MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – APRIL 2, 2009
PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

The Public Hearing on the 2009-2010 Budget for the Merchantville School District was held on Thursday, March 10, 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. Hartson-Stine, Mrs. Perno, Mr. Velten, and Mr. Morrone

Members Absent: Mr. Doran

Also Present: Mr. Christian Swanson, Chief School Administrator
Mr. Leonard Wood, District's Attorney
Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2009-2010 BUDGET

APPROVE TO OPEN PUBLI C HEARING

Moved by Mr. Velten, and seconded by Mr. Honigfeld, that the board of education approve to open the public hearing on the 2009-2010 budget. 7:35 p.m.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Swanson, CSA, addressed the board and community members present. Discussion included:

Students' test scores
- Staff and administrations concerns
- Student mobility factors
- New test formats were used this year
- The proficiency standards (%) increased this year
- Impact of ESL students' scores on the overall test scores

Administrative changes made for next school year
- New series of textbooks
- Several teachers' are attending a Language Arts Literacy Program at Rowan University
- Schedule changes in the junior high grades

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Shared Services

To contain salary and benefit costs, the district will continue to participate in the business administration, custodial, food services Shared/contracted services.

Mr. Morrone, board president, addressed the board and community members present. Discussion included:

The proposed tax increase of 2.1cents
Staff salaries and years of teaching experience
Student enrollment factors
Controllable and uncontrollable costs
District's per pupil expenditure
Need to have the new Student Management System fully utilized

Mr. Velten, chair of the board's finance committee, presented a Power Point Presentation prepared by Mr. Velten and Mrs. Hartson-Stine, and distributed copies to all in attendance.

Budget Presentation Highlights:

- All current programs maintained
- What the district's children deserve
- Enrollment is currently at 369 students
- Per Pupil Expenditure $12,288
- Student/Faculty Ratio 11.2:1
- Student/Administrator Ratio 355:1
- Median Faculty Salary $68,017
- Years of Experience 24 years
- Breakdown of expenses including:
  Tuition-outs and transportation,
  Salaries and benefits,
  Purchase of services
  All other expenditures
- Recap of revenue sources
- Tax Rate 2.1 cent
- Impact of tax rate $21.00 a year on a home assessed @$100,000
- Vote on April 21, 2009

Ms. Gail Ford, Centre Street, inquired about - Merchantville students enrolled at Pennsauken High School, back- tuition charges, test scores, PILOT Funds, etc.

APPROVE TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING

Moved by Mr. Velten, and seconded by Mrs. Hartson-Stine, that the board of education approve to close the public hearing on the 2009-2010 school budget. 8:20 p.m.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

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BUDGET RESOLUTION

Moved by Mr. Velten, and seconded by Mr. Bohn, that the board of education approve by roll call vote, the following adjustments to the 2009-2010 preliminary budget:

Final adjustments required for budget submission:

Decrease Account #	Increase Account #	Amount
Revenue Account # 10-4200	Revenue Account #	
Medicare Aid (SEMI)	Extraordinary Aid	6971.00

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

APPROVE

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Furthermore, Moved by Mr. Velten, and seconded by Mrs. Hartson-Stine, that the board of education approve the following budget submission resolution for the 2009-2010 school year, by roll call vote:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a 2009-2010 school district budget for submission to the voters as follows:

	BUDGET	LOCAL TAX LEVY
General Fund	**6,088,241**	**4,085,669**
Special Revenue Fund	**587,042**	
Debt Service Fund	**308,357**	**287,836**
TOTAL BASE BUDGET	**6,983,640**	**4,373,505**

BE IT RESOLVED that there be raised for General Funds **$4,085,669**, for the 2009-2010 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

APPROVE TO SUBMIT BUDGET

No audience participation.

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ENTER CLOSED

Moved by Mrs. Hartson-Stine, and seconded by Mr. Honigfeld, that the Board of Education adjourn, by Resolution, into Closed Session, from which the general public is excluded, to discuss contracted services, personnel, 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. 8:23 p.m.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

Members Absent: Mr. Doran

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

Discussion:

Contracted Services
Job Appointment
Legal Issues

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Moved by Mr. Loue, and seconded by Mr. Kabel, that the board of education approve to return to open session. 8:40 p.m.

ACCEPT TERMIN-ATION OF SHARED SERVICE AGRMT.

Moved by Mr. Loue, and seconded by Mr. Perno, to accept the notice forwarded by the Pittsgrove Township Board of Education to terminate their Shared Services Agreement with the Merchantville Board of Education, effective May 15, 2009.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
Pg. _____

APPROVE TO APPOINT THOMPSON AS THE BA

Moved by Mr. Morrone, and seconded by Mr. Loue, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the chief school administrator, to appoint Mr. William Thompson, to serve as the district's business administrator, as a yearly amount not to exceed $26,500. Additional terms and conditions of this appointment to be established and presented for approval.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

ADJOURN

Moved by Mr. Loue, and seconded by Mrs. Hartson-Stine, that the board of education approve to adjourn this meeting. 8:50 p.m.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

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Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

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