

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2009
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: N. Sheppard, H. O'Flynn, E. Traverso, and B. Hopping. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent; Joanne Cuff, Financial Director; and Abigail Skelton, Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

There will be no Executive Session

First day of school for staff will be August 26, 8 a.m., PAC

First day of school for students will be September 1, 2009

School Committee will meet on September 3, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

A parent, Suzanne Benfield, spoke of an email she had sent to the School Committee. She recommended study of the grey area for sending children to Winthrop or Doyon Schools with an eye to minimizing it and would like to see an action plan developed. Mr. Loeb commented that the Demographic Study Subcommittee has been reactivated. She touched on the half-day kindergarten issue and disparity between the Winthrop and Doyon schools. Dr. O'Flynn commented that educational and administrative decisions sometimes conflict because of financial reasons and/or numbers of students in each class. Support for full-day kindergarten was over 90% in 2008 by families in Ipswich.

Joan Arsenault joined the meeting during the previous comments.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb introduced Jane Dooley, Ipswich Chronicle reporter, who has been assigned to cover the School Committee.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. STAFFING REPORT

The four principals, beginning with Mr. Cahill, High School Principal, reviewed staff changes for SY09-10. Three of his departments, especially the English Department, had turnover of personnel. Mrs. Forster-Cahill and Mrs. McAdams reviewed their staff changes as did Mr. Archambault, new Doyon Principal, who spoke of the recent death of beloved Doyon kindergarten teacher Diane Hickey, bringing in counseling for Doyon families/staff.

Mr. Loeb declared a moment of silence in memory of Antonia Poltack (secretary), Diane Hickey (teacher), Jason Foster (student), and John Nirider (custodian), all of whom passed away this summer.

B. FUNDING OF WIND TURBINE DEBT

Mr. Tim Henry, Ipswich Director of Utilities, briefly reviewed the progress on the wind turbine for Ipswich and stated that, because the deadline date for the CREB (Clean Renewable Energy Bond) is December 31, 2009, and because the first payment by the School Department must be made within the year that borrowing takes place, he estimates that \$112,000 will be due in December. Ultimately the figure will be covered by the Electric Light Department, most likely by a credit to the electric bills. Mr. Loeb expressed concern because the current budget figure is already over the levy limit by \$200,000. At the Fall Town Meeting, a cut of \$200,000 must be made in the budget. Ms. Cuff said that the payment of the CREB will have to come from the Ipswich Public Schools, it was agreed that Mr. Henry would discuss the issue with the Wind Turbine Committee members next Wednesday, and a solution must be found by September 23 when a Tri-Board meeting will take place. Mr. Henry reported that because of the down economy, there are lots of turbines available. The line construction back to the power station has gone out to bid. Actual construction of the turbine awaits signing with a vendor, and he anticipates having one up before the end of '09. Wiring is being installed in anticipation of a second turbine sometime in the future.

C. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Cuff reported that known encumbrances and expenses for the FY10 year are done. She and Mr. Korb gave statistics on expense and income items that were unexpected, personnel savings that will be realized, SPED outside placements that are lower, and utilities savings that may be realized. Mr. Loeb summarized that the School Department's portion of the levy limit overage and possible 9C cuts by the Governor along with several numbers that are not certain at this time mean that the Budget Subcommittee needs to meet. A meeting date was set for September 16. Everyone must be aware that stimulus-money items are for FY10 only and not for FY11.

D. SPED BUS

Ms. Cuff gave details on a price for a new SPED bus, 21-23 passenger, to replace the 1997 model with over 150,000 miles. Members discussed various issues regarding the need, and leasing vs. purchasing. There will be a further report at the September 3 meeting.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE
2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE
3. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE
5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

6. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso would like a committee meeting to discuss issues. Mr. Howard, Finance Committee member, requested an item for discussion at the 9/3 meeting.

7. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Arsenault reported that the Superintendent's evaluation will take place on September 17.

8. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

9. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

11. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

12. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Abby commented that she was looking forward to a good year.

14. OTHER

C. SCHOOL COMMITTEE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2009-2010

Mr. Loeb conducted a brief discussion of meetings for the coming year and, in particular, the budget meetings.

D. ASSIGNMENTS FOR INSPECTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Doyon School – J. Arsenault

Winthrop School – B. Hopping

Middle/High School - H. O'Flynn

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb reported on three items:

a. An August 27 meeting of Public Safety officials and building principals on policy and fire safety.

b. On September 10 school nurses will meet with building principals on procedures to include the H1N1 issue.

c. Cable TV Director Beth Meyer has been appointed, and of the \$85,000 available, \$55,000 is earmarked for the Middle/High School with permanent cameras.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Amended Page 2 of Minutes of May 21, 2009, Open Session, to reflect that the School Committee members appointed to the Public Safety Facility Committee are:

Hopping, Loeb, and Korb, not Hopping, Arsenault, Korb.

Acceptance of Minutes of July 1, 2009, Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of July 16, 2009, Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of July 16, 2009, Executive Session

Acceptance of donation of \$1,050 from the Ipswich Citizens for Education to the Ipswich Middle School for the purchase of Grade 7 Science research books.

Acceptance of donation of \$2,069 from the Ipswich Citizens for Education to the Winthrop School for the purchase of a multi-media teaching station as part of technology upgrades. **UNANIMOUS.**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. **UNANIMOUS.**