MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
423 Buckelew Avenue
Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831
(732) 521-1500
Fax (732) 521-1628

MICHAEL C. GORSKI, CPA
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary

Vision Statement

"The Monroe Township Board of Education commits itself to all children by preparing them to reach their full potential and to function in a global society through a preeminent education."

Mission Statement

"The Monroe Public Schools, in collaboration with the members of the community, shall ensure that all children receive an exemplary education by well trained, committed staff in a safe and orderly environment."

AGENDA
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY – MARCH 3, 2011
7:00 P.M.
HIGH SCHOOL

(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS DURING THE MEETING)
(RECORDING BOARD MEETINGS)**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Lew Kaufman, Board President
Mr. Marvin I. Braverman, Board Vice President
Mr. Ken Chiarella
Mr. Mark Klein
Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich
Mr. John Leary
Ms. Kathy Leonard
Mr. Lou Masters
Mr. Ira Tessler

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Patrice Faraone

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Reena Dholakia
Mr. Jonathan Kim

4. STATEMENT (BOARD PRESIDENT)

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Monroe Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted February 25, 2011:

1. At all Schools,
2. Home News Tribune,
3. Cranbury Press, and
4. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

5. STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT

6. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2011-2012 TENTATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET

7. PUBLIC FORUM*

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Public Board of Education Meeting February 16, 2011
Public Board of Education Retreat February 26, 2011

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Personnel

The Superintendent will recommend that the Board approve the personnel report following discussion in Executive Session.

II. Board Action

A. It is recommended that the Board approve the following for the District's choral performance on February 17, 2011:

David Raunick	Piano Accompanist	$150.00

B. It is recommended that the Board approve the creation and the attached job description of Building Manager for the District.

C. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of requests for Staff Professional Development.

D. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of request for Field Trips.

E. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached Memorandum of Agreement between the Monroe Township Board of Education and the Monroe Township Education Association regarding the one time compensation of employees to relocate to new building.

F. It is recommended that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the previously submitted Settlement Agreement in the matter entitled J.C. and T.C. o/b/o W.C. v. Monroe Twp. Bd. of Educ., Agency Ref. No. 2011-16352, OAL Docket No. EDS 13844-10. The Board President, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Board attorney are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary steps to implement the aforesaid Settlement Agreement.

G. **2010-2011 Violence/Substance Abuse/Estimated Violence/Vandalism Costs** previously reported for the period 9/1/10 through 3/1/11 -----$807.81

Date	School	Incident	Cost to District
2/11/11	MTHS	fight	n/a
2/25/11	MTHS	fight	n/a

H. It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution in Support of Tenure Reform:

Whereas, Tenure in elementary and secondary public education was established by law in 1909 to protect teachers from arbitrary dismissal and discrimination and, under the tenure statute, teachers and other certified school employees receive lifetime tenure automatically upon three years and one day in a position; and

Whereas, Public school teachers work in a dramatically different environment today than they did in 1909, resulting in tenure now serving only as a system of lifetime job protection that impedes school quality; and

Whereas, Over the past century, Congress, the state Legislature and the courts have built an extensive body of statutes, regulations and decisions to ensure due process, to protect employees from discrimination, and to prevent arbitrary and capricious employment decisions; and

Whereas, Collective bargaining, established in public education in 1968, also provides extensive protection to employees in the areas of working conditions, disciplinary procedures and grievance arbitration; and

Whereas, The New Jersey School Ethics Act and the School District Accountability Act and related regulations add to existing safeguards against patronage hiring and nepotism; and

Whereas, The current system of lifetime tenure involves the filing of formal charges and a hearing process that, on average, takes more than a year to reach a conclusion; and

Whereas, During that period, a board must provide substitute staffing, must return the tenured employee to full salary 120 days after charges are filed even though he or she is not working, and incurs legal expenses; and

Whereas, The existing system of lifetime tenure is costly, disruptive and a major obstacle to maintaining school quality; and

Whereas, The New Jersey School Boards Association advocates a system of contractual tenure under which a school board could initially grant tenure to a teacher after a minimum of five years and one day of effective service in a position, with

continuation of tenure determined by the school board every three to five years thereafter and based upon indicators of effective teacher performance, including student achievement; and

Whereas, Such a system would enable school districts to hold staff members accountable for ongoing effective performance and would contribute toward the advancement of student achievement; and

