

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

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following members present: B. Hopping, L. Dietz, and E. Traverso. Also present were: R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; J. Cuff, Financial Director; Principals David Archambault and Sheila McAdams; and School Representative Abigail Skelton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

There will be an Executive Session to discuss strategies in regard to collective bargaining and strategies with respect to pending litigation, after which we will adjourn

All schools/offices will release early on Nov. 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday and will reopen on November 30

The dedication ceremony for the Jack Welch Stadium will be held at half-time during the Thanksgiving Day football game, November 26.

School Committee will meet on December 3, 7 p.m., Middle/High Ensemble Room

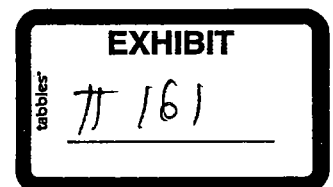
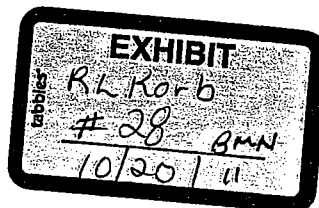
Tri-Board Meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m., December 8, Meeting Room A of Town Hall

CITIZENS' QUESTIONS

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS MCAS PRESENTATION

David Archambault, Doyon Principal, presented an overview of MCAS results at his school, with the good news that, all across the board, the school is way ahead of the state average on scores. In a PowerPoint presentation, he presented Grades 3, 4, and 5 in language arts and math and Grade 5 science in addition pointing out comparisons over 4 years. On a grid, he analyzed median student growth for grades 4 and 5 (same students, up one year) and a slide for sub-group data (IEP students). The recommendations for FY09-10 are concentrated writing, inference questions, and reinforcement in test-taking skills as well as increasing math vocabulary and weekly tests to increase fact memorization and multi-step computations. Tutoring continues with identified students in Grades 3-5 in language arts and math. Discussion ensued with the School Committee regarding state average comparison and comparison with surrounding area schools and frustration from the principals that only a small sample of data was released that could be used for analysis. Mr. Traverso had analyzed facts in such a way that girls were much higher than boys on a pass/fail basis (in "needs improvement" and "warning" categories). Mr. Korb commented that Superintendents across the State are constantly being advised by the Commissioner that the purpose of MCAS testing is not to compare one district to another and that comparing improvement within a given class as it advances through the district is a more valuable measure.



Mr. Hopping commented that the warning areas really amount to a small number of students. He recommended working with the top students in the “needs improvement” and “proficient” categories to try to bring them up to the next higher level.

Dr. O’Flynn joined the meeting at 8 p.m.

Sheila McAdams, Winthrop Principal, made her MCAS presentation on PowerPoint with Grade 3 language arts and math comparisons in the 4 categories and analysis of multiple choice/open response questions and challenges because 40% of the class is on Title I (11%) and IEP (29%) plans and 3 SPED teachers are in the classrooms daily. Grade 4, she commented, with 8% on IEPs and 12% on Title I shows great growth while not showing tremendous achievement. Grade 5 results present challenges with 12% in the warning/failing area over a 3-year period. The group reviewed the District Achievement and growth by SPED Status slides, and the Principal reviewed the recommendations for writing including genre and content-specific vocabulary, geometry vocabulary, and measurement conversions. Because Winthrop did not reach AYP (adequate yearly progress), she reviewed specifically the new LEAD (Learning Extended After School) program for students by invitation only. ACE (Afterschool Community Enrichment) is being funded by FRIES and Winthrop’s gift account. Mr. Korb offered kudos to Principal McAdams for the after-school program to make homework, vocabulary development, and fun sessions available for extra time before/after school.

The Committee thanked both elementary principals for their presentations.

B. FY10 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Ms. Cuff reported that SFSF grant money has still not come in and necessitates personnel overages to appropriate funds which will be reversed once the grant comes in (late December). Expenses in Middle/High School Operations have increased (SPED and boiler repair). The Audit draft recommended developing “a reasonable method to allocate indirect costs to the program” for EDP. A second recommendation that “anticipated hours” prior to actually working them within the SPED cluster grants need to be changed to reflect hours actually worked. An improved form with instructions for filling it out will be implemented.

