

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008, AT 6:30 P.M.  
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. The meeting opened at 6:38 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:

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.

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.

Copies have also been mailed to all persons who have requested same at no cost.

B. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:38 p.m. Mr. Carlton 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-(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 matters cover by the attorney-client privilege; and matter rendered confidential by state or federal law: personnel matters, personnel report, and out-of-district.

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 Mr. Barr and approved by a vote of 6-0.

At 6:39 p.m. the Board went into executive session.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matters
2. Personnel Report

3. Out-of-District Placement

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Barr moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a vote of 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 7:30 p.m.

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:31 p.m.

F. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	_____
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	_____
Shirley Grill	<u>X</u>	_____
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____
Shelly Lombard	<u>X</u>	_____
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____
Carmen Taylor	_____	<u>X</u>
Staff Members Present	<u>7</u>	
Members of the Public	<u>30</u>	
Members of the Press	<u>1</u>	

G. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

1. Recognition of the Month of March as “Music in Our Schools Month”

WHEREAS, the study of music contributes to young people’s development through heightened skills in listening, reading, self-expression, and creativity; and

WHEREAS, music education in the schools includes a broad range of types of music and active musical experiences; and

WHEREAS, music and the other arts significantly enhance the morale and quality of the school environment; and

WHEREAS, it is the stated objective of the public schools to prepare children for a productive role in our society; and

WHEREAS, MENC, The National Association for Music Education, has designated March as Music in Our Schools Month,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education designates the month of March of each year as “Music in Our Schools Month” in order to support the purposes and practices of music education, and encourages teachers, parents, students and all citizens to participate.

2. Recognition of the Month of March as “Youth Art Month”

WHEREAS, art education contributes powerful educational benefits to all elementary, middle and secondary students

WHEREAS, art education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and other expressive qualities and gives students a deeper understanding of multi-cultural values and beliefs, and

WHEREAS, art education reinforces and brings to life what students learn in other subjects and interrelates student learning in art production, art history, art criticism and aesthetics, and

WHEREAS, our national leaders have acknowledged the necessity of including arts experiences in all students’ education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education designates the month of March of each year as “Youth Art Month” in order to encourage the support of quality school art programs for children and youth.

3. Recognition of the Month of March as “Gifted and Talented Students Month”

WHEREAS, gifted children require early identification and intervention and need special academic programs in their schools, and

WHEREAS, Montclair Public Schools provides for those needs as well as encourages and supports gifted children, and

WHEREAS, gifted and talented student programs provide gifted and talented students with curricula adapted to the pace and depth of their learning, and

WHEREAS, without the help of these tailored programs, many gifted and talented students would never reach their full potential and development, and

WHEREAS, designating the month of March of each year as “Gifted and Talented Students Month” will help raise public awareness of gifted and talented students so that they may be identified and matched to appropriate programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education designates the month of March of each year as “Gifted and Talented Students Month” in order to raise public awareness of gifted and talented students so that they may be identified and matched with learning opportunities that will nurture their abilities.

#### H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

##### Discussion of 2008-2009 Budget

Presented by Dr. Alvarez & Mrs. Sullivan:

Dr. Alvarez stated that last week the Board presented the 2008-2009 school budget. The Board feels this is a reasonable attempt on our part to try to meet the needs of all the various students in the district. The budget is slightly higher than what we would like, and is certainly higher than it was last year, but we felt it necessary to go to this level to meet everyone’s needs.

Last year, the budget was reduced by \$1.6 million to start off with, and we received some additional funds from the state department which were able to balance out and we came in at CAP. This year that is not possible for us, we are however appropriating \$2.5 million which is the largest appropriation from surplus balance that we’ve had in the last several years. Our goal has been to maintain the current level of programming and also add a few programs which are not huge cost drivers, but will allow us to maintain a cutting edge.

What you are going to hear tonight is not going to be much different than what was presented last week. Normally the tentative budget would be approved at this meeting but because of the new requirements from the state department on the waiver request we had to approve a tentative budget last week.

A couple of things are going to happen this week. We are receiving input from the public at tonight’s meeting. Tomorrow there is a meeting with members of the PTA council, MFEE, and other key constituencies across the district and we will receive a lot of input at that meeting. In addition, we will be meeting with principals and senior staff this week for further recommendations. Deliberations on the budget will begin with Board members, as they hear things from the community and Board of School Estimate members. Between now and March 17, there will be some time for revision which will be done in public at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Board is still waiting to hear from the State Department on the status of the waivers.

