

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

H. O'Flynn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with the following members present: N. Sheppard, S. Gresh, B. Hopping, E. Traverso, and L. Dietz. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb, Town Manager R. Markel, and Finance Director J. Cuff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn announced that there will be Executive Session to discuss strategies in collective bargaining and strategies in pending litigation after which the meeting will return to Open Session.

RULE OF NECESSITY

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy in collective bargaining and pending litigation after which the meeting will return to Open Session. Roll call IN FAVOR - Traverso, Gresh, Sheppard, Hopping, O'Flynn, Dietz.

Open Session resumed at 7 p.m. with the following members present: H. O'Flynn, E. Traverso, L. Dietz, S. Gresh, N. Sheppard, B. Hopping. Also present were Superintendent R. Korb; Abigail Skelton, Student Representative; J. Cuff, Finance Director; and Principals D. Archambault and S. McAdams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn read the following announcements:

Last day of school is June 18, 2010

Operations Subcommittee will meet on June 21, 7 p.m., Payne School

Policy Subcommittee will meet on June 22, 4:30 p.m., Payne School

Independence Day holiday is Monday, July 5, 2010

Feoffees Subcommittee will meet on July 6, 5:30 p.m., Payne School

School Committee meetings will be held on July 15, 7 p.m., and on August 19, 7 p.m.,
MS/HS Ensemble Rom

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Ms. Karen Donovan, of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council, announced that she had been elected president and asked if she might comment at the end of the SPED presentation.

Mrs. Jen Vickery, Doyon 3rd grade teacher and co-chair of ITA, spoke of losing some talented teachers next year, of some areas which are no longer served, and of elementary teachers who will have only three prep times per week. She asked the School Committee to take a serious look at the effect these cuts will have on students, parents, and teachers.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. O'Flynn welcomed Abigail Skelton back as Student Representative, having been reelected.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. SPECIAL EDUCATION REVIEW

Mr. Korb reviewed the history over the last six months to the proposal. Mary Gallant, SPED Director, Joanne Cuff, and he looked at the service delivery model, case loads, professional and paraprofessional staff, and transportation for SPED. While pride in the current SPED program is a major factor, it was decided that a fresh set of eyes should look at some issues. Having put out RFPs and looking at three different proposals, Futures Health Core was selected.

Dr. Levine spoke briefly and introduced the CEO of Futures Health Core, Dr. Peter Bittel, who outlined the proposal which consists of quantitative and qualitative activities in interviews and studies to put together a report and presentation.

Mr. Hopping felt that the timing, at the beginning of a new school year, was too rushed, and Mr. Korb stated that he had originally hoped that the process would begin in May. Mr. Hopping also asked about the service delivery model and its lack of specific definition in the proposal; Dr. Bittel responded that all his staff would be working on it. From the audience, Mrs. Skelton commented that a 16-year-old has the right to be interviewed and felt that a reading of 50 IEPs as a sampling might not be accurate. Suggestions were taken under advisement by the men.

A Parent Advisory Council parent was concerned about the top-down method of doing this study while IDEA is a bottom-up approach to SPED and reminded that the law says it should always be a bottom-up process. The Parent Advisory Council president wishes to participate at the final presentation.

Dr. O'Flynn thanked Drs. Levine and Bittel and looked forward to the presentation in the future.

B. EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mrs. McAdams and Mr. Archambault, elementary principals, reviewed their study of early childhood (tenth anniversary of the Birth-to-Three program), commenting that with the gaps that exist because of the Head Start program gone from Ipswich and grants gone, there is a need to look at service from birth and up in a much more consistent manner. Kitt Cox, Director of Birth-to-Three, spoke of financial and space problems. The two principals, with PowerPoint, presented the vision, goals, subcommittee formations, and study of space, financial, and organizational issues. Mr. Korb will continue to update the community regarding the possible return of Head Start and space availabilities.

C. FINE ARTS SUBJECT AREA COMMITTEE

Mr. Dolan, Fine Arts Director, introduced the group of art teachers in the Ipswich system who spoke individually on changes since the 2006 goals, reporting on a professional day last February at the Heard House and commenting on written works by professionals in the visual arts. A five-minute production showed Ipswich students at all levels at work with visual arts. A long-term goal of the department is to propose a basic course designed for students taught by a person who could work with teachers to incorporate critical-thinking skills. Massachusetts is the only state which does not have an art requirement to graduate from high school. There was discussion regarding the eighth annual summer arts studio (conducted by Ginger Eaton) and special needs children's love of art and their connection with the regular students in art.

Dr. O'Flynn thanked the Visual Arts group for their presentation.

D. FINANCIAL REPORT

J. Cuff, Director, reported that the district will close out the year with a very close balance and reiterated substantial savings in energy, tuitioned-out SPED placement reduction, hiring replacement personnel, locked-in gas heat price, grants, and no "9-C" cuts taken had made that possible.

Ms. Cuff requested that the School Committee take action on the Day Care Subcommittee recommendation for a \$1/day increase. Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to support the recommendation to increase tuition by \$1/day for the next year.
UNANIMOUS.

The Committee briefly reviewed overages on the expense side of the budget for FY09-10.

E. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS****A. VOUCHERS/BILLS****B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS****1. ATHLETIC SUBCOMMITTEE****2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Hopping reported looking at two possible sites, one of which is directly behind the right field fence on Mile Lane.

3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Dietz reported that a meeting, which hasn't been confirmed, will have oral and written reports.

4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Cuff reported on a brief meeting and projections for next year.

5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE**6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE**

7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso reported that the Finance Committee is mounting an effort to make a determination of the tax status of the Feoffees.

8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

12. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that the Committee has picked up an alternate source for a wind turbine.

13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of the Minutes of June 3, 2010, Open Session

Acceptance of the Minutes of June 3, 2010, Executive Session

Approval of the High School Model UN Club overnight field trip to Boston, MA, February 11-13, 2011. UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. UNANIMOUS.