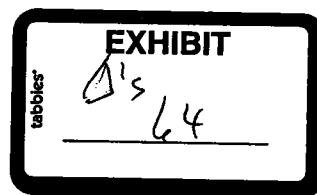


**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 19, 2003 7:30 P.M.
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**



**OPEN SESSION
CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. J. Arsenault, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. with the following members present: B. Hopping, J. Loeb, H. O'Flynn, D. Ross, N. Sheppard, and E. Traverso. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent; G. Zeman, Director of Finance and Operations; B. Cahill, Principal of Ipswich High School; C. Forster, Principal of Ipswich Middle School; K. Cooper, Principal of Doyon School; C. Davis, Principal of Winthrop School; and G. Howe, Town Manager.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Arsenault read the following announcements:

- June 23: Capital Funds Campaign meeting 8:00 p.m. in the IMS/IHS Guidance Conference Room
- June 25: Communication Subcommittee meeting 6:15 p.m. in the IMS/IHS Ensemble Room
- June 25: Joint meeting of the Ipswich School Committee and the Town Feoffees Committee 7:30 p.m. in the IMS/IHS Ensemble Room
- July 10: Ipswich School Committee meeting 7:30 p.m. in the IMS/IHS Ensemble Room

Mrs. Arsenault also announced that there will be two executive sessions during this evening's meeting dealing with strategies in collective bargaining. The committee will return to open session after each executive session.

CITIZENS' QUESTIONS

None

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. CAST UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING

Mrs. Cheryl Forster provided the committee with a brief explanation of the Cast Universal Design for Learning program. The Ipswich Middle School was asked to participate in a three year grant to pilot a software educational program/product developed by Cast. The program provided digitized learning units for all grade six subject areas.

Mrs. Patricia Previte, IMS Language Arts teacher, reviewed the second full year of implementation of the Cast program's Thinking Reader in her grade six language arts program. Five novels were available on the e-reader software program for classroom use. Based on the universal design for learning, the program focused on enhancing reading comprehension by utilizing student written and verbal interaction. Results of the program showed increased comprehension by 13 of 17 students tested from a classroom of very diverse levels of reading ability. The program, according to Mrs. Previte, has aided students with pronunciation, recognition and definition of unfamiliar vocabulary words; fostered greater understanding of story elements; encouraged daily written and oral expression; and provided the teacher with ample resources to clarify with the class difficult story concepts.

B. SPRING SPORTS AWARDS

Mr. Stephen Lamson, IHS Athletic Director, recognized twenty-three high school students with individual athletic awards for their accomplishments in baseball, lacrosse, and track.

Mr. Glenn Foster, coach of the IHS Boys' Lacrosse team, presented the Lacrosse State Championship trophy to Mr. Barry Cahill and the school committee. After a standing ovation, Coach Foster complimented his players for their exemplary behavior on and off the field, and thanked the town for its support.

C. LITERACY INITIATIVE REPORT

Mr. Korb called upon elementary school principals Dr. Kenneth Cooper and Ms. Carolyn Davis to update the committee in regards to the literacy initiative. One of the district's goals this year was to initiate a three to five year literacy plan with the primary focus at the elementary levels.

Dr. Cooper began by stating that he wanted the committee to get a feel for the difficulty of making progress in an area that has so many different aspects and components that it warrants at least a three to five year focus. He continued by reviewing professional development initiatives which included: Phonemic Awareness training, Dibbles training, Project Read training, Wilson training, development of common grade level rubrics and common writing prompts, Guided Reading and Guided Writing workshops, and PARS instruction. Ms. Davis reviewed other literacy initiatives which included: establishment of literacy committees in each school; implementation of the Lexia software program; formation of a reading comprehension committee focusing on literacy components; and expansion of classroom and professional libraries. Challenges facing the elementary schools in regards to literacy are: the decrease in professional development money in the FY04 budget; the inequity in funding between the two schools (Winthrop receives a Title I grant which funds 2 full time reading teachers, while Doyon receives no Title I grant money and budgets 1.5 reading teaching assistants); the need for a shared literacy coordinator; and the lack of FY04 budgeted money for books and literacy.

Mr. Korb explained that the Title I federal grant will double this year, increasing the total to \$283,000, most of which will go to Winthrop School, with a small percentage going to the Middle School. Dr. O'Flynn asked if reconsolidating the elementary schools by grades would help resolve this issue, an idea that has been considered in the past and may be worth future discussion.

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

B. SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Mr. Loeb reviewed the results of the bid for paving. The Building Committee recommends that the low bid of \$52,400 for paving of School St, with add-ons of 1) paving the parking lot and 2) miscellaneous repair work, be awarded to Newport Construction. The Building Committee has enough money unencumbered to pay the cost associated with paving School St, but not enough for the add-ons. The Building Committee's recommendation and request would be that the School Committee fund the cost of the add-ons (approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000). Mr. Korb and Mrs. Zeman have recommend that the additional funding be taken from the Summer Program revolving account (an account that has had no activity for the past 5 years), and the Pepsi account. The Building Committee funds will be completely depleted. Any unforeseen additional costs would have to be financed by the School Committee. Mr. Traverso urged that consideration be given to charging parking fees as a means to avoid using the Pepsi account to pay for paving of the parking lot.