I encourage everyone whom is here to be at the Board of School Estimate public hearing meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> at Glenfield School to support the budget.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the budget is developed on the Board goals which have been the same for the past several years. These goals are to improve academic achievement for all students, reduce the overrepresentation of minority youngsters in special education, and to infuse technology into the curriculum.

Priorities of the budget remain the same. Total budget for next year is \$110,676,634.00 which is a 5.95 % increase from the current year. The majority of revenue is from local taxes. We appropriated almost \$2.5 million from our fund balance which leaves us with a 2 % fund balance remaining which is about \$1.8 million. Other revenue is made up of interest, income, small tuition revenue that we receive from out-of-district students, and the bulk is from interest. The adult school is a self sustaining program so there is no cost to the local tax payers for that program. The special revenue fund is state and federal grants that are given to us with a designated purpose, so for any money we receive must have expenses that equal that and are designated for certain types of programs.

The state aid increase that has been heavily publicized is a 2 % increase which amounts to \$187,000. In past years some of the state aid was included in the special revenue fund and had to be spent on a specific purpose. This year all of the state aid is general state aid that can be spent in all areas.

The tax rate for this proposed budget is 7.2 %. This increase is based on ratables from 2007 and it is possible that this increase could go up. There have been many tax appeals filed with the Township, if those tax appeals were approved and the ratables went down then the percent could go up. Last year we had a 4.7 % tax increase after we made \$1.6 million in reductions. Those reductions have been carried through to this year's budget and we are still showing a 7.2 % increase this year.

The state has varied over the years in the amount of fund balance that they suggest, recommend, or require that we have. In the past the state said 3 % was a good number that we should have and now it has been reduced to 2 %. In the early 1990's we were way over 3 % then we dropped down to about \$270,000 in 2001 and now we are at the 2 % and have maintained that level for the last several years.

Special education continues to be a main concern in our budget; mandated increases in the budget have caused us to increase to over \$27 million which is almost 25 % of our budget for 2008-2009.

The Tax Levy CAP is set at 4 %, the state has told us that we can request waivers to exceed that CAP for certain extraordinary costs. We have requested waivers of \$867,578, in four areas: special education, equipment purchases (which is very small),

energy cost, and insurance cost (which are liability and building insurance). If the waivers are approved our adjusted Tax Levy at CAP would be \$92.5 million we are actually at \$94.5 million which means we are \$2,020,981.00 over the CAP. In order to get that approved we have to ask for a separate question, which means that the Board of Education and the Board of School Estimate will vote on that as a separate part of the budget. Anything that is cut out of the budget which is part of the separate proposal can not be re-allocated. If it is not approved we can't put in back into the budget.

We are required to put items into a separate proposal that are not mandated and are not required for core to meet curriculum standards. The Board will be voting tonight for submission of the budget to the county. The 7.2 % tax levy increase includes the second proposal and the waivers. The 7.2 % is the total as presented.

We have some new initiatives that we have included in the budget for this year. The new initiatives are Chinese language instruction that we are proposing for the elementary schools and one of the middle schools. An instrumental music teacher has been added for the elementary schools. The artists and residency program has been expanded which is also at the elementary level. A strength and conditioning teacher has been added at the high school and will work in the new fitness center at the Woodman Field House, and will be in charge of physical education and athletics.

The state takes audited financial statements and calculates a comparative cost per pupil. The state subtracts out-of-district transportation and out-of-district tuition because it varies so much based on individual students, and calculates a cost per pupil that is comparative across districts. The most recent data which is available is 2005-2006. Montclair spent \$12,269 per student compared to the state average of \$11,857; the cost of salaries in Northern New Jersey is higher than in South Jersey. Even though we spend more than the state average per pupil we do spend 7.6 % more than the state in instruction. Montclair spends 11.3 % less than the state average in administrative cost. The support area where we are also spending above the state average is support for the schools not for central office or administrative support. We spend less than the state average on plant which is building maintenance and repairs, and also slightly more than the state average in extra curricula cost.

Mr. Carlton read a statement on how the Board does understand that Montclair residential taxes are high.

Ms. Grill stated she feels certain areas should not be touched such as busing and emphasis in the classroom on the kinds of differentiated instruction that is beginning to happen. Ms. Grill stated that if we need to make reductions in the budget it should be in the external supports.

Mrs. Lombard stated that 7.2 % tax increase is painful for everyone but the district has built a very special school system and it is critical to support it.

