

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 8, 2010  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. J. Loeb, School Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: N. Sheppard, L. Dietz, B. Hopping, E. Traverso, H. O’Flynn, and J. Arsenault. Also present were A. Skelton, Student Representative; R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; and J. Cuff, Financial Director.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Loeb made the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

Bean Counting will be held Saturday, April 10, 2010, Town Hall Meeting Room A,  
9 a.m.

Policy Subcommittee has canceled the April 12 meeting and will meet on May 10,  
4:30 p.m., Payne School

Athletics Subcommittee will meet on April 13, 6:30 p.m., Room B229, Middle/High  
School

ITA Negotiations Team will meet in Executive Session for strategies in collective  
bargaining at 7 p.m., Middle/High School Guidance Conference Room on April  
13, April 27, and May 4

Public Safety Facilities Committee will meet on April 15, 6:30 p.m., Town Manager’s  
Conference Room

School vacation: April 19 – 23, 2010

Early Childhood Study Committee will meet May 5, 3:30 p.m., Payne School

School Committee will meet on May 6, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room  
Town Meeting is May 11.

**CITIZENS’ COMMENTS**

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. MENTOR/INDUCTION PROGRAM**

Maureen O’Connell, Coordinator, with Jeffrey Krieger, reviewed the program introducing three of the new teachers in the system. Begun in 2001 in Ipswich and State mandated for certification, training was held for mentors at Danvers High. Because there are differences between elementary and secondary, she handles the Doyon/Winthrop and Mr. Krieger handles the Middle/High. The program helps teachers improve their practices and learn their responsibility by being matched with a go-to teacher who acts as a counselor, motivator, and confidant. The mentor teacher observes the new teacher who goes through an induction to Ipswich culture, usually bonding with the mentor. In the spring the new teacher chooses to be observed by another teacher or watches another working teacher in the classroom. Having had monthly meetings, the new teacher is evaluated at the end of the year. Mr. Traverso and Mr. Hopping both commended the program, and Mr. Loeb thanked the mentors/mentees who were in the audience.

**B. SCHOOL CALENDAR**

Mr. Korb, in referring to Options A and B and pointing out dates for teacher workshop and opening day in September, 2010, announced that the joint recommendation of administration and ITA is for Option B. A third option, to begin after Labor Day, was rejected; to begin before Labor Day requires mutual agreement.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to adopt Option B as recommended and presented for the 2010-11 school calendar. UNANIMOUS.

**C. BEAN COUNTING PREP/FY11 BUDGET REVIEW**

Mr. Korb reported no change since the Tri-Board meeting of April 1, but Mr. Loeb said the School Committee-requested base-budget calculation has been changed, almost a \$200,000 swing. Mr. Loeb commented that the Town Manager, Finance Committee, and School Committee agree on the FY10 and FY11 base budget, excluding debt from both municipal and school departments.

Bean Counting discussion will include a “school stabilization fund” and capital improvement needs. Mr. Korb reported on the technology initiative as being very close to being completed with a presentation to the School Committee scheduled for May 6.

Members discussed the budget reductions list. Mr. Korb said that discussions are still continuing regarding the elementary music cut of \$42,000. Mr. Korb mentioned ongoing conversations with the acting Police Chief trying to come up with something (non-budget funding) to restore the school resource officer position. Mr. Korb reassured the Committee that he is very sensitive to not have inequity in the cuts between the schools.

**D. CAPITAL MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

Paul Bedard, having come from the Conservation Committee meeting, reported that the Board of Selectmen (Water Commissioners), who had 35 days after submission to agree to the well for irrigation purposes at Mile Lane, had not acted. The Board of Health and Conservation Commission have no problem with the drilling which would save thousands of dollars while protecting the \$400,000 investment in athletic fields. Mr. Korb will investigate with the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Korb explained the two-page handout: the first column on page 1 is short-term (1-3 years) capital projects to school buildings with each item at a maximum of \$15,000 (minor) and below, major projects of \$25,000 and up; second column of long-term capital projects; and the third column, the town-wide project for the Emergency Management Team at the Middle/High School as an evacuation center and the Winthrop School/Doyon School as refrigeration and lighting backup. Page 2 was completed by the energy consultant and used in setting up the short-term and long-term capital improvements plan.

