

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. The meeting opened at 6:40 p.m. and the following statement was read:

Let the minutes reflect that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in the following manner:

1. On November 12, 2007 notice of this meeting was faxed to the Montclair Times, the Herald and News and the Star-Ledger. The time, date, and location of this meeting were accurately set forth therein.
2. On this same date a copy of said notice was filed with the Township Clerk and was posted at the public bulletin board in the first floor main hall of the Board of Education building, 22 Valley Road.
3. Copies have also been mailed to all persons who have requested same at no cost.

B. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:41 p.m. Mr. Riddick moved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b), the Montclair Board of Education may exclude the public from that portion of a public meeting at which the Board discusses any of the matters described at N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b) (1) - (9);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education shall forthwith enter into closed session to discuss the following matters concerning: personnel report, personnel matters, exclusions report, and out-of-district report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said discussion maybe disclosed to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting upon it in closed session no longer exist.

Seconded by Mrs. Taylor and approved by a vote of 4-0.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Report
2. Personnel Matters

- 3. Exclusions Report
- 4. Out-of-District Report

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Barr moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by Mr. Riddick and approved by a vote of 4-0.

The Board returned to open session at 7:25 p.m.

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:26 p.m.

F. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Timothy Barr	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
John Carlton	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>

Mr. Kautz arrived at 7:29 p.m.

Staff Members Present	<u> 7 </u>	
Members of the Public	<u> </u>	<u> 18 </u>
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>	

G. MINUTES

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following minutes:

- 1. Public Board Meeting held Monday, November 19, 2007
- 2. Public Board Meeting held Monday, December 3, 2007
- 3. Public Board Meeting held Monday, December 10, 2007
- 4. Public Board Meeting held Monday, December 17, 2007

5. Public Board Meeting held Monday, January 7, 2008

Seconded by Mrs. Taylor and approved by a vote of 4-0.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez reported that the Special Education Self-Assessment follows two other important self-imposed reviews of the districts programs and services related to special education. The first was a program review conducted by UMDNJ'S Bogg Center and the other was an assessment of I & RS practices across the district. Both were conducted approximately two years ago.

Dr. Alvarez stated that special education is an area that poses great challenges for us. It is important to note that we are committed to reviewing our programs on an on-going basis.

The self-assessment has provided us with an opportunity to evaluate our capacity to achieve compliance in a number of areas, as well as to plan for compliance with regard to new regulations and guidelines.

Dr. Alvarez thanked Dr. Scagliotti and his team, which he will introduce later in the evening, for the hours spent on this difficult task. The Board looks forward to hearing about Dr. Scagliotti's findings.

Dr. Scagliotti presented the Special Education Self-Assessment:

1. Ms. Rebecca Ross, Mr. Norman Rosenblum (who is the chairman of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee), and Dr. Scagliotti were responsible in the guiding of the self-assessment processes.

2. The self-assessment review is not new in Montclair, the district went through this assessment in 2000. The Individual With Disabilities Educational Act of 2004 focused on improving educational results and functional health for all children with disabilities. The Act was meant to ensure that all public agencies follow the program requirements.

3. The Office of Special Education and Program Monitoring in New Jersey identified 45 districts to participate in the self-assessment. These districts needed to establish a steering committee, and received some training and technical assistance provided by the Department Of Education. Dr. Scagliotti and his team developed an improvement plan to be presented to the Board for approval and then for submission

to the Department of Education Office of Special Education. An on-site verification visit will then be conducted and a public recording of the results will be issued.

4. On April 25, 2007, a steering committee and sub committees were established. On May 16, 2007, a public forum was conducted and parents gave their input. In September a parent's survey was distributed and the results were utilized by the sub-committees.

