

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS  
IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY

MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2014 – SPECIAL MEETING

The Board Meeting of March 10, 2014 was called to order by President Albert Pitman at 12:10 pm. The meeting took place at the Mercer County Vocational-Technical Schools, 1085 Old Trenton Road, Trenton, New Jersey. The President read the following statement:

“In accordance with the State’s Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided. This meeting was advertised in the Trenton Times newspaper on March 6, 2014. This notice was also posted in the Board Office and a copy has been filed with the County Clerk of Mercer.”

Roll Call:	Mrs. Iszard - Absent	Ms. Stinger - Yes	Dr. Morana - Absent
	Mr. Zoller - Yes	Mr. Murphy - Yes	Mr. Pitman - Yes

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Kimberly Schneider, Superintendent, noted that they are still working on the school calendar. The County Office is collecting resolutions due to the snow days and MCTS is receiving information in order to coordinate with Hamilton School District. MCTS will have a new calendar for the March 18, 2014 meeting.

Ms. Stinger asked, are we still having some makeup days in April.

Ms. Hice DePugh stated that MCTS cannot have less than 180 days.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT  
NEW PROGRAMS/SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dr. Schneider recommended Board approve the following:

1. Recommend Board approve the application for grant funds in order to implement the Instructional Improvement System (Special Revenue)

Mr. Zoller introduced a motion for the Board to approve the aforementioned. Ms. Stinger seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:	Mrs. Iszard - Absent	Ms. Stinger - Yes	Dr. Morana - Absent
	Mr. Zoller - Yes	Mr. Murphy - Yes	Mr. Pitman - Yes

PERSONNEL & ADDENDUM

Dr. Schneider recommended Board approve the following personnel in the job categories, salary/wage rates, time periods specified:

1. Resignation of Jessica Pilotti, Secretary III at the Sypek Center, effective the end of the business day March 31, 2014
2. Tara K. Otto as a full-time, 12-month, contracted employee in the capacity of Computer Data and Technical Support Specialist at an annual salary of \$44,500 prorated, pending completion of the criminal history background check, effective March 24, 2014 through June 30, 2014  
[11-000-211-104-07-01-2110 (20%); 11-000-252-105-07-00-2520 (60%); and 11-000-262-104-07-01-2620 (20%)]



backup that takes so much time to prepare. She noted there were no changes to the enrollment projection and that the expenditures are the expenditures for the General Fund. The Evening and Health Careers Programs are budgeted separately, but are included in the total. Ms. Swirsky referred to the DOE Revenue page to note the reports were in balance. The overall increase is \$96,509 over the current year.

Under the Funding Sources Ms. Swirsky explained that although MCTS shows an increase of \$8,520 in State Aid, it was reported by the State as other State income. The question is will the State start from that amount for the next school year or will they go back to 2013-2014 and consider that State Aid as the base.

Ms. Swirsky also noted the difference for the current year that includes the audit adjustment for recording open purchase orders.

Mr. Murphy asked why the amounts on lines 29500 and 29680 were the same.

Ms. Swirsky explained that one line was the amount and the next line was the total. She explained that the software collapses the lines. Other school districts could have more accounts in that area but we only have one. The program will only print the lines that have entries.

Ms. Swirsky noted that the cuts from 2008-2009 for State Aid and Tax Levy will take a long time to make up, but we are thankful for the County's support of the Capital Projects.

Ms. Swirsky showed that all the Districts in the County received about a 1% increase except Hopewell, which received 9%. Ms. Swirsky stated that in a newspaper article it was reported that Hopewell was now a Choice District because they had declining enrollment. She also noted that Hopewell receives very little State Aid.

Mrs. Swirsky recommended the Board approve the following:

- IIA. Revised 2014-2015 Budget Planning Schedule (attached)
- II B. Resolve to approve the 2014-2015 Tentative School District Budget for approval by the Executive County Superintendent (attached)

Mr. Zoller introduced a motion for the Board to approve the aforementioned. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:	Mrs. Iszard - Absent	Ms. Stinger - Yes	Dr. Morana - Absent
	Mr. Zoller - Yes	Mr. Murphy - Yes	Mr. Pitman - Yes

#### PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Murphy asked when will negotiations start?

Ms. Swirsky has been providing information to the unit but they only recently had a representative assigned.

Mr. Murphy asked who are the representatives?

Dr. Schneider said Judi Iszard and we have a good working relationship in negotiations and we end with win/win situations.

Mr. Murphy asked why was there mediation last time.

Dr. Schneider noted that was during the recession years.

Ms. Swirsky said it was last item that we could not agree on and felt we could settle quicker with a mediator.

Mr. Murphy said he would like to serve on the committee.

Mr. Pitman noted that he may have a conflict as a retired NJEA representative.

Mr. Murphy said he already checked with School Boards and he's good.

Mr. Bliss noted that a retired NJEA representative is not necessarily disqualified, depending on his continuing contract with the organization. He said he will review and advise the Board.

Mr. Murphy wants to see the citations in writing. He said he already had it checked.

Mr. Bliss said he needs to know the facts.

Dr. Schneider said there's a protocol.

Mr. Murphy said it was per his training.

Mr. Bliss said he needs to see the facts in writing.

Dr. Schneider said Mr. Bliss needs the facts to give an opinion.

Mr. Murphy said his background included 16 years in Burlington County including the Vocational School and 20 years as part time for NJEA and he trained bargaining teams.

Mr. Bliss said he cannot make a ruling without the details. Dr. Schneider noted that we have done this before.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Zoller introduced a motion the meeting be adjourned at 12:40 pm. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion and it was carried by roll call vote.

Roll Call:	Mrs. Iszard - Absent	Ms. Stinger - Yes	Dr. Morana - Absent
	Mr. Zoller - Yes	Mr. Murphy - Yes	Mr. Pitman - Yes

The next meeting of the Board shall be Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 5:00 pm at the Assunpink Center.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy R. Swirsky  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary