MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

September 28 2021

I, Elliot Honigfeld, President, call this meeting to order under the Open Public Meeting Act at 7:02 p.m. Sunshine List: The Merchantville Board of Education meeting is called to order. The board of education is in compliance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, entitled the "Open Public Meetings Act," Board of Education located at 130 S. Centre Street, Merchantville, New Jersey, and advertised in The Retrospect, Borough Hall, Merchantville School and the Reading Center at Merchantville School.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Members Present	Members Absent	Also Present
Mrs. Aaron	Mr. Licata	Mr. J. Scott Strong, CSA
Mrs. Gaskins		Mr. Greg Gontowski, Business Administrator
Mrs. Kroot		
Mrs. Carcanague		
Mrs. Meisner		
Mrs. Perno		
Mr. Honigfeld		
Mr. Iannucci		

New Business

NEW BUSINESS

Motioned by Perno seconded by Aaron that the Merchantville Board of Education approve dedicate playground to Alijah Floyd-Brown

- Remembrance of Alijah Floyd-Brown

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes: Aaron, Gaskins, Kroot, Carcanague, Meisner, Perno, Honigfeld. And Iannucci

Motion carried 8-0-0

- Introduction of New Teachers
- Transportation Discussion

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT I

- Melissa Patterson – 2521 Finlaw Ave, Pennsauken, NJ
  - Allow students to switch buses if possible
- Dave Morgan – 114 Leslie Ave, Merchantville, NJ
  - Alternate Bus routes that are late
  - Give GOS coordinates so parent know how late the bus is
- Rosemaire Martinez – 37 Volan St, Merchantville, Nj
  - 30 minutes late consistently
  - Parents are currently carpooling
  - Students need to contact teachers and not all are nice about missing class

- Loredana Rubini – 114 Leslie Ave, Merchantville, NJ
  - Kids are missing 15 minutes of school
  - Find a solution
  - She would like $1000 for not being provided transportation
- Rebecca Callaway – 55 W Walnut Ave, Merchantville, NJ
  - This is an ongoing problem every school year since 2015
  - Kids have state testing and will miss it
- Stacey Kerr – 3 Oak Terrace, Merchantville, NJ
  - 3:45 bus time is different than previous years
  - Missing the bus is an equity issue
  - Requesting a weekly update of transportation issues
- Carrie Rupnow-Kidd – 20 East Cedar, Merchantville, NJ
  - Wants more communication
  - Wants to find out who is OK being inconvenienced by the late bus
  - All classes are important
- Ami Meachum – 122 Leslie Ave, Merchantville, NJ
  - Wants communication from the school and bus company 5 days before the school year starts
  - Wants representatives from the school at bus stops at the beginning of the year
  - There was no communication about the late bus
  - Wants to know who is not taking the bus so the school can consolidate
- Amanda Tennant – 131 Prospect Street, Merchantville, NJ
  - Kids are giving the drivers directions
  - Kids are vaping in the back of the bus

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Carcanague and seconded by Gaskins for the board of education to approve the following board minutes:

Approval Regular Minutes

- Regular Meeting Minutes August 24, 2021

Vote: To approve minutes
Board Voted All in Favor ** Perno-Abstained

Unfinished Business

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- School Boards Convention will be held virtually on October 26-28, 2021 (2 BOE members interested)

Motion by Perno and seconded by Aaron to attend at a cost of $450.00 for individual rate or $900 for group rate.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes: Aaron, Gaskins, Kroot, Carcanague, Meisner, Perno, Honigfeld. And Iannucci

Motion carried 8-0-0

Communication

COMMUNICATIONS & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Policy and Community Relations (Aaron)
- Personnel (Perno)
- Education (Licata)
- Finance (Carcanague)
- Facility (Iannucci)
- Haddon Heights Update (Perno)

CSA Report

CSA REPORT

- No Emergency Drills for August 2021
- Opening Report for Sept 2021
    - 396 students (32 choice students) - Sept 2020 = 409 students (32 choice students)

CSA RECOMMENDATIONS

First, Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 5141.10 Face Covering

Motioned by Aaron seconded by Meisner that the Merchantville Board of Education approve Items 1 through 3.

1. That the Board of Education approve first reading second reading and adoption of the following policy: 5141.10 – Face Covering

Nurse Pay

2. That the Board of Education approve the Substitute Nurse pay at $175 per day.

Emergency School Closure Plan 21-22

3. That the Board of Education approve the Emergency School Closure Plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes: Aaron, Gaskins, Kroot, Carcanague, Meisner, Perno, Honigfeld. And Iannucci

Motion carried 8-0-0

Motioned by Gaskins, seconded by Aaron that the Merchantville Board of Education approve Items 4 through 8,

Sherry Iannucci – Workshop 12/1/21

4. That the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the Chief School Administrator for attendance at the following Professional Development Workshops:

Attendee	Event	Place of Event	Date	Cost
Sherry Iannucci	Ed Tech Coaches: Timesaving, Practical Strategies for Increasing Your Effectiveness	Mt. Laurel, NJ	Dec 1, 2021	$279

Maternity Leave – Staff Member #19171 11/28/21-3/25/22

5. That the Board of Education approve the maternity leave for Staff Member #19171 anticipated dates of November 28, 2021 – March 25, 2022.

