

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2008  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. J. Arsenault, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: E. Traverso, B. Hopping, J. Loeb, H. O'Flynn, N. Sheppard and D. Ross. Richard Korb, Superintendent; Joanne Cuff, Finance Department; Cheryl Forster-Cahill and Barry Cahill, School Principals; and Matthew Roberts, Student Representative, were also present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Arsenault read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held to discuss pending litigation matters and collective bargaining strategies, after which we will adjourn.

Policy Subcommittee will meet on November 24, 4 p.m., Payne School

Schools and offices have early release on November 26 for a Thanksgiving holiday and will reopen on Monday, December 1

Budget Subcommittee has been rescheduled to December 8, 7:30 p.m., Middle/High Guidance Conference Room

School Committee will meet on December 4, 2008, at 7 p.m., in the Middle/High School Ensemble Room

**CITIZENS' QUESTIONS**     None.

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**RULE OF NECESSITY STATEMENT**

Mrs. Ross moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to invoke the Rule of Necessity so that five members of the School Committee would not be disqualified to discuss matters pertaining to collective bargaining. **UNANIMOUS.**

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, CLASS OF 2009**

One surprised senior, Colleen Josephson, was awarded the Academic Excellence Award in the Class of 2009 by Superintendent Korb who then recited her many honors, achievements, and activities while Mrs. Arsenault presented her with the award and her congratulations. Miss Josephson commented on her choices for college and her ambitions and received a round of applause.

**B. MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL MCAS PRESENTATION**

Mrs. Forster-Cahill cited improvement in all three grades in English/Language Arts and Math on MCAS tests. She credited success with strategies which have proved very successful. Commissioner Chester will be at the Middle School on December 18 to meet with area principals on MCAS testing as it applies to AYP with 75% of middle schools, and Ms. Forster-Cahill invited School Committee members to meet at 11 a.m. with the Commissioner in

her office. There was discussion about a Special Needs reference sheet which can be made available to students during testing. Mr. Korb will make elementary teachers aware of the sheet and strategies used at the Middle School to focus on MCAS. Focus will continue this year before and after school with the math tutorial program and lunch/literary/math block in ELA instruction. There is benefit to the whole school population with the opportunity for all students to participate in the extra focus time.

Mrs. Forster-Cahill was thanked for her presentation.

Mr. Cahill mentioned the ceremony in Washington, DC for Mrs. Forster-Cahill on the occasion of her formal award as Massachusetts Middle School Principal of the Year. Then he presented his PowerPoint presentation on high school MCAS results. Passing score requirements to graduate have risen to a 240 score. To “pass”, one must have 220, and an EPP (Educational Proficiency Plan) is needed for scores between 220-238. This two-page EPP (which follows the student through two years and is subject to approval by the Principal if he feels the student has made sufficient progress), has been worked out by Ipswich and is now copied by many other schools.

Mrs. Arsenault thanked Mr. Cahill for his presentation.

Mrs. Forster-Cahill commented on the upcoming China trip plans. Students did a wonderful job during the interview process to narrow down 79 applicants. The four teachers and she interviewed, then caucused and lotteried down to 18 spots, one half to go on scholarship in Grade 7 and 1, in Grade 8. Of the jazz band members, 21 of the 22 will go. There will be 8 chaperones including Dr. O’Flynn, and Mr. and Mrs. Cahill. Fund raising activities will be forthcoming.

#### C. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Cuff, Financial Director, reviewed changes in encumbrances, staff changes, and discussion with Kitt Cox regarding the reduction by the Governor of \$25,000 in the Birth to Three program. Mr. Cox explained that he expects that the program will run through the year augmented through donations. Mr. Korb added that response from the community has been tremendous.

The EDP audit necessitating closer scrutiny to details has meant the assignment of Central Office time to take over revenues, make deposits, and keep records. When she mentioned having attended a GLEC cooperative purchasing meeting, she encouraged participation. In discussion, Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to support the move to work with the GLEC cooperative to participate in the bidding and purchasing process as it applies to all items in bulk purchasing. UNANIMOUS.

#### D. RENEWAL OF EDUCATIONAL BRANCH AGREEMENT WITH INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn, to renew the Educational Branch Agreement with the Institution for Savings. UNANIMOUS.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS****A. VOUCHERS/BILLS****B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS****1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Loeb reported that Mr. Gallaher will appear on December 18 to do Fall All-Stars. Enrollments on the various teams are on track. Because of a change of principalship at Gloucester High, cooperative teaming has become a problem as with other towns. In order to put together a capital improvement plan, Mr. Gallagher has a list of needs for various fields. Mr. Korb will meet on December 4 for an update on the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Sheppard inquired about the main gym being used as a cut-through by Middle Schoolers, and Mr. Bedard answered that it will have a touchup before the basketball season and a major improvement this coming summer.

**2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE - None.****3. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mrs. Ross reported that the Director is doing a great job and parents and kids love her. She distributed the newsletter and sample projects. Financing, without EDP payback, is in the black. Fund raising will contribute towards the payback. Two more infants will come in January. Additional cribs cost over \$1,000, a long-term expense. The Committee advised that the term "Operational Guidelines" be used in setting rules of operation with the center.

**4. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE - None.****5. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE - None.****6. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - None.****7. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mrs. Ross moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to accept the following policies for second reading:

- a. Policy Regarding the Extended Learning Program, IGBBA, Proposed Rescission
- b. Student Fund-raising Activities, IGDF-R, Proposed Revision
- c. Bullying, JICFB, Proposed Revision
- d. School Committee Member Authority, BBAA, Proposed Revision.

UNANIMOUS.

**8. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Loeb reported that on December 10 the committee is hoping to see a new design of the Fire House building with less square footage. Money allocated for this architect did not include the study of the Winthrop School's access issues. Mr. Hopping reminded that at the October meeting he had brought requirements for busses and school

driveways to the committee. There is a debate relative to the Emergency Center at the Town Hall in part because there appeared to be space allocated in the Fire House plan for the same thing. A generator is needed in either case for emergency services. While the target is to bring the new fire station proposal to the Spring Town Meeting, it is generally agreed that it won't happen.

#### 9. SPACE USE COMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that he was interviewed by Mr. Savoie, architect, regarding the transferral of Central Office to the Town Hall. A draft will be received by the end of the year. With the \$25,000 cut at Birth to Three, Mr. Korb suggested the move of that group to the Town Hall to reduce its expenses.

#### 10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE - None.

#### 11. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb met with Mr. Engel and Mr. Henry for a review of the Memorandum of Understanding between the School Department and the Town. Attorney Krathwohl will review, on December 4 it will come before the School Committee, and on December 10 it will be on the agenda at the joint meeting of the three Boards.

#### 12. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Matthew Roberts reported that the Senior Fashion Show raised \$10,000. The school had its first lock-down practice and, while the powder puff contest was canceled, there is hope for another event of a different nature. The musical "Carousel" was a great success.

Mrs. Ross added that from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 25, there will be a reinstated pep rally before the Thanksgiving game featuring Jack Welch showing a film of the famous 1991 Ipswich game.

#### 13. OTHER

### III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving holiday while he enjoys his stay with his 93-year-old father and 86-year-old mother in Michigan.

### IV. CONSENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of the donation of \$1,826.39 in proceeds from the Winthrop School Craft Fair held on November 1, 2008, to benefit the Winthrop School.

Approval of the Model UN Club overnight field trip to Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, April 2-5, 2009. UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Ross wished the November 6 Minutes to reflect her feelings that all overnight field trips come to the School Committee and amended those Minutes to read on page 4, bottom paragraph, that instead of “general agreement” the words “majority agreement” be substituted and accept the Minutes. Second by Mr. Loeb. UNANIMOUS.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to adjourn at 9 p.m. to Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of litigation and collective bargaining after which the meeting will adjourn. ROLL CALL IN FAVOR: Traverso, O’Flynn, Sheppard, Arsenault, Hopping, Loeb, Ross.