

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2008  
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

J. Arsenault, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7: 00 p.m. with the following members present: D. Ross, E. Traverso, N. Sheppard, J. Loeb, B. Hopping and H. O’Flynn. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; Paul Bedard, Custodial Supervisor; and Matt Roberts, Student Representative.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mrs. Arsenault read the following announcements:

Executive Session will not be held

A Public Hearing with the Wind Turbine Planning Board will be held on September 11,  
7:45 p.m., Town Hall

School Committee will meet on September 18, 2008, 7 p.m., Middle/High Ensemble  
Room

**CITIZENS’ QUESTIONS – None.**

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS**

**B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Korb reported that with the lining of the athletic fields on Mile Lane, the “Memorial” sign was deemed to be too close to the soccer field. So that it does not interfere with the boundary lines, the sign will be moved 20 feet away.

**2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE**

**3. CABLE ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Decision was made to take this title off the agenda because the School Committee is no longer directly involved.

**4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mrs. Ross announced the new Director who has an MA in Early Childhood Education and explained that the program is currently filled with children with a waiting list for entrants to the Day Care Center.

## 5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb asked that this committee resume activity this year.

## 6. FEOFFEEES SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso reported that a meeting will hopefully be scheduled involving Attorneys Sheehan and Allen, Finance Committee member Clasby, J. Arsenault, H. O'Flynn, himself, and Superintendent Korb to discuss the three principal topics: the nature of the trust, issues coming out of various financial reports, and the question of the Feoffees bank account. Mr. Korb reported that Mr. Allen is committed to having a meeting.

## 7. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Mrs. Arsenault apologized for postponing the Superintendent's evaluation to September 18.

## 8. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

## 9. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb questioned whether Minutes exist for this Committee because he's not been able to find anything online. He did express appreciation for the emails which are sent every Friday from the Town Manager's office with his report and Board of Selectmen agenda. He knows that the Public Safety Facility Committee is planning to put something on the Fall Town Meeting, but knows of no meetings held nor planned. Mr. Korb reported that, having conversed with Jim Foley, there is a plan to meet within the next two weeks, and he is to report back to Mr. Foley about tonight's discussion.

## 10. SPACE USE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ross reported that the Committee had received no interest from other architects. Ken Savoie has agreed to do the work; the Finance Committee agrees to allow \$3,000 from their Reserve Appropriation account and has toured everything again. They and the Board of Selectmen are determined that the two buildings (Town Hall and Payne School) will be merged. Mrs. Arsenault, Mrs. Ross, and Mr. Traverso reminded that this Space Use Subcommittee is a study committee. Mr. Korb made note of the requirements of a 3,000 sq. ft. minimum, and 15-20 parking spaces to replace the Payne School, and the necessity to eliminate the gym at the Town Hall (350 sq. ft.) as it exists now. Mr. Korb also reported that the Payne School is run on less than \$14,000 a year. Mr. Korb and Mrs. Arsenault feel that when Mr. Savoie studies the issues, the facts will be revealed and safety and confidentiality are most important.

## 11. TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE

## 12. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Public Hearing—September 11

## 13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Matt Roberts reported that the first two days went smoothly. However, parking at the high school is at a premium and last spring, students were parking on the islands. Mrs. Arsenault thanked him for speaking out and urged him to speak to Principal Cahill. The matter was brought to the attention of Paul Bedard as well.

## 14. OTHER

Mr. Loeb reported that the Town's audit committee is currently scheduled to meet on October 29 for a closeout meeting. Based on that, there is a tentative joint meeting on November 18.

## C. INSPECTION OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS REPORT

Dr. O'Flynn reported on the Doyon School with enthusiasm. The library, which had flooded over the summer, has been re-carpeted, partly paid by insurance. The building looks great, and new basketball courts have been built outside.

Mr. Traverso reported on his trip to the Winthrop School two weeks before school opened and found the floors polished, the walls painted, and new dark blue carpet in many areas. Special needs areas have been fixed nicely. He was much impressed with the improved modular building—interior looking new and exterior fixed up. He opined that it takes up lots of space where flat fields might be located. He cited a problem with rotting on the bottoms of the doors which exit to the rear of the building, revealing daylight. Mr. Korb said that repairs are scheduled in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Mr. Hopping spoke of the play structure and questioned Mr. Bedard regarding the pond and clay in the play areas, to which Mr. Bedard replied that work is ongoing with teachers and volunteers.

Mrs. Arsenault commented that the Middle School looked incredible. She had noticed that the door handles had gone through the wall; Mr. Bedard responded that the walls were not given proper protection from banging handles in the original construction stage and the matter is being addressed. Tiles outside the doorway will be replaced sometime soon. The flood in Mr. Jewell's classroom has been fixed.

Mr. Hopping took his review on the second day of the workshop at the High School, calling it one of the best inspections he had had. He noticed rugs showing wear and the teachers' room windows coming down almost in guillotine fashion. He commended the custodians on their efforts. The gyms and the day care center look spectacular. Mr. Korb added that the reorganization regarding the custodial maintenance department with Paul Bedard in management control and a "can do" attitude has made

a tremendous difference in improvement even over a year ago. Paul, in turn, commended his group of workers. To Mrs. Ross' question, Mr. Korb said that prioritizations are made each year for repairs/upgrades and he will have a report in December.

**D. FINAL REVIEW OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2009-2009**

Mr. Korb and the Committee reviewed meeting dates in all the months of the school year in an attempt to smooth out the budget process and set up a cohesive working schedule.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Mr. Korb reported that Day 1 of the new school year went smoothly, and Joanne Cuff did a great job fielding questions from parents on transportation. To Mr. Loeb's question regarding High Street bridge reconstruction, Mr. Korb replied that he has no definitive date despite discussions.

In order to maximize focus on energy strategies, Mr. Korb announced that, on September 25 at 7 p.m., in the Performing Arts Center, an educational seminar and strategy session with Bruce Tarr and Brad Hill as moderators will involve Town and School Committee officials, citizen groups who were pro and con on the override, officials who will present the State budget, and Department of Education personnel. Nearby school systems have been invited to attend. The meeting, to be held from 7-10 p.m., intends to set dates for future meetings with a goal of exploring other ways of funding education.

**IV. CONSENT**

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Acceptance of Minutes of April 12, 2008, Bean Counting Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of August 14, 2008, School Committee Open Session

Acceptance of donation to the Ipswich Middle School and Winthrop School of 26 used computers and 17 used computer monitors, for a total value of \$1,725, from the Institution for Savings. **UNANIMOUS.**

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Arsenault moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. **UNANIMOUS.**