MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2014

The Merchantville Board of Education's Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., in The Reading Center located in Merchantville School. Notice of the meeting was published in *The Retrospect.*

Members Present:	Mr. Morgan, Mr. Morrone, Mr. Honigfeld, Mr. Vitiello, Mrs. Perno, Mr. Kabel and Mrs. Stocker
Members Absent:	Ms. Engelke and Ms. Fuentes
Also Present:	Mr. J. Scott Strong, CSA/Principal Mr. William H. Thompson, Business Administrator Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

The board president led the group in the pledge to the flag of the United States of America.

Mrs. Malone, Morris Street, expressed her concerns about the district's special education program.

Mr. Strong addressed the issue of the Student Council Trip – students and advisors presented good points – bus costs and the availability of a nurse must be considered – all groups are going on the same trip, on the same day.

Mr. Ron Ianoale, from Mc Manimon, Scotland and Baumann, Newark, Jersey, reviewed the parameters of available funding for building projects:

Some of the dialogue included:

Lease Hold Interest – to fund the balance of the ROD Grant Projects – about $600,000.
Public Hearing required – DOE must approve – maximum term is five (5) years – payments come out of the general fund and must sit within the 2% budget cap – interest rate is about 3% - building is the collateral – DOE has the ability to mandate that be made - payments would begin in the 15-16 school year budget frame.
Advantage – no community vote needed – less expensive to pursue.
Disadvantage – only some of the projects would be addressed – not all that is needed – restricts spending for the next five years.

Type 2 – Bond Referendum - considered debt service – sits outside of 2% cap on budget – state provides aide for debt service on a bond only – bond would be a two part question – one to just fund the ROD Grant items, and one for all other projects deemed necessary – the board should dialogue with borough council - all paperwork must be in place 3 months before the vote – vote can be in Jan, March, Sept, Dec. or at the November election. Least expensive would be to put on the November ballot, so we would not have to incur the costs of additional printing, renting of voting machines, payment to workers, etc. – prospectus is needed if bond is issued for over 1 million dollars – payments would begin in the 15-16 school year budget frames.
Advantage – all the required building maintenance issues would be addressed
Disadvantage – impact on community's school taxes – costs for referendum

The "soft costs" for these projects would be incorporated into the bond or lease payments

Note: District's payments for the current bond debt end in January 2017, funding for new bond could be a neutral, or a slight tax impact.

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Mr. Dailey, Physical Education Teacher, introduced the top fund raiser for the American Heart Association and presented them with certificates of appreciation. The students are - Ella Stout, Gage Patton, Nico Malone, Amber Wallis, and Abigail Morgan.

Mr. Strong distributed budget paperwork to all members listing the CSA's budget requests under the various board committees, with an estimated total of $248,800. Building and Grounds will finalize when the board members decide on how the building repairs will be funded.

Moved by Perno, and seconded by Kabel, that the board of education approve the following trip:

April 8, 2014 – Sixth Grade Class – Franklin Institute "Pompeii" Exhibit
40 students – 2 teachers – 6 parents

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Moved by Stocker, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the following field trips. All funds for this trip are paid through the Marie J. Carroll Foundation unless otherwise noted, and there are no costs incurred by the parents or the school district:

Place	Grade / Students	# Students	# Teachers	# Outside Chaperones	Month	Other Info
Tinicum County Park, Bucks County, PA	Naturalist Club	40	2	2	May/June	Paid by Club Fundraising

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Moved by Stocker, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the second reading and adoption of the policies listed below in the 5000 and 6000 series. The following policies have updates based on the NJSBA recommendations:

APPROVE CLASS TRIPS

APPROVE AND ADOPT 5000 SERIES AND 6000 SERIES POLICIES

APPROVE WORKSHOP SWANSON

5113:	Absences and Excuses
5127:	Commencement Activities
5131.1:	Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
5136.1:	Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
5141:	Health
5141.4:	Child Abuse and Neglect
5145.4:	Equal Educational Opportunity
6114:	Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
6142.4:	Physical Education and Health
6142.9:	Arts
6142.10:	Technology
6145.1 / 6145.2:	Intramural Competition / Interscholastic Competition

*This includes a review of all other 5000 and 6000 policies.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Moved by Stocker, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the second reading and adoption of the following new policy based on NJSBA suggestions:

5141.8: Sports Related Concussion / Head Injury

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Moved by Kabel, and seconded by Perno, *that* the board of education approve the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator for attendance at the following Professional Development Workshop:

Attendee	Event	Place of Event	Date	Cost
Annette Swanson	NJSHA (New Jersey Speech – Language – Hearing Association	Long Branch, NJ	May 1 & 2	$275

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE REVISED 2013 - 2014 CALENDAR

Moved by Perno, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve the revised 2013-2014 calendar, as presented on page #_____.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Moved by Perno, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve the proposed 2014-2015 school calendar, as presented on page #_____.

TABLE 2014 - 2015 CALENDAR

Moved by Perno, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve to table this motion to the next Board meeting.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE PAYMENTS

Moved by Morgan, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the payments listed on page #_____.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE TRANSFERS

Moved by Morgan, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the transfers listed on page #_____.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Monahan, Student Council Advisor, wanted clarification as to whether the “Trip Request” for this student group, was or was not coming to the board for approval.
Mrs. Cook, Student Council Advisor, shared that the students, who participate in this program, have been working on service work and funding since September, and they were told 2 days after they submitted the “trip request” that administration had made a decision in September or October to combine all “Reward Service Trips” to one day and one destination. This was not shared with the club advisors.

No closed session held.

ADJOURN

Moved by Perno, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve to adjourn this meeting.
Approved by unanimous voice vote. 8:22 p.m.

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Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary