MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES – DECEMBER 14, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Merchantville School District was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., in the Reading Center of the Merchantville School.

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: Mrs. Perno, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Kabel, Mr. Iannucci, Mrs. Hartson-Stine, Mr. Bohn, Mr. Barnett and Mr. Doran

Members Absent: Mr. Morrone

Also Present: Mr. Christian Swanson, Chief School Administrator
Mr. William Thompson, BA/Board Secretary
Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

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

Ms. Ford, Centre Street, asked about student test scores, school choice information, Cherry Hill and Haddon Heights shared services, the cost of a feasibility study, and the send/receive attorney. – Test scores will be presented at the 1/11/10 meeting, the possibility of shared services with other districts continues to be explored, fees for feasibility studies usually start at $20,000 +, Mr. Gagliardi from the Porzio, Bromberg, Law Offices located in North Jersey, represents this district in dealing with send/receive issues.

Mr. Evalt, community member, asked about the present tuition in charge and tuition that would be received from school choice students. – This year's tuition rate is $3,500., and tuition received for school choice students averages $7,900.

Mr. Swanson advised that personnel from the Department of Education will do a site visit as part of the School Choice Application.

Mr. Thompson reviewed the Efficiency Recommendations forwarded by the county office.

- → The district is in compliance with the rule of one custodian for every 17,500 square feet of building space,
- → Administration should attempt to find ways to decrease the transfers to the cafeteria account to cover the deficits,
- → Next school year's budget must include a position roster with mandated data,
- → District administrators must seek "RFQ" – Requests for Quotations for all contracted professional services,

→ In all negotiation processes, the board members must emphasize the 2% mandated budget cap,

→ Administration should implement "green building" codes, wherever possible.

The donated windows for the auditorium were received, and when the architect, Mr. Lammey, inspected them, he found specifications issues, and the window units must be returned. Replacements are scheduled for a spring delivery.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Send/Receive Issues – January meeting scheduled with Mr. Gagliardi, the district's send/receive attorney, to discuss Haddon Heights shared services, and establish the issues and data that should be included in a feasibility study.

Merchantville School Moving Forward – Will meet in January to discuss reorganization and funding issues.

Educational Issues – Parties reached a tentative resolution.

COMMITTEES

Buildings and Grounds

Outstanding Issues: A damaged tree located in the front of the school will be removed, cold weather is delaying the roof replacement/repair, vendors were contacted for repairs and/or replacement of the internal phone system, the PTA's Administration inquired about the possible installation of playground equipment in the old playground area, and one of St. Peter's teams requested additional use of the field.

APPROVE 11/23/10 MINUTES

Approve November 23, 2010 Minutes –Moved by Mr. Bohn, and seconded by Mr. Kabel, that the board of education approve the minutes for the November 23, 2010 board meeting.

Ayes (5) Noes (0) Abstain (3) Mrs. Perno, Mr. Barnett, and Mr. Doran Motion carries.

BUSINESS OFFICE

APPROVE PAYMENTS

Payments – –Moved by Mr. Bohn, and seconded by Mr. Kabel, that the board of education approves the following payment:

P 20	Unemployment Compensation Bill 9/2010	$16,348.00
P 21	Tuitions, etc. deducted from state aid	$18,322.20
P 22	11-30-2010 Payroll	$143,535.15

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Transfers – –Moved by Mr. Bohn, and seconded by Mr. Kabel, that the board of education approve the chief school administrator's recommendation to transfer funds from and to the following accounts effective 11/30/2010.

FROM ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	TO ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
11 000 223 500 Purchase of Services for instructional staff	$2,600.00	11 000 230 331 Attorney fees	$2,600.00
11 000 240 300 School Adminstration – purchase of services	$2,400.00	11 000 230 331 Attorney Fees	$2,400.00
11 000 240 300 School Administration – purchase of services	$763.00	11 000 230 332 Auditor's Fees	$763.00
11 190 100 320 Instruction – purchase of services	$500.00	11 150 100 320 Purchases of instructional services	$500.00

APPROVE TRANSFERS

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Moved by Mr. Kabel, and seconded by Mr. Doran, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the chief school administrator to increase Mrs. Jeanne Leise's FTE from 75% to 80% beginning in January 2011, with an estimated salary adjustment of $1,948.00.

INCREASE LEISE TO 80% OF FTE

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Evaul, community member, in respond to his question about Mr. Gagliardi's visit, was advised that on January 25th, Mr. Gagliardi is scheduled to attend the board meeting to discuss a possible shared service agreement with Haddon Heights Board of Education.

Moved by Mrs. Perno, and second by Mr. Doran, that the Board of Education adjourn, by Resolution, into Closed Session, from which the general public is excluded, to discuss, 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. 8:07 p.m.

ENTER CLOSED

Members Present: Mrs. Perno, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Kabel, Mr. Iannucci, Mrs. Hartson-Stine, Mr. Bohn, Mr. Barnett and Mr. Doran

Members Absent: Mr. Morrone

Also Present: Mr. Christian Swanson, Chief School Administrator
Mr. William Thompson, BA/Board Secretary
Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

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Topics Discussed:

Unemployment Claims filed by current and previous employees

The state mandated health benefit co-pays

The possible elimination of the Direct 10 Health Plan

Expenditures that could possibly be placed outside of the 2% cap for next year's budget

Salary guide

Percentage of salary increases for recently settled contracts

CSA Review

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Moved by Mr. Doran, and second by Mrs. Perno, that the board of education approve to return to open session. 8:43 p.m.

ADJOURN

Moved by Mrs. Perno, and second by Mr. Kabel, that the board of education approve to adjourn this meeting. 8:44 p.m.

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Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

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