

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2012
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair H. O'Flynn called the meeting to order at 7:03 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; Feoffee J. Tragert; 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.

Policy Subcommittee will meet on September 10, 5:30 p.m., Payne School.

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on September 11, 6 p.m., Middle/High School Guidance Conference Room

Budget Subcommittee will meet on September 18, 7 p.m., Payne School.

Feoffees Working Group will meet on September 19, 7 p.m., Town Manager's Conference Room, Town Hall

School Committee will meet on September 20, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Joe Tragert, speaking on behalf of the Feoffees, asked about the first payment of \$800,000 due on September 9 as stipulated in the Trust Administration Order. Ms. Cuff pointed out that interest (\$333 a month while in a money market fund) must be kept with the body of \$800,000. A proposed resolution lay on the table for a vote by the School Committee.

Following a long discussion regarding the intervention appeal just filed and its potential consequences, Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, that the School Committee decline to accept the \$800,000 distribution from the Feoffees. Ms. Roesler suggested that the Committee could rather accept the \$800,000 now, and, if it later became apparent that the Committee would be unable to expend the distribution within the fiscal year, the Committee could file a petition for instruction with the Probate Court. Mr. Loeb and Mr. Hopping withdrew their motion. In examining the language presented by the Feoffees Ms. Cuff recommended the addition of language explicitly allowing future grants to earn future interest within the same account. That language was added.

Dr. O'Flynn moved and Mr. Hopping seconded the following motion:

That, in connection with the distribution (the "Grant") by the Feoffees of the Grammar School in the Town of Ipswich Trust (the "Feoffees") of the initial installment of \$800,000 (plus interest) to the School Committee pursuant to Paragraph 5c of the Trust

Administration Order (the "Order") as incorporated in the judgment of the Essex County Paragraph 5c Probate and Family Court entered on January 12, 2012 (Probate and Family Court Docket Number ES09E0094QC), the School Committee (i) request the Feoffees to expressly stipulate in the Grant that interest on the grant **and any future grants** remain with and become part of the grant account; (ii) agrees that the Grant may be distributed by the Feoffees to the School Committee on or before September 11, 2012; and (iii) acknowledges that the foregoing request of the foregoing agreement incorporated in this resolution each represents a minor, technical adjustment of Paragraph 5c of the Order in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 5cc of the Order.

This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Loeb moved and Mr. Hopping seconded that if the interveners' litigation is not resolved by April 1, 2013, the School Committee would file a Petition for Instruction from the Probate Court seeking their opinion on waiving the requirement for expenditure of the \$800,000 while the intervention appeal was pending. This was approved unanimously.

Sonya Marshall experienced dissatisfaction in summer meetings during the IEP process. The Director of SPED wasn't present and didn't sign. Other parents, she said, are upset about the Director's lack of action in children's best interests.

IHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Madeleine Werner said the new year is going well and she likes the new administration. She reported no changes with the later arrival time. She asked that the carpets in the school be cleaned. Mr. Bedard spoke up that carpets at the Middle/High School are twelve years old and some stains will not come out. Mr. Korb followed up with comments that the Town Manager and he will meet on September 20 regarding a long-range capital improvement plan and will present issues of needs for improvement determined by the administration, to include carpeting, at the September 20 School Committee meeting. While Mr. Korb reported that administration had an excellent week with lack of tardiness, etc., Dr. O'Flynn said that sports activities after school were a disaster because of the change in school times.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. WINTHROP SCHOOL MODULAR CONDITION AND CURRENT USE

Mrs. McAdams explained the use of the 15-year-old modular building for SPED meetings and music instruction (not always an ideal situation according to reports given to Mr. Hopping). Mr. Bedard enumerated the maintenance that Vanguard, owner of the modular, has continued to do on the roof, lighting, skirting, etc., and estimated an 8-10 year life span. Ms. Cuff suggested that, when demolition of the building comes, it could be included in the replacement price. Mr. Loeb suggested that a Building Needs Committee be reconvened to work on plans. Ms. Cuff would need a decision to purchase, lease, or demolish by May of 2013.

