

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 16, 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, E. Traverso, L. Dietz, B. Hopping, and H. O'Flynn. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent; and Abigail Skelton, Student Representative.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held for the purpose of discussion of ongoing litigation and real estate matters and for the purpose of strategy in collective bargaining, after which the meeting will adjourn.

Operations Subcommittee will meet on July 21, 4 p.m., Payne School AND on July 28, 6 p.m., Payne School.

School Committee will meet on August 20, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

**CITIZENS' QUESTIONS**

Paul Bedard questioned the \$330,000 which the Town had "found" and was it all going on the Town side. Mr. Loeb commented that a property had been sold for taxes and a significant chunk was going to doing minimal road repair with the remainder going to free cash.

**RULE OF NECESSITY**

Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to invoke the Rule of Necessity so that all seven members of the School Committee can vote on budget issues. **UNANIMOUS.**

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. REDEDICATION AND NAMING OF TWO ATHLETIC FACILITIES**

Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director, explained that he was approached by Doug Woodworth who later spoke about the history of the two men to whom the new dedications are proposed. Mr. Woodworth spoke on two occasions with the Doyon family who wished to retain the field's name as the Paul Doyon Field but acquiesced to the naming of the stadium and the track. Mr. Woodworth feels that Jack Welch (37-year coach) and Ken Spellman (41-year coach), who have won numerous awards and have dedicated their lives to the kids of Ipswich deserved to know how much they are appreciated. The Board, Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Woodworth discussed signage and the time frame to do the dedication once the signs were ready. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to approve the rededication of the football field in memory of Paul Doyon, the dedication of the stadium in honor of Jack Welch, and the dedication of the outdoor track in honor of Ken Spellman. **UNANIMOUS.**

Mr. Gallagher promised to keep the School Committee posted and to schedule an Athletic Subcommittee meeting to begin work on signage.

**B. END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT 2008-2009**

Mr. Korb reported on the end of the year summary, stating that, after all encumbrances have been paid, only \$10.14 remains to be returned to Free Cash. He reviewed the Revolving and Gift account balances and status of the grants. The Food Services revolving account has a \$43,000 loss, the second loss in a row. The State requires that these accounts maintain a balance of three months' operating costs and, as a result, an increase of 50 cents per meal, breakfast and lunch, is being requested. A la carte, free, and reduced sales meal counts are not being considered. Mr. Korb gave Ms. Cuff and building principals credit for having a budget so close that only \$10.14 remains.

**C. FY10 BUDGET UPDATE**

Mr. Korb reviewed the FY10 PROJECTED SHORTFALL and FY10 PROJECTED OFFSET, but other factors influence the budget including a new figure from the Town which projects \$166,720 over the levy limit (almost \$100,000 for the School Department at the fall Town meeting), additional "9C" cuts due to come from the Governor in December/January, and no "SFSF" money available for SY11 (meaning a deficit when the budget process begins for FY11). Mr. Loeb mentioned that Circuit Breaker funds have been earmarked for 42% rather than 72% to FY11. In discussion about the SPED savings, Mr. Hopping was concerned about the outside placement when a family moves and which town is charged. Mr. Korb recommends that the line adjustments to SPED, personnel, and utilities as stated on the yellow sheet can be down. He also recommends that personnel cuts come at mid-year if the need to reduce further exists.

**D. INCREASE IN FOOD SERVICE LUNCH PRICES**

Mr. Korb read from Ms. Cuff's statement requesting the fifty-cent increase. Dr. O'Flynn recalled that about 4 years ago the Food Services Committee studied the offerings, took away many of the unhealthy foods, and increased the lunch prices. Food Services are paying for their own utilities. Mr. Loeb, as a member of the Audit Committee for the Town, commented that there will be attention paid to the Food Services Department within the audit this year just as there are special areas picked every year, essentially because the Department handles lots of cash.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to support the administrative recommendation for a fifty-cent increase for all elementary/MS/HS breakfasts and all elementary/MS/HS lunches. Free and reduced meals and a la carte are not included. Abby Skelton explained how the a la carte arrangement works at the High School. UNANIMOUS.