5. The State developed a plan to address the 20 compliance and performance indicators developed by the federal government, general supervision mechanisms to ensure compliance, (any kind of due process that the district is engaged in), and any compliant investigations related to code violations. This monitoring coordinates with QSAC which the Board is required to complete in October 2008 and any CAPA visits when schools have not made AYP. Some of the performance indicators that the district is being judged on are: graduation rates, drop out rates, assessments, suspension and expulsions data, school aids, preschool outcomes, post secondary outcomes, parent involvement, and disproportional of children with disabilities etc. Our district was cited on the disproportional eligibility category.

6. The steering committee had to be comprised of: the Director of Special Education as the superintendent designee, parents of students with disabilities, a representative from the district parent group, special and general education teachers, transition case managers, child study team members, district administrators, related services personnel, and advocacy representatives.

These are the nine self-assessments sections:

- Transition to Adult Life
- Statewide Assessment
- Discipline
- Least Restrictive Environment
- Parental Involvement
- Disproportionate Representation of Minority Students
- Evaluation/Reevaluation Process
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Programs and Services

Dr. Scagliotti thanked everyone on the committees for all their work and participation.

Dr. Alvarez questioned Dr. Scagliotti if the state would issue a second report after their site visitation. Dr. Scagliotti replied that they report publicly.

Mr. Riddick wanted to be sure that when we say non-compliance, the district is not required to be in compliance until February of 2009, for some issues.

Mr. Carlton questioned guidance services to special education students at the High School. Dr. Scagliotti responded that many improvements have already been made for instance; scheduling of all special education students is now done by the guidance department rather than the case management staff.

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Mr. Barr discussed the Academic Sub Committee Meeting and stated that it is progressing in areas of math curriculum and the test programs.

Mr. Kautz stated that the MFEE will hold a major fundraiser this year, "Dancing in the Streets" details to follow.

Mrs. Taylor attended a presentation by Pedro Noguero. His message was to get more parents involved in their students' education and it was very well attended.

J. COMMENTS

1. MHS Student Coalition

None.

2. PTA

Mary Beth Rosenthal – Ms. Rosenthal spoke about school tours. She emphasized that all our schools are good and will provide kids a great education. She mentioned that the schools and New Jersey Education Organizing Committee are holding a conference next Saturday, which is being organized in response to the passage of the new school funding formula.

3. MEA

Dennis Murray – Spoke about the number of special education students at Montclair High School. Mr. Murray stated that he appreciates the work done by para professionals whom are often overlooked but provide a great service to our students.

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

Norman Rosenblum – 542 Highland Ave. – Chairman of Special Education Parent Advisory Council Committee on the self-assessment wanted to thank Dr. Scagliotti for including parent representatives of special education in the self-assessment and improvement planning process and supports the recommendations made by the committee.

Renee Baskerville – 371 Orange Rd. – Ms. Baskerville questioned the data collection that Watchung volunteered to participate in. She asked if Watchung had a very large special education population and if it is a school that has a huge disproportionate number of African American males in its population, and if this was the only school that volunteered. Dr. Scagliotti responded that Watchung was the only school that volunteered, the number of special education students was high, and there was a disproportionate number of African American males.

L. RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following:

1. Resolutions re: Monthly Budget Reports and Bills and Claims

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (c)3, the Montclair Board of Education certifies that 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), and that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2-11 (c) 4, after review of the board secretary's monthly financial reports, in

the minutes of the Board each month, the Montclair Board of Education certifies that no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (b), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the attached Bills and Claims for the month of January 2008 in the amount of \$4,379,878.75 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of December 2007 in the amount of \$69,072.00, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education does hereby approve the request for tax levy from the Township of Montclair in the amount of \$6,000,000.00 for the month of January 2008, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the attached Budget reports for the month of December 2007, the Secretary's Report for the month of December 2007, and the Treasurer's Reports for the months of July through December 2007.

Seconded by Mr. Kautz and approved by a roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	
Timothy Barr	<u> X </u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u> X </u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	_____	_____	ABSENT
Robert Kautz	<u> X </u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	_____	_____	ABSENT
Ronald Riddick	<u> X </u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u> X </u>	_____	

2. Resolutions

a. Revised Mission Statement

Mr. Barr moved to approve the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, it is the Board of Education’s desire to cooperate fully with the requirements of the state under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum, and

WHEREAS, that system requires the mission statement of a Board to contain language specific to the Core Curriculum Content Standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Montclair Board of Education approves the attached revision of its mission statement which includes the requirements set forth in the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum.

b. Approval of Conference and Travel

WHEREAS, New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 23 B and Bard of Education policy require approval of the Board of Education prior to expending Board of Education funds for travel and related expenses, and

WHEREAS, the travel must be directly related to the employee’s or Board member’s current responsibilities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following Board members and employees are approved for travel-related reimbursements for an amount up to the estimated cost indicated:

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Board Member/ Employee</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Educational Purpose</u>
Challenging Students & Challenging Behavior	Janice Arnold Colleen Zdanowicz	\$221.50 \$221.50	Assists teachers in implementing appropriate classroom behavior; differential learning strategies to identify behaviors, the use of discipline techniques for difficult students; practical strategies and positive behavior strategies interventions instead of consequences.
The 40 th Annual Conference on Reading & Writing	Karen Plaskow	\$195.00	Promotes the delivery of instruction through workshops on providing instruction in reading and writing to reach all learners based on the latest research.
Everyday Math	Janice Vascimini John Furey Susan Cowan Robin Alvarado	\$3600 \$36.00 \$36.00 \$36.00	Enhance classroom instruction and pedagogy for Board approved instruction in Everyday Math.
Be the Best You Are	Ron Gavazzi	\$300.00	Further knowledge on up to date techniques on the instruction of baseball.
Light the Way	Francine Bonczkowski	\$170.00	New ideas are shared and new life can be breathed into the health and physical education curriculum.

NE Football	Kevin Richberg	\$75.00	Advance their knowledge of football by learning the most up to date techniques.
Coaches	Doug Moore	\$75.00	
Clinic	Jamie Bittner	\$75.00	
	Patsy Quarto	\$75.00	
	Pat Krenn	\$75.00	
	Joe Kienan	\$75.00	
	Sandy Hunter	\$75.00	
	Ben Brennan	\$75.00	
Strengthening Your Secondary Art	Joanne Petrigliano	\$215.00	Provides strategies & ideas to strengthen the art program at the High School.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that reimbursement will be made for expenses that are in accordance with Board of Education policy and for which original receipts are submitted to the Business Office.

- c. Acceptance of Department of Education Determination of Preliminary Eligible Costs for Mt. Hebron Alterations, 3310-127-07-2000, \$38,293.00

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 5 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, the Montclair Board of Education submitted applications to the Department of Education for Rehabilitation at the schools listed above, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has approved the above project and has determined that the State's share of preliminary eligible cost for project as listed above, and

WHEREAS, the School Business Administrator certifies that capital funds are available for the local share of these projects,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education accepts the State's determination of preliminary eligible costs and the State's share of preliminary costs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education elects to accept debt service aid from the EDA as its funding option, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education elects to administer the construction of these projects and authorizes the Board

Architect, Richard Rigolo, to prepare all plans, specifications, drawings and necessary bid related documents for these projects.

- d. Approval of Submission of Application for the Carl D. Perkins Vocational & Applied Technology Education Act for FY'08

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education approves the submission of an application for funding from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational & Applied Technology Education Act for FY'08 in the amount of \$41,536.

- e. Special Education Self- Assessment Document and Special Education Improvement Plan

WHEREAS, the Federal Individual Disabilities Education Act (2004) and New Jersey Administrative Code for Special Education NJAC (6A:14-9.1(b) requires districts to conduct a Special education Self-Assessment and to develop an Improvement Plan to address areas of non-compliance during the Self-Assessment Process, and,

WHEREAS, verification of the correction of non-compliance will be monitored by the New Jersey Department of Education's Office of Special Education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the Montclair School District's Special Education Self-Assessment Document and the Special Education Improvement Plan to correct non-compliance.

