MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – FEBRUARY 24, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Merchantville Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 7:30 p.m., in The Reading Center at Merchantville School.

The board president, Mr. Steve Morrone, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., at which time the following statement was read:

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 The Community Library.

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

Members Absent:

Also Present: Mr. Christian Swanson, Chief School Administrator
Mr. Henry Bermann, RSBA
Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

The board president led the group in the pledge to the flag.

Mr. Morrone and Mr. Swanson presented two students – Alexander Sosa and Rachel Turan - with board recognition awards.

Mrs. Carfagno, Park Avenue, advised that the PTA Fashion Show is scheduled for March 29, 2009, and that the Book Fair is this week. She also requested criteria for membership in the Good Character Club.

Mr. Wetherspoon, Cedar Avenue, requested information on the accepted way for parents to address concerns.

Mrs. Conway, PTA President, expressed concerns regarding – security and staff participation at PTA sponsored functions, communication issues, school procedures and the district's handbook.

Stefan Turan and Peter Routzahn, graduates of Merchantville Elementary School, have been named Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars for the 2009-2010 academic Year. This program provides an annual scholarship of $1,000.

APPROVE BOARD'S GOALS AND OBJECT-IVES

Moved by Mr. Doran, and seconded by Mrs. Hartson-Stine, for the board of education to approve the Board's Goals and Objectives, as previously distributed.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

First reading of - Personal Illness and Injury - Policy #4151.1

District's Handbook – draft reviewed, revisions in process, target completion date of March 2009.

Date for the Public Hearing on the Budget will be set at the next board meeting.

Security – administration reviewed procedures with staff members and the business office personnel are requesting quotes for the installation of additional security measures.

Budget Update - The Finance Committee met prior to this meeting.
Discussion included:

- As of now, the general fund can increase by 4%, or approximately $162,000
- The increases to the fixed budget costs – salaries – health benefits – special education tuition outs – transportation costs total $120,000
- This leaves $40,000 to be spend in all other expenditure
- Pre K Program mandated by the state and presently delayed, would be cost neutral
- Figures represent an 8.8-cent school tax increase for the taxpayers
- Verizon Aid is reflected on the resident's tax bills and not on the district's budget
- The amount of State and Federal Aid to the district is pending
- Governor's Address is scheduled for March 10, 2009
- Public Hearing must be scheduled between March 30, 2009 and April 4, 2009
- Administration is anticipating using $148,000 from the current year's budget to support next year's budget

COMMITTEES

Building and Grounds – the district's Fire Panel is obsolete – one proposal for a replacement totaled $16,000. Other proposals are pending.

Carroll Will – some project were submitted.

Community Relations – the committee met, prior to this meeting.
Discussion included: Updates to the web site and the district's handbooks – the transition from SASI Student Management System to possibly Power School Program – the inclusion of the BOE's news in the borough's newsletter – the periodic distribution of a newsletter created by the students by grade level.

Curriculum and Technology –the committee met prior to the board meeting.
Discussion included – possibility of purchasing new user-friendly computer equipment, A grade-by-grade publication for distribution in the brown envelope and posting on the web site – continued dialogue on the Power School Student Management System and the SASI System.

Finance – Meeting scheduled for March 10, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Policy –Meeting scheduled for March 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Library - The county installed new computer equipment in the Library.

Ad-Hoc – Teaching - Meeting to be scheduled.

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

APPROVE MINUTES 1/27/09 AND 2/10/09

January 27, 2009

Ayes (9) Noes (0) Abstain (0) Motion carries.

February 10, 2009

Ayes (8) Noes (0) Abstain (1) Mr. Velten Motion carries.

The Food Service Program Financial Report, a budget summary, a revenue summary report and a transfer status report for January 2009 were distributed to all members.

Moved by Mr. Bohn, and seconded by Mrs. Hartson-Stine, that the board of education approve the following payments:

APPROVE PAYEMNTS

P 35	February bill run (reviewed by finance committee member)	273,200.93
P 36	Comcast – manual check (replacement)	1,520.00
P 37	Payroll – 2/13/09	150,564.24

Pgs._____

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Moved by Mr. Bohn, and seconded by Mrs. Hartson-Stine, that the board of education approve the following travel requests.

APPROVE TRAVEL REQUESTS

Franolich, Ellen	3/6/09	Cherry Hill, NJ	What's New in Children's Literature	Seminar	$210.00
Wurster, Debra	3/19/09	Cherry Hill, NJ	Jump Start Your Kindergartners' Literacy Learning	Seminar	$210.00

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Moved by Mr. Doran, and seconded by Mr. Bohn, that the board of education approve the following Field Trips:

APPROVE FIELD TRIPS

Please Touch Museum - 35 Students
Pre-Kindergarten Grade Field Trip - 2 Teacher
March 4, 2009 - 5 Chaperon

Teen Arts Festival	- 35 Students
(Art Field Trip)	- 2 Teacher
March 18, 2009	- 5 Chaperons

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Brunton, Cove Road, is the liaison between the board and the borough.

Mrs. Carfagno, Park Avenue, questioned the components of the Power School Management System.

Mrs. Conway, Greenleigh Court, expressed the need for school personnel to advise parents of all programs available to their children.

Mr. Wetherspoon, Cedar Avenue, teachers' presence at PTA sponsored functions.

ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Mr. Doran, and seconded by Mr. Loue, that the Board of Education adjourns, by Resolution, into Closed Session, from which the general public is excluded, to discuss, personnel, contractual issues, 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. 9:03 p.m.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

Members Absent:

Also Present: Mr. Christian Swanson, Chief School Administrator
Mr. Henry Bermann, RSBA
Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

Topics Discussed:

CSA's Contract can be submitted to the county for review.

In the MEA/Board Agreement - The January retirement date tied to payment for unused sick days was discussed.

New attorney's contract:
Termination clause
Revised contract needed

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Moved by Mr. Loue, and seconded by Mr. Doran, that the board of education approve to return to open session. 9:19 p.m.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Doran, and seconded by Mr. Honigfeld, that the board of education to approve to adjourn this meeting. 9:20 p.m.

Approved by unanimous voice vote. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

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