

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2009
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz, E. Traverso, N. Sheppard, B. Hopping, and H. O'Flynn. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; Paul Bedard, Head Custodian; and Joanne Cuff, Financial Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

Schools will be closed on 9/4 and will resume on 9/8/09

Policy Subcommittee will meet on 9/14, 5:30 p.m., Payne School

Athletics Subcommittee will meet on 9/15, 6:30 p.m., Rm. B229, M/H School

Budget Subcommittee will meet on 9/16, 7:30 p.m., Payne School

School Committee will meet on September 17, 2009, 7 p.m., Middle/High Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Amy Frank spoke for 8-10 families who are 1.9 miles from the elementary school and have realized a tremendous impact with the elimination of the Newmarch Street bus stop. Mr. Loeb explained the financial difference of \$45-50,000 and the current budget problem of the Town exceeding the Prop 2½ levy limit by \$250,000. While the bus seems only half full, it goes on to Labor-in-Vain Road beyond Newmarch.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. IPSWICH CABLE ACCESS MEDIA, ICAM

Beth Meyer, Executive Director, introduced herself and gave her credentials. Her vision is for cable to have public access at the Performing Arts Center before the October Town Meeting: two cameras in the Ensemble Room with a connection for PowerPoint presentations, and at the Performing Arts Center three cameras and PowerPoint for performances to be recorded or done "live." A question of copyright issues was answered by Scott Ames and Beth as differing with the purchase of scripts or productions. She envisioned a control room as at the Town Hall for students to learn video production, doing work to enable composites at graduation, and students being the backbone of live productions. She quoted the equipment currently at \$54,000 (owned by the Town). The High School will have a separate channel, and the Town will have its own for government programming.

B. INSPECTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS REPORT

Mr. Hopping visited the Winthrop School before it opened and on the day it opened for students. He complimented the custodians on a phenomenal job, inside and out. New paving exists where students play wall ball to eliminate mud coming in on feet. Mrs. McAdams showed him an area where leakage had occurred where vent and flashing were faulty (Paul Bedard has it on his schedule). He was shown the new first grade classroom and continues to be concerned over gymnasium and cafeteria areas which are woefully inadequate.

Dr. O'Flynn visited the HS/MS with Mrs. Forster-Cahill in the co-teaching academic areas. He commented that carpet is in bad shape and the entryway shows water damage (Paul Bedard commented that many tiles have been replaced but those tiles are not available anymore). He commented that excellent projectors have been installed by the volunteers who donated them. While Dr. O'Flynn reported that the Principal found the HVAC environmental issues ineffective, Mr. Korb and Paul disagreed. Dr. O'Flynn mentioned the lack of a water bubbler in the lower gym; Paul said it is an \$800 item on order. Dr. O'Flynn commented that landscaping and fields are in good shape.

C. SUMMER MAINTENANCE PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Bedard stated that he was short two custodians with health issues over the summer; nevertheless, 80% of the MS/HS has been repainted. He reviewed work at all the schools including HVAC preventive maintenance by the custodians. Mr. Korb commended the training that Mr. Bedard has and is able to impart to his workers allowing a saving of between \$20-40,000 with in-house maintenance and repair.

In a discussion of defibrillators, Mr. Hopping requested that the one which sits outside the nurse's office at the Middle/High School be moved to between Main Street and the Performing Arts Center to give quicker access. Mr. Bedard mentioned that he discovered a puddle, tore out the area to find a connection that hadn't been soldered in the original installation, and was able to get the insurance company to cover the \$20-25,000 repair. This prompted Mr. Korb to comment that he had never in his professional life found a person who has done with his staff what Paul has done, and he is very, very proud of the accomplishments of the custodial staff with the "can do" attitude. Paul complimented his men who are professional and don't complain.

D. SPED BUS UPDATE

Ms. Cuff did a review following the directive of the last School Committee meeting, going to the SPED Department, the drivers, and mechanic. Following a study of specifications, purchase and lease options, she recommends the lease/purchase of a new 29-passenger Minotour school bus which has 10-day availability.

