

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2012
MS/HS ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Loeb called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz, B. Hopping, H. O'Flynn, J. Bauman, R. Roesler, and Student Representative V. Paduchak. Superintendent R. Korb, the four principals and two assistant principals were also present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

Budget Subcommittee meets on February 13, 7 p.m., Payne School

School Committee meets on February 16, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

A Manchester school teacher commented that it would cost her \$13,000 over the next four years because of the proposed bus schedule and the proposed change of the bell schedule. This will have too much of an effect, financially and emotionally, she said.

Ed Traverso, former School Committee member, suggested a plan which would send all children within a grade to one particular elementary school. If all third-grade teaching was done in contiguous rooms, it could be very successful with team teaching and less cuts in teachers.

Deb Trevarrow spoke for parents who couldn't be present inquiring about child care, about access to classes from all family income levels, about bus fees being financially hard, and about late-starting classes.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Trina Schell and Gerald Dolan made a presentation of a \$24,315 donation from IMADA for microphones, choral risers, video cameras, a kiln, and advertising/conference fees for the Fine Arts Department. L B Foster and New England BioLabs each contributed \$1,000 in grants to this gift. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the donation of \$24,315. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Korb, on behalf of the administration, thanked IMADA for their hard work and assistance, commenting that without these kinds of contributions, Ipswich schools wouldn't be the same.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. ALTERNATE BELL/BUS SCHEDULE

Mr. Loeb announced that a Finance Committee meeting on February 14 will discuss OPEB at \$300,000 or make it \$450K. Revenue figures only allow 2.5% increase to stay under the levy limit. Both of these impact the budget with a \$400,000 deficit. However, concerted effort between the Town unions and schools put pressure on MIIA to increase health insurance by 1.43% rather than the original 10%, saving \$180,000. In the budget now is a \$100,000 saving with an alternate bell schedule, but it does not include revenue from kindergarten fees, nor

Choice slots at Middle School, nor a change in administration to one principal of Middle/High School.

The schedule of alternate start/end times at the elementary and secondary schools offered six alternatives. While a discussion of starting elementary earlier and secondary later has begun, Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director, said that 2:30 p.m. is the time that athletes need to board buses for out-of-town games. During the six-alternative review, start times at both elementary schools were late for EDP students and made cooperative meeting between the schools almost impossible. "A" on the 5/5/3 bus model seemed the least disruptive. School Committee members expressed concern about educational benefits as opposed to revenue-driven changes. Mr. Korb and principals expressed a need for a longer time period and more study before a major change of early/late starts and K-2, 3-5 could be considered.

B. KINDERGARTEN FEES

Mr. Loeb began discussion by stating that State statute requires a sliding-fee schedule for kindergarten fees. Chapter 70 provides State aid for education, and Ipswich would lose 50 cents of every dollar taken in on the full-day kindergarten fees. He expressed his own opinion that charging fees for kindergarten is simply wrong from a public education model. Mr. Traverso and kindergarten teacher Ms. Zagarella agreed that a full day of kindergarten builds community and help low-income kids to build skills that reveal themselves in later test-taking years. Several comments from parents expressed inequities, asked for a revenue-generating task force and an override.

Dr. Gresh, who joined the meeting at 9 p.m., explained that Wellesley had the law changed so that a thirty-year "override" could cover the OPEB obligation wrapping in school maintenance and town expenses for the long term.

C. HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE MODEL

Mr. Korb proposed two principals at the Middle School and High School and two assistant principals at both schools. Mr. Korb and Mrs. Forster-Cahill were against the discussion of cutting vice-principals to a ten-month year, although Mrs. Bauman felt that it is a perfect opportunity to try a model of eliminating a principal and saving \$100,000. The two principals who are retiring mentioned the two separate cultures of middle school and high school, site-based management, time spent on budget preparation and, particularly, with two new administrators, a risk of stability and culture. The one-principal setup exists in only ten schools in the area, run on 7-12 grade range and are small schools without the middle-school culture. Accreditation and graduation take the principal's time. Mr. Hopping added the new evaluation system that begins this fall. Mrs. Bauman thanked both principals for their input. Because there was no second to Dr. O'Flynn's motion to support the model of two principals and two assistant principals (the model that already exists), the issue of a combined principalship is moot.

D. MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOICE

Mr. Loeb began by asking whether to add Choice students to the Middle School and designate the revenue to the grades where the Choice students go. Dr. O'Flynn immediately proposed 20 for Grade 6 and 20 for Grade 7 and proposed the 4/3 model Middle School model in Grade 6. Mr. Korb asked that the Choice revenue not be so restrictive; there are priorities. Mrs. Roesler argued that there are 17 Choice students already in 6th grade and staff should be reduced

to more accurately reflect the demographics. Otherwise, classes become larger and put an additional burden on high school sections in time. Some parents argued for Choice. Mrs. Roesler moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, not to accept Choice students at the Middle School for FY13. IN FAVOR – Roesler, Hopping; OPPOSED – Bauman, Gresh, Loeb, Dietz, O’Flynn.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to add 10 Choice at the 6th grade and 8 Choice at the 7th grade to fund two teachers at the Middle School. After discussion that it wouldn’t work out, vote was IN FAVOR – O’Flynn; OPPOSED – Dietz, Hopping, Loeb, Bauman, Gresh, Roesler.

E. OTHER REVENUE THOUGHTS

Mrs. Wurtz (from the audience) recommended a grant writer position that could pay for itself. The Long-Range Financial Planning Committee meets year round. Mrs. Dietz suggested a general activity fee at the High School. Mr. Hopping recommended that the OPEB and health insurance be funded by the Town as well as a day in kind from the Town’s side as the schools have been asked to do (\$80,000 saving). Mrs. Forster-Cahill mentioned that a music fee would harm the orchestra’s participation – schools that charge fees have a very small orchestra. IMADA funds an immense amount; three music teachers teach 366 students at the High School, 218 at the Middle School; Institution for Savings gave a grant; students and families pay for 25 trips by bus. Mrs. Roesler asked to have Wilma Gooby attend a meeting regarding EDP funds. Mrs. McAdams spoke of summer camp problems as a result of elementary cuts. Mr. Korb stressed the need to convince the other Boards in Town that \$380,000 is needed to pick up all of the cuts. Mrs. McAdams commented that Ipswich has become a “lagging” town in the Foundation-Based schools.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. IPSWICH HIGH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Victor asked if everyone knew that NCLB has been waived by the President in an executive decision and “picked up” by Massachusetts so that AYP goes away. He also mentioned that, if technology infrastructure doesn’t improve, students trying to use the 50 VHS slots to be added next year at the high school will be wasting their time.

2. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE

3. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

4. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

5. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

6. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

7. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

8. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

9. LONG RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING

10. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. Concussion Policy, JJIF, Proposed Adoption, Second Reading

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the policy for second reading. UNANIMOUS.

13. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

14. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

15. OTHER

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- A. Superintendent's Administrative Report

No report.

IV. CONSENT

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to adjourn at 11:25 p.m. UNANIMOUS.