With Regret Accept the Resignation of Rose DiMatteo 1/1/22

6. That the Board of Education approve with regret the letter of retirement for Rose DiMatteo effective January 1, 2022.

Jerry Bennett, Regina Lovelidge and Kate Brennan - Basketball Volunteers

7. That the Board of Education approve the following volunteers for the basketball season: Jerry Bennett, Regina Lovelidge and Kate Brennan.

Jessica Hudee – Substitute Teacher 21-22

8. That the Board of Education approve Jessica Hudee to the Substitute teacher list for the 2021-2022 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes: Aaron, Gaskins, Kroot, Carcanague, Meisner, Perno, Honigfeld. And **Iannucci

Motion carried 7-0-1 **Iannucci – Abstained

Motioned by Kroot seconded by Meisner that the Merchantville Board of Education approve Items A through F.

Financial and Transfers Reports

A. Monthly Reports

The attached bill lists:

- August and September 2021 payroll **(Attachment A1)**
- August and September 2021 warrants **(Attachment A2)**

Voided Checks

B. Void Checks

To void the following warrant account checks:

#5338	09/21/21	$12,734.64	Touch Math
#5444	08/27/21	$1,380.00	Master Library

BCSSSD – Tuition Student #8383710512

C. Tuition Contract

Tuition contract with Burlington County Special Services School District for student #8383710512 in the amount of $54,796.00 for tuition for the 2021-2022 school year.

BCSSSD – Tuition Student #4998755685

D. Tuition Contract

Tuition contract with Burlington County Special Services School District for student #4998755685 in the amount of $54,796.00 for tuition for the 2021-2022 school year.

Hampton Academy – Tuition Student #3763939977

E. Tuition Contract

Tuition contract with Hampton Academy for student #3763939977 in the amount of $64,033.80 for tuition for the 2021-2022 school year.

CCESC-IDEA-Nonpublic 21-22

F. CCESC – IDEA - Nonpublic

To approve Camden County Educational Services Commission to provide IDEA services to St. Pete's in the amount of $30,564.00 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Roll Call Vote: Voting Yes: Aaron, Gaskins, Kroot, Carcanague, Meisner, Perno, Honigfeld. And Iannucci

Motion carried 8-0-0

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT II – None

Mr. Iannucci left – 8:12

Executive Session

Motion to recess into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m. by Perno second by Meisner

Motion carried 8-0 -0

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Merchantville Board of Education has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Board of Education will reconvene at the conclusion of closed session, at approximately **9:00** p.m. this evening.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Merchantville Board of Education will go into closed session for the following reason(s) as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting (Subject to the balancing of the public's interest and the employee's privacy rights under *South Jersey Publishing*, 124 N.J. 478, the employee(s) and nature of discussion is CSA contract ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that its discussion of the aforementioned subject(s) may be made public at a time when the Board Attorney advises the Board of Education that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the School District or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education, for the aforementioned reasons, hereby declares that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place and hereby directs the Board Secretary to take the appropriate action to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

Action will not be taken

Exit Executive Session and return to regular session

Motion to exit Executive Session at 9:08 P.M. and return to regular session by Kroot second by Meisner.

Motion carried: 7-0-0

Adjourn Meeting

Adjourn Moved by Gaskins seconded by Perno that the board of education approve to adjourn this meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Motion carried 7-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

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Greg Gontowski

MERCHANTVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

September 28, 2021

Moved by Mrs. Perno and seconded by Mrs. Meisner adjourn, into Executive Session, from which the general public is excluded, any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party.

Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting (Subject to the balancing of the public's interest and the employee's privacy rights under *South Jersey Publishing*, 124 N.J. 478, the employee(s) and nature of discussion is CSA contract ;

The results of this session will not be made public immediately after or as soon thereafter as a decision is reached, if permitted, by law.

Unanimously Approved 8:13 PM

Members Present: Mrs. Aaron, Mrs. Gaskins, Mr. Honigfeld, Mrs. Kroot, Mrs. Perno, Mr. Carcanague, and Mrs. Meisner

Members Absent – Mr. Iannucci, Mr. Licata

Also Present:

Topic: Discussion took place regarding CSA contract.

Return to Open Session – Moved by Mrs. Kroot and seconded by Mrs. Meisner that the board of education approve to return to open session at 9:08 p.m.

Motion carried: 7-0-0

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Gontowski

Board Secretary