

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present: N. Sheppard, H. O'Flynn, B. Hopping, L. Dietz, and E. Traverso.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb made the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held for the purpose of strategies in collective bargaining, after which there will be return to Open Session

High School Graduation will be held on June 7, 2 p.m., Middle/High School Lower Gym

Middle School Honors Night will be June 8, Grade 6 (6:30 p.m.) and Grades 7 & 8 (7:30 p.m.) at the Performing Arts Center

Athletics Subcommittee will meet June 9, 6:30 p.m., Room B229, Middle/High School

Middle School Grade 8 Graduation will take place on June 12, 7 p.m., Performing Arts Center

Crane Beach Picnic will be held June 15, 8 a.m.; rain-date on June 16.

Dedication of the Doyon Library in honor of Dr. Kenneth Cooper will be held on June 16, 6:30 p.m., Doyon School

Last day of school for 2008-09 is set for June 18

School Committee meeting on June 18, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

RULE OF NECESSITY STATEMENT

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

UNANIMOUS.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to go into Executive Session at 6:32 for the purpose of discussion of strategy in collective bargaining after which the meeting will return to Open Session. **IN FAVOR** - Sheppard, O'Flynn, Traverso, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.

OPEN SESSION resumed at 7:10 p.m.

Mr. Loeb explained that he would be moving agenda items around to accommodate the large audience.

A. SPRING SPORTS AWARDS

Mr. Gallagher, Athletic Director, presented certificates to spring 2009 athletes: All-League and All-Stars in baseball, softball, boys' and girls' lacrosse, and boys'/girls' track. Mr. Loeb and Mr. Korb shook hands with the recipients, and Mr. Korb congratulated those graduating and those who will still be competing with special thanks to the parents and coaches. Mr. Loeb commented that the State Championships were hosted in Ipswich this year and six of the athletes are going on to the next level.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Korb introduced the new principal of the Doyon School, David Archambault, and the new SPED Director, Mary Gallant, reviewing their credentials. Both will begin as of July 1, 2009.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Loeb announced that 15 minutes had been allotted because of the full agenda. A parent (who had spoken at the previous meeting on May 21) complained of the absence on the agenda of the issue of class size regarding the first grade at the Winthrop School.

Mr. Loeb commented that discussion has not been closed, the issues of dollars and numbers still remain, and there would be an agenda item on June 18 for discussion but perhaps not a decision until July 16. Mr. Korb updated with numbers of registered kindergarteners and first graders as a result of meetings with the elementary principals, mentioning the possibility that a room could become available at Winthrop with the relocation of SPED to the portable classroom, and expressed frustration that the State budget has not been set; in fact, there might be a deduction of over \$200,000 (60% of the total Town cut) from next year's budget. With learning of Circuit Breaker (money that comes in from the State based on SPED costs to a district) cuts, he cannot foresee a \$50,000 sum for an additional teacher. He reinforced that all students who live within the Winthrop area will continue to go to Winthrop regardless of the grade they are in and would not be forced to return to Doyon, any new students who move in to the Winthrop area will go to Winthrop, and any new students in the Doyon area will go to Doyon. The balance will be continuously monitored and information will be given to the School Committee.

Miss Tlumacki, Grade 1 teacher at Winthrop, pointed out the advantages of smaller classes in the lower grades as determined by research, and crowding in her current classroom of 22 students.

Dr. O'Flynn asked about Choice issues. Mr. Korb replied that four parents whose children have siblings currently in the Ipswich system are on the waiting list, part of that the result of a judgment to go with 6 sections of full-day kindergarten. Dr. O'Flynn reviewed his proposal for 6-8 Choice students who could then fund another teacher at the kindergarten level at Winthrop. Mr. Traverso mentioned pedagogical issues as well.

B. WELLNESS SUBJECT AREA COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms. McVann, SAC Chair, and Ms. Forster-Cahill, liaison, reviewed the process of establishing a curriculum for the mandated DOE Frameworks. They exhibited copies of the Elementary School Health Curriculum Document containing strands under which topics are to be covered by the regular classroom teacher from kindergarten through grade 5. In addition, suggested lesson plans and resources are offered. The goals for next year are to review the high school health curriculum to make sure that it reflects the elementary and middle school curricula, thus completing a comprehensive curriculum throughout the grades and to begin a physical education curriculum, K-5, using the 9-12 curriculum used for accreditation. Ms. Forster-Cahill expressed a desire to have a student health fair just as staff health fairs are held regularly. A focus will be put on bullying.

Dr. O'Flynn asked about assessment of the health curriculum; Ms. Forster-Cahill replied that it is an administrative duty. Mr. Hopping stressed the importance of health as an integral part of the K-12 curriculum, cautioned that teachers tend to pick and choose to teach at their own comfort level, and even suggested a health instructor at the elementary level.

C. MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE REVIEW AND TEAM TEACHING PILOT PROPOSAL

Coby Carlucci, Peter Holtz, Karen Langlais, Kevin Murphy and Cheryl Forster-Cahill (Principal) reviewed on PowerPoint the 8th grade team-teaching pilot proposal. They reported on two years of waterfall schedule, its success and its tweaking, and now wish, with the two subject teachers at each subject level, to implement a one-year pilot program of team teaching per subject area. They reviewed common planning time and called it a huge success for collaboration. The proposal highlights a primary teacher for a year-long relationship, the teaching pairs will work as a team sharing students and curriculum with common assessments, and year-end data will go to the administration. Current 7th grade parents are pleased and will support the plan.

Mr. Loeb introduced the two new technicians for the cable TV: Ian Minter and Carolyn Ebersole.

IV. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Loeb discussed possible dates with the Committee for a meeting devoted to this subject alone.

7. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb expressed frustration at not having had the time to meet with new member, Laura Dietz, and reminded members to be careful about emailing to the entire Committee as it is a violation of the open-meeting law. He asked that administration look up the policy for Operations and members to review it again.

8. POLICY

- a. Rules of Order, BEDD, Proposed Adoption (first reading)
- b. Voting Method, BEDF, Proposed Adoption (first reading)
- c. Quorum, BDDD, Proposed Rescission (first reading)

After discussion, the decision was made to revisit all 3 policies in Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Loeb found that statutory references are wrong.

9. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE**10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE****11. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Loeb asked that Mr. Cahill be contacted regarding a new student representative.

12. OTHER

Dr. O'Flynn asked for discussion about position-taking regarding the kindergarten and first-grade numbers whether money is forthcoming or not and a perception of asymmetry between the two elementary schools. Mr. Traverso felt that a policy should be put in place for placement of students as an administrative decision for the benefit of students as a whole.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT None.**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of March 24, 2009, School Committee/Finance
Committee Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 25, 2009, School Committee/Finance
Committee Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of March 26, 2009, School Committee/Finance
Committee Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of May 12, 2009, Open Session

Acceptance of the donation of \$1,020 from Michael and Patricia Cusack to
Winthrop School to cover the cost of attendance at a professional
conference for three Special Education teachers

Acceptance of the donation of \$10,000 from the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation,
Inc., to the Birth to Three Center, to cover training costs for the Women,
Infants and Children (WIC) staff in Gloucester. UNANIMOUS.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. UNANIMOUS.