MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 17, 2015

The Merchantville Board of Education's Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, March 17, 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 (7:45 p.m.), Ms. Engelke, and Mr. Vitiello
Members Absent:	
Also Present:	Mr. J. Scott Strong, CSA/Principal Mr. William Thompson, Business Administrator Ms. Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary

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

No open public comment.

Open seat on the board of education.

Committee interviewed five (5) candidates
All were thanked for their interest and for applying for the open seat
The committee offered the open seat to Mr. Richard James, Westminster Avenue

APPOINT MR. JAMES TO OPEN SEAT ON THE BOARD

Motion to appoint new board member – Moved by Engelke, and seconded by Kabel, for the board of Education to appoint Mr. Richard James to the open seat on the board. Mr. James replaces Ms. Fuentes, who resigned in January.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Swearing in of new board member – Mr. William Thompson, Business Administrator, administered the Oath of Office to Mr. James.

All welcomed Mr. James to the board.

No communications.

Recognition of the coaches and the team members of the Girls' Basketball Division Champions:

Coaches - Ryan Fields and Richard Krouse

Players - Nicole Clark, Hunter Measley, Kailyn Shepherd, Ryan Shepherd, Anastaysia Brock, Lindsay Anderson, Maddie Bordi, Malia Kelii, Jaelyn McKay, Alex McMillan, Ayanna Tucker, Danielle Rooney

Congratulations to all who participated.

2015-2016 School Year - Additional 25 minutes of teaching time

Discussion included: computer skills, music lessons, art program, world culture language arts
Suggestion programs – there are other options pending:

K to 5th grades	Language Arts
6th grade	Possibly LA or elective
7th and 8th grades	Will follow a different schedule that does not include recess

Approve to adopt and submit tentative 2015-2016 budget – Moved by Engelke, and seconded by Foster, that the board of education approve the following budget resolution:

MOTION TO APPROVE 2015 - 2016 TENTATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET

BE IT RESOLVED to approve adopting the tentative 2015-2016 school district budget as presented.

General Fund	$ 7,257,855.00
Special Revenue Fund	439,932.00
Debt Service Fund	268,750.00
Total Budget	$ 7,966,537.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to raise a General Fund Tax Levy of $4,569,664.00, and a Debt Service Fund Tax Levy of $ 253,547.00.

BE IT RESOLVED to approve utilizing Banked Cap in the amount of $143,704.00.

Note: Banked Cap will be used to provide additional spending power due to large decrease in available Budgeted Fund Balance. The below listed needs must be completed by the end of the budget year, and cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

1) District Budget

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a Health Care Cost adjustment in the amount of $ 50,239.00.
Roll Call Vote:
Ayes (9) Noes (0) Abstain (0) Motion carries.

2015-2016 Budget Discussion

Development of this budget:
Administration met with the personnel and educational board committees and presented his recommendations for the budget
Buildings and Grounds budget was developed using the mandate maintenance requirements, the reoccurring maintenance and custodial expenditures and additional building and classroom needs
The personnel and educational committee approved administration's recommendations, and summaries were forwarded to all board members
Excel spreadsheets, listing the costs of the administrative recommendation submitted through the personnel, were distributed
An excel spreadsheet listing the building, grounds and custodial expenses was shared

Items included and discussed were: increases to various teaching staff and their benefits, addition of a Literacy Coach, hiring a full time psychologist, hiring of an in-house custodial staff to replace the current contracted service and building and repair items that were not included in the bond or the ROD Grant.
The $143,000+ of banked cap that is built into this budget, becomes part of allowable expenditures for future years
The budget represents a 10.68 cent increase in school taxes for the residents of Merchantville

The board members asked administration to revise the expenditures and submit a budget that reflects:

Reductions to the temporary budget submitted by:
2 cents reduction and 4.8 cents

Moved by Vitiello, and seconded by Engelke, that the board of education approve homebound instruction for a student (Local ID #21) to comply with a prescribed medical order... Mrs. Vanessa Van Sciver and Ms.

Michelle Gotti will be providing these instructions. Payments will be $40 per hour, up to 10 hours of instruction per week, for a 2 week term.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE HOME BOUND INSTRUCTION

Moved by James, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator for attendance at the following Professional Development Workshops:

APPROVE WORKSHOPS

Attendee	Event	Place of Event	Date	Cost
Kimberly Klaus	NJALC Spring Conference	Princeton, NJ	April 24, 2015	$160
Sherry Iannucci	Making the Best Use of Free Google Tools to Enhance Content Learning	Voorhees, NJ	May 19, 2015	$235

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE PAYMENTS

Approve Payment of Bills –Moved by Foster, and seconded by Kabel, that the board of education approve for payment the bills listed on: P 052 and P 054.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
Pg._____

APPROVE TRANSFERS

Account Transfers –Moved by Foster, and seconded by Kabel, that the board of education approve the transfer of funds as listed on: A 085.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
Pg._____

APPROVE PAYMENTS

Approve March Bill List – Moved by Kabel, and seconded b Honigfeld, that the board of education approve the attached bill list #P 053 for March 2015 payments.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
Pg._____

REJECT ROOF BIDS

Reject the bids for Project #14313.05 – Auditorium Roof Replacement – Moved by Kabel, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve to reject the four (4) bids submitted for work encompassed in Project #14313.05 – Auditorium Roof Replacement. All bids exceeded the estimated and budgeted amount, and the architect recommended that the board reject all bids. And, for the board to approve for the architect to make certain changes to the scope to reduce costs, and to prepare another bid packet for advertising. (The bids ranged from $134,000. to $221,600.)
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
Pg._____

AUTHORIZE NEW BID PACKET

APPROVE MASONRY REPOINTING BID - HEAR CONSTRUCT.

Accept one of the bids for Project #14313.05 – Miscellaneous Alterations – Masonry Re-Pointing – Moved by Kabel, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve to accept the lowest bid submitted for the scope of work encompassed in Project #14313.05 – Miscellaneous Alterations – Masonry Re-pointing, as recommended by the district's architect. And, for the board to resolve to award the base bid and the alternate #1 bid to Hear Construction, New York. The award shall be conditioned upon execution of the NJSDA ROD Grant Agreement for the associated project. (There were six (6) bids ranging from $671,190. to $1,783,790.)
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
Pg._____

Mr. Morgan, Leslie Avenue, suggested obtaining documentation that use of the Chrome Books will actually save the district money.

Ms. Fields, Woodlawn Avenue, thanked all the members for their service – expressed that she would like to see a budget that represents less than a 10 cent plus increase in taxes – in small districts, employees wear many hats – over the last few years, the educational programs and support needs of the children attending this school district have changed, and psychological counseling is needed.

Mr. Fore, community member and reporter, asked that when the extra educational time is finalized, that there be full disclosure on the details. Mr. Fore was told that the district will accept 44 Choice Students – HIB costs are included in the regular budget – the increases to child study team staffing are to accommodate the distribution of administrative jobs. Mr. Fore requested that there be in increase in programs offered to the average and the gifted students.

No closed session held.

ADJOURN *Adjourn* – Moved by Mr. James, and seconded by Mr. Honigfeld, that the board of education approve to adjourn this meeting. 9:15 p.m.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

_____ Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary