

**IPSWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2010
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ENSEMBLE ROOM**

OPEN SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

J. Loeb, Chair Pro Tem, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with the following members present: L. Dietz, S. Gresh, and E. Traverso. Also present were R. Korb, Superintendent of Schools; J. Cuff, Financial Director; and Abigail Skelton, Student Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Loeb read the following announcements:

There will be Executive Session to discuss strategies regarding litigation and real estate matters after which the meeting will adjourn

School Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m., Monday, October 25, before the start of Town Meeting

Town Meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m., October 25, in the Performing Arts Center

The School Committee Negotiations Team will meet on October 26 at 5:30 p.m. in the Middle/High School Guidance Conference Room

A tentative date for continuation of Town Meeting, has been set for October 26, 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center

Public Safety Facilities Committee will meet on November 3, 7 p.m., Town Manager's Conference Room, Town Hall

School Committee will meet on November 4, 7 p.m., Middle/High School Ensemble Room

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Mr. Korb read a letter from Tom Gallagher, Athletic Director, regarding the Mile Lane well project and the donation in the amount of \$40,000 - \$45,000 by the Institution of Savings to the Friends of Ipswich Athletics. Dr. Gresh moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, to accept the donation of \$40,000 - \$45,000 from the Institution for Savings for the Mile Lane well project. UNANIMOUS.

I. SCHOOL COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

A. TECHNOLOGY FOR LEARNING INITIATIVE

Ellen Kallman, President of Ipswich Education Foundation, and Sue Brengle, Chair of the Technology for Learning Initiative Steering Committee, presented the information to be given to the community in the form of corporate donations with the comment that private funding has become a necessity in the schools. A fund-raising letter is going out to parents, the Chronicle will have a lead article, and the Rotary Ball at Turner Hill will hopefully raise a considerable sum for the Initiative. School Committee members applauded the Initiative and pledged their support. Some advance work has been done including the reconvening of the Technology Subcommittee under the direction of Cheryl Forster-Cahill and Chris Burke.

B. RACE TO THE TOP PROPOSAL

Mr. Korb spoke of the cooperative effort among the School Committee (most particularly, E. Traverso), the administration and the ITA to bring money into the system in a four-point improvement plan for curriculum materials and instructional practices in Race to the Top (RTTT). The RTTT initiative will bring \$147,000 over the next four years. Jeff Krieger, ITA Chair, and Sheila McAdams, Winthrop Principal, co-chairs of the initiative, will submit specific goals in a Year 1 plan by October 22. Mrs. McAdams made a brief presentation with discussion by the School Committee.

Mr. Traverso moved, seconded by Mrs. Dietz, that the Ipswich Public Schools adopt the one-year plan of Race to the Top. UNANIMOUS.

C. FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Cuff updated the Committee on FY11 budget status and explained the Circuit Breaker function. She gave her explanation and recommendation for the natural gas contracts. Consensus of the School Committee was to accept the Financial Director's recommendation to use the standard lock-in rate for an extended 24-month period for a natural gas contract with Hess.

She reviewed construction projects on the Doyon and Middle/High School buildings as a result of severe weather last year (insurance funded) and the Winthrop door replacement project coming from budgeted FY11 earmarked monies. Also, she reported on a recent SPED transportation review.

Dr. O'Flynn joined the meeting.

D. FINAL REVIEW FOR OCTOBER 15, 2010, TOWN MEETING

1. Article 3: FY2011 School Budget Amendments
To be presented by Hugh O'Flynn
2. Article 4: FY2011 Whittier Regional High School Budget
To be written by Barry Hopping and presented by Ed Traverso
3. Article 5: Feoffees Litigation
Deferred until 6:30 p.m., October 25, 2010, Ipswich High/Middle School.

E. FEOFFEES OF THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Dr. O'Flynn met with Feoffees Subcommittee. While it was determined by Mr. Korb and Ms. Cuff that the Town Manager had affirmed that Article 5 would be presented by the School Committee at the Fall Town Meeting to compensate the schools for legal work, there was a hold put on the warrant and through a series of circumstances, when the motion was presented, it was by the Finance Committee. A proposal (Triboard Working Group Statement) needs a separate vote from the wording of Article 5 itself.

