

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2012  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

J. Loeb, School Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following members present: H. O’Flynn, L. Dietz, B. Hopping, S. Gresh, R. Roesler, and J. Bauman. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; J. Cuff, Financial Director; V. Paduchak, Student Representative; Principals B. Cahill, C. Forster-Cahill, S. McAdams, and S. Conley; SPED Director M. Gallant; Assistant Principal D. Dalton; and Head Custodian P. Bedard.

Mr. Loeb called for a moment of silence in honor of R. Korb’s recently deceased father. Mr. Korb thanked everyone, remarking on the celebration of his 96 years of life at his funeral.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Loeb made the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held for the purpose of strategies regarding ongoing litigation in relation to real estate matters after which the meeting will adjourn.

Athletic Subcommittee will meet on January 17, 6 p.m., Middle/High School Guidance Conference Room

Feoffees Working Group will meet on January 17, 7:30 p.m., Middle/High School Guidance Conference Room

Professional Development Day for teachers will be on January 23 – no school for students

School Committee/Administrators FY13 Budget Workshop meets on January 24, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

School Committee meets on January 19, 2012, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

**CITIZENS’ COMMENTS**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. FEOFFEEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Mr. Loeb began by referring to the Agreement for Judgment between the Feoffees and the School Committee, signed and approved on December 23, 2011, which had been distributed to the audience. Mr. Loeb explained to the audience of about 50 persons the judge’s thoughts on the first day of the trial when the parties viewed Little Neck property and the following two days of trial when she saw no reason why she shouldn’t order a sale, only questioning a dollar number, and, further, saw no reason to change the governance. A real proposal was made at 5 p.m. on December 15 and discussed in a two-hour executive session that night, deciding that it was serious enough to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen – a strategy that had come from the previous fall Town Meeting. On December 17 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the three Boards met in Executive Session and, following that, the School Committee

gave counsel certain instructions in terms of guidelines, a bottom line, etc. On Tuesday, December 20, it was reported as settled by Attorney General Coakley. Personally, Mr. Loeb felt that the proposal is a better one than could be achieved at the conclusion of litigation, has a better financial result, has a restructuring of governance that the School Committee wanted, and provided a proposal for public access to Pavilion Beach. He reviewed other details of the settlement: a \$400,000 cap on legal and engineering work, money to come to the schools immediately until July 1, \$2.4 million set aside for the next three years to the schools while the trust principal corpus for approximately \$25 million remains untouched to grow under the management of the new body of two School Committee, two Board of Selectmen, and two Finance Committee appointees and one Life Feoffee. Six hundred thousand dollars will come off the top to be rebated to the Town for litigation expenses.

Mr. Loeb accepted blame for the process having been done in Executive Session. The majority of the School Committee voted to authorize their attorney to go back for further discussion with the Feoffees. The new Motion to Intervene will come up in early February.

For one hour 18 audience members spoke mostly expressing disappointment that the matter had been settled in executive session and dissolution of the 350-year trust when they thought it should be retained and was financially worth more than the selling price accepted. Mr. Traverso, former School Committee member, expressed delight about the demise of the Feoffees and the present open meeting, showing a greater openness by the School Committee. He urged a careful review of all finances and a thorough accounting of all monies, suggesting an audit. Each School Committee member explained how s/he had voted on the issue: O'Flynn, Dietz, Loeb, and Gresh in favor; and Hopping, Bauman, and Roesler against. In regard to financial analysis, the School Committee had conducted a study on the long-term outcome. Attorney Kallman explained to the audience that Probate Court differs from Land Court and Superior Court in the manner in which the judge makes decisions.

Dr. O'Flynn commented on the portrayal by the audience that this has been an expedient decision, reviewing his Ipswich schooling and School Committee membership since 2005 where long deliberation had taken place on the matter, expressing his decision in favor of sale.

