P. Bedard and R. Korb with the Schools) throughout Town departments regarding critical needs. Bonding and free cash were briefly discussed as funding sources, and she stated that her goal is to find sources and make them manageable. The Board of Selectmen has identified economic development along Route 1 as a possibility. Everyone needs to review and start fresh with the way money is spent and develop sympathy for the issues that all departments have.

Mrs. Bauman asked and Ms. Crosbie answered that the Town would benefit from an IT visionary because of a redundancy in servers among other things. To Mr. Hopping's question of reactivating the Ad Hoc Collaborative Committee, she said that she is not sure that Committees are where the work gets done, and is a product-oriented person. A capital plan comes first, then discussion. She is still gathering data on the Community Preservation Act (CPA) as a source of capital.

B. APPROVAL OF OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP FOR IHS CLOSEUP PROGRAM

Jeff Kreiger, Advisor, reviewed the history of the Close Up Program and asked to resume the week-long program in DC in March where students see government close up and meet students from across the country. At present there are 18 interested students and a \$1,700 cost per student to be funded individually and as a group. Everything is subject to School Committee approval.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to approve the request by Jeff Kreiger for a Close Up program, 3/10 - 3/15/13, in Washington, DC. UNANIMOUS.

C. CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST

Mr. Korb presented a four-year phased approach to capital projects. In discussion, Mr. Loeb referred to the first chart and its \$435,000 cost for capital improvements for 2012-2013, a number on the charts that needs to be advanced so that the first year of the plan is 2013-2014. Start-up of the School Building Needs Committee was mentioned in an effort to reassess the Winthrop School's needs for larger classrooms and a larger gym. Groundwork from the administrators needs to identify the needs more specifically, does not require money, and could begin in January, 2013. Mr. Korb suggested a Facilities Study Committee to study this capital plan for a month and prioritize the list.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Nysten, to establish a Facilities Study Committee to involve Ms. Cuff, Mr. Bedard, Mr. Korb, and the affected building principals.

In discussion, several points were brought out: MSBA now does not recommend tearing down school buildings, but instead retaining the existing footprint. Paul Bedard remarked that the playgrounds are used by all citizens and not just the schools, and he and Rick Clark, DPW Director, work hand in hand to complete school projects. Mr. Loeb, Mrs. Bauman, and Mrs. Roesler volunteered for the Facilities Study Committee. UNANIMOUS.

Ms. Vignes felt disheartened with the discussion when the Winthrop Playground Committee has the time, the entity, and the expertise to do something with the playground. Mr. Loeb replied that the new playground plans, if money was available to be spent in 2013-2014, should be in front on the School Committee in January. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to support the Winthrop Playground Committee which is moving forward and meeting local environmental and legal guidelines in designing and fund raising for a new playground. UNANIMOUS. Carl Nylén will be the liaison.

D. FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES DISCUSSION AND ASSIGNMENT OF SPEAKERS

Dr. O'Flynn asked if the Committee wished to consider or make comment on Article II. Mr. Loeb felt that the way individual department budgets handle vehicle replacement varies. The School Committee expressed need to be on the stage with the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen at the Fall Town Meeting.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to support Article III, School Budget Amendments of Fall Town Meeting. UNANIMOUS. Dr. O'Flynn will speak to the Article.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS AND DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT GOALS FINAL APPROVAL

Mr. Korb mentioned that October 9 is the administrative meeting for administrators' own goals and school improvement goals.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to adopt the Superintendent's goals, the District Improvement Goals, and the Goals/Educator Timeline for 2012-2013 as part of the submission to be made to the Commissioner of Education. UNANIMOUS.

E. REVIEW OF PROPOSED PRINCIPLE ELEMENTS FOR FUTURE FEOFFEE DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Hopping, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, presented a preliminary PowerPoint draft of the Policy Subcommittee's document on principle elements for future Feoffees distribution. Five slides showed five examples of a kind of mission statement ultimately to be combined into one. Tier I is the mini-grant level by individuals or teams of teachers to enrich or enhance grade-level curricula and would be endorsed by the building principal in the application process. Tier II is the superintendent (and others) level on technology, distance learning, externships, etc. These requests would go to an Allocations Committee of 19 people from various segments of the school system and community.

School Committee members offered commentary. Following discussion about (a) School Committee inclusion for final approval and (b) veto power to go back to the Allocation Committee, Mr. Hopping promised to send School Committee members the PowerPoint presentation and have them submit comments to him before October 18. The School Committee needs to review the Administrative Trust Order again as well.

F. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Arguments regarding the intervention were filed on October 1 and no response has come. Dr. O'Flynn met with the other Board Chairs who agreed to the concept of the \$575,000 from the Feoffees being held in limbo in an account for now.

Ms. Cuff, in communications from Ms. Crosbie, has been notified of an unpaid bill of \$220 for Feoffees' secretary's Minutes taken after the recording of the Master Deed. Consensus was that the payment should be paid out of Feoffees expenses. Mrs. Roesler asked for the current status of the Feoffees in a way that lends itself to transparency by asking Peter Twining to a School Committee meeting.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. O'Flynn reported discussion on turf at the October 11 meeting. Press Box discussion will take place at the School Committee meeting on October 18. No water accessibility exists at Doyon fields and it is a long-standing problem with the quality of school and town fields.

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

4. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE

5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

6. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

7. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

8. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

9. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

10. OPEB SUBCOMMITTEE

11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

13. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

Dr. Gresh reported attending last week's meeting and listening to parents' concerns. He met with Mr. Korb and will meet with the SPED Director soon. Parents, he said, were happy with the way their children's teachers are working with the children. Mr. Loeb remarked that the culture of how all kids support each other in this system adds to their education and fosters the culture. "It is supervised by the teachers, but ultimately it is the kids who support it." he said.

14. OTHER

Technology Education will be added to the Subcommittee list on the agendas. Also, the Superintendent's Report will be moved up to the top of the agenda.

Mr. Hopping reported that, in meeting with Ms. Cuff, an RFP is not needed for an expenditure of less than \$25,000. In talking with Mike Gilbert, he has been given more consultant firms for the Superintendent search and has drafted a scope of work. Mrs. Roesler will be attending meetings to discuss reduction of OPEB obligations and to work with the Citizens for Ipswich Schools.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb is preparing language for the School Committee to ratify on October 18 in regard to the new mandates. A training schedule is being set up with IEA for training of all teachers on the first four modules to begin with a State-approved vendor on November 1. Modules 5 through 8 are only required of the administrators.

IV. 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 9/20/12, Open Session
Approval of Middle School Grade 6 overnight field trip to Ferry Beach
Ecology School, Saco, ME, April 23-26, 2013.
UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no Executive business, Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. UNANIMOUS