Discussion ensued over the H1N1 flu, substitute increase (23% already), distribution of shots for elementary students (Saturday) and others during the regular school day to occur from the 1st – 15th of December.

Ms. Cuff commented that she is working with Pepper White of LCI Energy on a grant proposal to the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources to improve the air quality and energy efficiency of the MS/HS campus. Minimum awards will be \$500,000. Mr. Loeb asked if funds could be applied to the HVAC system at the MS/HS, and Mr. Korb said another potential grant would provide solar panels to the back side of the Doyon School (\$250,000).

C. SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT

Dr. O'Flynn moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to extend the Superintendent's contract such that the contract term of three years will commence 7/1/09 and end 6/30/12.

UNANIMOUS. Mr. Korb thanked the Committee.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS****B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS****1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Loeb reported that there will likely be increased fees at budget time, that collaborative discussion is ongoing with fields and grounds contracts with Tom Gallagher and Paul Bedard, and that the issue of an open school building on weekends and over the winter vacation is yet to reach consensus with coaches, principals, etc. Dr. O'Flynn spoke about the manpower problem and Mr. Bedard agreed because of the lack of custodial coverage.

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping will be meeting the first week of December.

3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE**4. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE****5. DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Korb reported that this Committee will be reconvening with the elementary principals and he is looking for representatives from kindergarten and Grade 1 in each building along with parents from the gray area, hopefully for a kickoff meeting in December.

6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso reported on focus on the mission and the vision. He has worked on getting leads to grant availability. Mr. Korb added that there is need to collaborate and cooperate in the community between Birth-to-3, Tiger Tots, preschool programs, EBSCO and New England BioLabs and it is a great committee of 12 individuals.

7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

After discussion of the possibility of moving forward to Probate Court, Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mr. Hopping, to rescind the vote taken on November 20, 2008, which action includes the support of the Feoffees with the sale price of Little Neck property at \$26.5 million. Vote: IN FAVOR - Hopping, O'Flynn, Traverso, Loeb; OPPOSED - 0; ABSTAINING - Dietz (not a School Committee member in 2008).

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to go to Probate Court, the vehicle to be determined, to present the Feoffees Trust Administration Order, version #22. UNANIMOUS.

8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING

Mrs. Dietz had met with Susan Beckman regarding the group which will be lobbying for legislation; Mr. Loeb asked her to come back with paperwork.

9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the following policies:

- a. Administering Medication to Students, JHCD, Proposed Revisions, Second Reading
- b. Ipswich Middle School Assistant Principal Job Description, Proposed Adoption, First Reading
- c. Ipswich High School Assistant Principal Job Description, Proposed Adoption, First Reading. UNANIMOUS.

11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb reported on the November 12 meeting where discussion took place to make the townspeople aware of the need for a new station and the decision to site it on the present spot. This move is essential to be ready to go forward with the project as funds become available.

12. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that there are presently no buyers for the CREBs. The bonding process has changed and Mr. Korb distributed a sheet of General Obligation Bonds for a \$1,600,000 turbine. There will be no payment necessary in '09 and the 2011 estimated payment of \$166,300 will be conducted through a credit process with the Electric Light Department without any additional expenses from the FY10 and FY11 budgets.

13. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Abby Skelton reported one quarter of the school year is over, some classes have changed, and students are looking forward to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. Hopping spoke of the death of Robin Silverman whose daughter Haley had been a Student Representative in the past and asked for a moment of silence in her memory.

14. OTHER

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

No report.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

Acceptance of Minutes of September 23, 2009, of the Finance Committee, School Committee, and Board of Selectmen Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of November 5, 2009, Open Session

Acceptance of Minutes of November 5, 2009, Executive Session

Appointment of Sue Markos as a member of the Athletic Subcommittee

Acceptance of the donation of weight equipment from Turner Hill to the Physical Education and Athletic Departments, valued at \$8,600.

UNANIMOUS.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. for the purpose of strategy in collective bargaining, after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call vote: IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy with respect to pending litigation, after which the meeting will adjourn. Roll call vote: IN FAVOR - Traverso, O'Flynn, Loeb, Hopping, Dietz.