MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBIC AGENDA – APRIL 8, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the rights of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting their interest is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Merchantville Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in the Retrospect, The Courier Post, Borough Hall, and Community Library.

ROLL CALL

_____ Mr. Doran	_____ Mr. Loue	_____ Mrs. Perno
_____ Mr. Honigfeld	_____ Mr. Morrone	_____ Mr. Bohn
_____ Mr. Kabel	_____ Mr. Velten	_____ Mrs. Hartson-Stine

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Audience members attending Board of Education Meetings are permitted to voice their opinions on school-related topics at specified times during the regular meeting. These times are included in the printed agenda for the meeting. Members of the public are encouraged to speak during the public portion of the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds

Carroll Will

Community Relations

Curriculum and technology

Discipline

Finance

High School

Personnel

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Planning

Policy

Library

CCESC

MINUTES

It is recommended that the board of education approve the following minutes:

March 11, 2008

March 25, 2008

BUSINESS OFFICE

It is recommended that the board of education approve and accept the:

Board Secretary's Report – Treasurer's Report - Certification
February 2008

Board Secretary's Report in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of February 2008. The Board Secretary certifies that no line item account has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23-2.11 (a) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Treasurer's Report in accordance with 18A: 17-36 and 18A: 17-9 for the month of February 2008. The Treasurer's Report and Secretary's report are in agreement for the month of February. The Board Secretary in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A: 23 – 2.11 (a) 2 certifies that there are no changes in anticipated revenue amounts or revenue sources.

Board of Education Certification – pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A: 23 – 2.11 (a) 4, we certify that after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge no major accounts or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A: 23 – 2.11 (a) 3 and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

_____ _____

Henry Bermann, RSBA Date

(February Treasurer's Report will be distributed.)

TRANSFERS

It is recommended that the board of education approve the following transfer of funds:

11 000 222 600 Library – supplies	500.00	11 000 216 600 Related services- supplies	500.00

11 204 100 610 Resource room – supplies	150.00	11 401 100 600 Co-curricular - supplies	150.00
11 000 230 610 Basic skills – supplies	200.00	11 000 216 600 Related services – supplies	200.00
11 000 251 340 Central – purchase of services	10,000.00	11 000 261 420 Building maintenance – purchase of services	10,000.00
11 000 261 420 Building maintenance – purchase of services	2000.00	11 000 261 610 Building maintenance – supplies and parts	2000.00

PAYMENTS
It is recommended that the board of education approve the following payments:

P46	Tuitions-deducted from state aid	7,559.70
P 47	State Health Benefits	34,310.55
P 48	PERS employees – Pension payment	15,458.40
P 49	3-15 Payroll	155,688.14
P 50	3-31 Payroll	153,535.64

TRAVEL FORM
It is recommended that the board of education approve the travel form attached.

Name	Date	Location	Event	Purpose	Amount	Code
Roth, Susan	4/11/2008	Hamilton, NJ	Read 180 Leadership Seminar	Training	$28.00	1
Sasser, Kathy	4/11/2008	Hamilton, NJ	Read 180 Leadership Seminar	Training	$28.00	1
Leise, Jeanne	4/10/08	Dayton, NJ	Parent Survey Technical Assistance Session	Training	$75.00	1

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
It is recommended that the board of education formally approve the board's committee goals and objectives for the 2007-2008 school year, drafted at the May 8, 2007 meeting.

Buildings & Grounds – provide a physical environment for teaching and learning that is safe and pleasant for pupils, staff, and public.

- Work with administration to develop a list and budget for both short-term needs and long-term capital needs of the district including:
    - Gym wall & floor problems
    - Heating system problems
    - Other maintenance issues
- Follow-up on issues concerning new security system
- Investigate solutions for auditorium chairs
- Monitor lawn care & snow removal operations

Carroll Will

- Review procedures used by administration for develop Carroll Will budget for MES.
- Review use of Carroll Will funds for school trips, i.e. criteria for Dorney Park trips.

Community Relations – provide an honest, continuous, comprehensive flow of information about the policies, procedures, programs, problems, and progress of the school system to the community and the staff.

