OPENING

1. 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, at Borough Hall, and in the Community Library.

2. Roll Call

___ Mr. Barnett	___ Ms. Engelke	___ Mr. Loue
___ Mr. Bohn	___ Ms. Hartson Stine	___ Mr. Morrone
___ Mr. Doran	___ Mr. Kabel	___ Ms. Perno

3. 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.

4. Open Public Comment

The meeting will now be open to the public. If your questions or comments pertain to litigation, student or personnel items, or negotiations, we would ask that you see the Chief School Administrator after the meeting since these items are not discussed in public.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. Upcoming Events

Saturday Math continues from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
March 14th – PTA Tea Party/Fashion Show
March 23rd – BOE Meeting
March 26th – Junior High dance
April 2nd – School closes for Spring Break

Congratulations to the Merchantville Boys' Basketball Team and to Coach Ryan Fields for winning the Colonial Division for the first time in fifteen (15) years. The team experienced a five (5) point heartbreaking loss, to Stratford, for the Suburban Division Championship

BUDGET AND ELECTION INFORMATION

There are three (3) candidates for the three (3) open positions on the board of education.

Edward Bohn
Mark Iannucci
Jennifer Perno

The drawing of names for positions on the ballot will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010.

DISCUSSION ON THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

Moved by_____, seconded by_____, that the board of education approve to set the following tentative times, dates, rates, etc., *pending the delivery of additional budget and election information from the State of New Jersey.*

To approve to hold a Public Hearing on the Budget on _____ at *7:00 p.m.*

To set, **_____,** as the date for The Reorganization of the Board of Education.

Approve Restoration of Sate School Aid Cuts – It is recommended that the board of education approve the Resolution to restore the 2009-2010 state school aid cuts as follows:

RESOLUTION
Restoration of 2009-2010 State School Aid Cuts

WHEREAS, the Merchantville Board of Education recognizes that sound financial management is necessary to support the school program; and

WHEREAS, the Merchantville School District bases its budget on academic goals, current needs and data collected through a long-range planning process; and

WHEREAS, the district's prudent expenditure practices have resulted in an excess surplus of $460,542.00 during the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, current state law requires districts to apply these excess funds toward the 2010-2011 school budget in order to control local property taxes;

WHEREAS, through its policy of sound fiscal management, the Merchantville Board of Education has placed in reserve for the current school year $460,542.00 to ensure that maintenance and facility repairs do not affect its financial stability; and

WHEREAS, under Executive Order 14, the Governor has frozen the Merchantville school district's current-year state aid in an amount equal to its excess surplus and 25 percent of its capital reserve and other reserve accounts; and

WHEREAS, the aid cut unfairly targets the Merchantville School District and others that accumulated additional surplus and/or put aside reserve funds as the result of sound financial practices; and

WHEREAS, by forcing the expenditure of these surplus funds in the current school year, the Merchantville district will not have them available to control next year's school property taxes; and

WHEREAS, replenishment of reserve accounts next year will divert limited resources from the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14 will have a negative impact on property taxpayers and the education program in the Merchantville School District in 2010-2011. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Merchantville Board of Education urges the state Legislature and the Governor to pursue other means to resolve the state's current-year budget gap without jeopardizing school programs or penalizing property taxpayers in the future; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such an alternative should leave in place school districts' excess surplus, as well as their capital reserves; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to Governor Christopher Christie, Acting Commissioner of Education Bret Schundler, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, state Senator [name of school district's state senator] and Assembly Representatives [names of school district's Assembly representatives]; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Approve the resolution to suspend the 2010 school budget elections – It is recommended that the board of education approve the resolution to suspend the 2010 school budget elections as follows:

RESOLUTION
Suspension of 2010 School Budget Elections

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2010, Governor Christopher Christie issued Executive Order 14, which froze current-year state aid payments in more than 500 local school districts, including Merchantville School District; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14 sets out a process whereby affected school districts would use their excess surplus and portions of reserve accounts to make up for the loss of current-year aid, a strategy that will have an uncertain impact on next year's (2010-2011) school budgets; and

WHEREAS, local school districts have been advised of four possible scenarios concerning their 2010-2011 state aid allocations, adding to the uncertainty over future school finances; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's annual budget message, through which official state school aid amounts for 2010-2011 will be released, has been postponed until March 16; and

WHEREAS, local school boards must finalize proposed budgets for placement on the election ballot by April 3, a span of less than three weeks; and

WHEREAS, the lack of complete information about state school funding and the compressed budget timelines will pose a burden to local school districts in developing intelligent, responsible budgets; and

WHEREAS, the scheduling of the school budget referendums on April 20 precludes the allotment of additional time needed for budget development; and

WHEREAS, proposed school budgets are controlled by a tax-levy cap and undergo thorough review by the state's Executive County Superintendents, thereby ensuring efficient and responsible use of taxpayer funds; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Merchantville Board of Education urges Governor Christopher Christie and the state Legislature to take necessary action to suspend the 2010 school budget elections; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Merchantville Board of Education also urges state lawmakers to permit certification of school tax levies based on the budgets approved by local boards of education following the public hearings required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A: 22-10 et seq.; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Merchantville Board of Education also urges state lawmakers to adjust the school budget calendar to extend timelines for the budget development, hearing and adoption process, thereby enabling school districts to develop responsible budgets necessary to meet state and local education goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to Governor Christopher Christie, Acting Commissioner of Education Bret Schundler, Senate President Stephen Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, state Senator [name of school district's state senator] and Assembly Representatives [names of school district's Assembly representatives]; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

6. Communications

7. Unfinished Business

a. CSA's Contract – Written approval never received from the county.

b. Shared Services

8. New Business

9. Committee Reports

a. Operations

b. Education
School Year Calendar - Impact of the four (4) snow days.

c. Personnel

10. Liaison Reports

a. Pennsauken High School

b. Library

c. PTA

d. Borough Council

e. CCSS

11. Chief School Administrator Report

a. Use of Facilities

b. QSAC Status Update

PRESENTATION

12. Presentation to the Board

Ms. Mary Ann Friedman, NJSBA Representative, will address the board to facilitate the chief school administrator's Evaluation Process.

ITEMS FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION Approval.

a. *Payments* It is recommended that the board of education approve the following payments*:*

P 42	January 29th Payroll	$159,804.49
P 43	February 12th Payroll	$159,323.45
P 44	Deductions from state aid for tuition payments	$20,139.20
P 45	February Payments	$199,955.23

CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Chief School Administrator Report

SECOND OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting will now be open to the public. If your questions or comments pertain to litigation, student or personnel items, or negotiations, we would ask that you see the Chief School Administrator after the meeting since these items are not discussed in public.

RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

That the Board of Education adjourns, 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

Motion for the board of education to approve to return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion for the board of education to approve to adjourn this meeting.