MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 10, 2015

The Merchantville Board of Education's Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., in The Reading Center located in Merchantville School. Notice of the meeting was published in *The Retrospect.*

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 of this meeting to be published by having the date, time, and place thereof posted in The Retrospect, Borough Hall, Merchantville School and the Reading Center at Merchantville School.

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

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

Mrs. Ami Meachum, Leslie Avenue, reported that her daughter, Taylor Meachum, who participated in the Reflection Program, was recognized at the state level.

Ms. Heather Chapman, reporter and community member, told the board that parents can choose for their children to not be part of the PARCC testing process.

Open seat on the board of education- The lead board member for each of the board committees will meet the candidates tomorrow night, and make a recommendation to the board members at the next meeting.

Send-Receive Lawsuit Update – The Office of Administrative law judge ruled that the Merchantville Board of Education can terminate their send/receive relationship with the Pennsauken Board of Education, and approved the send/receive relationship with the Haddon Heights Board of Education. This decision was forwarded to the Commissioner of Education, who makes the final ruling. The Pennsauken BOE can appeal this decision.

Buildings and Ground Update - ROD Project Bids

The meeting for the bids submitted for the auditorium roof and the re-pointing of the building is rescheduled to March 12th.

Public Relations Committee Update

Mr. Strong and Mr. Vitiello met. Mr. Strong placed the Merchantville School District Face book on the website. Mr. Strong enters the postings and comments/responses are reviewed by him before they are posted.

Education Committee Update

Committee met on 2/24th
Discussion included: Performance Report – QSAC Visit – PARCC Testing Process
Budget Suggestions: Purchase of Chrome Books for student and staff use, Increases in personnel – Learn to Swim Program – Possible inclusion of a track program - Proposals for the additional 25 minutes of educational time added to the schedule for next year.

The Merchantville Borough Council presented the Girls' Championship Basketball Team with a proclamation. Congratulations to all who participated.

2015-2016 Budget

Mr. Thompson, the district's business administrator shared the following:

By statue, at the next board meeting, the board of education must approve a temporary budget to be forwarded to the Camden County Dept. of Education for review

The board has the ability to request expenditure changes to this temporary budget at future board meetings - 4/14 and 4/28

Data provided by the borough's tax assessor indicated that the town's ratable decreased by $1,919,316.00

The average home in Merchantville is assessed at $175,000

The expenditures listed in the temporary budget would result in a 10.68 cent increase in school taxes For the average home owner; the dollar amount of the increase is $198.24

The 2014-2015 school budget, reflected an increase of 5.6 cents

To support this budget, administration used $143,704 of banked capped, fund balance and excess fund balance funds.

If the banked cap listed is not used this year, administration will lose the ability to use this allowable increase in expenditures in future budgets

This budget includes a health benefit adjustment of $50,239, which is an allowance increase that permits administration to exceed the 2% capped budget mandate

APPROVED TO HIRE SUMTER AS SUB. TEACHER

Moved by Engelke, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve Ms. Rhonda Sumter, as a long term substitute teacher, starting on March 11, 2015 through the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Ms. Sumter will be placed on an MA Step 1 on the current salary guide, with no medical benefits, and pro-rated sick and personal days.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE FINN'S MATERNITY LEAVE

Moved by Engelke, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve the maternity leave request for Mrs. Chrisanthi Finn, a basic skills teacher, beginning on May 11, 2015 and continuing until June 30, 2015. (Anticipated to return in September 2015.)
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE 2015 - 2016 CALENDAR

Moved by Kabel, and seconded by Foster, that the board of education approve the 2015-2016 Merchantville School Calendar.
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Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE THOMPSON AS BUSINESS ADM.

Moved by Kabel, and seconded by Foster, that the board of education approve the 2015-2016 contract for Mr. William Thompson to serve as the School Business Administrator. This is a one year contract, with a salary of $27,984. (This contract has been approved by the Camden County Department of Education.)
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Approved by unanimous voice vote.

(At this time, this motion was not moved.)

APPROVE MEA AND BOE AGREEMENT

That the board of education approve for the submission of Mr. Jonathan Scott Strong's contract to the Camden County Executive Superintendent for review and approval. Mr. Strong will serve as the district chief school administrator and principal. The terms of this contract cover the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

Moved by Stocker, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the Agreement between The Merchantville Education Association and The Merchantville Board of Education for the period covering July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017. This agreement was approved by the members of the Merchantville's Board of Education's Negotiating Committee and the officers of the Merchantville Education Association. (Copies were forwarded to all board members.)
Roll Call Vote.
Ayes (7) Noes (0) Abstain (0) Motion carries.

MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 10, 2015

Approve Minutes – Moved by Honigfeld, and seconded by Kabel, that the board of education approve the following minutes:

February 24, 2015 – Regular and Closed Session

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Morgan, Leslie Avenue, stated that he has concerns that students are not reading the questions on the PARCC tests, and were just clinking on any answer.

Ms. Chapman, reporter and community member, was advised that the six (6) candidates, who applied for the open seat on the board of education, will be interviewed by a board committee. Ms. Chapman commented on the PARCC test and the challenging essay portion of this test.

Mr. Fore, community member and reporter, the $50,000+ health benefit allowance allows the district to exceed cap to meet health care costs. He was advised that the district participates in shared services or contracted services for: custodial services and custodial supplies, dental coverage, the operation of the cafeteria, insurance coverage, transportation, special services, and purchasing.

Ms. Rubini, Leslie Avenue, the Algebra portion of the PARCC test is difficult. Parents have the right to refuse to allow their children to take these tests without any financial impact to the district. Ms. Rubini feels that administration did not explain this clearly to the parents of the district's students.

Discussion followed on the release of the detailed information on the prospective BOE candidates' information that was listed on one of the Merchantville website.

ENTER CLOSED SESSION

Recess into Closed Session – Moved by Perno, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education adjourn, by Resolution, into Closed Session, from which the general public is excluded, to discuss the CSA's contract. This session is expected to last for approximately forty (40) minutes. The results of this session will be made public immediately after, or as soon thereafter, as a decision is reached, if permitted by law. 8:40 p.m.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Members Present: Mr. Vitiello, Mr. Honigfeld, Mr. Kabel, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Stocker, Mrs. Perno and Ms. Engelke

Members Absent: Mr. Vitiello

Also Present: Mr. J. Scott Strong, CSA/Principal

Topic:
CSA/Principal's Contract
Details and terms and conditions discussed.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Return to Open Session – Moved by Perno, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve to return to open session. 9:15 p.m.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE TO SUBMIT STRONG'S CONTRACT TO COUNTY FOR APPROVAL

Moved by Perno, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve for the submission of Mr. Jonathan Scott Strong's contract to the Camden County Executive Superintendent for review and approval. Mr. Strong will serve as the district chief school administrator and principal. The terms of this contract cover the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

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Approved by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURN

Adjourn – Moved by Engelke, and seconded by Foster, that the board of education approve to adjourn this meeting. 9:17 p.m.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

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