MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2007

The Regular Meeting of the Merchantville Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., in the Reading Center at Merchantville School.

Members Present: Mr. Doran, Mr. Honigfeld, Mr. Kabel, Mrs. Perno, Mr. Morrone, Mr. Bohn, Mr. Velten and Mr. Loue

Members Absent: Mrs. Hartson-Stine

Also Present: Mr. Christian Swanson, Chief School Administrator
Mr. Henry Bermann, RSBA
Mrs. Jean Grubb, SCSSSD Business Official
Mrs. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

The board vice-president called the meeting to order.

The board vice-president led the board in the pledge to the flag.

CAFETERIA UPDATE

Mr. Bill Gerichter, cafeteria consultant, updated the board on the cafeteria operation.

Some items mentioned:

- Losses as of 11/30/07 total $11,504.00
- District is not receiving any pass through (processed) commodities, because the previous vendor did not set the paperwork in place for this school year
- Food costs are running at 48% - higher than estimated
- Paid student and adult participation in the lunch and breakfast program is low

Future plans:

- Future menus will be developed with more consideration to food costs
- Expand beverage choices
- Revise/expand ala-carte items
- Hold a focus group with students
- Plan to attend a PTA meeting for parental input and suggestions
- Contact federal and state authorities concerning fair share of commodities
- Mr. Gerichter will present an update at the February 26, 2008 board meeting

OLD BUSINESS

APPROVE POLICY #3541.33 TRANSPORT-ATION SAFETY POLICY

Moved by Mr. Velten, and seconded by Mr. Morrone, that the board of education approve the second reading and approval of policy #3541.33 – Transportation Safety. Ayes (7) Noes (0) Abstain (1) Mr. Doran Motion carries.

Board Self-Evaluation Report – summary of responses needed – definition of board by-laws – suggestions sought from the Planning Committee.

Privately Owned Vehicle Policy #3541.31 – waiting for response from insurance agent.

Field Trips Policy - #6153 – waiting for response from insurance agent.

Negotiations Candidates – Negotiations Committee met with three (3) candidates and will submit a recommendation to the board.

Board members received a copy of a scatter gram listing all NJEA members' salaries.

No members present attended the School Finance Conference – December 8, 2007.

No additional information on the 2007-2008 revenue and expenditures.

2008-2009 Budget Information – state aid numbers may be released on Thursday. Board should establish budget goals for the 2008-2009 school year.

COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds

Update on the meeting and inspection of the boilers with Bradley personnel.

Boiler #1 has an undetermined problem, and hot water is not being released. The contractors' personnel are attempting to locate and review the installation plans.

Boiler #2 is the building's primary heating source.

Carroll Will

Update on the December 4,2007 committee meeting held in Room #105.

No PTA representatives or staff members were in attendance.

Distribution of future funds will be reviewed and possibly changed.

Consideration is being given to expand performing arts programs, and reduce supply items to be more consistent with the parameters of the will.

The PTA Art-A-Facts program and funds from Carroll Will are used to pay for some class trips.

The PTA program has specific guidelines, which differ from the Carroll Will enrichment guidelines concerning trips.

Another committee meeting will be held in the spring.

Community Relations

Meeting will be scheduled to review principles and objectives with all members.

Library

The Administration at the Camden County Library System hired a security guard to work at The Reading Center at Merchantville School during the county library hours. The county will be installing camera soon.

APPROVE

PAYMENTS

Moved by Mr. Doran, and seconded by Mr. Kabel, It is recommended that the board of education approve the following payments:

P 21	11-15 Payroll	147,268.82
P 22	11-30 Payroll	140,164.57
P 20	Payroll adjustment	27.00
P 23	Tuition – Katzenbach	3,550.00

Pgs._____ Unanimously approved.

APPROVE TRANSFERS

Moved by Mr. Doran, and seconded by Mr. Kabel, that the board of education approve the following transfers:

11 190 100 500 Purchase of services- copier leases	600.00	11 401 100 500 Co-curricular purchase of services -referees	200.00
		11 000 230 340 Computerized staff attendance software	150.00
		11 000 251 340 Computerized financial software	250.00
11 000 291 270 Health benefits	1125.00	11 000 291 260 Workmen's Compensation - audit bill	1125.00

Unanimously approved.

APPROVE SAFETY BUS CONTRACT

Moved by Mr. Honigfeld, and seconded by Mr. Doran, that the board of education approve to renew the transportation contract *(renewal #5)* with Safety Bus Service, Inc., Pennsauken, New Jersey, for the 2007-2008 school year. This contract covers the transporting of Merchantville students to/from Pennsauken High School. The contract totals $37,245.46, and the details follow:

Route #1	$103.46 per diem	$18,622.73
Route #2	$103.46 per diem	$18,622.73

FYI – Last year's contracted amount was $35,816.40.
Unanimously approved.

APPROVE TO ACCEPT IDEAIA 2008 FUNDS

Moved by Mr. Kabel, and seconded by Mr. Doran, that the board of education approve to accept the IDEIA-2008 funds, approved by the Office of Grant Management on November 21, 2007, totaling $153,224.00. Outlined as follows:

	Public	Non-Public	Total
Basic	$107,733.	$38,903.	$146,636.
Pre-School	5,647.	941.	6,588.
Total			$153,224.

Unanimously approved.

APPROVE TO HIRE CASEY AS AN AIDE

CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved by Mr. Velten, and seconded by Mr. Morrone, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the Child Study Team and the Chief School Administrator to hire a part-time, non-instructional aide for approximately 15 per week, at the rate of $12.44 per hour. Ms. Lisa Casey has expressed an interest in this

position, and also has some familiarity with this situation. This arrangement shall be implemented for the remainder of school year 2007-2008.
Roll call vote:
Ayes (8) Noes (0) Abstain (0) Motion carries.
Pgs._____

ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Mr. Velten, and seconded by Mr. Honigfeld, that the board of education approve the Board of Education adjourn, by Resolution, into Closed Session, from which the general public is excluded, to discuss litigation, 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. 8:58 p.m.
Unanimously approved.

Members Present: Mr. Doran, Mr. Honigfeld, Mr. Kabel, Mrs. Perno, Mr. Morrone, Mr. Bohn, Mr. Velten and Mr. Loue

Members Absent: Mrs. Hartson-Stine

Also Present: Mr. Christian Swanson, Chief School Administrator
Mr. Henry Bermann, RSBA
Mrs. Jean Grubb, SCSSSD Business Official
Mrs. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

Topics Discussed:
Porzio, Bromberg and Newman's Report
Study results
Timetable
Contacts
Funding

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Moved by Mr. Velten, and seconded by Mr. Loue, that the board of education approve to return to open session. 9:15 p.m.
Unanimously approved.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Morrone, and seconded by Mr. Velten, that the board of education approve to adjourn this meeting. 9:16 p.m.
Unanimously approved.

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Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

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