

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Arsenault, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7: 02 p.m. with the following members present: D. Ross, E. Traverso, H. O’Flynn, B. Hopping, and N. Sheppard. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; J. Cuff, Financial Office, and the four school principals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Arsenault read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held after which there will be return to Open Session.

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

FY10 Budget presentations to the Finance Committee will be held at Town Hall Meeting Room A at 7:30 p.m. on March 24 (Central Office/Special Education), March 25 (Doyon/Winthrop Budgets), and March 26, (Middle/High Budgets).

A “Meet and Greet” will be held on March 31 with Doyon Principal Finalist Dave Archambault at 3:30 for staff in Doyon Library and at 6:30 for public Q and A.

A “Meet and Greet” will be held on April 1 with Doyon Principal Finalist Phyllis Dubina, at 3:30 for staff in Doyon Library and at 6:30 for public Q and A.

Tentative Tri-Board meeting scheduled for March 31 will not be held.

School Committee meeting will be held on April 2, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Middle/High Ensemble Room.

Bean Counting will be held on Saturday, April 4, 9 a.m., Meeting Room A, Town Hall.

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

RULE OF NECESSITY

Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to invoke the Rule of Necessity so that five members of the School Committee would not be disqualified to discuss matters pertaining to collective bargaining. UNANIMOUS.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. SCHOOL CHOICE ENROLLMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010

Mr. Korb announced that administrators had not changed the total of 31 additional Choice students who can be accepted in 2009-2010. Questions and considerable discussion included the concern that administrators continue to lose Choice monies each year when the budget tightens during the year. Dr. Cooper explained the movement of students to Winthrop in grey areas to even out class size and the desire of those moved students to now remain at Winthrop rather than return to Doyon to continue their elementary education. Mr. Korb asked for consideration for siblings of current Choice students to enroll. Mr. Traverso asked for a study of the history of Choice as it applies to income and expenses for larger classes when students advance to the high school; Mrs. Arsenault agreed to take the matter under advisement,

and Mr. Hopping suggested that obtaining historical information state-wide would facilitate cost analysis over time. Mrs. Ross commented that extra costs exist while Choice monies come in and that she supports the enrichment factor of Choice students. Mr. Hopping noted that he remains opposed to Choice students and would be voting in opposition.

Mrs. Ross moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to accept no new Choice students at the high school. IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Sheppard, Arsenault Ross; OPPOSED - Hopping.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to accept the Middle School total Choice numbers at 14 as presented. IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Sheppard, Arsenault; OPPOSED - Ross, Hopping.

Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to accept the Choice numbers at Winthrop at 3 as presented. IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Sheppard, Arsenault; OPPOSED - Ross, Hopping.

Mrs. Arsenault moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to amend the totals at Doyon to 0 - Kindergarten, 2 - Grade 1, 2 - Grade 2, 3 - Grade 3, 0 at Grades 4 and 5, totaling 7 with the understanding that if there is a sibling issue, the numbers would be revisited. IN FAVOR - Arsenault, Sheppard, Ross; OPPOSED - Traverso, O'Flynn, Hopping. Tie vote, failed motion.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to accept the Doyon Choice numbers as written. IN FAVOR - O'Flynn, Traverso; OPPOSED - Arsenault, Ross, Sheppard, Hopping. Motion failed.

Mrs. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Arsenault, to denote Doyon Choice numbers at 2 for Grade 1, 2 for Grade 2, and 1 for Grade 3, totaling 5. IN FAVOR - Ross, Arsenault, Traverso; OPPOSED - O'Flynn, Sheppard, Hopping. Tie vote, failed motion.

At Mr. Korb's suggestion, Dr. O'Flynn moved, 2 Choice at Grade 1, 2 at Grade 2, and 2 at Grade 3, totaling 6. Mr. Sheppard seconded. IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Sheppard, Arsenault, Ross; OPPOSED - Hopping.

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mrs. Arsenault, to reopen the Doyon kindergarten numbers as requested by Dr. Cooper. UNANIMOUS.

B. FY09 FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Cuff reported that SPED and building maintenance expenditures have been necessary yet unanticipated. Four large trouble areas exist: SPED overspent by \$137,000, the long, cold winter and subsequent building problems, legal services at almost \$19,000, and the increased health insurance of \$85,000. The stimulus package may enable a \$53,000 figure for the SPED expenses. Discussion ensued over the uncertainty of stimulus numbers, and when/how they will be distributed in the Commonwealth. Ipswich is entitled to \$273,000.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. MGL, Subsection of Law – Chapter 39, Section 23B

1. Topic

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of ongoing litigation and real estate matters after which the meeting will return to Open Session. Roll call: Traverso, O’Flynn, Sheppard, Arsenault, Hopping, Ross.



Meeting resumed at 9:51 p.m. with J. Loeb in attendance in addition to the other six School Committee members.

III. OPEN SESSION

A. VOTE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009-2010

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to continue discussion on the Public Hearing on proposed FY10 budget. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Loeb announced that he had received an email that the Whittier Voc assessment has gone down \$121,789. Ms. Cuff, Director of Finance & Operations, reported that MCAS monies have been increased by \$5,000 in each of the four schools and the summer SPED program has been reinstated, thus increasing the deficit from \$131,000+ to \$167,906.

B. CLOSE HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009-2010

Dr. O’Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to close the Public Hearing at 10:05 p.m. UNANIMOUS.

C. VOTE OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2009-2010

Mr. Sheppard moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to set the FY10 School Budget at \$22,681,491 with reluctance that it is only that amount. UNANIMOUS.

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

Mrs. Ross reported that only \$8,500 had been used of the EDP loan in startup costs, \$7,500 has been received in donations, and the Tiger Tots program will end the year in the black having paid back EDP's loan.

5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

6. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

7. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

8. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

b. Agenda Format, BDDDB, Proposed Rescission

c. School Committee Meetings, BE, Proposed Adoption

d. Regular School Committee Meetings, BDA, Proposed Rescission

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept b, c, and d for second reading. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Traverso asked for an amendment to a. Agenda Format, BEDB, Proposed Adoption (second reading), and Mr. Hopping, Chair of the Policy Subcommittee, asked that Mr. Traverso forward his amendment to Policy for study at its next meeting.

9. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

10. SPACE USE COMMITTEE

Mr. Korb suggested that this committee be disbanded because the work is finished.

11. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

12. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

14. OTHER

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb asked for members who would be attending Day on the Hill and J. Arsenault is interested.

VI. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of February 5, 2009, Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of February 26, 2009, Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of February 26, 2009, Executive Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of March 5, 2009, Open Session
- Acceptance of donation of \$750 from EBSCO Publishing to help support the Tiger Tots Learning Center. UNANIMOUS.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. UNANIMOUS.