MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2015-2016 BUDGET AND THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 28, 2015

The Merchantville Board of Education's Public Hearing on the 2015-2016 School Budget and the Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, at 7:000 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, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Stocker, Mrs. Perno, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Morrone, and Mr. James
Members Absent:	Mr. Kabel
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.

Mrs. Fields, resident and district teacher, previously requested that a grandchild be permitted to attend Merchantville School as a Pre-K tuition in student; as the "Choice Program" does not cover Pre-K students. Mr. Strong advised that he would make inquiries to see if the district can accept tuition-in students in grades not covered by the choice program, and would get back to Mrs. Fields and the board members.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2015-2016 BUDGET

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

Motion to approve to open the public hearing on the budget – Moved by Engelke, and seconded by Stocker, that the Merchantville Board of Education approve to open the public hearing on the 2015-2016 school year budget. 7:06 p.m.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET

Mr. Strong used a PowerPoint slide presentation to present the budget. The slides included data on:

- Curriculum and Instruction
  - Revisions, purchases, assessments
  - Funding for students to attend Haddon Heights High School – estimated that 22 8th grade students will attend at approximately $14,000+ per student
- Technology Upgrades
  - Upgrades to the Comcast service for increased internet speed
  - Purchase of Google Chrome books for grades 6th through 8th
- Support Staff
  - Increase to hours worked for: some of the part time teachers, the Spanish teacher, the child study team's summer hours worked, summer hours for some teachers, the FTE (full time equivalent) of teachers in the basic skills programs, and the aides' work schedules
  - Hire: a full time psychologist, a detention proctor, and a coach for the track team program

Purchase: uniforms and start up equipment for a track team

Facility
Assist with site prep fees for new playground area
In house custodial staff

ROD Grant, Bond and Debt Service Project
All projects reviewed

Budget Information

Total budget	$7,966,537	
General Fund		$7,257,855
Debt Service		268,750
Special Revenue Fund		439,932

Tax Levy
Increase in school tax levy of approximately $198.33 for the average home assessed at $185,700 - 10.68 cents one every $100 of the assessed value of a home

Borough's rates decreased by over $1 million dollars
(The redevelopment project, at the west end of town, took that property off the tax rolls.)

Appropriations
All expenditures were presented by categories. Salaries and benefits are 55.7% of the budget

Choice Program
The district enrolled 44 students under this program
The aide for these students comes from the state directly to the district
The revenue received totals over $530,000 per school year

CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET

Motion to close the public hearing on the budget – Moved by Stocker, and seconded by Engelke, that the Merchantville Board of Education approve to close the public hearing on the 2015-2016 school year budget. 7:36 p.m.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

ADOPT THE 2015 - 2016 BUDGET

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

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.**

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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.

BE IT RESOLVED to approve a **Health Care Cost adjustment in the amount of $ 50,239.00**.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes (8)	Mr. Vitiello, Mr. Honigfeld, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Stocker, Mrs. Perno, Ms. Engelke, Mr. Morrone, and Mr. James	
Noes (0)	Abstain (0)	Motion carries.

GCA Custodial Staff Agreement

Discussion to terminate the GCA Custodial Contracted Services Agreement with the Pittsgrove Board of Education, and to hire district employees

New Jersey State Health Benefit Plan Board Resolution Regarding Eligibility for Health Benefits

Discussion - The district's current resolution with the state grants medical benefits to all employees who work 25 hours or more. Does the board want to consider filing a new resolution with the state, listing different hours for eligibility?

May 5th Board of Education Meeting

Discussion – change the meeting to May 12th, the second Tuesday of the month
Board agreed – this will be advertised

Haddon Heights Transition Update

Communication with their administration continues. Haddon Height's guidance counselors met with the current 8th grade students. A parent session is scheduled – Haddon Heights coaching team will present an overview of the co-curricular sports programs offered.

ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL DAY TIMEFRAME

Moved by Honigfeld, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the chief school administrator to approve the 2015-2016 school day timeframes:

- School Day - 8:22 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Homeroom will start at 8:22 a.m.
- Students will be allowed in the building at 8:15 a.m.
- The day will consists of nine (9) periods
- Lunch/Recess periods will be 46 minutes long
- All other periods will be 40 minutes long

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE TO EXTEND FINN'S LEAVE

Moved by Honigfeld, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the chief school administrator to extend the previously approved maternity leave for Mrs. Chrisanthi Finn, one of the district's basic skills teachers, through September 30, 2015.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPOINT TSYPENYUK AS DEVELOP READING PROGRAM

Moved by Honigfeld, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the chief school administrator to contract with Ms. Yuliya Tsypenyuk, one of the district's junior high teachers, to develop a Summer Reading Program for 2015, the stipend will be set at $500.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE SUMMER MUSIC PROGRAM AND TAYLOR AS THE TEACHER

Moved by Honigfeld, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the chief school administrator for the district to offer the students the Summer Music Program for 2015, and to appoint Mrs. Sandra Taylor, the district's music teacher, as the instructor. The stipend is set at $2,000, and the timeframes are:

- June 22, 2015 through July 16, 2015
- Monday – Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE STRONG'S CONTRACT

Moved by James, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve Mr. Jonathan Scott Strong's contract to serve as the district's Chief School Administrator and Principal. Some of the terms of this contract are:

- July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018
- The 2015-2016 salary is $132,525
- The 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 salary is $135,000

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE FIELD TRIPS

Moved by Foster, and seconded by Perno, that the board of education approve the recommendation of the chief school administrator for the following field trips. All funds for these trips 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
Woodbine Swim Club – Pennsauken, NJ	4th Grade	43	2 + 1 aide	0	June	Learn To Swim: Transportation paid by PTA
Garden State Discovery Museum – Cherry Hill, NJ	Pre-Kindergarten	24	2 + 1 aide	6	June	Class Trip
Eastern State Penitentiary – Philadelphia, PA	8th Grade	44	2	6	May	Art-A-Facts

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVE PAYMENTS

Approve Payment of Bills – Moved by Vitiello, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve for payment the bills listed on: P 058 and P 061.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.
Pgs._____

APPROVE TRANSFERS

Account Transfers - Moved by Vitiello, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve the transfer of funds as listed on: A 094, A099 and A100.
Approved by unanimous voice vote

APPROVE DENTAL AGREEM.

Approve to Renew Trust Agreement – Moved by Vitiello, and seconded by Honigfeld, that the board of education approve to renew the Public Employer Trust Agreement with Brown and Brown Benefit Advisors, Moorestown, NJ, for the 2015-2016 school year. This agreement covers the district's employees' dental program.
Approved by unanimous voice vote
Pg._____

APPROVE RE-BID FOR AUDITORIUM ROOF PROJECT - AWARDED TO ALPER ENTERP.

Approve to Accept Auditorium Re-Bid – Moved by Vitiello, and seconded by Honigfeld t is recommended that the board of education approve to accept the lowest re-bid submitted for the scope of work encompassed in Project #14313.05 – Auditorium Roof Replacement. And, for the board to resolve to award the base bid and alternate bid #1 to Alper Enterprises, New Jersey. The award shall be conditioned upon execution of the NJSDA ROD Grant Agreement for the associated project. There were three (3) bids ranging from $125,000 to $177,500.
Approved by unanimous voice vote. Pg._____

Ms. Chapman, reporter and community member, was advised that for the 15-16 school year, the timeframe for the lunch periods increased, but the timeframe for the other periods decreased.

No closed session held.

ADJOURN

Adjourn – Moved by Perno, and seconded by Engelke, that the board of education approve to adjourn this meeting. 8:02 p.m.
Approved by unanimous voice vote.

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Loretta Mansolino, Recording Secretary