Whereas, As part of his education reform agenda, Governor Christie has proposed the elimination of lifetime tenure and its replacement with a renewable tenure system, and state lawmakers from both political parties have cited the need for tenure reform. Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Monroe Township Board of Education urges the state Legislature and the Governor to amend New Jersey's current tenure statute (a) to require five years of satisfactory performance in a position before the initial granting of tenure and (b) to establish a system of renewable contract tenure under which a local school board would make a decision on renewing an employee's tenure every three to five years, based on indicators of effective performance, including student achievement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Monroe Township Board of Education urges the New Jersey Legislature to make the enactment of such tenure reform a primary goal during its current session; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie, state Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver and the 14th Legislative District's representatives in the state Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to Acting Commissioner of Education Christopher D. Cerf, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Middlesex County School Boards Association.

I. It is recommended that the Board approve the following resolution In Opposition to Senate Bill 1872 and Assembly Bill 2810 "Opportunity Scholarship Act":

Whereas, The Opportunity Scholarship Act would grant corporations tax credits for contributing to a program that issues education vouchers to certain students for use at any public or non-public school of their choice; and

Whereas, During a five-year pilot program, any child residing in one of 13 targeted districts, which operate one or more persistently underperforming schools, may apply for the vouchers, even if the student currently attends a school that is performing satisfactorily; and

Whereas, One-quarter of the funds would be reserved for students who already attend private schools; and

Whereas, Public school districts have experienced reduced state funding and are operating under state-imposed restrictions on local tax levy growth; and

Whereas, The five-year pilot program would divert from $360 million to $1 billion in public funds to private schools; and

Whereas, The State of New Jersey is currently experiencing a fiscal emergency during which its revenues are insufficient to provide adequate funding for public education through the School Funding Reform Act, and

Whereas, The Monroe Township Board of Education opposes any government policy that would divert funds from the State's revenue stream to private schools when sufficient revenue is not available for New Jersey's public school finance law; and

Whereas, The Monroe Township Board of Education believes in school choice within the public education sector upon the mutual agreement of the school boards involved; and

Whereas, The Monroe Township Board of Education believes that public funds should not be used to support private schools; and

Whereas, The Opportunity Scholarship Act would fail to address the needs of those students in targeted districts who do not participate in the program; and

Whereas, The Monroe Township Board of Education believes that the State should target improvement efforts within the public school system, ensuring that they reach all students. Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Monroe Township Board of Education petitions the New Jersey State Senate and General Assembly to reject the Opportunity Scholarship Act (S-1872 and A-2810); and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be delivered to Governor Chris Christie, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, and the 14th Legislative District's representatives in the State Senate and General Assembly; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Acting Commissioner of Education Christopher D. Cerf, the New Jersey School Boards Association and the Middlesex County School Boards Association.

10. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. BOARD ACTION

A. BILL LIST

It is recommended that the bills totaling $8,441,796.10 for January 2011 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

B. BILL LIST – NEW HIGH SCHOOL (BOND SERIES 2004)

It is recommended that the bills totaling $72,759.33for January 2011 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

C. BILL LIST – NEW HIGH SCHOOL(BOND SERIES 2008)

It is recommended that the bills totaling $14,723.93 for January 2011 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

D. SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL & CASH REPORT

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2-11(c)4, Be It Resolved that the Board of Education hereby certifies that it is in receipt of the Financial Reports for January 2011, which indicates that no major accounts or funds have been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the fiscal year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b). In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, Be It Further Resolved that the Board Secretary certifies that the January 2011 Secretary's Report indicates that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

E. TRANSFER #6

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Transfer #6 retroactive to 1/31/11, as presented for Fiscal Year 2010/11. A copy is attached hereto.

F. TRANSFER #7

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Transfer #7 as presented for Fiscal Year 2010/11. A copy is attached hereto.

G. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

1. It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Education Incorporated to provide home instruction for our students who are hospitalized for the 2010/11 fiscal year at a fee of $36. per hour.

H. NEW HIGH SCHOOL FIBER CABLE INSTALLATION

It is recommended that Members of the Board of Education approve Change Order No. E-3 to the contract between the Monroe Township Board of Education and Tru-Val Electric Corporation in the amount of $90,275.00 for Tru-Val Electric to install Fiber Optic Cable and associated conduit for internet service.