Mr. Kautz stated that the allocation for special education costs have now gone above the \$27 million mark but the allocation of state and federal aid for special education has dropped dramatically this year. Mr. Kautz questioned where the energy costs are at right now and the health insurance increase?

Mrs. Sullivan stated that on our projection of what we are spending right now we contract with Energy for American and they monitor our boiler usage. They projected an 83% increase in fuel oil cost over last years actual cost. This is one of the areas in which the Board requested a waiver from the state to exceed the 4% Tax Levy CAP. Montclair's health insurance is not a flat premium paid health insurance. It is paid on the claims submitted by the employees. There is a budget increase in the maximum liability, so there is a budget increase to cover that. Changes have also been implemented to what the employees are entitled to. The health insurance plan that the Board currently has is the most economical plan available.

Mr. Barr stated that this is the most challenging time of year for the Board to make the budget presentation and come up with a number that makes sense for everyone. The Board wants the best for everyone involved in the Montclair school system, but there is always a price associated to make everything the best.

Mr. Riddick feels that the magnet schools draw people to the Township.

Dr. Alvarez thanked Mrs. Sullivan for all of her hard work and feels we are all very fortunate to have her. Dr. Alvarez asked Mrs. Sullivan to talk about shared services.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that one area that we share services with the town is technology we had private fiber installed throughout the town. The Board of Education purchased equipment and installed IP phones in which the cost was shared with the town. We receive cheaper prices on purchasing of office supplies, bus routes, fuel & electricity because we go to bid with other districts. The Board and the town share recycling, electrical repairs, and plumbing repairs.

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

None.

J. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

Mary Beth Rosenthal – 269 Upper Mountain Ave. – Stated that she is the founder of JUMPS which is an initiative designed to educate people about the school budget.

JUMPS will be holding coffees and other events to provide information about this proposal.

Mary Ellen Dunlevy – 12 Wilde Place – Ms. Dunlevy came to represent the Edgemont School and appreciates the Board's decision to re-bid the Edgemont addition.

Alex Zoreniun – 77 Buckingham Rd. – Mr. Zoreniun questioned if there is any flexibility in taxes in the areas of benefits and retirees. Mr. Zoreniun also wanted to know if there are any teachers that are on staff that perform administrative duties. He also asked what are out-of-district special education students?

Dr. Alvarez responded that benefits are not provided for retirees. Most of our teachers are teaching, we may have teachers that are outside of the system but are always providing some sort of assistance. There may be teachers in individual schools that have one period for some type of administrative duty or other professional responsibility that is not directly instructional related, but for the most part all of our teachers are meeting with youngster and teaching. Out-of-district special education students are students who typically have some extraordinary needs that we can not meet in house. Out-of-district means that we send our students to another district. There is a federal as well as a state mandate and it is the philosophy of the district that we will include special education students in the regular classroom setting as much as possible.

Harvey Susswein – 85 Clinton Ave. – Feels that special education seems to be growing every year. Mr. Susswein wanted to know has the Board considered an ad hoc committee to look at best practices within New Jersey. This is a very large budget item and it should be scrutinized.

Sandra Soehngen – 446 Valley Rd. – Spoke about the girl's robotics team and how she feels that this is a very important item in the High School and is hoping the Board will support the female robotics team. This team needs an advisor and they hope that one will be provided.

Cary Africk – 2 Erwin Park – Mr. Africk wanted to know if we can find some way to reduce costs across the board? Mr. Africk would like a full time gifted & talented coordinator added to the budget.

Susan Abraham – 35 Clinton Ave. – Commended the Board for the addition of an instrumental music teacher to the budget. Ms. Abraham would like a district coordinator for music added to the staff.

Jim Price – 47 Gordonhurst – Thanked the Board for new music teacher.



Tom Parente – Handed out information on where Montclair and other school districts stand with their music program. Mr. Parente also feels that we need a music coordinator. Mr. Parente would like the Board to find a way to address this issue because this is affecting the entire district.

Gail Prusslin – 138 Buckingham – Ms. Prusslin is also in support of adding the instrumental music teacher and would like a music coordinator added.

Joanne Aidala – 95 Montclair Ave. – Ms. Aidala stated that in the High School mental health issues are increasing and getting more severe. Ms. Aidala questioned why when the student assistant counselor (SAC) left last year she was not replaced. The high school now has two SAC's and 1 full time counselor at the ninth grade level so it is at a 1 to 750 ratio.

