

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. J. Loeb, Chairperson Pro Tem, called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. with the following members present: H. O’Flynn, E. Traverso, B. Hopping, J. Arsenault, and L. Dietz. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent, and Joanne Cuff, Financial Director.

A. WELCOME TO NEWLY ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Loeb welcomed Hugh O’Flynn back to the School Committee and welcomed Laura Dietz as the new member.

B. ELECTION OF IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND SECRETARY

Mrs. Arsenault nominated Jeff Loeb for Chair, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn. Mr. Traverso nominated Barry Hopping, who graciously declined. Nominations were closed and the vote was 5 – 1 IN FAVOR with Traverso voting in the opposition. Mr. Loeb assumed his seat as Chair.

Mr. Hopping nominated Richard Korb as Secretary, seconded by Dr. O’Flynn.
UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Loeb commented on the recent Honors Night at the High School. The ceremony left an impact on him about the culture of the school system, K-12. The reaction from fellow students when the academic awards were presented (specifically, one of the members of the Junior class who received a perfect score on a national French test) was resounding applause, indicating the culture of students’ treatment of each other.

C. SCHOOL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The following Subcommittee assignments were made:

ATHLETICS – Hopping, O’Flynn, Loeb

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE – Arsenault, Loeb, O’Flynn

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ZONING – Traverso

DAY CARE CENTER – Joanne Cuff

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE – O’Flynn

DESIGN REVIEW etc. – Out

FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE – Dietz, Traverso,
Korb

Mr. Traverso wished to have one last meeting – a time for thoughtful review – to work on the many questions that remain and to see the 2008 financial statement. Members agreed that, while the full Committee should meet, there was merit to having the Subcommittee meet to oversee the financial situation. Mr. Loeb suggested that it run on an “as needed” basis and eventually disband.

FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE – Hopping

IPSWICH COALITION FOR YOUTH – O’Flynn
MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES
VOTING DELEGATE TO ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Delegate – Traverso; Alternate – Dietz

MUTUAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE – Loeb, Arsenault, Traverso

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE - Arsenault, Hopping, Sheppard

PAYROLL - Traverso, Sheppard, Hopping

POLICY COMMITTEE - Hopping, Sheppard, Dietz

SPACE USE - out

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REP. – Arsenault

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE – Traverso

TOWN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Hopping, Loeb, Korb

WIND TURBINE COMMITTEE – out

NEGOTIATIONS:

Professional Staff Team – Arsenault, Dietz, Markel

Support Staff Team – Traverso for the 4 groups

CLERK – Jean Emerson

“NO SCHOOL” DESIGNEE – Korb

PURCHASING AGENT – Korb

SECRETARY – Korb

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

There will be no Executive Session

Memorial Day exercises with veterans will be on May 22, starting at the High School at 8 a.m.

Athletic Subcommittee scheduled for May 26 has been rescheduled to June 9, 6:30 p.m., Room B229, Middle/High School

Senior Prom will be held on May 29, Castle Hill, promenade starting at 6 p.m.

Spring Town Meeting will continue on June 1, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center

High School Baccalaureate will take place on June 3, Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.

High School Graduation will take place on June 7, 2 p.m., Lower gymnasium

School Committee will meet on June 4, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

E. CITIZENS’ QUESTIONS

F. SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. FY10 KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT UPDATE/SCHOOL CHOICE

Mr. Korb explained the situation with 144 kindergarten screened children and recommends 3 sections at Winthrop of 23, 24, and 24 in each class, 3 sections at Doyon of 24, 24, and 24, and also recommends “0” Choice recommendations. He expressed his desire to honor full-day requests, but there is no money available to add kindergarten sections and it would be outside the budget monies. The grant of \$13,000-15,000, the cost of a TA, will be lost without the full-day kindergarten program. Parents made comments about larger classes through grade 5 with Choice, and the inability of a sibling to attend the same school. Mr. Korb

answered Dr. O'Flynn's question of space availability; that is, Winthrop could use the portable classroom to free up a classroom at Winthrop for Grade 1 and \$50,000 would be needed for a teacher and benefits. No space exists at Doyon at all. Dr. Cooper commented that every child but one had attended a pre-school. Mr. Hopping inquired whether stimulus money might solve the financial problem; Joanne Cuff said that 50/50 supplemental planning is still "as is". Mr. Hopping asked about Title I and the creation of a Kindergarten heterogeneous section; Mr. Korb stated that IDEA may generate an additional \$20,000.

