

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair Pro Tem, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: D. Ross, B. Hopping, and E. Traverso. Also present were M. Roberts, Student Representative; R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; and J. Cuff, Financial Director. N. Sheppard joined the meeting a few minutes later.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

There will be no Executive Session.

Spring vacation week will be April 20 – 24, 2009.

School Committee will meet on May 7, at 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As Vince Skelton drove the Revo into the room, Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, that the Ipswich School Committee accept the donation of a used Revo scooter from the John T. Heard Masonic Lodge valued at \$900 to the Middle School to assist students who are challenged walking long distances. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Skelton, Vince's dad, thanked the Lodge for their donation.

Mrs. Ross congratulated Matt Roberts for his induction into the National Honor Society.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. SY2010 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mr. Korb reported that the administration, after much discussion, has suggested Monday, January 25, 2010, as the second option for the professional workshop day. Mrs. Langlais, Middle School teacher, felt that the original March 15 date would allow several department meetings to prepare for the workshop. Mr. Hopping (who explained that the concern of the Committee for the March 15 date is that it takes away a much-needed day for the preparation of MCAS testing) moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to accept the recommendation of the workshop to be held on Monday, January 25, 2010. UNANIMOUS.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Cuff reported on utility savings (gas, oil, and electricity) from the budgeted sums for the 3 schools allowing a \$50,000 holdback as part of the \$216,000 that needs to be turned back to the Town at the end of the year. Amendments have been filed to correct the recent audit findings with DESE and Other State Grants.

A date of April 30 was given as the first draft date for grant applications, and Ms. Cuff commented that at least 1/10 of the grants will come every month. Mr. Loeb referred to the email from the Town Manager stating that the (House version) Chapter 70, Circuit Breaker, and general State Aid to communities is down.

Matt Roberts left at 7:30 to study.

C. BEAN COUNTING RECAP

Mr. Loeb, in reviewing Bean Counting Saturday, reported that Warrant Article 20, Withdrawal from the Essex Regional Retirement Board, will be indefinitely postponed until the fall because of lack of communication among Boards and citizenry before the item went on the Warrant. The levy limit has been reached to cover the salary of Mr. Hodges, Facilities Head, a vote the Finance Committee felt very strongly about.

D. FEDERAL STIMULUS/STATE STABILIZATION PLAN

Mr. Korb reviewed his Proposed Expenditure Plan of Federal Stimulus/State Stabilization Funds showing IDEA funds, State Stabilization funds, and the FY10 shortfall of \$157,983. With the exception of IDEA money for FY11, it is all one-time soft money coming in. Fluctuating figures make decisions difficult. Mr. Hopping inquired about TA's as they apply to SPED, one TA/one student, and non-SPED. After much discussion, the Committee reached unanimous consensus in support of the commitment by the Superintendent to a restoration model of staff positions, assuming the money from federal and state governments comes forward.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb reported that discussion has begun on naming the football and the track fields, and on revision of the athletic handbook relative to cooperative teams, and the subcommittee does not recommend a change in the user fee for next year. Ipswich is hosting the spring state track meet.

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ross announced a meeting May 8.

3. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Ross announced a meeting April 27.

5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

6. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

7. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

8. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. School Committee-Superintendent Relationship, BDD, Proposed Adoption, Second Reading
- b. School Committee-Superintendent Relationships (Delegation of School Committee Authority), BCD Proposed Rescission, Second Reading

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to accept “a” for second reading and “b” for rescission. UNANIMOUS.

9. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE**10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE****11. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE****12. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE****13. OTHER****III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT****A. SUPERINTENDENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Korb reported that the air quality report of Ipswich schools has been received and is scheduled for a May 21 presentation. It is a good report with no mold issues, but some work needs to be done on ventilation.

IV. CONSENT**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Acceptance of Minutes of April 2, 2009, Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of April 2, 2009, Executive Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 10, 2009, School Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, Open Session

Acceptance of the donation of a golf cart for the athletic program at Ipswich High School from the Friends of Ipswich Athletics, valued at \$2,500.

Acceptance of the \$4,200 payment from the Enhanced School Health Grant from the facilitator, the City of Newburyport, to be used for health related items by all Ipswich Schools.

Acceptance of the donation of \$567.02 from the Shaw’s Supermarket Supervalve Program, to be split equally between all four schools.

UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. UNANIMOUS.