Peter Vaughn – 36 Elston Rd. – Thanked the Board for their work in this budget process. Mr. Vaughn wanted to make everyone aware that the playground at Northeast is not a luxury project, the playground renovation is in dire need of an upgrade and is a safety issue. Mr. Vaughn pointed out some of the major problems with the current playground:

- one of the major support beams has rotted through and is at risk of breaking
- there are many protrusions and bolts sticking out of the equipment
- not enough space between the swings
- the playground is also restricted access in which children with physical disabilities can not access
- is a very small playground

Mr. Vaugh stated that this playground is used by the after school program, summer program, soccer program, and at recess.

Amy Poster – 91 Beverley Rd. – Ms. Poster is the Corporate Sponsor of the Girls Robotic Team the Credit Suisse Foundation selected Montclair High School in 2006 as one of five schools that it would provide funding for. Ms. Poster would like Board assurance that this team is being supported and will continue to be supported.

Mayor Ed Remsen – 115 Montclair Ave. – Mayor Remsen asked the Board to dig a little deeper this year. Montclair will not be able to keep the Municipal budget to a zero increase as they have in the past. Mayor Remsen is hearing a push to change the appointed Board to an elected Board and is very concerned with this. He would like the Board to consider consolidating departments that do not effect the classroom instruction.

Dennis Murray – Mr. Murray has spent a lot of time dealing with the parts of the budget that represented the most money. Mr. Murray’s best interest is in what goes on in the Montclair schools and the MEA is behind the Board.

K. RESOLUTIONS

1. Budget Resolutions

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following Budget Resolutions:

- a. Waiver to Include Programs and Services in the Separate Proposal That Were Included in the Prior Year’s Net Budget

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education approved a separate proposal to be presented to the Board of School Estimate for additional funds to be raised in the amount of \$2,020,981 for the 2008-2009 school year, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-4 allows a Board of Education to submit a request to the County Superintendent for an exemption to N.J.S.A 18A:7F-5d (9) which states that a Board of Education shall not include any programs or services in a separate proposal that were included in the school district’s pre-budget year tax levy, and

WHEREAS, the programs and services that were included in the 2007-2008 budget and are included in the separate proposal as detailed in Attachment A could not be included in the 2008-2009 base budget because required increases in health insurance costs, special education, and energy caused the budget to increase to more than the maximum permitted net budget, and

WHEREAS, in order to add these items to the base budget the District would have to eliminate other programs and services that are necessary to achieve a thorough and efficient education specifically all elementary physical education teachers, all elementary art teachers and all elementary foreign language teachers would be eliminated, and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the administrative operations of the district and has determined that all potential efficiencies are in effect,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the request for a waiver from the County Superintendent to include programs and services in the separate proposal that was included in the prior year’s budget.

b. Adoption of Tentative 2008-2009 Budget

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has discussed and reviewed the proposed 2008-2009 Budget, and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Statutes Title 18A:7D-27 and the New Jersey State Department of Education prescribe the method, time and format for the submission of a proposed Budget to the County Superintendent of Schools,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation, does hereby approve a tentative FY2008-2009 school district budget (under separate cover) for submission to the Essex County Superintendent:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$105,904,665	\$ 92,547,721
Separate Proposal	\$ 2,020,981	\$ 2,020,981
Special Revenue Fund	<u>\$ 2,750,988</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
<b>Total Base Budget</b>	<b>\$110,676,634</b>	<b>\$ 94,568,702</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education is applying for the following the Commissioner Tax Levy CAP Waiver Adjustment for the FY2008-2009 school budget:

Capital Outlay - Equipment	\$ 7,852
Special Education over \$40,000	\$ 346,443
Energy Costs	\$ 484,672
Insurance Costs	<u>\$ 28,661</u>
<b>Total SGLA</b>	<b>\$ 867,578</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves a separate proposal to be presented to the Board of School Estimate as per Attachment A, and this separate proposal will result in a permanent increase to the tax levy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this budget includes a maximum amount allotted for conference and travel of \$125,000, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that there should be raised an additional two million, twenty thousand, nine hundred eighty-one dollars (\$2,020,981) for General Funds in the same school year (2008-2009). These taxes will be used exclusively to fund the separate proposal specifically for achievement. The approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase to the district tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are not required by law and are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a roll call vote:

	A YE	N AY
Timothy Barr	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
John Carlton	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
Robert Kautz	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> ABSENT