Mary Gallant, new SPED Director, offered SPED transportation concerns. There needs to be a spare vehicle for emergencies and children/routes fluctuate throughout the year. She spoke of the need for a constant driver to ease anxiety of parents and children – the "human factor." Ms. Cuff said that there is no bidding process required on a SPED bus.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to authorize the lease/purchase of a new 29-passenger Minotour school bus from New England Transit Sales at the quoted price of \$46,264 with the concept of 5 annual payments in arrears. UNANIMOUS.

E. LEVY LIMIT STATUS/SHORTFALL

Mr. Loeb reviewed financial sheets distributed by the Town Accountant. The SFSF (stimulus) funds (\$70,000) are not included. Round figures show that the schools owe \$60,000 (60%) and the Town, \$40,000 (40%). Cuts of \$181,000 must be made from the budget voted at the annual Town Meeting. In addition, \$25,000 was added for an additional Grade 1 teacher. Ms. Cuff and Mr. Korb agreed that the shortfall is close to the \$206,000 figure quoted by Mr. Loeb with unknowns. Administration has savings with hiring replacements, SPED

changes, and energy estimates to address approximately \$185,000 with a potential to utilize Medicaid money. It is expected that at the Budget Subcommittee meeting all areas will be reviewed so that there will be no surprises for the Tri-Board meeting on September 23.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE

2. ATHLETICS FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping will have a more comprehensive report after the next meeting. Members are looking at parcels of land that might be accessible, primarily the Raymond property.

3. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

6. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso wishes to meet with L. Dietz and R. Korb (Subcommittee members) with concerns, namely: (1) School Committee preparedness if the Feoffees go to Probate Court on their own seeking to sell and/or change the trust to a governmental body; and (2) a question of whether or not the School Committee should prepare to go before the Senate and House. Mr. Loeb reported that a 3" binder of historical documentation on the Trust will be presented to the legislative committee. The legislation has been filed as a Senate bill and will be taken up during the last quarter of '09 or the beginning of '10. Anyone who wishes may attend the public hearing subject to strict rules and time length of presentation. Mr. Loeb suggested that Mr. Traverso speak with Mr. Weatherall and Mr. Howard regarding the information in the binder. Mr. Traverso also mentioned another financial institution organized by the Feoffees in 2006 which has not been reported in spite of requests and promises. Lastly, he wishes to look at the final draft of the new Trust.

7. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping stated that the second meeting in October would most likely be the evaluation presentation of the Superintendent.

8. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

9. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

11. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that work is moving ahead for an agreement to credit the school system against their utility bills so that the school budget needn't be increased to satisfy the first payment of the CREB.

- 12. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING
- 13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

14. OTHER

- (a) Town Request to Create an Ad Hoc Committee on Collaboration
2 School Committee Appointees Needed

Mr. Loeb asked for and was given the names of Laura Dietz and Barry Hopping to be members of the Ad Hoc Committee with a request for meeting time at 7 p.m. and not before.

C. FY BUDGET TIMELINE

Mr. Korb reviewed the timeline information with the School Committee.

D. FINAL REVIEW OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2009-2010

Mr. Korb asked for approval of the calendar. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the budget timeline as presented and the School Committee Calendar for SY10. UNANIMOUS.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb reported that opening day went very smoothly other than minor transportation issues with great reports from all buildings. There is enrollment growth at the elementaries (32) and loss at the Middle/High (13). Mr. Loeb and Mr. Korb made comments about the staff opening day assembly as poignant and meaningful.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of August 20, 2009, Open Session
 - Acceptance of donation of \$500 to the Ipswich Middle School from a parent and former student, Dr. Andrea Chisholm, to purchase books for the grade 6 classroom libraries
 - Acceptance of donation of \$2,500 from the Junior Aid Society, Marblehead, MA, to benefit the Birth to Three Family Center.
- UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. UNANIMOUS.