Mr. Hopping moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to accept the recommendation of the School Building Committee to fund out of the unencumbered funds remaining in their budget the School St. project and the remaining balance be made up of \$9,599 from the Summer Program fund and an additional \$6,000 from the Pepsi account to complete the project as proposed. IN FAVOR – Arsenault, Hopping, Loeb, O'Flynn, Sheppard, and Traverso. ABSTAINED – Ross.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining after which time the committee will return to open session. IN FAVOR – Arsenault, Loeb, Sheppard, Ross, and Traverso. EXCUSED – Hopping and O'Flynn.

Mrs. Arsenault reconvened the open session at 9:25 p.m.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to accept the terms of the Settlement as outlined in the Summary Agreement and authorize the School Committee Chair to sign a Settlement Memorandum incorporating such provisions in the integrated Agreement. IN FAVOR – Arsenault, Loeb, Sheppard, Ross and Traverso. OPPOSED – Howe. ABSTAINED – Hopping and O'Flynn.

Mrs. Arsenault read a joint statement prepared by the Ipswich School Committee and the Ipswich Teachers Association. She commended the ITA for their work and professional atmosphere. Mr. Howe explained that reason for his vote was due to the financial elements of the contract. Mr. Loeb commented on the ideal shared by the School Committee and ITA of students first. Mr. Hopping expressed his concern over the erosion of the Ipswich Public Schools and his frustration in continually asking teachers to "bite the bullet."

Mrs. Arsenault moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining after which time the committee will return to open session. IN FAVOR – Arsenault, Hopping, Loeb, O'Flynn, Sheppard, Ross, and Traverso.

Mrs. Arsenault reconvened the open session at 10:15 p.m.

C. CONTINUATION OF FEOFFEEES DISCUSSION

Mrs. Arsenault explained that there were still a few items/questions that require decisions by the School Committee prior to next Wednesday's meeting with the Town Committee.

The question of an independent audit was discussed. Legal counsel does not support the recommendation for an independent audit as it would likely be a very costly. Mr. Traverso suggested an informal review be recommended. It was agreed that the issue of a separate audit be left to the new board of trustees.

Financial statements and accountability details were discussed. Mr. Loeb suggested that the financial statements should conform to generally accepted accounting principles. Legal counsel recommends that accountability details be given to the School Committee as beneficiary of the trust. Mr. R. Bonsignore, attorney on the Town Committee, stated that a more transparent financial report should be requested.

Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to direct the trust to provide the town and schools with more transparent financial statements readily understood by the lay person. IN FAVOR – Arsenault, Loeb, O'Flynn, Ross, and Traverso. OPPOSED – Hopping and Sheppard.

A recommendation regarding the eligibility of current Feoffees to be future Feoffees was postponed until the joint meeting next week with the Town Committee.

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

Mr. Korb distributed MASC Academy for School Leadership information. An orientation program is scheduled for July 18-19, 2003. All School Committee members are invited to attend.

Mr. Korb announced that the district had received preliminary notification of qualification for a full day Kindergarten grant for 2003-2004 in the amount of \$54,800. That amount appears to be approximately \$7,000 - \$10,000 short of what it would cost to run two full day programs at each elementary school. Financing of the additional cost can not be generated by fees; if you charge fees, you relinquish the entire grant. The additional cost could be realized by Golf money, ICE money, Gifts accounts, or the building 50-50 Choice money (31 new choice students have enrolled for next year). Consensus was given to move forward on the full day Kindergarten grant.

Haley Silverman will be returning next year as the student representative on the School Committee.

Mr. Korb will submit the Superintendent Self-Evaluation next week.

IV. POLICY**A. HIGH SCHOOL GRADE PROMOTION POLICY, IKE****B. HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT REQUIREMENTS, IKEA****C. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, IKF**

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to rescind the High School Grade Promotion Policy, IKE (second reading); to accept the proposed revision of the High School Credit Requirements, IKEA (second reading); and to accept the proposed revision of the High School Graduation Requirements, IKF (second reading). UNANIMOUS

V. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Move the Ipswich School Committee accept the minutes of the June 5, 2003 Open Session Meeting.

Move the Ipswich School Committee accept the minutes of the June 5, 2003 Executive Session Meeting.

Move the Ipswich School Committee accept the minutes of the June 10, 2003 Executive Session Meeting.

Move the Ipswich School Committee approve the Ipswich High School Football Team, Grades 9-12, overnight Football Camp trip request.

Mr. Sheppard moved, seconded by Mrs. Ross, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. UNANIMOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Mr. Sheppard, to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m. UNANIMOUS