B. FY10 FIRST GRADE ENROLLMENT UPDATE/CLASS SIZE

Mr. Korb gave the proposals for Grade 1 numbers to School Committee members: at Doyon, 4 sections (20, 21, 21, and 21) with 2 move-ins; at Winthrop, 3 sections of 22, 23, 23 based on available space. He stated that any new move-ins to Grade 1 are scheduled to be located at Doyon. Parents again made comments about their personal family/school issues. When Cooper and McAdams cited their numbers for grades 2 – 5 for FY10, Traverso commented that the larger classrooms at Doyon have smaller classes and the opposite is true at Winthrop. Mr. Hopping expressed the concern that the School Committee needs to view the matter of new families coming to town without favorable options for their children's schooling as serious.

Dr. O'Flynn moved to recommend to the administration that forced redistricting of new or existing students not be policy; no second. Mr. Korb assured parents that a sibling will be allowed to attend the same school to continue to keep families together. The forced lottery is off the table.

After further discussion, Mrs. Arsenault moved to add a fourth section to Winthrop for Grade 1; no second. Later, Mr. Hopping moved that School Committee advise the administration to create a fourth section of Grade 1 at Winthrop for the coming year with the understanding that it will have to be maintained through Grade 5 to make sure this problem doesn't happen again. Seconded by Arsenault. After discussion the motion failed on a 3 – 3 vote.

Dr. O'Flynn moved 8 slots of Choice for Kindergarten; no second. Dr. O'Flynn amended to 3 Choice slots for siblings of current Choice students; no second.

Mr. Korb stated that he had heard very clearly that any move-ins to Ipswich from this point forward (and back in recent time) will be honored by the school system to be placed in the grade and school of their residence unless they are in the "grey area". Numbers will rise by 2–3 students in each class, and he will keep the School Committee abreast. Mr. Loeb advised that families should not have their children split in two different schools.

C. PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK CHANGES

Ipswich High School. Mr. Cahill briefly reviewed changes to the High School Parent/Student Handbook. Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the changes as presented in the High School handbook for 2009-10. UNANIMOUS.

Athletics. Mr. Gallagher reviewed changes to the Athletic Handbook. Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to accept the recommended changes to the Athletic Handbook. UNANIMOUS

D. INDOOR AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Mr. Michael Feeney, Director of the Indoor Air Quality Program of the Bureau of Environmental Health, Commonwealth of MA, gave a PowerPoint presentation on observation and testing of classrooms, attic, ventilation system inside and outside of the HS/MS buildings, common areas, and performing areas (i.e., gyms). Accompanying pictures in the presentation enhanced his commentary. He confirmed that there is no mold present due to the prompt repair of water damage, but there are issues about ventilation. He made multi short-term recommendations (18) and three long-term recommendations. Paul Bedard will be addressing the issues, and stimulus money for energy will be pursued.

E. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Cuff reported that the year should be completed “in the black”. An application has been filed for \$268,000 for SFSF money. DESE has changed parameters again. An application for a food-service appliance replacement grant has been made—ovens are original to the 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. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE
7. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
8. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
 - a. Equal Employment Opportunity, GBA
Proposed Adoption (second reading)
 - b. Equal Opportunity Employment, GBA
Proposed Rescission (second reading)
 - c. Universal Precautions, JHCC-R
Proposed Revision (second reading)
 - d. Examples of Infectious Agents, JHCC-E
Proposed Revision (second reading)

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Arsenault, to adopt a, b, c, and d at second reading. UNANIMOUS.

9. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE
10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE
11. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE
12. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
13. OTHER

Mr. Loeb thanked Riley and Willie, on the job as technicians for running cable TV at School Committee meetings since October, '05 for all the time they have put in over the 3 ½ years, and they were given a round of applause for their work and staying awake!

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb reported that Dr. O'Flynn has expressed interest in his "Early Childhood Center", one of his goals for next year. Mr. Traverso is also interested. The new committee will convene before the end of the school year, and he has hopes to solidify the goal by the beginning of the second semester.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Acceptance of Minutes of May 7, 2009, School Committee Open Session
- Acceptance of Minutes of May 7, 2009, Executive Session
- Acceptance of donation of \$934.33 from the Shaw's Supermarket Receipt Rewards Program, to be split equally between all four schools
- Acceptance of the donation of \$4,176 from New England BioLabs for gym floor mats to be used by the Middle School Physical Education Department
- Acceptance of the donation by Doyon parent Matt Fionda to fund a projection system for the Doyon Media Center, valued at \$12,000
- Acceptance of the donation of a new server for the Doyon School from the Friends of Ipswich Elementary Schools (FRIES)/Doyon, valued at \$6,000
- Acceptance of the donation of \$1,800 from the FRIES/Doyon for the installation and related costs for a library LCD projection system. UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Arsenault, to adjourn at 10:48 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.