

AMENDED MAY 17, 2012

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 3, 2012  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER  
OPEN SESSION**

Mr. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz, S. Gresh, J. Bauman, H O'Flynn, R. Roesler. Also in attendance were Superintendent R. Korb, and Finance Director J. Cuff.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Loeb made the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held for the purpose of strategies regarding litigation in relation to real estate matters and for the purpose of strategies regarding collective bargaining, after which the meeting will adjourn

Policy Subcommittee will meet May 7, 5:30 p.m., Payne School

Spring Town Meeting will be held on May 8, Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

Possible continuation date is May 9.

The "Bricks Memorial Dedication Ceremony" will be held at the Doyon School on May 10, 2012, 2:15 p.m.

May 15 is Election Day

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on June 5 rather than May 15, 5:30 p.m.

Middle/High School Guidance Conference Room

School Committee will meet on May 17, 2012, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Mr. Korb introduced the new Middle School Principal David Fabrizio. He has visited at the school and will be attending the fifth grades' orientation to the sixth grade in the near future. Mr. Fabrizio was welcomed and said a few words at the microphone.

Mr. Korb mentioned that Mr. Cahill's mother, Helen, had passed away at 99 years of age and asked for a moment of silence in her memory.

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. WELLNESS SUBJECT AREA COMMITTEE**

Justine May, High School Guidance Counselor, Chair, with the help of PowerPoint talked about the processes and accomplishments of a split committee in writing an elementary guidance curriculum and physical education curriculum update. A Mission Statement and Grid for the guidance curriculum covers personal/social development, academic development, and career development. The Physical Education members of the SAC and Jen McNichols created goals for 6-8 PE curriculum and wrote an overview, framework introduction, mission statement and philosophy. Unit Plans will be continued next year. Mrs. Forster-Cahill exhibited posters of the health curriculum's body systems unit at the Middle School which were very real and dynamic. There is an extensive curriculum at the Middle School for alcohol and drugs.

Dr. O'Flynn asked several questions of Mr. Woodworth and Mr. Foster. Every PE class has some kind of aerobic skills. Mr. Foster cited the limitations of a 47-minute period for physical activities. The focus of the SAC for next year is the High School curriculum.

#### **B. SCHOOL CHOICE UPDATE HIGH SCHOOL NUMBERS**

David Dalton, Assistant Principal and upcoming Principal of the High School, presented a chart of Enrollment Trends and Allocation of Choice Dollars which revealed high numbers of Ipswich students enrolled with no future choice students. Approximately 11% of the High School population are Choice students through 2015. In addition, the High School received in FY13 only \$1,631 per Choice student while the total dollar number of the district is \$7,400 per Choice student. Mr. Dalton commented that loss of personnel is an added factor in the recommendation of not adding Choice students at the High School.

School Committee members questioned addition of personnel at the High School. Mr. Dalton advocated regular education support for the kids in the middle (not IEP students nor advanced students) who are struggling to achieve and are being squeezed. Mrs. Roesler asked about smaller classes and if the child development program might be restored.

#### **C. ENERGY ANALYSIS**

Ms. Cuff commented on an unprecedented year of energy savings accumulated because of a mild winter, favorable gas and electric rates, a propane line repair (leaking tank) and energy-saving initiatives which will amount to approximately \$99,000 in Choice monies saved. She detailed the schools' expenses/savings in utilities. Turbine credits will give full coverage of the debt cost of \$140,000. Mr. Loeb asked for a monthly report on the wind turbine numbers. Ms. Cuff remarked that the E-rate for telephones is backlogged by \$12,000 in credits by the government agency and a check from them in the form of a credit would go to free cash and become town-wide revenue. She feels that the schools are being held hostage.

#### **D. BIRTH TO THREE PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST**

Mr. Korb recommended, after looking at the energy savings, that \$40,000 of that realized energy savings be used to assist the Birth to Three program for FY13 and begin to collaborate with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to examine the community issue beyond FY13. He challenged the new Town Manager and the Chairs of the three Boards to come up with a solution for FY14 so that it would not be a part of the school budget.

He spoke of the shortcomings at the High School with staff and recommended that the current .4 science position be added to so that a 1.0 FTE position would be available for high school staffing.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to fund the Birth to Three program at \$40,000 for FY13 as a one-year commitment. Questions came forth regarding union contracts, policy, and evaluation of the Birth to Three program. Mr. Korb said "No" to the first two and Mr. Cox said he is already being evaluated by both elementary principals. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Loeb voiced the opinion that students at the High School are losing a breath of opportunity, feels some students are leaving because of a lack of elective offerings, and is intrigued with Mr. Dalton's idea of helping regular-ed students. Mrs. Roesler and Mrs. Dietz, expressing concern about promised OPEB monies when revenue became available, were told that Chapter 70 and health insurance savings would help there. Technically, energy savings are not new revenue. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to support the administration's recommendation to add a .4 additional teacher at the High School for FY13. UNANIMOUS.