**E. KINDERGARTEN/GRADE 1 CLASS SIZE UPDATE**

Mr. Korb announced the Winthrop and Doyon grade numbers for kindergarten and Grade 1 and then read the enrollments for Grades 2 – 5 as well. The administrative recommendation remains the same as it was two School Committee meetings ago; that is, 3 sections of kindergarten at Winthrop and Doyon and 3 sections of Grade 1 at Winthrop and 4 sections at Doyon, with a .5 FTE classroom teacher at Winthrop to be used for added instruction time in Grade 1 at the principal's discretion. Funding for this .5 FTE teacher would amount to about \$25,000.

Dr. O'Flynn proposed adding a fourth section to either kindergarten or Grade 1 by using the full-day kindergarten grant (\$15,000) and adding 7 Choice students at \$5,000 (\$35,000). His preference was to create the fourth section at the kindergarten level. Mr. Loeb expressed concern that Dr. O'Flynn's proposal demands the use of Choice money immediately rather than the current practice of using Choice revenue in the following year. Mr. Traverso was concerned about the demographics and felt that the School Committee should look at the policy this year. Mr. Hopping commented that he continues to speak out against Choice and recommends adding a section to Grade 1 at Winthrop. Mrs. Dietz asked for clarification of the \$15,000 grant. Mr. Sheppard supports the administration. Dr. O'Flynn said that he would support anything that adds a class. Mr. Loeb asked the Committee for direction.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to add a teacher at the kindergarten level supported by the kindergarten grant money and 7 Choice slots. There was no second.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to add a section of Grade 1 at Winthrop (for one year) funded in part by the funds that have been recommended for use through the administration and the remaining \$25,000 at the administration's discretion district-wide. Several parents spoke in support of Mr. Hopping's motion. IN FAVOR - Hopping, Dietz, O'Flynn, Sheppard, Traverso; ABSTAINING - Loeb (because his wife is a first-grade teacher at Winthrop). Mr. Hopping suggested looking under personnel where a \$50,000 savings is being realized by retirees and newly hired staff for the additional funding for the first-grade teacher.

## II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

### B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE
2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE  
Mr. Hopping reported that the meeting was mostly a welcome to Charles Surpitski and him with a review of the field use policy from the Town's point of view.
3. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE
5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE
6. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE
7. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
8. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

**9. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Emerson reported that the group had listened to Lt. Andy Theriault who has made application for a Federal stimulus grant for a new fire station. The Board of Selectmen/Town Manager (who had not committed themselves nor any funds toward the project) (Elizabeth Kilcoyne and Charles Surpitski present) promised to sign a Letter of Intent to show commitment to be included with the grant, deadline date of Friday, July 10. The architect mentioned that he had figured in \$50,000 for the drainage problem at the Winthrop School; others said that that figure was not nearly enough. The Fire Chief said that he would have another meeting next month.

Barry Hopping resigned his position as a school committee member of the Public Safety Facility Committee, effective July 16, 2009. Jean Emerson was asked to represent the School Committee, along with Jeffrey Loeb and Superintendent Korb who are the other School Committee representatives on the Public Safety Facility Committee. Mr. Korb was asked to send a letter to Town Manager, Robert Markel, advising him of these changes.

**10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE****11. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE****12. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING****13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE****14. OTHER****III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT****A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT****IV. CONSENT****A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Acceptance of the Finance Committee, School Committee and Board of Selectmen,  
1/27/09 Open Session Minutes

Acceptance of the Finance Committee, School Committee and Board of Selectmen,  
4/4/09 Open Session Minutes

Acceptance of the Minutes of June 18, 2009, Open Session

Acceptance of donation of \$4,000 from the Winthrop School 2008-09 Grade 5 Parents to  
be used to cover the cost of the 2009-10 Winthrop School Ballroom Dance  
Program

Acceptance of the anonymous donation of \$1,000 to purchase items for the classrooms of  
Kathy McMahon and Robin Falabella at the Winthrop School

UNANIMOUS

The last item, a donation of \$1,000 for science textbooks, was questioned by Mr. Hopping and will be taken up in August.

**V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to go into Executive Session at 9:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing ongoing litigation and real estate matters and strategy in collective bargaining after which the meeting will adjourn. ROLL CALL – Dietz, Hopping, Loeb, Sheppard, O’Flynn, Traverso.