#### **B. FY13 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT STATUS**

Mr. Korb read the introduction from the administration to the School Committee for the ensuing Draft Budget discussion. He then reviewed the significant budgeting decisions listed as OPEB, Professional Development, Outside Funding, Health Insurance, Retirement Savings, Put-back Positions, Salary Increases, and New Positions/FTE increases. Mr. Loeb commented that several areas were unrealistic including the cutting of half of the OPEB number, the implementation of a kindergarten fee, increased revenues (to cover outside funding losses) by implementation of an additional athletic fee of \$100 per student. A straw poll of the School Committee revealed that no one was in favor of the kindergarten fee.

Dr. O'Flynn questioned the elimination of the extra school day and was told that the IEA is willing to discuss it. Mrs. Dietz called for a robust policy discussion about the use of Feoffee money, had doubts about cutting OPEB by \$150,000, and questioned changes to the model that was studied at the Middle School for FY13. Mrs. Forster-Cahill confirmed that changes are coming with swing teachers. Mr. Hopping inquired whether the staggered start at the elementary

schools has been studied for a cost saving. Ms. Cuff answered that \$136,000 savings might be possible when contracts go out to bid.

A Budget Subcommittee workshop was scheduled for January 12 at 7 p.m. Mrs. McAdams will present her co-teaching model before budget presentations.

Mrs. Roesler felt that another athletic participation fee is not appropriate on the heels of a jump in the past year.

Health insurance changes with vendors, GIC and MIAA, were discussed briefly as it involves 10% of the overall budget. Ms. Cuff reported that, in speaking to Amesbury and seven other systems regarding privatizing Teacher Assistants, Food Services, and Custodial Services, each district had different needs. Discussion will continue about a technology director. Infrastructure discussion with the Town might be possible with a new Town Manager.

**C. VOTE TO CREATE REVOLVING ACCOUNTS FOR NEW INITIATIVES**

Ms. Cuff explained that the Town’s Recreation Department will be giving funds for after-school programs. For accurate accounting of cash receipts and expenditures and to abide by M.G.L. Ch. 71, Sec. 47, it is necessary to establish revolving funds. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to approve the creation of four revolving accounts to fund the after-school programs that have been previously funded by the Town and which had been in the municipal budget for FY13; specifically, Doyon’s Deep Program (R17) @ \$1,750, Winthrop’s ACE Program (R18) @ \$2,500, Middle School’s Afterschool Program (R19) @ \$9,000, and Birth-to-Three Center’s infant/parent programming (R20) @ \$1,300, totaling \$14,550. Mrs. Roesler explained a discrepancy from the original figures regarding the Recreation Department and promised to look into it for the Budget Subcommittee meeting next Tuesday.

UNANIMOUS.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS**

**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Victor reported school back in session and asked if the legislature had voted yet on the Bills 1821 and 3538; the answer was “No.”

**2. ATHLETICS 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**

Mrs. Dietz reported that bills must be paid and a meeting is scheduled.

**9. LONG-RANGE FINANCIAL PLANNING**

Meeting on January 18.

- 10. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING
- 11. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
- 12. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
- 13. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES COMMITTEE
- 14. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15. OTHER

Mrs. Bauman will speak about “Educators International” at the January 19 School Committee meeting.

**III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Korb reported that work on the January 23 Professional Development Day is aggressively progressing with a focus on the “Common Core” in different phases as the day progresses. The afternoon session will have a presentation on the Atlas mapping system and the interrelation with this tool to achieve the Common Core.

**IV. CONSENT**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- Acceptance of Minutes of December 15, 2011, Open Session
- Acceptance of donation of \$1,000 from School Choice parents, Tom and Barbara Heidgerd, to benefit the Ipswich Middle School
- Acceptance of donation of 11 Dell computers from EBSCO Publishing Company valued at \$3,300, to be distributed to each school
- Acceptance of the donation of 8 HP computers from New England BioLabs to Winthrop School, valued at \$2,400
- Acceptance of donation of a portable public address system from the Friends of Ipswich Athletics to the Athletic Department, valued at \$1,410.

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**V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to go into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. in the Middle/High School Ensemble Room to discuss strategies relating to real estate matters after which the meeting will adjourn. IN FAVOR – O’Flynn, Dietz, Hopping, Loeb, Bauman, Gresh, Roesler.