

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2009
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. J. Arsenault, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: N. Sheppard, H. O'Flynn, E. Traverso, B. Hopping, D. Ross, and J. Loeb. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent; J. Cuff, Financial Director; and Matthew Roberts, Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Arsenault read the following announcements:

There will be no Executive Session

School Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Selectmen MAY meet on February 10, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room A

Doyon School, Winthrop School, Special Education, and Central Office FY10 Budget Presentations to the School Committee, February 11, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

Middle School and High School FY10 Budget Presentations to the School Committee, February 12, 7 p.m., Middle/High Ensemble Room

Policy Subcommittee will meet February 23, 4 p.m., Payne School

Budget Subcommittee will meet February 26, 7:30 p.m., Payne School

School Committee will meet for a regular meeting and the Public Hearing on the FY10 Budget, March 5, 7 p.m. Middle/High Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' QUESTIONS

Mr. Howard remarked on the Finance Committee's progress with the new Feoffees trust, reported on the meeting with the Feoffees/Selectmen and their attorney, and found it a productive meeting except for a misunderstanding that the Feoffees "would go it alone" to the Attorney General and Probate Court, a point which the School Committee strongly denied with Mrs. Arsenault's comment that the School Committee, the Feoffees and their attorney are working hand-in-hand with no intent to do otherwise. Mr. Howard has been authorized by the Finance Committee to send a letter of interest to the Attorney General concerning the process, participation, transparency, etc.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. TIGER TOTS LEARNING CENTER REPORT

Mrs. Cheryl Forster-Cahill reviewed the timeline since the Tiger Tots inception (May, '07), and introduced Jennifer Bovio, Director. With the comment that this second year is very successful, students' work samples were distributed and two teachers/two high school students spoke on the program's behalf. FY09 Tiger Tots finances will close in the black, and FY10's projections will be more than \$10,000 in the black. Mrs. Forster-Cahill reported that fundraisers and donations have netted almost \$6,000 to meet the \$10,000 loan from the EDP program with confidence that the entire amount will come prior to June 30. The program has

reached infant and toddler capacity at 85% teacher/staff children and 15% grandfathered from the first year's program with Town personnel children.

In discussion, School Committee members were informed that the Tiger Tots personnel desired to have action (confirmation) that the program would go forward next year. Mr. Loeb wasn't comfortable supporting without additional financial data and objected to a tuition increase if staff doesn't get an increase. Mr. Traverso asked for monetary returns to the schools for space and utility use.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to continue the Tiger Tots Center indefinitely with the proviso that the financial documentation be presented again separately but without a threat to the long-term function of the facility. Mr. Loeb, when questioned, suggested that rent equal one-half of what EDP pays in one of its buildings (Doyon and Winthrop). Vote: IN FAVOR - O'Flynn, Sheppard, Arsenault, Hopping, Ross; OPPOSED - Loeb, Traverso.

B. ELEMENTARY TRIMESTER COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Margaret Madeiros, who introduced the committee members, explained that the purpose of the committee was to seek approval for the elementary schools to adopt a trimester program. Judy Ferrara reviewed the processes they walked through to reach their recommendations, and Kathy McMahan reasoned that the first quarter report card hardly allowed the teacher to become acquainted with new students let alone assess fluency in reading and comprehension, math skills, and social skills. The longer time span between report cards would allow for more teacher preparation for class, and the open house, emailing, and telephoning (at the schoolroom desk) are all ways to be in contact with parents. Debra Harris explained the mandated progress reporting procedure for a report card and eliminating one would allow the SPED teacher more teaching time, especially when early November does not allow enough good data. Molly Lacolla reported that their extensive research revealed nothing about trimester reporting, and Susan Speak reported that 3 systems (12 top-scoring MCAS schools and 31 from the northeast) were surveyed with the results that 3/4 of the surrounding schools are on the trimester or semi-annual system, having done so from 2000 – 2002. Elyssa Brand reviewed the contacts made to the interested parties — the ITA, the Doyon and Winthrop faculties, the school councils, principals and FRIES of both elementaries, and the Superintendent – all of whom reacted positively. The timeline for late October, early November is scheduled for individualized parent-teacher conferences; 60 days into the school year in December, the first report card; in March, the second (60 days later); and in June, the third.

Mr. Korb recommended the proposal and wholly supported it having been extremely impressed with the committee's commitment and justification for the change. Following comments by the Board, Mr. Sheppard moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to support and approve the Trimester proposal. UNANIMOUS. It was noted that professional development courses last summer and this summer focus on common assessments at each grade level in the two elementary schools.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE
2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE
3. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE
5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

6. FEOFFEEES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb suggested that the Board needs to meet regarding comments and changes to the new Feoffees trust draft. Mrs. Arsenault will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee requesting their suggestions to the draft by a given date and telling them that the School Committee will have a discussion at the March Tri-Board meeting. Mr. Traverso suggested that the two Boards submit a red-lined draft so that a joint meeting needn't be spent on line-by-line discussion.

7. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

8. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. Student and Staff Safety, JHF (second reading)
- b. Behavioral Specialist – Job Description (second reading)

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to accept both (a) and (b) policies for second reading. UNANIMOUS.

9. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

10. SPACE USE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that a meeting is scheduled for February vacation week.

11. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

12. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that the Electric Light Department has given authorization for the project and for the School Committee to borrow money to address the first two years' payment. A Town environmental grant (\$700,000) may mean that those payments can go away. Ongoing discussions continue with EBSCO and New England BioLabs.

13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EPRESENTATIVE

Matt Roberts reported that he has met with Ms. Cuff, the Food Service Manager, and the Interact Club regarding the cafeteria offerings at the Middle/High School in an effort to improve revenue.

14. OTHER

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb mentioned an upcoming meeting with Congressman Tierney and others on the stimulus package and its meaning at the local level. Mr. Hopping commented that, in the haste to get the money out to the states, DOE has specified Title I, ESEA, and IDEA as existing pipelines.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of January 22, 2009, Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of January 22, 2009, Executive Session
- Appointment of Kevin Whooley as a member of the Athletics Subcommittee
- Acceptance of donation of \$10,000 from the Manning Fund to benefit the Ipswich Middle School Media Center. UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Ross moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to accept the Minutes of January 15, 2009, with the deletion of "O'Flynn" on Page 2 under #5 of the discussion of the new Feoffees Trust. UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Ross moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to adjourn at 9:18 p.m. UNANIMOUS.