

Sea Isle City Board of Education Agenda
 4501 Park Road
 Sea Isle City, New Jersey 08243
 May 22, 2007
 6:00 PM

I. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Crudele _____	Ms. Ramsey _____
Mr. Libro _____	Mr. Schmidt _____
Mr. McCullum _____	Mr. Smith _____
Mr. McHale _____	Mr. Szczurek _____
Mr. Zellers _____	

III. CALL TO ORDER

In accordance with the State's Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY, CAPE MAY COUNTY HERALD, Sea Isle City Hall and at the entrance of 4501 Park Road, Sea Isle City, New Jersey. All provisions of Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 have been met.

IV. REPORT OF ELECTION RESULTS

Official Results

Number of Votes Cast 343

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Votes</u>
<u>Three Year Term</u>	
Mr. Schmidt	217
Mr. Smith	225
Mr. Libro	143
Michael Monichetti	13
Raffa	1
Debra Lariks	1
Brian Emery	2
Madge DiGenni	3
Michele Morrissey	2
Kelly Blum	1
Kevin Gillespie	1
Jeannie Monichetti	1
None	2
Anyone else	1

Mickey Mouse	1
Budget – yes	102
Budget – no	216

V. ORGANIZATION BUSINESS

_____ as Affirmative Action Officer;

The NIA Group as Board Insurance Agent;
 Garrison Architects as Architect of Record; Fee schedule attached
 Schwartz & Co. as School Auditor; Fee schedule attached
 Cooper Levenson as Board Solicitor, Fee schedule attached
 _____ as delegate to NJSBA
 _____ as alternate to NJSBA
 _____ as delegate to CMCSBA
 _____ as alternate to CMCSBA

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the Board of Education Meeting Minutes for the:
 Meeting of April 24, 2007 and the Executive session of April 24, 2007.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The Board President will recognize those individuals who wish to comment. Please respect the following procedure:

1. Be recognized by the Board President
2. State your full name and address.
3. Identify the resolution on which you wish to comment.

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

NEW

**OLD- Feasibility Study. Discussion and possible action
 Ethics Forms**

VII. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Motion to approve the recommendations of the Chief School Administrator:
 Approval of Nancy Oliva as a summer Special Ed. Aide (12 Month Contract)
 Per negotiated rate.
 Approval of Theresa Arsenault as summer Special Ed. Teacher (extended school
 year for WP)--- approx. total of 20 hours all summer
 Approval to dispose of books which have no monetary or educational value.
 Approval of the Fixed Facility Oral Medication Distribution Plan
 Confirmation of the Superintendent's approval of a 7th grade field trip to the
 Franklin Institute, tour of Philadelphia and Ride for Ducks, May 22, 2007.
 Approval of a Student Council & Safety Patrol field trip to the Imax theater May
 29, 2007

VIII. BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Request a motion for the following recommendation:

- a. To approve the acceptance the Board Secretary Report and Report of the Treasurer as of April, 2007.
- b. To approve the acceptance of the Board Secretary's monthly certification that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, I, Earl J. Vassallo, Board Secretary, certify that as of April, 2007 no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a). (Appendix III)
- c. To approve the Board of Education's monthly certification that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)4, we certify that as of April 30, 2007, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial reports and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials that no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district Board of Education's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- d. To approve the bill list addendum for April 2007.
- e. Approval of the bill list for May , 2007.
- f. To approve the following revised April budget transfers:
 - g. From 11-000-100-565 Tuition \$10,000.00
 - i. To 11-000-217-320 Purchased service \$10,000.00
 - ii. Reason Devereaux Consultants
 - h. To approve the following budget transfers
 - From: 11-000-270600-0000-00-0 Misc. \$ 400.00
 - To: 11-000-251-100-0000-00-0 Salary. \$400.00
 - Reason: Calling Subs
 - From 11-000-270-511 Contracted trans. \$ 6000.00
 - To 11-000-270-513 Contracted trans. \$6000.00
 - Reason: Cape May County Shared services
 - From 11-000-260-270 Health Benefits \$\$2229.00
 - To 11-000-260-241 PERS \$2229.00
 - Reason PERS
 - i. To accept a donation of picnic tables, stands and umbrellas from the PTA & MAC
 - j. To approve a joint purchasing agreement with Pittsgrove BOE
 - k. To approve the purchase of Smart Boards and options, as attached.
 - l. To approve Vision Insurance renewal from VSP, attached
 - m. To approve the 9-12 tuition agreement with Ocean City BOE attached
 - n. To approve a tuition agreement with CMCSSD for Autism as attached
 - o. To approve a renewal with Asbury Park for financial accounting software services, attached

- p. To approve a proposal from Rullo & Gleeson for Right to Know Law service attached.
- q. To approve participation in the CMC Shared Services transportation agreement for 2007-2008.
- r. Information items: Brinkerhoff air test report- air quality OK
Correspondence from Dr. Monillas, attached
Annual School Boards Meeting, attached
- s. Approval of revised 2007-2008 Budget

IX. DATES TO REMEMBER

X. RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – If Needed

A motion to adjourn, by Resolution, into Executive Session which the general public is excluded, to discuss personnel, financial matters, litigation, negotiations, and contracts. The results of this session will be made public immediately after or as soon thereafter as a decision is reached.

XI. RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC PORTION OF THE MEETING – If Needed

XII. SOLICITORS REPORT

XIII. Nurses Report

XIV. Attendance Report

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Sea Isle City Board of Education

4501 Park Road

Sea Isle City, New Jersey 08243

May 22, 2007

6:00 PM

ADDENDUM

I. CHIEF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Motion to approve the recommendations of the Chief School Administrator

To approve request for the following field trips:

1. Grades 4-8 to AC Surf baseball game, sponsored by the PTA, June 5, 2007
2. National Junior Honor Society to Wildwood and Cape May to deliver donated goods to Cape Human Resources and lunch.

II. SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Motion to approve the recommendations of the School Business Administrator

1. Resolution (attached)
2. Transfers (attached)

Appropriation Transfer
May 2007

From	To
20-231-100-610	20-231-100-731
Supplies	Inst. Equipment
\$13022.00	\$13022.00

* Reason: Purchase of Smart Boards- Title I Funding

From	To
20-231-100-610	20-231-200-731
Supplies	Non. Inst. Equipment
\$4000.00	\$4000.00

* Reason: Purchase of back up server and power supply

From	To
20-231-100-610	20-231-200-300
Supplies	Purchase Service
\$4505.00	\$4505.00

* Reason: Purchased technical services related to installation & training for Smart Boards

CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY

COUNTY OF CAPE MAY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION NO. 473 (2007)

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CITY OF SEA ISLE CITY
DEFEATED SCHOOL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the voters of the City of Sea Isle City in a duly held election, did fail to approve the General Fund Tax Levy Budget of the Sea Isle City Board of Education for the 2007-2008; and

WHEREAS, the Education, Budgets and Appropriations Law, N.J.S.A. 18a:22-37 requires the Governing Body of the City of Sea Isle City, after consultation with the City of Sea Isle City Board of Education, to determine the amount which is necessary to be appropriated for the school budget and to certify to the County Board of Taxation the total amount so determined;

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Sea Isle City has consulted with the City of Sea Isle City Board of Education, and has thereafter determined the amount necessary to be appropriated.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Sea Isle City, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey; that the following determination is hereby made:

1. The original tax levy on the ballot for the basic budget: \$3,226,100
2. The amount of reduction to the tax levy for the base budget: \$ 30,000
From Account 11-213-100-101 (Special Education Salaries)
3. The amount of tax levy being certified for the base budget: \$3,196,100
4. The revised budget is sufficient to provide a thorough and efficient education for the children of the City of Sea Isle City.
5. The Board of Commissioners hereby certifies to the Cape May County Board of Taxation the amounts necessary to be raised by taxation for school purposes for the City of Sea Isle City:

Myth Busters

MYTH: If district does a total send-all to Ocean City, property taxes will go up 4% or more annually.

Incorrect, Ocean City's entire school budget by State law can only increase by a 4% tax increase cap. The max allowable increase is 4 percent of the property tax rate that is devoted to school taxes. In the majority of the past ten budgeted years, Ocean City taxpayers have seen a zero increase or have seen a decrease in the school related property tax.

MYTH: Ocean City can charge Sea Isle any per pupil cost they want.

The truth is Ocean City can only charge the same per pupil rate that is charged to Ocean City taxpayers for O.C. students. They take the total cost to educate all the students (grouped K-4, 5-8 and high school) and divide it by the total number of students. That is how the per pupil cost is determined. This is the way it has historically been done since the establishment of the send-receive.

MYTH: Sea Isles preK-8 per pupil cost appears higher than it actually is because the high school tuition cost is included in the calculation.

The per pupil tuition cost for Sea Isle students attending O.C.H.S. is significantly less than the per pupil cost of educating preK-8 students in Sea Isle. Including the high school costs in the average would falsely lower the preK-8 per pupil cost in Sea Isle. Also, the currently published per pupil cost K-8 in Ocean City would be lowered because of the addition of Sea Isle students. When the state audit is done three years down the line, Sea Isle would likely see a tuition credit for that difference.

Sea Isle traditionally sees a credit as a result of the audit of the high school tuition. In the 2007-2008 school year, the high school per pupil cost for Sea Isle reflects a \$56,730 tuition credit from Ocean City, as a result of the audit of the 2004-2005 school year.

MYTH: The average property tax savings per household will be \$180.

This figure is based on homes being assessed in 2004 with the average home valued at \$500,000. Taxpayers can anticipate an 8% tax increase this year with the upcoming evaluations. This will be the second tax increase in five years. Therefore this dollar figure is unfounded.

The true savings in sending all students to Ocean City, as presented in the EIRC Feasibility Study, would be a savings of 30% per household. IE: School taxes of \$1,000 equates to \$300 in savings.

MYTH: The school closing would have a negative economic impact on local businesses.

A school is an institute of learning. Its only responsibility is to educate children. The community and its businesses are to support the education of the children, not the other way around. A child's job is to go to school and learn, not to promote local shops. Public schools are non-profit organizations and are not members of local chambers of commerce.

The primary responsibilities of the school board include the education, welfare and safety of students. These decisions are to be made with consideration given to the impact on local taxpayers.

No where in the school mission statement or the oath that a board member takes does it mention an overriding concern or duty to the economic welfare and livelihood of local businesses. Any board member who would base their decision about education of local students influenced by pressure applied by the business community would be failing to uphold the oath they took when joining the school board.

MYTH: Ocean City is too far for children to travel.

The average bus ride for a SICPS student is between 20 and 45 minutes. The one bus picks students up in TI at 7:45 a.m. and drops them off at the school at 8:30a.m. The trip across the bridge would be no longer. Also, savings realized in per pupil cost in sending the students to Ocean City would make funds available for multiple buses, therefore shortening a student's time on the bus.

Historically, in neighboring districts, students that are the same ages as ours travel and have similar or longer bus rides and not have been negatively impacted by them. Examples include Corbin City, Upper Twp., and Dennis Twp.

MYTH: By sending to Ocean City, there is a loss of control of curriculum.

Local control of curriculum is minimal at best. The State of New Jersey dictates the Core Curriculum. The state Core Curriculum Standards leave very little room for local decisions in the area of curriculum. In Sea Isle, EIRC, which is an outside agency, has been contracted and is paid for curriculum coordinator services, therefore eliminating local control at the present time.

Ocean City school district has not been cited for not providing current required curriculum. Currently, Ocean City and Upper Twp. have aligned their K-8 curriculum so that all of their students are on equal educational footing when entering Ocean City High School. Currently, Sea Isle City has not done so.

MYTH: The closing of the school would cause a loss of community spirit.

A community's sense of spirit is not determined solely by the existence of a school. Other factors, including community activities, sports programs, church involvement, and the business community are all influential parts of the community spirit. The choice to allow the possible end of community spirit would be one that is made by the people living in that community. To blame it on the school, or to make the school solely responsible, is irresponsible and unfair.

Traditions such as the Blue and Gold dinner and other family and student based activities can continue to take place. The community members and parents of Sea Isle students can still choose to recognize the achievement of their students, exclusive of Ocean City students, if a send-all to Ocean City is approved. The decision to end those would be made by the parents and members of the community that are currently involved in their existence.

Additionally, the current school building could be turned over to the city for use as a community recreation center, which would give that many more opportunities to build community spirit, including but not exclusively involving the parents and students of Sea Isle's school.

MYTH: The closing of the school would cause a loss of permanent residents.

In any and all of the coastal communities of South Jersey, the trend of absentee property owners and declining school enrollment is a proven reality. The pattern was established more than a decade ago and has continued to impact all coastal communities, including Sea Isle and Ocean City. The school system did not cause the trend, nor did its existence prevent it.

While a small community school may be attractive to some trying to determine where to make their permanent residence, there are current conditions and situations at Sea Isle City Public School that could make it be seen as less desirable. These would include the decaying and soon to be closed annex, much needed building improvements and structural repairs, the concept of combined grade levels, limited opportunities beyond regular curriculum offerings and the recent, constant changeover in administrative leadership.

MYTH: The state will offer incentives down the road, "so let's wait and see."

Any incentives offered by the state are currently in the early planning stages, and may never come into existence. Equally, the state has already taken steps for forced consolidation of small school districts such as Sea Isle City.

There is a definite risk in waiting for the state to make a move first. By doing that, the school district and community is gambling that the state will do what the district wants. In fact, by waiting for a mandatory state initiative, it removes any opportunity for the school district and Sea Isle residents to choose their destiny.

It was in plans developed by the state that the concept of the state taking control of the municipality's school building was included. As explained in a meeting attended by board vice president Matt McCallum several months ago, the state would be empowered

to take possession of school buildings in any of the districts if a county-wide district v mandated. If choosing to send to Ocean City now, while the choice still belongs to Sea Isle residents, the school building itself could be turned over to the city and would held as a city property, regardless of future acts by the state Department of Education. To adopt a “wait and see” attitude is a disservice to the students that are being educated in Sea Isle while the district waits. One of the primary complaints in the past year has been the lack of a definitive decision regarding what to do – stay or go to Ocean City. take the “wait and see” position is to support what has been objected to in the past year