Discussion ensued as Mr. Bedard went down the list, item by item. He and his men can lay tile, can change filters on univents, and can save thousands of dollars rather than using outside contractors on all sorts of projects. Mr. Korb announced that Ipswich Public Schools

had received word from energy resources that they have been nominated for the Environmental and Maintenance Award, and he congratulated Mr. Bedard for the strong initiative that he has had for years.

The Doyon roof, the Doyon parking lot, the drainage problem at the rear of the Winthrop School, the need to block off the access through the Middle/High School when community activities take place, the need to make areas handicap accessible, and the need for more communication with the municipal side to cooperate in joint projects were all topics of discussion. The School Committee asked for a prioritized list of the first \$250,000 to be forwarded to the School Committee and Finance Committee members following the submission of the two-page document to the Finance Committee the next morning.

#### E. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Mr. Loeb reported that the ad hoc committee studying financial aspects has received no new information. He also asked for (and received) reaffirmation from the Committee that three of the Feoffees cannot be re-elected in perpetuity. Comments had come from the Board of Selectmen that the School Committee had never before requested that the 3 Selectmen Feoffees take a position as to the counterclaim in Probate Court. While Rob White (Finance Committee) had made a request for escrow money for the schools from the Feoffees and tenants, it was denied in writing on the basis that the money could not be used because it is tied up in litigation and, therefore, is not accessible.

## II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

### B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE
2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE
3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE
4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

#### 5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

Dr. O'Flynn reported a great discussion of policy recommendations and a review of other towns' policies on grey areas for enrollment. Because a draft for September, 2010, is already in place for May and June with implementation by July 1, there is no need to hurry on decisions for 2011.

#### 6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso attended the new facility for Head Start in Gloucester with Mr. Korb. A meeting later put the final touches on the mission, vision, and goal statement which will be a May 20 School Committee agenda item.

#### 7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

#### 8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

## 9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping and Ms. Arsenault have to get schedules together.

## 10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. New Board Member Orientation, BHA, Proposed Revision, First Reading
- b. Orientation Package, BHA-L, Proposed Revision, First Reading
- c. Agenda Format, BEDB, Proposed Adoption, First Reading

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Arsenault, to accept “a” and “b” for first reading. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Loeb had a problem with the word “vote” in rearranging the order of the agenda in “c. Agenda Format”. Mr. Traverso asked for “agenda items supported in writing by two or more School Committee members must be placed upon meeting agendas so that within three meetings the item(s) would be presented” because he felt that the members of the School Committee should have some control over the agenda. Mr. Hopping replied that Mr. Traverso’s request had been given much thought and the fact that “14. Other” was always on the agenda for raising a possible agenda item which will be read into the Minutes, he saw this as an opportunity for dialogue. “Agenda Format” went back to Policy for review.

## 11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

Met in Executive Session. Next meeting: April 15.

## 12. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that Mr. Henry had looked at what the schools had budgeted, felt it was done correctly, and will hold until FY11. The wind turbine is due June 23 and will be up and running 30 days thereafter.

## 13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

## 14. OTHER

**III. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT****A. SUPERINTENDENT’S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Korb reported that the end-of-year activities list will be completed soon by Fran. The interview process for the comprehensive SPED review counsel will be a public process in June or July.

**IV. CONSENT**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of March 18, 2010, Open Session
  - Acceptance of Minutes of March 18, 2010, Executive Session
  - Acceptance of Minutes of March 23, 2010, School Committee/Finance Committee Open Session
  - Acceptance of Minutes of March 24, 2010, School Committee/Finance Committee Open Session
  - Acceptance of Minutes of March 25, 2010, School Committee/Finance Committee Open Session
  - Acceptance of donation of \$5,000: \$2,500 from Keith/Jennifer Anderson, with a \$2,500 matching donation from the Novartis Company, to benefit the Winthrop School as part of their Technology for Learning Initiative
  - Acceptance of the donation of \$500 from Thomas Hammond and Allison Kemmerer as part of the Technology for Learning Initiative to benefit the Winthrop School
- UNANIMOUS.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Sheppard moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to adjourn at 9:58 p.m.  
UNANIMOUS.