Mr. Kallman, from the audience, spoke at length regarding the meeting that he attended citing several points that he felt should concern the citizens of Ipswich. Mr. Loeb and Dr. O'Flynn disagreed with Mr. Kallman on the matter of lack of trust among the three boards. There is agreement that there is need to figure out a process. Mr. Korb feels that the School Committee must take the lead on this Article before Town Meeting to send a strong message of

cooperation and responsibility by the key litigant who will be responsible for payment of that money in the future. According to Town Counsel, it is possible to change that motion prior to Town Meeting, and the Board of Selectmen could take that action on Monday night prior to Town Meeting, notifying the Finance Committee in a spirit of collaboration and courtesy.

Mr. Loeb felt that the wording of the Article 5 motion and of the Triboard Working Group Statement is in disagreement, and he could not support and would not present the Article at Town Meeting as it stood. A reworking of the wording of the Triboard Working Group Statement was finalized as follows with a motion made by Dr. O'Flynn, seconded by Mr. Loeb, and voted 4/1 in favor (Dietz opposed):

4a. The School Committee shall propose a comprehensive strategy to implement the Purpose above;

4b. The Triboard Working Group shall consider this strategy and make recommendations;

4c. The Triboard Working Group shall meet as necessary to discuss strategy;

4d. All information will be shared promptly and completely with members of the Triboard Working Group and through the representative members to the respective Committees;

4e. Requests for the use of the Feoffees Legal Fund shall generally be made prior to the expenditure of the funds, and shall include the vendor, purpose of the expenditure, and estimated amount as provided by the vendor.

Mr. Loeb felt that "if the intent isn't to exclude expenditures since July 1, 2010," he will be more conducive to accepting.

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, that the School Committee take a position based on current knowledge and information that the Committee is opposed to the sale of Little Neck property on the terms as presented in the Feoffees/Tenants Settlement Agreement. IN FAVOR - Loeb, O'Flynn, Traverso, Dietz; ABSTAINING - Gresh.

Dr. O'Flynn announced that the School Committee ordered appraisal will not be forthcoming until after Town Meeting on October 25. It will be shared once the School Committee has studied it. Dr. O'Flynn stated that the position relative to the issue about sponsorship of Article 5 will be taken up on Monday evening before Town Meeting.

Dr. O'Flynn indicated that there would not be an Executive Session this evening due to no new additional information regarding real estate matters.

II. SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. VOUCHERS/BILLS

B. SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. ATHLETICS SUBCOMMITTEE

2. ATHLETIC FIELD STUDY COMMITTEE

3. AD HOC TOWN/SCHOOL COLLABORATION COMMITTEE

4. COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

5. DAY CARE CENTER SUBCOMMITTEE
6. EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE
7. FEOFFEES SUBCOMMITTEE
8. NORTH SHORE COALITION FOR SCHOOL FUNDING
9. OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

10. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Loeb moved, seconded by Dr. O'Flynn, to accept for adoption the following policies:

- a. School Assignment Areas, JC
 - b. Parents' Choice of Elementary School, JECC
- UNANIMOUS.

Mrs. Dietz reported that Policy Subcommittee had met and is studying fees charged for various school buildings.

11. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Meeting scheduled on November 3.

12. SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEPAC)

13. WIND TURBINE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Korb reported that the Committee has accepted a bid for a GE 1.65MW wind turbine within the budget and is forecast for installation in March, 2011.

14. IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

15. OTHER

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. SUPERINTENDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

IV. CONSENT

A. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Acceptance of Minutes of September 16, 2010, Open Session
Acceptance of Minutes of October 7, 2010, Open Session
Acceptance of Minutes of October 7, 2010, Executive Session
Approval of the Ipswich Middle School's Grade 8 overnight field trip to the Adirondack Mountains, New York State, June 1-3, 2011.
UNANIMOUS.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Dietz moved, seconded by Mr. Traverso, to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. UNANIMOUS.