

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 15, 2012
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Loeb called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz, J. Bauman, H. O'Flynn, S. Gresh, R. Roesler, and B. Hopping. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb, Finance Director J. Cuff, Principal S. McAdams, and Student Representative V. Paduchak.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held this evening to review Executive Session Minutes for release, after which the meeting will return to Open Session

Policy Subcommittee will meet March 19, 5:30 p.m., Payne School
Annual meeting of the Feoffees will be held on Mar. 20, 7 p.m. VFW Hall

School Committee budget presentations to the Finance Committee are as follows: March 20, 2012, Central Office, 7:30 p.m. (all)
March 21, 2012, Doyon and Winthrop Schools
March 22, 2012, Middle and High Schools

School Committee meets on April 5, 2012, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb announced with honor and pleasure the recent award of Massachusetts Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Massachusetts Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance to Micki McVann. He praised her for her work with kids, giving them a second chance, and allowing every child to reach his/her potential. Dr. Gresh reminded of Women's History month in March and her personification of women's strengths. Ms. McVann, once composed, related her acknowledgment of her teaching experience with a deeper intensity following the completion of her paperwork process and thanked all for their kind words.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. FOUNDATION FORMULA/IPSWICH AS A FOUNDATION AID DISTRICT

Mr. Korb presented Roger Hatch, Chief Administrator of the School Finance Office, Mass. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Hatch explained the factors which cannot be controlled in a community (enrollment, inflation, foundation budget, property value, income, Proposition 2½) and a formula which over time has put Ipswich into the situation of receiving aid from the State. He cited wealthy communities such as Wellesley and Manchester which receive aid. Differences in factors (listed above) mean that everyone will be given aid eventually. The formula has three basic components:

(a) foundation budget (Commonwealth's calculation of an "adequate" spending level), (b) determination of target local share (based on community's aggregate property value and residents' income) and (c) aid (difference between a district's required contribution and its foundation budget).

By working through the formula established in 1994, he determined that the foundation budget per pupil in Ipswich is \$9,155. Mr. Loeb commented that the School Committee has felt embarrassment because it was not supporting public education at the minimum level and Ipswich's budget funding requires the cutting of teachers every year. Mr. Hatch said that the State average is 20% more than the foundation budget, and this year Ipswich will be receiving \$32,179 from the State. Those communities with a "preference for education" (1/3 of districts in the State) are foundation aid districts. Victor asked why (since it all comes from taxpayer money) shouldn't local taxes pay more; Hatch replied that taxes coming from the State is a more equitable way than from local property taxes.

In discussion of charging for full-day kindergarten, Mr. Hatch determined that every student into the district means 100% State funding for that student's foundation budget. Foundation-aid districts don't get cut. Charging a kindergarten fee means the loss of \$600 per new student.

B. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Korb introduced Lyle Kirtman, Future Management Systems, who is a partner in one of the leading strategic planning firms in the world and will soon be a presenter of the Educator Evaluation model. The question is whether a hybrid version of the strategic plan which exists in Ipswich can be accomplished. Mr. Kirtman cited the advantages of a strategic plan: organizational focus; finding new revenue; setting the course for the larger environment; promoting teamwork; inviting participation; and seeing results. Changes created because of budgets, accountability demands, compliance issues, trends and projections require gathering of data from the stakeholders, communication, monitoring and evaluating an updated plan. He presented an outline of steps and timeline (beginning in April, 2012 through November, 2012). Mr. Korb advised that every School Committee agenda should include strategic planning and emphasis on goals, thanking Mr. Kirtman for his summation of the process, and urging the Board to give thought to the plan. Dr. O'Flynn asked and Mr. Korb answered that he would like his evaluation tied to the evaluation process.

C. FY12 FISCAL UPDATE

Ms. Cuff reviewed her March 15 Financial Report on budget status, Middle/High School insurance claim on water/steam damage caused by freezing, health insurance rebate, and savings on utilities, largely due, according to Mr. Korb, because of locked-in prices achieved by Ms. Cuff. In discussion of the need for a newer Special Needs van, Ms. Cuff was requested to make a presentation at the next meeting on the status of all vans owned/leased by the School Department. Dr. O'Flynn suggested bringing up the need at Bean Counting as the municipal side does with its police cruisers.

Mr. Loeb commented that the schools go through an annual audit and Ms. Cuff agreed to put it online. Very detailed data is available on the Town website regarding expenditures by the Town on a monthly basis.