- Promote public interest and participation in the operation of the school.
- Work with Curriculum & Technology Committee and administration to add BOE content to the Web site - list of board members, contact information, list of committees, chair people of committees, etc.
- Review material in the Parent Handbook and insure that it is distributed to all school families in September and posted on the school Web site.
- Develop content for the quarterly School Newsletter.
- Create a BOE Information sheet
- Develop list of priorities for administration to meet the needs of parents and community – i.e., posting of student class lists at least 2 weeks prior to start of school, development of school calendar in a timely fashion, regular dissemination of school information, etc.

Curriculum & Technology – students shall demonstrate competency in language arts/literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, health and physical education, visual and performing arts, and world languages.

- Review curriculum development/implementation schedule with administration to ensure that all curriculums are updated and presented to the BOE according to the five-year schedule.
- Test Scores – work with administration on interpreting and reporting the standardized test scores to board and community. Work with administration on programs to improve student achievement.
- Monitor implementation of SASI software and benchmarks for continued enhancements.
- Continue to investigate reducing amount of books being brought home each night because of weight issue, i.e. use of CDs and online resources.
- Can technology used in the classroom become ubiquitous – that is can technology be widespread and everywhere and always available but not itself the focus of learning.
- Work with Community Relations Committee to enhance presence of BOE on web.

Discipline – school should be free of drugs and violence and offer a safe, disciplined environment conducive to learning.

- Monitor disciple issues within the school.
- Work with administrative staff to implement proactive programs to facilitate a productive student environment.

Finance – the Board has major responsibilities for the adoption of a budget that will provide the wherewithal – in terms of facilities, staff, materials, and equipment – to enable the administration and staff to carry out its functions.

- Work with administration to provide regular reports concerning the financial health of the district.
- Work with administration to provide guidance and recommendations concerning budget development.
- Monitor cafeteria operations related to quality, service, and profitability.
- Explore possible new sources of revenue.

High School

- Work with CSA to monitor progress of Merchantville students at PHS. Regularly report to the BOE on: number of students enrolled, student standardized test scores, number of students taking SATs, number of students planning on attending four year colleges, number of students planning other post-graduation education.
- Continue to investigate alternatives to our current sending/receiving relationship.

Planning – all planning, both that which is and that which is not related to the budget, needs to be interpreted to the public if citizens are to support the school program.
Monitor current state-level developments that impact on our local funding and viability.

- Draft overall goals and objectives for Merchantville BOE.
- Monitor current state-level developments that impact on our local funding and viability.

Personnel Committee

- Work with administration to ensure that staffing levels provide the most efficient use of resources.
- Continue to investigate ways to reduce insurance costs (this may be a finance committee objective)
- Work with administration to review and update the job descriptions of the administrative staff.
- Review Board policies related to personnel issues
- Prepare for upcoming contract negotiation cycle

Policy – the Board is responsible for the development of policy and for evaluating the effectiveness of its policies and their implementation.

- Ensure that policy book is updated regularly by prioritizing sections for review. Coordinate the update in a timely fashion.
- Monitor policy develops through the NJSBA.
- Review implementation of Dress Code Policy.
- Review implementation of Nutrition Policy
- Review school security policy and implementation.
- Work with Community Relations Committee to ensure that school policies are communicated to parents and the community in a timely and effective manner.

CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

RECOMMENDED That the Board of Education approve the following changes to the 2007 – 2008 school year calendar, and set the 8th grade graduation date as follows:

Last day of school for students – (to be discussed)
Last day of school for teachers – (to be discussed)
Early dismissal days for students – (12:45 PM) – (to be discussed)
Eighth Grade Graduation - (to be discussed)

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RECOMMENDED That the Board of Education formally adopt the revised Social Studies, Elementary Math, and the Gifted and Talented curricular, as previously presented by staff members.

RECOMMENDED That the Board of Education approve the following Field Trip:

Washington's Crossing	- 42 Students
(6th Grade)	- 4 Teachers
April, 2008	- 2 Chaperons

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION
It is recommended that the Board of Education adjourn, by Resolution, into Closed Session, from which the general public is excluded, to discuss, personnel, negotiations, or any other matter appropriate for this session. The results of this session will be made public immediately after, or as soon thereafter, as a decision is reached, if permitted by law.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING
It is recommended that the board of education to approve to return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT
It is recommended that the board of education to approve to adjourn this meeting.