

IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 17, 2002
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Joan Arsenault, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present: E. Traverso, M. Sherwood, N. Sheppard, D. Henry, B. Hopping, and J. Loeb. Also present were D. O'Leary, Student Rep., and Mr. Korb, Superintendent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Arsenault announced that there would be no Executive Session and read the following list of meetings:

January 22: Health Advisory Committee, 4 p.m., Payne School

January 24: School Committee/Administrators Budget Workshop, 7 p.m., Payne School

January 28: Policy Subcommittee, 7 p.m., Payne School

January 29: Joint meetings of the School Committee, Finance Committee and Board of

February 12: Selectmen, 7:30 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble Room

January 31: Strategic Planning Subcommittee, 7 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble Room

February 4: School Building Committee, 7:30 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble Room

February 6: Technology Ed Subcommittee, 7 p.m., MS/HS Media Center

School Committee/Finance Committee, 7 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble Rm.

February 7: School Committee, 7:30 p.m., MS/HS Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' QUESTIONS

Edward Sklarz asked about the status of budget cuts. Mrs. Arsenault gave him a brief synopsis of athletic cuts and restated that the budget workshop last evening was a public meeting.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Korb informed the Committee that there will be a meeting on site tomorrow morning re the requests of the Conservation Commission. The School Building Committee is still looking into other options for finishing the work on the landscaping of the fields behind the schools. A meeting takes place on January 23 with the Conservation Commission.

C. PILOT BREATHALYZER PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Cahill presented the revised proposal for use of the breathalyzer in random fashion at school dances, and police officers Peter Nikas and Jeremy Dziadosz demonstrated the portable breathalyzer with volunteers J. Arsenault and E. Traverso. Committee members asked questions, and Mrs. Sherwood moved, seconded by Mr.

Traverso, to accept the Alcohol Breathalyzer Program as recommended by the Student Council and administration as a pilot project which will be utilized as presented while it goes through normal policy procedures for first reading and second reading (adoption) by the School Committee at subsequent meetings. Mr. Hopping asked for an update on February 7 on the success of the pilot program. UNANIMOUS. BREATHALYZE

D. BLOCK SCHEDULING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Cahill reported that a survey, given to students and parents, had been tabulated regarding the feelings of the "long-block schedule." Faculty had a long meeting on the subject, believe in long-block instruction, and will make a final decision in the long run. Committee members asked that eighth-grade parents be kept informed of the study. Mr. Korb thanked the administration for working with faculty, students, and parents on this issue.

E. MCAS REPORT

Mr. Cahill and Ms. Forster reported on the MCAS results in the Middle and High Schools. Tenth-grade students who had failed were offered tutorial instruction and will be tested again in May. Grade 10 students who had done poorly in grade 8 will also have the opportunity for tutorial help before they take the test.

Ms. Davis and Dr. Cooper reported on the MCAS results in the elementary schools. To Mr. Loeb's question of what is being done to account for the scores that are low, the principals answered that, through professional agreement throughout the system, increased staff training and modification of classroom instruction is being implemented.

F. SCHOOL COMMITTEE POSITION REGARDING FEOFFEE'S TRUST

Mrs. Arsenault initiated discussion by stressing that the purpose is to discuss the School Committee's position on the Feoffees Trust. Mr. Hopping explained that the warrant article from Town Meeting did not specifically say that one of the tasks of the subcommittee (town) was to rewrite the trust. The members discussed at length the need to restructure the organization (Feoffees Trust), the need to seek legal counsel, the concern that, if the 167 lots on Little Neck were sold, what might happen with additional enrollment in the schools, and the need to have a voice in the future. Mr. Robert Weatherall, a member of the town subcommittee along with Mr. Hopping, spoke about the desire of that committee to restructure the Feoffees and his feeling that the School Committee should be able to feel free to address the issue. Mrs. Sherwood moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to go forward with investigating the task of rewriting the Feoffees trust and to begin the process by asking Mr. Hopping, as a member of the town Feoffees subcommittee, to so inform them of the School Committee's vote. UNANIMOUS. Mr. Hopping urged the School Committee, now and in the future, to have an annual exchange with the Trust. Mr. Traverso requested that any purchase made with Feoffees money be accompanied by (have attached to) a nameplate indicating that the item was obtained through the Feoffees Trust.

VOTE TO
MOVE FORWARD
WITH
FEOFFEE'S
TRUST

II. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Korb made reference to the gifts which appear below in the Consent Agenda.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Sherwood moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Acceptance of the gift of \$282,970.28 from the Feoffees of the Grammar School and

Acceptance of the gift of \$511 from the Capital Campaign Fund as donated by Corliss Brothers for trees at the Middle/High School. UNANIMOUS.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Loeb, to adjourn at 11:17 p.m.
UNANIMOUS.