

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

There will be an Executive Session to discuss strategies in regard to collective bargaining

There will be an Executive Session to discuss strategies with respect to pending litigation after which we will adjourn

Schools will be closed for winter vacation beginning December 23 and will reopen on January 4, 2010

ITA Negotiations Team will meet on January 5, Middle/High Conference Room, starting at 6:30 p.m.

School Committee will meet on January 7, 2010, 7 p.m., Middle/High Ensemble Room

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

**RULE OF NECESSITY**

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to invoke the Rule of Necessity.  
UNANIMOUS.

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. ETHICS REFORM ACT OF 2009**

Town Clerk Pam Carakatsane read the new law enacted on July 1, 2009, Chapter 28, Acts of 2009 where the Governor maintains that every employee take the test and be given a summary of acknowledgment of the law which must be distributed by December 28, 2009. The test is online ([www.ma.gov](http://www.ma.gov)) under Ethics Division. The acceptance form needs to be printed out and filed with the Town Clerk. It will be required by April 2 and will be repeated in two years. The Town Clerk explained that the law covers paid employees, volunteers, seasonal help, etc., and felt that it is too broad. Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mrs. Arsenault, to petition the Town Manager and/or the Board of Selectmen to exempt from the conflict-of-interest law the unpaid volunteer positions that work in the schools: unpaid volunteer positions in which employees do not have or exercise governmental authority and do not participate in or have responsibility for government decision-making, contracting, hiring, investigation, or any other discretionary governmental action. UNANIMOUS.

**B. VOTE TO JOIN THE NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING**

Mrs. Dietz recommended to officially vote to join the organization and read off several neighboring towns and cities which belong. Their goal is to lobby the legislative delegation in order to find long-term solutions for educational funding. They are looking at cost-sharing and cost-saving ideas with other districts. No dues are required. A Chair or designee of the Chair of a School Committee becomes a voting member. Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, that the School Committee vote to join the North Shore Coalition for School Funding by taking a vote with the following language: The Ipswich School Committee supports the continued efforts of the North Shore Coalition for School Funding (NSCSF), and the School Committee by an affirmative vote will become an official member of the NSCSF with the Chairperson of the Ipswich School Committee or his/her designee representing the District as an active and voting member of the NSCSF. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Loeb appointed Mrs. Dietz as his designee to the North Shore Coalition for School Funding.

**C. FY10 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ms. Cuff reported that the real available balance left of the FY10 budget figure is close to 2%. Application for a \$150,000 energy grant for a solar power system atop the Doyon roof has been made. Budget preparations for FY11 are moving ahead. Mr. Korb reported a \$5,000 grant for the Middle/High School building, a continuation of the philosophy adopted to try to improve the efficiency of the schools in becoming greener. Ms. Cuff explained the overages in the buildings on the financial statement for the month.

**D. FY10 MID-YEAR STAFF REDUCTIONS**

Mr. Korb reported that mid-year staff cuts have been made necessary because of a \$210,000 shortfall and the School Committee's decision to use \$130,000 in Choice money, leaving an \$80,000 deficit. He described a meeting with ITA co-chairs informing them of the administrative team's list of mid-year cuts. He ran three options by Alan Kaplan, attorney, and presented the options to the co-chairs who wish to meet with the executive board and negotiating team of ITA. He asked the School Committee to postpone a vote on the FY10 mid-year staff reductions until Thursday, January 7, 2010. He thanked the ITA co-chairs, Ms. Cuff for her work crunching the numbers, and Mr. Loeb.

Mr. Kreiger, ITA President, read a statement realizing that it is a tough year, promising to work together, and announcing that the executive board and negotiating team will meet.

The School Committee reached consensus to hold off on making a decision until January 7.

Dr. O'Flynn thanked the ITA co-chairs and explained that the School Committee, while trying to be open about financial issues, faces the loss of a lot of funding for the FY11 budget, and must keep in mind this reduction in funding as well.

**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping reported that there is nothing new to share although there was extensive talk about Bialek Park.

3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dietz reported that there is a meeting scheduled for next Monday. Because neither she nor Mr. Hopping can attend, Mr. Korb will attempt to reschedule with the Town Manager.

4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Cuff reported that a meeting on December 7 reviewed the newsletter that goes out to parents providing updates, always showing a “wish list”. Also discussed was the maternity replacement of the Director. With a tight budget, a musical fundraiser will be held on January 22.

5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE

Dr. O’Flynn reported that goals were discussed. Primarily, the “grey areas” (referred to by Mr. Korb with a new name, the “flex area”) were considered for size of the schools and early childhood areas. Mr. Korb announced that there will be meetings on January 20, February 3 and 24.

6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso reported that a meeting was held and subgroups have been organized. On January 20 the subcommittee meets again with the official charge to determine the direction that Ipswich should go in regard to early childhood education and developing a center that would serve as a focal point. Mr. Korb reported the hope of taking the pre-K program and partnering it with the Birth to 3 program. Other community service organizations are interested including the Gloucester-based Head Start program.

7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb received notice today that the School Committee has been served with an amended complaint from the Feoffees. Attorneys have met but details will not be released until a signed agreement (on Monday) takes place, which then goes on to the tenants for approval. Mr. Sheehan and a representative from the tenants’ group will appear before the School Committee on January 7.

8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

**11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Emerson reported that a meeting, held on December 10, was well attended and the decision was made to hold a sub-group meeting on December 21 to put together data that has been gathered since 2002 on sites that have been investigated and/or rejected (with rationale) for a new fire station. Further, asking for design fees at the Spring Town Meeting was agreed upon with the hope that, having obtained multiple Board approval, a proposal for a new, badly needed fire station will go forward at the fall Town Meeting.

**12. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE**

**13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Abby Skelton reported that there is a pajama drive going on at the High School.

**14. OTHER**

Mr. Hopping questioned the need for a firefighter at special events at the Winthrop School and was told that it is the law and that the Principals approached their respective Councils to cover the cost of a fire watch. Paul Bedard explained that the egress from the Winthrop School cuts down on the number of people allowed to be in the cafetorium (320).

**III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**IV. CONSENT**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mrs. Arsenault moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of December 3, 2009, Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of December 3, 2009, Executive Session

Acceptance of \$1,335.78 from Geskus Photography of New England as the Doyon School's portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of \$1,151.10 from Geskus Photography of New England as the Winthrop School's portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of \$1,384.83 from Geskus Photography of New England as the Ipswich Middle School's portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of \$1,939.76 from Hockmeyer Studios as the Ipswich High School's portion of the proceeds from the sale of school photographs

Acceptance of the donation of \$2,000 from Maria Makris, a grade seven parent, to be used for technology in the Ipswich Middle School

**UNANIMOUS.**

**V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Arsenault, to invite Misters Craft, Howard, and Fay to attend the Executive Session on pending litigation. Roll call IN FAVOR - Dietz, Arsenault, Hopping, Loeb, Sheppard, O'Flynn, Traverso.

Mrs. Arsenault moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss strategies with respect to pending litigation. Roll call vote IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Sheppard, Loeb, Hopping, Arsenault, Dietz.

Mrs. Arsenault moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy with respect to collective bargaining, after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Sheppard, Loeb, Hopping, Arsenault, Dietz.