

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 1, 2012
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Loeb called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz, S. Gresh, H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, and Student Representative V. Paduchak. B. Hopping was present but left for an appointment and later returned. Superintendent R. Korb, Finance Director J. Cuff, Principals S. Conley and S. McAdams, and Assistant Principal K. McMahon were also present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held.

Budget Subcommittee meets on March 5, 6 p.m., Middle/High School
Guidance Conference Room

School Committee FY13 Budget Presentations to the Finance Committee:

March 20 – Central Office

March 21 – Doyon and Winthrop Schools

March 22 – Middle and High Schools

School Committee meets on March 15, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble
Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

S. Jewell asked if the question he had posed two weeks ago has an answer. Ms. Cuff replied that a Doyon School student who had been listed as a collaborative student was, in fact, placed in another institution, thus throwing off the numbers in the transfer of Grade 5 SPED to Grade 6.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb recognized the efforts of Ipswich Education Foundation and EBSCO. He announced a donation from EBSCO of 20 Dell Desktop Computers, 30 LCD Monitors with keyboards, mice and cables, estimated value of \$6,250. Becky Gayton presented funding awards from the Ipswich Education Technology Funds to the School Committee in the following amounts: Doyon, \$5,058.70; Winthrop, \$9,420.70; Middle, \$5,463.70; High, \$5,968.70. Mr. Korb gave his thanks for the donations.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the donation from EBSCO of \$6,250 and the Ipswich Education Foundation Technology Funds distribution of \$25,911.
UNANIMOUS.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. WINTER SPORTS AWARDS

Athletic Director Tom Gallagher announced and called up all-league and all-star athletes in girls' and boys' basketball and in girls' and boys' indoor track to receive their certificates.

B. UPDATE ON FY13 STATE BUDGET

Representative Brad Hill spoke of the local aid on the cherry sheet (FY13) as "bumped up" slightly. He referred to his sponsored Bill promoting 17.5% of the districts (currently at 14.97%) to the schools now being addressed as a budget issue rather than as a Bill. He urged letter writing to Ways and Means Chair Brian Dempsey of Haverhill and later (May) to Senator Steve Brewer of Barry when the Senate brings up the issue.

Senator Bruce Tarr reported that the Governor releases his budget, the House of Representatives takes it up in April, and the Senate, in May, and asked for support, stating that legislators are mildly optimistic about trends upwards. In discussion regarding OPEB, both legislators felt that communities are uncertain about direction because there seems to be no clarity, and no expectation should be made for help from the State to communities on this issue. Mr. Seidler of the Finance Committee suggested that the State could make changes in the laws for (1) retiree percentages for health care (prescriptions), and (2) requirement for the funding of OPEB by the State without spending any money.

C. OPEN HEARING AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED FY13 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mr. Loeb declared the hearing open at 8 p.m. Ms. Cuff reviewed budget changes since February 16, 2012: reduced Winthrop budget (physical education) by \$30,000 (retirement), reduced health insurance by \$180,261, and increased regular transportation by \$100,000. The administration has not designated OPEB at "0" nor made any specific "add backs."

Mrs. Roesler felt that OPEB does need a line item and, having spoken with representatives of 24 Massachusetts communities, Medicare and/or leftover money at the end of FY13 should be earmarked toward OPEB and not come at a cost of cutting teachers. Dr. O'Flynn, Mrs. Dietz, and Mr. Loeb expressed a need for an override at Town Meeting to fund OPEB as an opportunity to educate the public and make the funding a town-wide issue. Mr. Feldman, Finance Committee member, explained that expense categories for funding the liability for retirees' future healthcare keeps growing beyond the \$300,000 last year but worries that there is a breaking point for the taxpayer. He suggested a waiting period because discussion at the State level has just begun. The Town Treasurer estimates that the median family would be taxed between \$200 and \$250 a year to fund the \$1.2 million needed for OPEB's obligation. Mr. Seidler felt personally that the School Committee should not include anything in its budget that would result in reduction of staff.

Serious discussion took place regarding teacher add-backs, needs at the elementary schools to keep equality and keep down class size, "Choice" students and grey areas for placement of them, and after-school use of the Middle School library versus funding OPEB with monies that might come as the year progresses.

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to remove the \$300,000 line item for OPEB in the Operating Budget for FY13. UNANIMOUS.

... A 5-minute break ...

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Dr. Gresh, to propose a town-wide override to fund the OPEB obligation. IN FAVOR – Roesler, Gresh, Bauman, Loeb, Dietz, O’Flynn; OPPOSED—Hopping.

By including anticipated Medicare funding, the group discussed a \$315,000 figure for personnel add-backs.

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to restore the Middle School language arts and science teachers in the FY13 budget at \$114,000. IN FAVOR – Gresh, Loeb, Dietz, O’Flynn; OPPOSED – Roesler, Bauman, Hopping.

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to restore 2 Winthrop and 1 Doyon teacher. UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to add a third teacher at the Winthrop School. UNANIMOUS.

Discussion continued with Principals Conley and McAdams and Assistant Principal McMahan with regard to the remaining \$14,000. Dr. O’Flynn moved, second by Mrs. Dietz, to place the remaining \$14,141 in Undistributed Salary Personnel at the Central Office. UNANIMOUS.

D. CLOSE HEARING ON PROPOSED FY13 BUDGET

Chairman Loeb closed the hearing on the FY13 budget, thanking the members for their input.

E. VOTE OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON FY13 PROPOSED BUDGET

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept Ms. Cuff’s recommendation of a 2.5% target and \$70,000 Medicare, removing the OPEB line item to “\$0”, including 1 Doyon, 3 Winthrop, and 2 Middle School teachers, and a Central Office salary number to be used in the future, to set the FY13 Operating Budget number at \$24,168,102. UNANIMOUS.

F. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A hearing will be held next week.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. IPSWICH HIGH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Victor announced that the Cheerleading Team had headed to Kentucky for the National Cheerleading Competition. Also the Drama Club is rehearsing for a show, and Dr. O'Flynn added that the girls' basketball team is headed to a state tournament.

2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

6. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. Gresh has established 3-4 categories for the internet and wants School Committee handouts put there. He asked that members be photographed before the next meeting.

7. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

8. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

9. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

Mrs. Dietz reported that there was much interesting discussion including OPEB.

10. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

11. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping reported that some Executive Session Minutes were released and study is being made of the homework policy and of the use of "tablets" (technology) within the schools.

11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

13. OTHER

Mr. Loeb announced that the Bean Counting date is currently unknown. Mrs. Roesler was concerned about no response on the collaboration with the Town. Also, she questioned the organization of the Manning Fund. Mr. Korb was requested to go to Mr. Whiston regarding the use of funds from the Manning Fund. Mrs. Bauman asked that handouts go "live" on the internet before the School Committee meeting.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

IV. CONSENT

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented:

Accepted School Committee/Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee
Minutes of January 24, 2012, Open Session
Accepted School Committee Minutes of February 9, 2012, Open Session
Accepted School Committee Minutes of February 16, 2012, Open Session
UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to adjourn at 10:50 p.m. UNANIMOUS.