



IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 2002
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Margot Sherwood, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following members present: Joan Arsenault, Deborah Henry, Jeffrey Loeb, Norman Sheppard and Edmund Traverso. Also present were Haley Silverman, Student Rep.; Richard Korb, Superintendent; and Gail Zeman, Finance Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

M. Sherwood read the following meeting announcements:

December 4: School Building Committee, 7:30 PM, Payne School

December 5: School Committee, 7:30 PM, Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' QUESTIONS

Mr. Sklarz inquired about the status of the arbitrage penalty. R. Korb stated Mr. Frazier of Southwest Securities has provided a detailed spreadsheet which is being reviewed by Mr. Jewell. Exact dollar amount of penalty payments not ascertained, but preliminary study indicates the amount will be under the \$538,000 set aside. Mr. Frazier, George Jewell, Rita Negri, Virginia Cleary, George Howe, Gail Zeman and Clark Ziegler are working together reviewing the figures. Mr. Sklarz also asked about litigation status and was told litigation is still being considered. H. Lampropoulos said taxpayers should recognize how long and hard that the Building Committee works on this process.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

R. Korb, Superintendent, presented James Cornacchio, a senior at Ipswich High School, as the recipient of this year's award recognizing that he is ranked first in his class while taking AP and honors classes and being involved in track, cross country and the jazz band.

B. JOINT DISCUSSION WITH TOWN FEOFFEEES COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Harvey Schwartz, Chair of the Town Feoffees Committee, stated that this committee has been doing an 18 month-long study to define who and what the Feoffees are to prepare a new document. The Town Feoffees Committee would like a joint session with the School Committee within the next two months to prepare a document to be ready for the next Ipswich Town Meeting. M. Sherwood stated that such a meeting would be feasible in January. The School Committee will schedule a separate workshop for their members prior to the joint meeting.

C. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE FEOFFEEES CONTRIBUTIONS

Exact amount of Feoffees contribution is yet to be determined. The amount received last year was \$270,000 of which \$200,000 went to technology improvement, primarily in elementary schools. R. Korb is developing goals with regard to future Feoffees contributions. R. Korb stated that all indications are that next year's budget will be very difficult. The last budget had a zero increase and used \$300,000 from the revolving accounts after making many cuts. R. Korb recommends that the School Committee now hold the revolving fund accounts for emergency capital expenditures.

As a result of the recent joint meeting of the School Committee, Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen, a 0% increase on the town and school budgets is requested. R. Korb is working with school administrators to develop this 0% increase budget. At present, they still need to cut \$700,000 across the school district. This amount includes neither the likely Chapter 70 cuts nor the upcoming collective bargaining. R. Korb stated that difficult decisions are coming regarding program and staff cuts. The school district will look to Feoffees contributions for many things. D. Henry wanted to know how the superintendent intends to use the funds from the Feoffees. Last year, money from the Feoffees was used to balance the budget as opposed to making program and staff cuts. D. Henry said money available from Feoffees funds this year could be invested in lights for fields as studies indicate fields with lighting increase triple the gate revenue.

Harry Lampropoulos said he was addressing the School Committee as a private citizen and parent. He said people involved with the athletic program worked hard to raise \$25,000 to offset budget cuts last year. They can do it again this year or pay for lights on the field, but not both. He questioned if cuts are fair across all programs. R. Korb feels that in very tight budget times the primary goal is to protect academics and that last year's cuts were equitable across all the programs. D. Henry feels it is a sensible time to take and invest the Feoffees money. She stated Steve Lamson had given an excellent presentation on expenses/fees by Athletic Dept. and suggested other school departments, such as Fine Arts, etc. do something similar regarding the fees they now charge and fund-raising efforts.

E. Traverso wants to go forward to develop process for spending Feoffees monies so that when economic conditions return to normal, a rational process will be in place. H. Lampropoulos suggested that a subcommittee of either the School Committee or Feoffees be formed to make spending recommendations. R. Korb referred to his October 21 memo, distributed to members, which includes specific priority guidelines identified by the administration for the Feoffees funds and stated he is ready to take it to the next level.

Question was raised about user fees for bussing and R. Korb stated he is opposed to that idea.

J. Loeb asked if R. Korb and G. Zeman have considered a spending freeze. R. Korb said yes. It was decided to have a discussion on the revolving accounts and on Choice money being paid to the Town of Ipswich placed on the next School Committee agenda.

D. FINANCIAL REPORT

G. Zeman, Director of Finance and Operations distributed a Year to Date Budget Report. D. Henry stated that while cuts made in the transportation budget were supposed to save \$75,000, only \$50,000 appears to have been saved and would like some explanation of why the savings were not as expected. R. Korb informed the School Committee that Salter Bus Company told him that to keep the same bus transportation in place next year will cost an additional \$88,000.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT**A. VOUCHERS/BILLS**

D. Henry would like vouchers available for review before the meeting starts so members would know what they are signing. R. Korb said that, since he is usually present well before the meeting begins, he will bring the vouchers.

B. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

J. Loeb said it was a wonderful time at home game on Saturday. Although not totally complete, the outdoor areas are usable now. Potholes have been filled and work on paving will continue. Drought affected 30' well. A fractured trace study analysis was done for bedrock well. The worst area is where well now stands. Study indicates the best place for a bedrock well is south end zone near the pond. A bedrock well is about 130' deep. Estimates are about \$12,000. Tennis Courts will be secured and parking lot paved in spring

C. FY04 BUDGET DISCUSSION

R. Korb felt budget had already been discussed. He reiterated that administrators will continue meeting to cut \$700,000 to reach a 0% increase. Will try to get to 0% district wide. D. Henry requested a list of individual names, positions and salaries so if cuts are to be made, they will know exact positions and salaries. N. Sheppard asked if number of students in elementary schools is decreasing. R. Korb reported population growth has leveled off. M. Sherwood has represented the School Committee at meetings with MUNIS to see what can be done about clear and accurate fiscal reports. It was also pointed out that for every full-time position cut, 64% must be factored in for unemployment. J. Loeb reminded committee that the \$700,000 discussed does not include the \$200,000 Chapter 70 cuts or the collective bargaining coming up. Cuts and fees from last year are back on the table. M. Sherwood said the collective bargaining may not be done by Town Meeting.

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

There was no report.

IV. POLICY

- A. NONDISCRIMINATION, AC
Proposed Revision, Second Reading
- B. NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX
Proposed Revision, Second Reading
- C. NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP
Proposed Revision, Second Reading
- D. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER DIRECTOR'S JOB DESCRIPTION
Proposed Revision, Second Reading

N. Sheppard moved, J. Arsenault seconded that all policies on the agenda be approved.
UNANIMOUS.

V. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

- E. Traverso moved, M. Sherwood seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:
Accepted Open Session Minutes of November 7, 2002
Accepted Open Session Minutes of November 12, 2002 Joint School Committee, Finance
Committee and Board of Selectmen Meeting. UNANIMOUS

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- J. Loeb moved, seconded by E. Traverso, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.. UNANIMOUS.