

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 17, 2012
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION
CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. O'Flynn, Chair Pro Tem, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: S. Gresh, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, and V. Paduchak. Also in attendance was Superintendent R. Korb.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn made the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

Ipswich High School Honors Night will be held May 22 in the Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

Memorial Day assemblies will be held at each school on May 23, starting with Ipswich High School at 8 a.m. and ending at Doyon with lunch

Senior Prom will be held on May 24, the promenade starting at 6 p.m. at Castle Hill Schools and offices will be closed on May 28 in observance of Memorial Day

Ipswich High School Baccalaureate will be held May 30, 7 p.m., Performing Arts Center

Ipswich High School Graduation will be held on June 3, 2 p.m., Lower Gym of the Middle/High School

Ipswich Middle School Honors Night will be held on June 4, Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on June 5, Middle/High School Guidance Conference Room, 5:30 p.m.

Budget Subcommittee will meet on June 5, 7 p.m., Payne School

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Korb explained the process involved following a Town election and the fact that the actual reorganization of the School Committee due to a new policy will take place at the first meeting in July. Jeff Loeb, Chair, is not present, Barry Hopping, the next in seniority, is coaching a Little League game, and Dr. O'Flynn is serving as Chair this evening as the next senior member.

Mr. Korb congratulated Carl Nysten and Hugh O'Flynn on their recent election to the Committee. Mr. Nysten had a previous commitment that took him out of town.

Mr. Korb expressed, on behalf of the School Committee and administration, thanks to Laura Dietz (who served for three years) for her numerous contributions and looks forward to her return.

Mr. Korb also recognized Victor Paduchak, School Committee Student Representative, who will be graduating before the next meeting as having been one of the most bright and articulate student representatives ever to serve with the Board. Dr. O'Flynn read the plaque presented to Victor and Victor responded that it has been a pleasure serving.

RULE OF NECESSITY

Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to invoke the Rule of Necessity. Dr. O'Flynn explained that, whenever there is a majority of School Committee members in potential conflict as it pertains to collective bargaining, a non-conflicted member must make a motion of this nature. Dr. O'Flynn, Mr. Loeb, Mr. Hopping, and Mr. Nylen have relatives employed in the Ipswich School system. UNANIMOUS.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. FINE ARTS SUBJECT AREA COMMITTEE**

Mr. Gerald Dolan began by explaining the Fine Arts SAC process where music and the visual arts are separated. He explained that music is a subject area curriculum, begun by Claire Cayot, Theresa Natti, and himself with the idea of music for all and a balanced education for everyone. Mr. Dolan cited the Fine Arts Mission Statement and Educational Goals.

Ms. Laurie (Fabiszewski) Colitti, Chair of the General Music SAC, stated that there is a two-year focus on the arts and a two-year alternative focus on music. In 2011-12 the choral program was restored into the curriculum after having been dropped. Updated and published curriculum documents have been completed along with an elementary songbook and common listening lessons. Ms. Fab commented that the music teachers share as a team in both buildings, sometimes together and sometimes apart without common planning time.

Mr. Dolan explained that Ipswich uses the Gordon music learning theory that is the basis for learning music which begins in utero and continues up to age 9. To Victor's question of whether the SAC adequately prepares students for the higher musical demands for higher education, Mr. Dolan replied that it does because it prepares the teachers and we deliver what we think is a serious and sequential curriculum. The numbers speak for themselves. Our classes are not required. Students feel strongly about creative education.

Mr. Nylen entered at 7:45 p.m. during the previous presentation. Mr. Korb congratulated him and explained that, as he had not been sworn in by the Town Clerk, he must sit as a member of the audience.

B. ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS SUBJECT AREA COMMITTEE

Mr. Cahill, administrative liaison, introduced the group and spoke of the end of the SAC's three-year cycle. Cindy Welch reviewed professional day writing cohorts for elementary teachers and continuing best-practice writing instruction at the Middle/High. Integration of technology and MCAS patterns are a focus for literacy instruction and growth. Pat Previte reviewed the key ideas in the 2011 standards of Common Core. Shifts in literacy instruction of informational text will challenge students' ability to get ready for college and career. The professional day in January focused on examination of the Common Core expectations and the Atlas curriculum management software. The future focuses on an agreed-upon philosophy of literacy instruction, assessments, intervention and professional development including summer institutes, curriculum mapping, and district-wide curriculum leadership.

Dr. O'Flynn thanked the group for their comprehensive and detailed presentation and urged them to express their needs to their administrators. Dr. O'Flynn also urged SAT preparation to be well prepared for the SAT test. Victor offered a personal thank-you because he had come to the Ipswich schools not a big fan of English and asked why the focus has changed to non-fiction texts. Mrs. Previte answered that students are now having a hard time when they go to college with the transition to informational text.

C. STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK CHANGES

Mr. Dalton and the Committee reviewed the High School handbook changes. Mr. Hopping asked that the new school policy on electronic devices be included in all student handbooks. In addition, he asked that paragraph 1 which says the violator "will lose the device for the remainder of the day" be coordinated with paragraph 3 to say "will have their device confiscated" instead of "may have". Parking and automobile regulations and physical education requirements were discussed. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to accept the changes in the High School handbook with the one edit under "Electronic Devices". UNANIMOUS.

There were no changes to elementary or middle school handbooks.

D. SCHOOL SECURITY UPDATE

Mr. Korb, because of activities in the early morning hours which include graffiti, vandalism, and drag racing, informed the Committee that Ipswich is one of the few schools that does not have security cameras. Paul Bedard and Mr. Korb discussed the possibility that 360-degree cameras could cover the Middle School entrance, the High School entrance, parking lot and exit as well as a camera on the gymnasium. A camera could be installed at the back of the Winthrop School. Mr. Bedard has applied for a utility grant for vandal lighting. At the June 7 School Committee meeting, a proposal will be made for support from utility savings. Mrs. Roesler suggested asking the Police Department for help.

E. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dr. O'Flynn commented that in the Sahagian courtroom on June 1, Steve Perry, counsel for the School Committee, will be arguing on the appeal to the judgment against the interveners.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping asked for a presentation to the School Committee on June 7 agenda regarding a feasibility study on the athletic field proposal.

4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

5. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that the \$40,000 commitment to Birth to Three has been recommended at \$15,000 to the manager and the rest to other programs.

6. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Bauman has scheduled a meeting for June 5, 7- 8 p.m.

7. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh and Mrs. Forster-Cahill put together a survey which was sent to 30-35 parents whose children will be leaving the system. The principal will interview on a one-to-one basis.

8. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

9. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

10. LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Dr. O'Flynn said there was an extensive presentation of the schools' budget with revolving funds. The schools should be formulating a vision to be presenting to the other Boards toward an override.

11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping will be having an orientation with Mr. Nylén. A new timeline will be presented at the June 7 meeting for the Superintendent's evaluation.

12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

(a) Use of Personal Electronic Technology Devices, JP Proposed Adoption Second Reading

(b) High School Graduation Requirements, JKF Proposed Revision, First Reading

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to approve "a" for second reading and "b" for first reading. UNANIMOUS.

13. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

14. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

15. OTHER

Mrs. Bauman inquired of the Manning Fund and EDP square footage representation for income.

Mrs. Roesler inquired of professional development and of the time for release of information about shifting of elementary teachers. She wondered about administrator feedback in the holding back of assignments of the elementary classrooms. Also, she is hoping for proactive response in the Kindergarten registration—to create some flexibility for parents who live outside the grey area.

Mr. Hopping wished to pass along compliments to the staff of the Doyon School following the brick ceremony which was very well done.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

On technology issues, Mr. Korb reported that Verizon is about a week away on their analysis. He has determined to move forward to collect information about consultants regarding a comprehensive analysis of school network capabilities, hardware and software needs. A plan for the technology and the implementation of updated equipment is needed.

Mr. Korb met with Mr. Whiston and Mr. Greenough regarding the Manning Fund. The Attorney General's office has found the original Manning Trust, and Mr. Greenough and the AG are going over it. According to the Trust, there were some large withdrawals from the Trust that happened a number of years ago when it was controlled by the family. Language is specific that the principal never be touched. While the system was looking at a \$10,000 contribution this year, its maximum earning power is about \$8,000. Mr. Hopping would like to know how the determinations of these funds have been made. Mrs. Roesler would like to see a copy of the Manning Trust.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of Minutes of April 26, 2012, Open Session

Acceptance of the fund raising appeal donation of \$500 from Marie Rogers and Linda Baker to benefit the Birth to Three Program

Acceptance of the fund raising appeal donation of \$1,000 from Catherine and Brian Hone to benefit the Birth to Three Program

Acceptance of the fund raising appeal donation of \$500 from Rachel Belew to benefit the Birth to Three Program. UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Bauman noted May 3, 2012, Minutes for corrections:

Field Study Committee: "turf presentation will be made"

Budget Subcommittee: "7 - 8 p.m." rather than 6 - 8 p.m.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the amended Minutes of May 3, 2012, Open Session. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Korb extended best wishes to Victor Paduchak and gave him his nameplate for use in the future.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. UNANIMOUS.