B. SCHOOL INSPECTION REPORT

Doyon: Dr. Gresh reported that the school sparkles with a new music room, a new stage curtain, and seats surrounding a tree in the courtyard. He mentioned the venting system that still is needed. Incredibly generous parents have made possible the computers which travel by cart from room to room.

Winthrop: Mr. Hopping expressed enthusiasm over the energy and morale exhibited by the staff, the parent-donated walk-in refrigerator, and the new phone system. He expressed concern over no teachers' room, the ongoing issue about privacy in the boys' bathroom, floor tiles lifting in the kitchen, and the modular unit.

Middle: Mrs. Roesler reported that the school is clean and in great shape.

High: Mrs. Bauman reported that the carpeting is the most glaring, disturbing issue in an otherwise great school.

Mr. Hopping hoped that the ADHOC Town Committee will have ongoing reports on the needs and attempts to improve the buildings.

C. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dr. O'Flynn brought up the allowance issue of \$575,000 from the Settlement for legal fees by Judge Sahagian. Because there is no spending policy existing yet, discussion will take place later when reimbursable legal fees probably will become "restricted free cash."

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Nylen reported that the field behind the Doyon School has been deemed unworkable. Because of Mile Lane wetlands, a single field there may be possible.

3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

4. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE

5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

6. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh reviewed meeting with Mr. Nylen in ways to keep communications flowing about School Committee members and all types of communication—a simple plan for communications to the public.

- 7. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE
- 8. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE
- 9. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. O’Flynn and Mr. Loeb discussed the process of assembling the Superintendent’s evaluation. The summary will be reported on September 20.

11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

At the next meeting, Mr. Hopping and the committee will revisit the assignment area policy for Doyon/Winthrop student enrollments. A policy for how Feoffees’ disbursements can be spent will be discussed as well.

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAAC)

13. OTHER

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 reported on a number of items. The Educator Evaluation workshop on August 23-24 trained all participants in the model. He has put the trainer on the September 20 agenda for a discussion with the School Committee. His goals and that of the district have been “smartened up” as a result of training with SMART goals. Mr. Hopping asked for paperwork before the September 20 session and for Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen representation at that time.

He reviewed class sizes—for the most part, under 23 and 24 (only two classes) and the bussing changes. Ms. Cuff has had only two bus problems: Winthrop’s Bus #6 and Doyon’s Bus #5. A parent complained about Doyon’s #4 and her daughter’s late arrival at home.

Mr. Korb announced that he would be retiring effective June 30, 2013, and read a statement praising the Town’s educators, Town Managers, officials and parents in his working with them. Dr. O’Flynn thanked Mr. Korb for all his excellent qualities, his presence around Town and in the educational community in his 15 years as Superintendent.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of School Committee Minutes of 8/16/12 Open Session

Acceptance of anonymous donation of \$500 to the Middle School to be used
by Grade 7

Acceptance of anonymous donation of \$1,000 to benefit the Winthrop School

UNANIMOUS.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, at 9:50 p.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies in regard to ongoing litigation in relation to real estate matters after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll Call IN FAVOR - Roesler, Loeb, Hopping, O'Flynn, Bauman, Gresh, Nylen.

10:55 p.m.

Dr. O'Flynn announced that the interveners have filed for direct appellate review. Steve Perry had emailed him and Dr. O'Flynn, at a late hour without School Committee approval (no opportunity), gave permission for him to defend against the intervention.

After considerable discussion, Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, that the School Committee authorize S. Perry to spend an amount not to exceed \$9,000 in the preparation of the brief, and preparation for and attending argument with the express and elicited direction that in any brief that he files, he piggybacks those briefs already filed by the appellees and the Attorney General as well if feasible. IN FAVOR – Hopping, O'Flynn, Loeb, Gresh; OPPOSED – Bauman, Nylén, Roesler.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to adjourn at 11 o'clock. IN FAVOR – Nylén, Gresh, Bauman, O'Flynn, Hopping, Loeb, Roesler.