

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 2, 2012  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman J. Loeb called the meeting to order at 7:05 with the following members present: S. Gresh, J. Bauman, L. Dietz, R. Roesler, B. Hopping, and H. O'Flynn. Also present were Student Representative V. Paduchak, the four principals and two assistant principals, Finance Director J. Cuff, and Superintendent R. Korb.

**CITIZENS' QUESTIONS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Loeb made the following announcements:

Feoffee Working Group will meet on February 7, 7:30 p.m., Guidance Conference Room

School Committee will meet on February 9, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

**A. CONSENT**

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to accept the consent agenda as follows:

Accepted Minutes of January 19, 2012, Open Session

Accepted donation of \$491 from the Newman Trust Fund to purchase a scroll saw for the Technology Education Department of the Middle/High School.

UNANIMOUS.

**B. POLICY**

**1. CONCUSSION POLICY, JJIF**

After explanation and thanks to Tom Gallagher, Dave Dalton, and the nurses involved, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the first reading of the Concussion Policy. UNANIMOUS.

**I. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL FY13 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

**A. MIDDLE SCHOOL BUDGET**

As Mr. Loeb introduced the second evening of the Superintendent's budget, he mentioned Ms. Sheila Conley's first presentation last night and the last one for Cheryl Forster-Cahill and Barry Cahill. He thanked them for everything they have done for this district over the years and expressed the School Committee's appreciation.

Mrs. Forster-Cahill began by thanking her helpers with her PowerPoint presentations since 1990. She remarked about how the Middle School has changed, about previous recognitions of faculty and a model school, and student achievement in English/Language Arts and math. With a low-income population of 11.3%, the faculty has learned that time spent with students, who need MCAS tutoring, nets results, and she explained their methods. Major budget increases appear in SPED. She showed student enrollments for nine years and projections out. Then she showed how proposed cuts will cut further into the Middle School program. The current team approach is what makes the Middle School rather than a little high school. Class

size matters everywhere. Restoring the teachers would make a great school and the Town needs to figure that out.

Mr. Hopping asked about math texts and substitute monies for the last five years, system wide. Dr. O’Flynn led a philosophical discussion regarding restoring two Middle School teachers against new administration in Curriculum. Revenue-source ideas were expressed.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to take the Middle School budget under advisement. With Mr. Hopping abstaining, Gresh, Roesler, Bauman, Loeb, Dietz, and O’Flynn were IN FAVOR.

#### **B. HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET**

Mr. Cahill began with kudos to the music, art, and drama department and reviewed past awards to the High School. The tipping point without professional development, technology, supplies and cuts in staff is here. The culture in this High School is not common – students can do whatever they want in art, athletics, music – and they are all accepted.

He briefly reviewed the HS/MS building operations. His goals for maintaining excellence in the High School are providing suitable technology to prepare for college (currently at a 93% rate), providing remediation for MCAS students, keeping a varied curriculum with reasonable class sizes, and providing the options of Virtual high school and independent study. He reviewed the sizeable use of outside funds from athletic fees and gate receipts, from Circuit Breaker and Choice, and IDEA for Special Ed.

Mr. Cahill revealed that the Greenough family had contributed \$200,000 to the High School in the past eight years. Those funds purchased 16 sets of core curriculum textbooks, laptop carts, and the last donation of microscopes, which will have a long life, for the Science Department.

He reviewed the 93% average of graduates over the past four years and National Merit Program commendations for multiple Ipswich High School students whereas most schools have one each year. The current funding for athletics barely will keep the program going. Thanks to VHS/dual enrollment/independent courses, scheduling to student interests and needs continues – 139 offerings outside of regular classes – and the FY13 budget provides for 50 more VHS slots.

The School Committee had discussion possible revenues and being proactive to create new ones while obtaining support from the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee.

Mrs. Bauman moved, seconded by Mrs. Roesler, to take the High School budget under advisement. With Dr. O’Flynn abstaining, Roesler, Bauman, Gresh, Loeb, Hopping, and Dietz were IN FAVOR.

**C. BUDGET SUMMARY**

Mr. Korb cited his goals of updating the existing strategic plan, implementing Common Core standards and Race To The Top initiative over the next three years, targeting reduction of MCAS gaps in subgroups, and improving financial information dissemination via the website.

Ms. Cuff reviewed the PowerPoint slides of pie charts and comparisons of this year and next. She detailed budget reductions and increases in fixed costs (Essex County retirement, Workers' Compensation, health insurance, and facilities/liability insurance) totaling \$476,255.

Mr. Korb continued with unfunded needs: a Director of Instruction/Assessment; increase from .5 FTE to .75FTE for Pupil Personnel Director; professional development opportunities to Central Office staff; and a Town/School IT Director.

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Bauman, to take the Central Office budget under advisement. UNANIMOUS.

A Budget Subcommittee meeting was set for February 13, at 7 p.m. at the Central Office.

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. UNANIMOUS.