

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2012
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Jeffrey Loeb, senior member of the School Committee, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: J. Bauman, S. Gresh, B. Hopping, R. Roesler, and C. Nylan. Also present were Superintendent Korb; Finance Director Cuff; Student Representative Madeleine Werner; and Principals S. Conley, S. McAdams, D. Dalton, and D. Fabrizio.

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.

New teacher orientation will be held on August 22, 8 a.m., Middle/High School Library.

Opening Day for staff will be held on August 27, beginning at 7:45 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center.

First day for students will be on August 29.

Feoffees Working Group will meet on August 29, 7:30 p.m., Town Manager's Conference Room, Town Hall.

School Committee will meet on September 6, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

Dr. O'Flynn joined the meeting and took the Chair.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb introduced Kerry Zagarella, one of the co-chairs of IEA. Andrea Welch, the other co-chair, joined the meeting later.

RULE OF NECESSITY STATEMENT

Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to invoke the Rule of Necessity because four members of the School Committee are related to employees of the school system and will not be discredited when voting on personnel. UNANIMOUS.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. STAFFING REPORT

In an unprecedented year of changing staff, each principal reviewed the retirements/resignations and personnel who replaced them, were terminated, or transferred.

Mr. Dalton spoke of an academic support teacher currently in the interviewing process. Mr. Hopping asked the question and Mr. Korb replied that salary is based on the

nature of the position being advertised; for example, social studies vs. physics. Ms. Cuff reported the expectation of a new person coming in at \$45,000 and, district-wide, there is a balance of budgeting. Mr. Korb added that the principal convinces the Superintendent that a new person has the skill-sets needed and the principal can save money elsewhere to provide for the specialist's higher salary.

District-wide replacements were reviewed by Ms. Cuff and Mr. Korb.

B. PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST

Discussion ensued about the request regarding the trip being taken after graduation. Mr. Hopping appreciated the excellent paperwork regarding the trip and questioned the student/teacher ratio if more students sign up. Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to approve the trip requested by Rebecca Bascom of the People to People Ipswich Chapter to travel to Quebec City, Canada, from June 14-27, 2013. UNANIMOUS.

Principal Dalton mentioned that he has taken the initiative with regard to Education International which involves hosting international students, but which might not happen for as much as a year and a half. He asked permission to come back later in the fall.

C. SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS FOR BUILDING INSPECTIONS

The following School Committee members volunteered to tour/inspect the school buildings and make a report on the September agendas:

- B. Hopping, Winthrop
- S. Gresh, Doyon
- R. Roesler, Middle
- J. Bauman, High

D. ADDITIONAL CHAPTER 70 REVENUE EXPENDITURES

After a meeting with the Finance Committee, Mr. Korb recommended the following appropriations to the budget following additional revenues expected at the October Town meeting:

\$226,000 on OPEB

\$87,000 available for FY13 use for two positions to restore library services, \$50,000 of which would be used for a 1.0 FTE elementary librarian to be shared by Doyon and Winthrop Schools, and \$20,000 for a 1.0 FTE library teaching assistant at the Middle/High School. Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept the recommendation for OPEB at \$226,000, \$50,000 for a librarian for Winthrop/Doyon, and \$20,000 for a library Teaching Assistant for Middle/High School. UNANIMOUS.

Ms. McAdams said that the Town children's librarian has agreed to come to the Winthrop School. In addition, grant writing is taking place. Next year the directive from the State includes library staff.

Mr. Dalton expressed real need for a Teaching Assistant librarian, and candidates are concerned and eager to work with classroom teachers. The virtual high school space has doubled its spaces in cubicles in the computer room shared by the academic support person. The managed wireless system and security system installations are in progress.

Mr. Korb gave kudos to Joanne Cuff for her work in closing out FY12, in working with the Finance Committee, and in grant-writing endeavors.

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S GOALS/DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT GOALS

Mr. Korb presented his two goals:

1. Professional Practice Goal. District Improvement Goals will take up at least 50% of administrative meetings.
2. Student Learning Goals. Alignment of curriculum to Mass. Frameworks by implementing Common Core

There are District Improvement Goals:

1. To provide professional development to teach staff to implement the Common Core in English/Language Arts and Math.
2. To create a school-based plan to address the needs of each High Needs subgroup.
3. To provide training to the administrative team and teachers on the Educator Evaluation model.

After considerable discussion among members that the goals in concept are on target but not measurable because of their lack of specificity and benchmarks to benefit an appropriate level of academic support, the issue will be revisited before the September 20 meeting especially by Mr. Korb and Mrs. McAdams after the training to come next week.

