The Regular Meeting of the Merchantville School District Board of Education was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., in the Reading Center at Merchantville School.

The board president 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. Kabel, Mrs. Hartson–Stine, Mr. Morrone, Mr. Bohn, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Doran, Mr. Barnett, Mrs. Perno and Mr. Loue

Members Absent:

Also Present: Mr. Christian Swanson, Chief School Administrator
Mr. William Thompson, Business Administrator
Mr. John Wade, District's Attorney
Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

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

BUDGET AND ELECTION INFORMATION

DISCUSSION ON THE 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR BUDGET

Mrs. Hartson Stine, BOE President, shared the following information:

At first, this district was advised to expect approximately $187,000 less in state aid

Revised reductions was $187,000 plus $304,000 = $491,000 reduction in state aid funding

The current preliminary budget reflect a 3.26 cent tax increase

The average home in Merchantville assessed at $120,000, will see their school taxes increase by approximately $39.12 per year

The preliminary budget reflects the following:

Personnel reduced by 8.23 people, representing an 18% reduction In the number of employees.

Reductions in the following areas:
Custodial/Maintenance
Supplies and textbooks

Equipment Purchases
Purchase of Outside Professional Services
Co-curricular and Clubs
Aides
Secretaries
Support Staff
Pre-School Program
Kindergarten Program
No new hire for 5th grade retirement
Specials Programs – Gym and Health, Music and Computers
Basic Skills Program

Several community members spoke. Dialogue included – rate of tax increase – carry-over surplus, mandated surplus, changes to the current Pre-K and K Programs – schedules for all special education teachers – retirements – changes to the budget, state mandates, etc.

Motion to approve the 2010-2011school-district budget –Moved by Mr. Bohn, and seconded by Mr. Kabel, that the board of education approve the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED to approve adopting the tentative 2010-2011 school district budget as presented:

General Fund	$5,853,942.00
Special Revenue Fund	271,881.00
Debt Service Fund	308,757.00
TOTAL BUDGET	**$6,434,580.00**

APPROVE TO SUBMIT BUDGET

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to raise a General Fund Tax Levy of $4,249,217.00 and a Debt Service Fund Tax Levy of $240,238.00

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes (4) Mr. Barnett, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Bohn and Mrs. Hartson-Stine
Noes (5) Mr. Morrone, Mr. Doran, Mrs. Perno, Mr. Kabel and Mr. Loue
Abstain (0)
Change in vote cast:
Mr. Kabel changed his vote to a yes.
Vote now recorded as:
Ayes (5) Mr. Barnett, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Bohn, Mr. Kabel and Mrs. Hartson-Stine
Noes (4) Mr. Morrone, Mr. Doran, Mrs. Perno, and Mr. Loue
Abstain (0) Motion carries.

APPROVE TO UTILIZE EXCESS SURPLUS TO OFFSET STATE AID PAYMENTS

Motion to approve utilizing surplus – Moved by Mr. Bohn, and seconded by Mr. Kabel, that the board of education approve utilizing $410,542.00 of the 2008-2009 excess surplus to offset the loss of the 2009-2010 state aid payments.
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes (8) Mr. Barnett, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Morrone, Ms. Perno, Mr. Bohn, Mr. Doran, Mr. Kabel, and Ms. Hartson-Stine
Noes (1) Mr. Loue Abstain (0) Motion carries.

Unfinished Business

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

MINUTES

Approve minutes – Moved by Mr. Loue, and seconded by Mr. Doran, that the board of education approve the minutes from the following meetings:

APPROVE 2/23/10 AND 3/9/10 MINUTES

February 23, 2010

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

March 9, 2010

Ayes (7) Noes (0) Abstain (2) Mr. Barnett & Mr. Doran Motion carries.

APPROVE PAYMENTS

Payments - Moved by Mr. Loue, and seconded by Mr. Doran, that the board of education approve the following payments*:*

APPROVE TRANSFERS

P 48	March 15th Payroll	$168,524.29
P 49	March Bill Run	$267,943.50

Unanimously approved.
Pgs._____

Transfers – Moved by Mr. Loue, and seconded by Mr. Doran*,* that the board of education approve the following transfer of accounts for February 2010.

11 000 216 320 Purchases of Related Services	500.00	11 240 100 320 Contracted bilingual services	500.00
11 000 270 518 Transportation – Contracted Service – special education students	1100.00	11 000 270 511 Transportation – Contracted Services – other vendors - home to school	300.00
		11 000 270 512 Transportation - Contracted Services – other vendors – other than between home and school	800.00

Unanimously approved.

No open public comment.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mrs. Hartson-Stine, and seconded by Mr. Morrone, that the board of education to approve to adjourn this meeting. 9:35 p.m.
Unanimously approved.

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Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary