

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. J. Arsenault, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following members present: E. Traverso, H. O’Flynn, B. Hopping, D. Ross, and J. Loeb. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent; Matthew Roberts, Student Representative; and Joanne Cuff, Financial Director.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Arsenault read the following announcements:

There will not be an Executive Session this evening.

A tentative Public Safety Facility Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

All schools and offices will be closed on Columbus Day, Monday, October 13, 2008.

The next regular School Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2008, at 7:00p.m., in the Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

**CITIZENS’ QUESTIONS – None.**

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**

**A. DEMONSTRATION OF REDESIGNED ipswichschools.org WEBSITE**

Mrs. Christine Burke and Mr. Brian Carman presented the redesigned ipswichschools.org website to the School Committee. Mr. Korb publicly commended Mrs. Burke and Mr. Carman for their fine work on the website. They showed all the new features including a district calendar that all schools can enter dates on and also individual calendars for each school. Each building secretary has access to update the calendar. School Committee agendas are listed and minutes will be posted when accepted. The School Committee was asked to each take time to view the website and if they see any problems to let the Central Office know. They are still making improvements to the website including getting more teacher websites and possibly having permission slips for field trips offered online. The Committee asked about making student grades available and Mrs. Burke said that the high school is working on that through their MMS grading software but it is not ready yet. The feedback and input on the new site has been great.

**B. BIRTH TO THREE CENTER REVIEW/UPDATE**

Mr. Kitt Cox presented an update on the Birth to Three Center. They have been working on a “tag line” and have tentatively come up with “Connecting Families and Communities”. They are serving approximately 300 families in Ipswich and when they have room, they open up programs to families in the neighboring towns and there is no other program like this nearby.

Birth to Three offers universal access to anyone no matter what their income. They help parents be better teachers to their children through their parent education and prevent isolation of

families. His staff offers family visits, sometimes on a crisis basis due to economic or social stress and they have seen a greater influx of younger parents in Ipswich without resources lately. The nutrition program numbers have doubled with those in need of food and nutrition.

Mr. Cox talked about his budget concerns and hopes for the future. He would love to lose the \$20,000 rent, possibly by moving into the new Town building. He stated that he is the first and one of only 2 male directors of this type of program and is part of Men Teach. He is involved on Beacon Hill on an Infant Toddler subcommittee, workforce development committee for early education, and a postpartum depression conference presenter. He will be speaking at a forum on Postpartum Depression at Endicott College in November.

The School Committee then sang a song with Mr. Cox and commended him on the wonderful job he is doing with the Birth to Three Center.

## **II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. VOUCHERS/BILLS**

### **B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Doug DeAngelis, Citizen, presented a request to the School Committee for approval to raise funds and build a playground on Green Street. He gave a handout showing the exact location and drawings of the playground equipment. It included a net structure that is new. The base would be wood chips. The playground would be a gift. The School Committee suggested getting support from the neighbors to the area. Mr. Korb asked that Paul Bedard be included in the planning to make sure all regulations are followed. Mrs. Arsenault asked for a vote to approve them to move forward conceptually on the playground. Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn.  
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#### **2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**

The School Committee agreed to meet before Town Meeting at 6:15 p.m. in the Ensemble Room. Mr. Hopping asked if the budget workshop could be structured differently, matching requested dollars to the exact needs for each building. They will discuss that at the November 12 Subcommittee meeting. Mr. White called Mrs. Arsenault looking at a tri-board meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> which is a Sunday. She will e-mail him and look into that date. The Committee discussed the feeling that some were looking for the schools to pay back the loan from the Town. Mr. Korb said that Mr. Markel reiterated that they will not discuss using the Medicaid funds to pay back the loan and that the Town is not in a hurry to receive repayment. The understanding of the loan is that it will be repaid when the Feoffees situation is resolved.

3. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Ross reported that the new Director is doing very well, very energetic, and there are lots of infants in the program.

4. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

They are revisiting recommendations and will bring them to the School Committee mid-year, particularly the space needs at the elementary schools.

5. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso stated that they had a great meeting the previous night. They looked at the Feoffees annual statement in great detail, the forms and the report that relates to the limited liability corporation. They learned about the accounting system and were able to point out some errors that will be fixed. Dr. O'Flynn summarized the costs of running Little Neck.

6. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - NONE

7. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

- a. Job Description: Business Office Clerk  
Proposed Revision: First Reading
- b. Job Description: Accounts Payable Associate  
Proposed Revision: First Reading
- c. Job Description: Director of Finance and Operations  
Proposed Revision: First Reading

Mr. Loeb moved seconded by Mr. Hopping to vote to accept for first reading. UNANIMOUS

8. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE - NONE

9. SPACE USE COMMITTEE - NONE

10. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso said there was a meeting a week ago and it became very technical. There was a discussion of a system to link the schools and Town together. Mr. Korb stated that they will bring something to the Committee sometime in November or December to spend the \$225,000 set aside for this and there will be a chance to review.

11. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

They are still on target to have turbines spinning by January 2010. Our first two payments of \$80,000 are covered by donation by EBSCO/New England BioLabs.

**12. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. Roberts spoke to Mr. Cahill about allowing students to park on School Street. He also spoke of a need for lower prices for cooperative athletic teams. Currently you need to pay the athletic fees for that school and Ipswich. The School Committee suggested he speak with Mr. Gallagher about this and possibly getting help from the boosters for these teams.

**13. OTHER****a. FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Ross expressed that she is still waiting for a letter of appointment from the Selectmen. Mrs. Arsenault will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen.

**C. REVIEW OF OCTOBER 20, 2008 TOWN MEETING  
WARRANT ARTICLES**

These will be put on the October 16, 2008 Agenda to vote on it.

Article 3 – Dianne Ross

Article 15 – Needs to be discussed on October 16, 2008

Mr. Korb stated that GIC vote was held and teachers voted it down to be revisited next year.

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

Mr. Korb handed out information on the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual MASC/MASS Joint Conference and asked if anyone was interested in attending to please let him know.

**IV. CONSENT****A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Acceptance of Minutes of September 18, 2008, School Committee Open Session.

Acceptance of Minutes of September 18, 2008, School Committee Executive Session.

Approval of the release of the School Committee Executive Session Minutes for the period of April 14, 2005 through September 4, 2008.

Approval of the Middle School eighth grade class overnight field trip to the Adirondack Mountains, May 27-29, 2009.

Approval of the Middle School Exchange and High School Jazz Band overnight field trip to Beijing, Tianjin, and Xian, China on April 16-26, 2009.

Acceptance of the New England BioLabs contribution to the Ipswich Schools per the TIF Agreement for FY09 in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for science education.

Acceptance of the contribution of \$500 to the Birth to Three Center from Cape Ann Early Intervention (via North Shore ARC, Inc.) for full payment of a shared ball pit.

Acceptance of a donation of 12 Dell computers and monitors, valued at \$50 each for a total of \$600, from Robaco Investment Management (Daniel Cullen, Winthrop School Parent) to benefit the Winthrop School and other Ipswich Schools as well.

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**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. O'Flynn, to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.  
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