Seconded by Mrs. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	
Timothy Barr	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
John Carlton	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	ABSENT
Robert Kautz	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Shelly Lombard	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	ABSENT
Ronald Riddick	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Carmen Taylor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	

The Mission Statement requires that the words New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards within the statement if it is not included you lose points.

- 3. Contract Award

Mrs. Taylor moved to approve the following contract award: Authorizing Contract with Jersey Professional Management for Preparing Shared Services Grant Application

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has previously agreed to meet with representatives of the Township of Montclair and the Montclair Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to discuss shared services; and

WHEREAS, the three governmental agencies have agreed to use the services of Jersey Professional Management, to assist in the preparation and submission of an application to the State of New Jersey for a Sharing Available Resources Efficiently (SHARE) Shared Services Feasibility Study Grant; and

WHEREAS, the services to be provided include: meeting with the representatives to develop a consensus on the best opportunities for implementing new and/or expanded shared shuttle services/intermodal/interagency transportation; drafting, completing and submitting a SHARE Shared Services Grant Application on behalf of the three aforementioned municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the service is a flat fee of \$2,000, to be paid by the Township of Montclair.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Montclair Board of Education, that Jersey Professional Management, 23 North Avenue East, Cranford, NJ 07016 be and is hereby appointed to provide the services referenced herein for a SHARE shared service grant application, and that the Board Secretary be and is hereby authorized to execute all documents relevant to this service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is the understanding by all parties concerned that a more specific resolution will need to be adopted by the three participating governmental agencies prior to the formal submission of an application for a SHARE Shared Services Grant Application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of Montclair and the Montclair Economic Development Corporation.

Seconded by Mr. Riddick and approved by a roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	
Timothy Barr	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
John Carlton	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	ABSENT
Robert Kautz	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Shelly Lombard	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	ABSENT
Ronald Riddick	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Carmen Taylor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	

4. Change Orders

Mr. Barr moved to approve the following change order:

#5 for Site Demolition for New Elementary School

Change order #5 for all labor, materials and equipment to remove and dispose of asbestos from St. Vincent’s Hospital for a total additional cost of \$16,602.88.

Seconded by Mr. Riddick and approved by a roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	
Timothy Barr	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
John Carlton	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	ABSENT
Robert Kautz	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Shelly Lombard	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	ABSENT
Ronald Riddick	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	
Carmen Taylor	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the Personnel Report, Exclusions Report of January 28, 2008, and the Out -of -District Report of January 28, 2008:

5. Personnel Report of January 28, 2008, including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.
6. Exclusions Report of January 28, 2008
7. Out-of-District Report of January 28, 2008

Seconded by Mrs. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	
Timothy Barr	<u> X </u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u> X </u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	_____	_____	ABSENT
Robert Kautz	<u> X </u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	_____	_____	ABSENT
Ronald Riddick	<u> X </u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u> X </u>	_____	

M. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

Mrs. Taylor attended a workshop at the Department of Education which talked about writing skills; there were excellent strategies and useful information.

Mr. Riddick stated that he was at the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast, and heard two excellent speakers; he stated he is very happy to part of the Board. On January 15, he judged the CGI contest, stated that there were fantastic students that were very well prepared and he wished them luck in the state competition which is in two weeks.

Mr. Barr was also at the Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and he would like to acknowledge Marcus and Arnold (whom were extraordinary speakers) both spoke at the breakfast.

Dr. Alvarez presented the new proposed calendar; the Board of Education is considering closing school on Election Day for security purposes. Also the Board would close on January 2, 2009, and it is an extended Memorial Day weekend which is a Friday as well as the Monday in which the district would be closed. The Board will vote on this on the February 25, 2008 meeting.

2. Members of the Public

Debra David – 669 Grove St. – Ms. David spoke on behalf of the Edgemont Building Committee; she stated that they submitted a letter to the Board on January 16, 2008. The response was that this letter will be discussed at the February 25 meeting when the capital budget is discussed.

N. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 4, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in executive session and will open in public at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

O. ADJOURNMENT