E. MAY 8, 2012, SPRING TOWN MEETING PREP

Mr. Loeb led the group down the list of Warrant Articles for Town meeting as they applied to the schools as follows:

Article 4 – Mrs. Roesler expressed dismay over the \$32,000 in salaries taken from the Recreation Department and transferring \$3,000 to program services. Mr. Hopping recommended that the School Committee should speak to this and asked for assurance that monies would continue in next year's budget for a viable after-school program and recommended that Mrs. Roesler speak at Town Meeting on the article.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to support the transfers while making the community aware of the need for after-school programs. UNANIMOUS.

Article 7 – Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to support the FY12 School Budget Amendment for \$28,798.79 from an insurance reimbursement account (FY2012 budget). UNANIMOUS. Mrs. Bauman will speak to this article.

Article 8 – Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to support the FY2013 School Operating Budget. UNANIMOUS. Mr Loeb will present.

Article 9 – Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to support the High School/Middle School debt article. UNANIMOUS. Dr. Gresh will present.

Article 11 – Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to support the Whittier High School budget. UNANIMOUS.

Article 14 – Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to support the OPEB resolution. UNANIMOUS.

Article 15 – Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to oppose the citizen’s petition. Dr. Gresh made a statement that he feels that four School Committee members have been excoriated with implications that they have acted irresponsibly by saying that their decision was made without any public input. The School Committee was authorized to (within 30 days) maximize the economic return of Little Neck either through negotiating maximum sale price and/or restructure the Feoffees trust as soon as possible by litigation, petition to the legislature, or both. He believed that the School Committee had consulted with all the official people, were involved in a court case, and the opportunity to compromise couldn’t be done publicly. Some people on some Boards, well-meaning people, disagree with the School Committee and are taking a stand to disparage them on issues that are inaccurate. While it is okay to disagree, he asked that the School Committee members not be labeled as dishonorable.

Mrs. Dietz urged unanimity in the School Committee vote. Mr. Hopping opined that he has moved on and takes pride in the appointment of two new Feoffees in whom he has faith and the Policy Subcommittee, of which he is Chair, will be making decisions to protect the Trust. Mrs. Roesler felt that evidence should have been made public in court and was not allowed. Vote: IN FAVOR – Gresh, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz, O’Flynn; OPPOSED – Bauman, Roesler.

Article 17 – Dr. O’Flynn moved seconded by Mr. Hopping, to indefinitely postpone the recall petition. UNANIMOUS.

F. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO GREATER LAWRENCE EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to send the Superintendent to Lawrence – GLEC. UNANIMOUS.

G. FEOFFEEES

Following brief comments by Mr. Loeb on the excellent caliber of the newly elected Feoffees, filing, signing, and approving of the administrative order (Trust) by the Probate Court today, and the lack of a recording of the Master Deed (scheduled for May 1) – explained by the Feoffees’ attorney as not possible while litigation is still a potential – Mr. Loeb asked the Committee to file a motion to the Probate Court to compel them to provide an accounting of income and expenses since January 2012. The engineering firm has demanded payment.

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept Mr. Loeb’s recommendation (a) to file a motion with the Probate Court to compel the Feoffees to record the Master Deed and to do what their obligation is under the terms of the Settlement agreed to in December, 2011, and (b) to compel the Feoffees to provide accounting of income and expenses (in round figures) since January, 2012. VOTE: IN FAVOR – Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Hopping Dietz, O’Flynn; ABSTAINING – Roesler.

In a short discussion about an antique shop in Essex where the Feoffees have a right to an aversion in 600 years, it became known that the present owners want a clear title for the property and must get School Committee approval. Mrs. Roesler suggested that the new Feoffees handle the issue and asked that the School Committee meet with the new Feoffees. Mr. Loeb agreed to look into a meeting. Old records of the Feoffees are another issue to investigate for the archives.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. VOUCHERS**

**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

**3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Bauman asked when the turf presentation for the High School will be made. There are concerns around the process, but a report is planned for May 17.

**4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE**

**5. BIRTH TO THREE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**6. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**

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

**7. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Dr. Gresh reported Town government questions raised concerning Little Neck and public safety, and the group will continue to meet for the next two months.

**8. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Cuff reported consideration of raising fees and decision to wait until mid-year of next year as reserve continues to grow.

**9. FEOFFEEES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**10. LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING**

**11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**

(a) Use of Personal Electronic Technology Devices, JP First Reading

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the policy for first reading. UNANIMOUS.

**13. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE**

**14. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**5/3/12**

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**IEA NEGOTIATIONS**

Mr. Korb, in talking with IEA Chair Jeff Krieger, mentioned that with all officers not running next year, new principals, and Common Core, it was suggested by Jeff that negotiations could be averted with a one-year extension of the contract through June 30, 2014.

Mr. Hopping asked Ms. Cuff to project numbers on how it would look. Jeff suggested 2% and School Committee suggested 1 or 1½%.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to adjourn at 11:05 p.m. Roll call vote: IN FAVOR – Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz, O'Flynn.

**DOCUMENTS REVIEWED:** Enrollment Trends and Allocation of Choice Dollars  
School Choice Enrollment Acceptances 2012-13