D. FEOFFEES

Mr. Loeb reported that it is anticipated that there will be a Trust document to vote on at the April 5 meeting because of Steve Perry's (attorney) assistance from Eric Hayes, an expert in trust documents. Mr. Loeb, delegated by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen, needs to put together a press release soliciting six potential Feoffees to be selected by all three Boards to succeed the current Feoffees in managing the new Trust.

Dr. Gresh asked if support might be forthcoming from the three School Committee members who had voted against sale of Little Neck in implementing issues. While Mrs. Roesler affirmed her position against the sale, she called the new trust agreement a separate issue. Mr. Hopping expressed his feeling that he would still vote in opposition to sale but his interest is doing nothing to discredit those who voted for the sale. It is time to move on, he said, with job descriptions (for new Feoffees) and developing parameters on what and how much can be spent of the money, none of which has been received from the Feoffee escrow fund.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Victor gave an apology for what some of his class members did earlier in the week and supports Mr. Korb in wanting to take legal action against them. Victor announced that the High School cheerleaders had earned the Division 4 National Championship competition in Kentucky and the Model UN group goes to the first conference next week. In answering the question of his college choice, Victor said he will be attending Penn State. Mr. Hopping gave him kudos for the quality of his questions to Mr. Hatch.

2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping reported that John Gillis reported study of converting the football stadium to artificial turf with a 10-12 year life and the ability to provide sport participation of every kind, generating revenue because of more field use. There is interest in donating a scoreboard at Mile Lane field. Ken Swenson and Doyon Principal Conley will be meeting on issues related to the proposed Doyon playing field.

4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

6. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh reported on a very good meeting at the Winthrop School with an advocacy group for the schools entitled Citizens for Ipswich Schools (CIS), point person being Michelle Wertz.

7. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

8. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

9. LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

12. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

13. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

14. OTHER

Mrs. Bauman commented that she found no new material in the O'Flynn paperwork regarding K-2 and 3-5 elementary grade division at the two schools.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Korb asked Board members about registration at Day on the Hill on March 27. Kitt Cox of Birth to Three will make a presentation to the School Committee soon on the status of the program.

IV. CONSENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of the Minutes of March 1, 2012, Open Session

Acceptance of the donation of \$1,400 from the "Carnival of Hope" to the Birth to Three Center to enhance the work of the Birth to Three Center.

UNANIMOUS.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to move to Executive Session at 10:15 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing and determining appropriateness to release Executive Minutes, after which the meeting will return to Open Session. UNANIMOUS.

OPEN SESSION resumed at 10:31 p.m.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, that the School Committee vote to release Executive Session Minutes from November 5, 2009, through September 15, 2011, as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee. UNANIMOUS.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED IN OPEN SESSION:

School Committee Financial Report

Ipswich Is A Foundation Aid District by R. Hatch, Adm. of School Finance

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10:15 p.m.

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Release of Minutes

Explaining that the decision of the Policy Subcommittee was made not to release anything that pertained to Feoffees' continuing litigation, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to release Executive Minutes from November 5, 2009, November 19, 2009, December 3, 2009, and December 17, 2009 (Collective Bargaining: ITA topic); also January 6, 2010, February 4, 2010, March 18, 2010 (Collective Bargaining: ITA), May 6, 2010, May 20, 2010, June 3, 2010, June 17, 2010 (Collective Bargaining: ITA negotiations), July 15, 2010 (Collective Bargaining: ITA negotiations), August 19, 2010 (Collective Bargaining: ITA negotiations and non-union Personnel), September 2, 2010 (Collective Bargaining: ITA negotiations), September 22, 2010, October 7, 2010, November 4, 2010 (Collective Bargaining: ITA negotiations), November 18, 2010 (Collective Bargaining: ITA negotiations), December 2, 2010 (Collective Bargaining: ITA negotiations), December 16, 2010, April 7, 2011 (Collective Bargaining: Support and non-union personnel), May 5, 2011, May 19, 2011 (Collective Bargaining: Custodial Supervisor), June 16, 2011 (Collective Bargaining: Non-union personnel, Teaching Assistants), and September 15, 2011 (Non-union personnel). Roll call IN FAVOR - Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz, O'Flynn.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to return to Open Session at 10:30 p.m. Roll call IN FAVOR - Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz, O'Flynn.