I. BID AUTHORIZATION – ASPHALT PAVING/POTHOLE PATCHING

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education authorize Michael C. Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Purchasing Agent to advertise for and solicit bids for asphalt paving/pothole patching. This bid when awarded by members of the Board of Education will be encumbered against the 2010/11 budget.

J. BID AWARD – INDUSTRIAL ARTS EQUIPMENT & USED TEXTBOOKS

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education award the bid for industrial arts equipment and for used textbooks for the amounts listed on the bid analysis which is enclosed for supplemental information.

K. RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM WITH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the following resolution entitled "Resolution for Member Participation in a Cooperative Pricing System":

RESOLUTION FOR MEMBER PARTICIPATION
IN A COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT
65MCESCCPS

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2011 the governing body of the Monroe Township Board of Education County of Middlesex State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Monroe Township Board of Education.

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby, certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Monroe Township Board of Education at the Board meeting held on March 3, 2011.

BY: _____
MICHAEL C. GORSKI
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

ATTEST BY: _____
(NAME AND TITLE)

L. APPROVAL – AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM WITH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the attached agreement for a Cooperative Pricing System between the Monroe Township Board of Education and the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission – 65-MCESCCPS.

M. RESOLUTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the following resolution entitled “Resolution for Participation in Coordinated Transportation”:

WHEREAS, the MONROE TOWNSHIP Board of Education desires to transport special education, non-public, public and vocational school students to specific destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission, hereinafter referred to as the MRESC, offers coordinated transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the MRESC will organize and schedule routes to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness;

NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed that in consideration of pro-rated contract costs, plus an administration fee of 2% or 4% for member districts, or of 6% for non-member districts, as presented to the MONROE TOWNSHIP Board of Education as calculated by the billing formula adopted by the MRESC's Board of Education. Said formula shall be based on a route cost divided by the number of students allocated to each participating district. The total amount to be charged to districts will be adjusted based on actual costs.

I. The MRESC will provide the following services:

a. routes coordinated with other districts to achieve a maximum cost reduction while maintaining a realistic capacity and travel time;

b. monthly billing and invoices;

c. computer print-outs of student lists for all routes coordinated by MRESC;

d. all necessary interaction and communication between the sending district, receiving school, and the respective transportation contractors;

e. constant review and revision of routes;

f. provide transportation within three days or sooner after receipt of the formal written request; and

It is further agreed that the MONROE TOWNSHIP Board of Education will provide the MRESC with the following:

a. requests for special transportation on approved forms to be provided by the MRESC, completed in full and signed by previously authorized district personnel;

b. withdrawal for any transportation must be provided in writing and signed by authorized district personnel; no billing adjustments will be made without this completed form and will become effective on the date the form is received;

2. Additional Cost - all additional costs generated by unique requests such as mid-day runs or early dismissals will be borne by the district. All such costs must first be approved by the MONROE TOWNSHIP Board of Education.

III. Length of Agreement - this agreement and obligations and requirements therein shall be in effect between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012.

IV. Entire Agreement - this agreement constitutes the entire and only agreement between the parties and may be amended by an instrument in writing over authorized signature.

The above action authorizes the Business Administrator to sign and administer contracts and/or purchase orders.

MICHAEL C. GORSKI	March 3, 2011
Prepared by	Date

11. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

13. OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

14. CLOSED SESSION – RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe hereby moves to go into Closed Session, in accordance with Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

Legal: Jamesburg tuition

The discussion conducted in closed session can be disclosed to the public at such time as the matters have been resolved.

15. PUBLIC FORUM *

16. NEXT SCHEDULED PUBLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011 – 7:00 P.M. – HIGH SCHOOL

17. ADJOURNMENT

* Public discussion is confined to this portion of the agenda unless permission is granted by the Board President prior to the start of the meeting or when the Board is considering a special agenda item that the Board deems appropriate for public participation. Anyone wishing to address the Board is requested to stand and state his/her name and address.

** Any member of the public may record the proceedings of a public meeting of the Board in a manner that does not interrupt the proceedings, inhibit the conduct of the meeting, or distract Board members or other observers present at the meeting.

The Board will permit the use of tape recorder(s), still or movie camera(s), or videotape camera(s) only when notice of such intended use has been given to the Board Secretary one day in advance of the meeting. No more than three camera(s) may be in use at any time, and any camera must be operated in an inconspicuous location in the meeting room.

The presiding officer shall determine when any recording device interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering device be removed.