Mrs. Roesler asked about kindergarten enrollment and was told that Doyon has 63 registered for kindergarten and Winthrop has 64 enrolled.

The School Committee workshop was worked out at September 22, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Turner Hill with Mr. Mike Gilbert as facilitator and three goals for discussion.

F. FY14 CONTRACT EXTENSION/SUPPORT STAFF

Mr. Korb addressed the letter from AFSCME Bargaining Units (Clerical, Cafeteria, and Custodians and Bus/Van Drivers) on their vote to ratify a one-year extension to their collective bargaining agreements. Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to approve the 1.5% increase recommended by the Superintendent for the local AFSCME bargaining units to their collective bargaining agreements. Mrs. Bauman and Mrs. Roesler felt that \$35,000 is an unknown item for 50 personnel. There was discussion about the process of negotiations. Vote: IN FAVOR - O'Flynn, Gresh, Loeb, Hopping; OPPOSED - Bauman, Roesler, Nysten.

G. FINANCIAL UPDATES

Ms. Cuff reviewed prices on the modular at Winthrop to buy out or remove. As there were several questions which needed answers from Paul Bedard and Principal McAdams, the item was deferred to the September 6 agenda. Medicaid eligibility, of which multi-pages had been viewed online, was briefly mentioned.

H. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CALENDAR FOR 2012-2013

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to approve the School Committee calendar for FY13 with the understanding that Dr. O'Flynn reach out to the Tri Board members to suggest to them the dates that have been made for their meetings.
UNANIMOUS.

I. FEOFFEEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dr. O'Flynn said that the sale is in escrow and will thank the new Feoffees by letter for their work and expertise. The outgoing Feoffees have appointed George Markos as the Feoffees representative.

Discussion ensued concerning the \$800,000 (first payment) to be disbursed. While everyone agreed that the money not be spent until after a written policy has been approved by the School Committee, the question of where to invest the money rather than having it sit in an account with the School Department, which will earn no interest, will be referred to M. O'Connell, attorney for the Feoffees, for his advice. Mr. Loeb wants no money spent until after the litigation (interveners) is over, possibly several months.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Hopping suggested and all agreed that the Student Representative report be made right after "Rule of Necessity" so that Maddy doesn't have to sit through the whole meeting to make her report.

2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Test pits will be opened in connection with the artificial turf project at the football field.

4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Korb met with the new Town Manager in an effort to bring the Committee back to life in joint improvement issues.

5. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE

6. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

A meeting is scheduled for September 18

7. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh reported two more bios completed; meeting on August 22.

8. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

9. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

There will be a meeting on August 29, 7:30 p.m.

10. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Dr. O'Flynn reported that Mr. Seidler presented much data and will make a presentation on September 11 with the Fin Com.

11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Committee met and will meet again on August 28 putting together the Superintendent's evaluation with a target for the September 20 meeting of the School Committee.

12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

13. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

14. OTHER

Mrs. Roesler commented favorably on the film at the Performing Arts Center put together by Brendan Fay. Mr. Hopping asked about concerns by faculty and administration regarding the new evaluation model and Mr. Korb replied that the teachers are becoming part of the training.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb spoke of the EEE awareness within the school system, the new teacher orientation, and the managed wireless and security camera/led light installations.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Cuff corrected the figure for Food Services losses on Page 2 of the Financial portion of the July 26 Open Session Minutes to \$3,532. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to accept Minutes of July 26 Open Session of School Committee as amended. UNANIMOUS.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to go into Executive Session at 10:50 p.m. for the purpose of strategies with respect to litigation after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call: IN FAVOR - Roesler, Loeb, Hopping, O'Flynn, Bauman, Gresh, Nylen.

10:52 p.m.

Dr. O'Flynn asked what should be done after the potential appeal of the interveners. Mrs. Roesler commented that S. Perry, Attorney for the School Committee, recommended that he continue to support the judgment of the Probate Court by taking the flexibility approach where the School Committee would authorize him to take steps as necessary to minimize the cost to file a brief that would give School Committee the right to participate in an oral agreement.

After discussion, Dr. O'Flynn moved to accept Mr. Perry's recommendation which was later withdrawn when other members asked four questions of Mr. Perry as follows:

1. Could we have some level of specificity?
2. What is the ultimate goal?
3. What is the likelihood of success?
4. Why can't the School Committee do a brief signed by both parties?

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.