

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2007
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. J. Loeb, School Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with the following members present: B. Hopping, J. Arsenault, D. Ross, H. O'Flynn, and E. Traverso. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; G. Zeman and J. Cuff, Financial Department; and Principals C. Forster and B. Cahill of the Middle and High Schools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

Executive Session will be held following Open Session to discuss strategies in collective bargaining, after which the meeting will adjourn.

Central Office, Special Education, and Elementary Schools budget presentations to the Finance Committee will be held on Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m., BOS meeting room, Town Hall.

Secondary Schools Budget presentations to the Finance Committee will be held on Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m., BOS meeting room, Town Hall.

No regular School Committee meeting will be held on Feb. 15 but discussions re Feoffees and alternate ways to handle shortfall of budget money will be discussed with the Finance Committee on Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m., BOS meeting room, Town Hall.

Schools will be closed Feb. 19 - 13 for winter vacation.

Technology Education Subcommittee will meet on Feb. 26, 4 p.m., Middle/High School Guidance Conf Room.

Policy Subcommittee will meet on Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Payne School.

Joint School Committee, Finance Committee, and BOS meet on Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

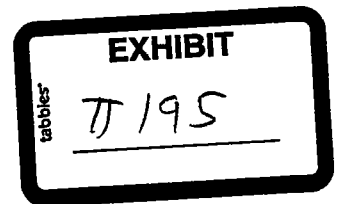
School Committee will meet on March 1, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room.

Bean Counting will be held on Saturday, March 3.

CITIZENS' QUESTIONS

RULE OF NECESSITY STATEMENT

Mr. Loeb made reference to the votes taken at previous meetings on the Rule of Necessity, adopted because the majority of School Committee members with immediate family members who are employed by the school system have conflicts of interest with respect to budget and negotiations. Again, he explained each of the four members (Sheppard, Loeb, O'Flynn, and Hopping) and their relatives who work in the system. Those members involved have filed the appropriate statements of disclosure with the Town Clerk.



ISC 003388

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS**A. IPSWICH CHILD CARE PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

Ms. C. Forster, Middle School Principal, and High School Assistant Principal David Dalton, presented "The Children's Room", a proposal for child care as a benefit to the faculty at a considerable reduction from the child-care average of \$286/wk. An on-site visit had been conducted with Tracy Fuller, Early Education Director of the YMCA, who found the faculty dining room a good place to put the children with a teacher/director and staff. They reviewed the steps ahead for the projected opening in September of 2007 with faculty support and respondents interested. School Committee members asked several questions re liability, toilet facilities, extra costs and/or benefits to the children, the system, and the staff of the program. Members expressed support for further study.

B. ELEMENTARY PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. P. Bedard, Head Elementary Custodian, provided updates on the elementary schools projects including the unspent \$40,000 because of effective combining of both roof projects, in-house work, and specifications for the new type roof. The Winthrop cafeteria doors are out for bids and a list of future improvements for spring and summer has been made. He commented on the installation of the climbing wall in the Winthrop gym provided from a grant from BioLabs and on the recent freeze-ups at Doyon and Winthrop.

C. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Gail Zeman, Director of Finance & Operations, highlighted the energy account in her report with a possible savings of \$160,000. The warm beginning of winter and the energy-saving measures taken for the schools may well show benefits for the Choice account at the end of the fiscal year. Policy and procedural manuals, already existing, will be added to with a new policy following a meeting with the athletic director.

D. OPEN HEARING AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2007-2008

Mr. Loeb declared the public hearing on the proposed 2007-2008 budget open, allowing 30 minutes on the budget as proposed and an additional 30 minutes for discussion. Mr. Loeb and Mrs. Arsenaault felt determined to put back money for the SACs; Mr. Korb commented that the SAC leaders and administrators are committed to the #1 objective of retaining the SACs and professional development in the system. Members discussed the shortfall and when to hear specifics; that is, before or after the Finance Committee meetings, before or after Bean Counting.

Following a five-minute recess for members to read the response from the attorney for the Feoffees of the Grammar School, the public hearing resumed at 8:48 p.m. with Mr. Loeb's statement that the bottom line is that the Feoffees do not anticipate any distribution this year and it is unclear what there will be next year. Bill Sheehan, representing the Feoffees in the countersuit, gave a status report as to that litigation. Many months ago proposed rents were sent to the tenants for '07, '08, and '09; figures are \$9,700 for seasonal and \$10,800 for year-round

rents. Of the 167 occupants, 26 signed and 141 rejected, and homes are now occupied by people whose tenancies have expired as of 1/31/07, yet they have not paid anything toward the operation of the waste system that was installed nor toward the payment of the hauling out of the waste. In the short term, the Feoffees cannot make any determination as to how much money the schools will get. Litigation is ongoing. The tenants, having accepted none of the Feoffees' suggestions, reason that they shouldn't have to pay the increase because of the override of the common sewer system which was requested by them in lieu of individual home systems. The obligation of the Feoffees is to charge and collect rents, in the 2.5 to 5.2% range as determined by the assessors, agreed upon by the tenants and Feoffees. He held out little hope that there will be a solution short of litigation, but he did say that he was confident that the money will go to the schools eventually.

E. CLOSE HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2007-2008

Mr. Loeb declared the hearing on the FY08 budget closed at 9:15 p.m.

F. VOTE OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE ON 2007-2008 BUDGET AFTER HEARING

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to approve the proposed budget of 2007-2008 at \$20,733,777 including debt service. UNANIMOUS.

Mr. Hopping commented that, while we are facing the real possibility of no money from the Feoffees (\$540,000) and have never faced such dire straits before, nobody (public) has come to the public hearing.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE - None.

2. BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE - None.

3. CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - None.

4. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE

March 1 meeting will include discussion on draft of new Trust.

5. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE - None.

6. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE - None.

7. TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Traverso reported that at last Monday's meeting the people involved went over the

plan which was approved two years ago. It was amazing to him how much progress has been made with only outside money available.

8. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Hannah Greenough, visiting Michigan State College, was absent.

9. OTHER

Mrs. Arsenault commented that the Negotiations teams' membership is not correct as revised.

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb made the Committee aware of the Winthrop Principal Screening Committee's membership and the first meeting which will be held on February 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Winthrop library. The meeting will include review processes and a timeline. The faculty has given feedback regarding traits and character for the prospective principal. Advertisements have been placed. He would like the screening committee to recommend no more than 3, nor less than 2, candidates for his interview along with the co-chairs. An alternative plan will be used if the applicants prove unsatisfactory. The Friday before Memorial Day is the process completion deadline.

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of October 11, 2006, Open Session Minutes of Joint Meeting of Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and School Committee

Acceptance of December 5, 2006, Open Session Minutes of Joint Meeting of Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and School Committee

Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of School Committee Budget meeting of January 17, 2007

Acceptance of Open Session Minutes of School Committee Regular and Budget meeting of January 18, 2007

Acceptance of the gift of \$1,160.04 from the Friends of Ipswich Elementary Schools to purchase library books. UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Hopping, seconded by Ross, to go into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing strategy in collective bargaining. IN FAVOR - Ross, Arsenault, Hopping, Loeb, O'Flynn, and Traverso.