2. Other Resolutions

Mr. Barr moved to approve the following resolutions:

a. Approval of Conference and Travel

WHEREAS, New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 23 B and board 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>
Power of Our Presence Symposium	Dr. Anderson	\$2,500.00	Informs and expands one's role as a K-12 administrator with respect to "preparing today's children to be tomorrow's leaders," and taking responsibility for the state of our youth on a local and global level.
The Right's of School & Police	William Gibney	\$156.00	
	Shirlene Powell-Sanders	\$156.00	
	Allen Valentine	\$156.00	
Mark Mirabella Track & Field Clinic	Anthony Keys	\$70.00	Assistance with Track & Field Coaching
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Conference on Global Leadership, Learning, & Research	Alex Anemon	\$2500.00	Quality teaching in all classrooms necessitates skillful leadership at the school level.
Tri-State Visit	George Fox	\$135.95	Will be appraising another districts science program.
Asperger's Syndrome	Helen Cox	\$155.00	Help develop the knowledge base and skill necessary to be an effective consultant for parents, students, and
	Mary Jo Reid	\$155.00	
	Rebecca Weintraub	\$155.00	
	Robyn Mitchell	\$155.00	
	Jolene Jurkovic	\$155.00	

	Amy Smith	\$155.00	staff members.
	Barbara Lennon	\$155.00	
	Phyllis Lowenthal	\$155.00	
	Denise Roche	\$155.00	
	Mia Bulken	\$155.00	
	Judy Alday	\$155.00	
	Colleen Frank	\$155.00	
	Kimberly Couden	\$155.00	
	Karen Plaskow	\$155.00	
	Gabriella Bauer	\$155.00	
	Saalik Cuevas	\$155.00	
	Beverly D'Andrea	\$155.00	
	Susan Synnott	\$155.00	
	Rae Wiedmann	\$155.00	
	Willola Ashley	\$155.00	
	Marianne Sender	\$155.00	
	Joanne Dedovitch	\$155.00	
	Michele Maddon	\$155.00	
	Michael Chiles, Jr.	\$155.00	
	Kimberly Foster-Clark	\$155.00	
	Maggie Zeigler	\$155.00	
	Julie Ivy	\$155.00	
	Valerie Hampton	\$155.00	
	Maria Martire	\$155.00	
	Ann Mautone		
Learning and the Brain	Peter Renwick	\$2,500.00	Understanding how students learn will help improve instructional techniques.
Beyond NCLB Hype	Frank Alvarez Terry Trigg-Scales George Glass John Carlton	\$110.00	Opportunity to hear varied views of the NCLB act and how it impacts our schools.

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.

- b. Approval of Revision to Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials, 2007-2008 School Year

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education approves the submission of the Update to Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b) 13 through 15 and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education further agrees to comply with the guidelines pertaining to New Jersey Administrative Code,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this agreement be forwarded to the State Department of Education.

c. Supporting the Township of Montclair Safe Routes to School Program

WHEREAS, the Township, School Board and the Safe Routes to School Technical Advisory Committee support the establishment of a district wide Safe Routes to School Program, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair School District consists of 8 elementary schools and 3 middle schools over 6.3 square miles, and

WHEREAS, the Rand Elementary School participated in a Safe Routes to School Demonstration Program in 2005 sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, the Rand School was awarded a grant in the sum of \$291, 900 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation in 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Rand School is considered a "Success Story" by the New Jersey Department of Transportation because of its commitment to building partnerships, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Montclair will develop a district wide program building from the success of the Rand Elementary School, and

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School Program will support and encourage students to walk and bike to school through on-going programs, and through improvements to the walking and biking environment, and

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School Program will support and encourage increased parent education and community involvement, decrease the amount of traffic near the schools, and encourage children to be independent and healthy, and

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School Program provides a means to pursue public policy goals related to:

- Reducing traffic congestion around schools

- Creating safer, calmer streets and neighborhoods
- Improving air quality and providing a cleaner environment
- Increasing physical activity for children
- Fostering a healthier lifestyle for the whole family, and

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School Program will support objectives such as:

- Teaching age-appropriate walking and bicycle traffic safety skills routinely in school and offering special events such as Walk and Bike to School Days, and other encouragement models including classroom participation and contests
- Providing opportunities for the community to participate in developing plans for making streets, sidewalks, pathways, trails, and crosswalks safe, convenient and attractive for walking and bicycling to school
- Enforcing all traffic laws near schools and on school routes, and in other areas of high pedestrian and bicycle activity
- Applying the use of human and technological resources, including volunteers, to provide routes to school that feel secure to both parents and children alike, and

WHEREAS, there will be participation by school and district administrators, teachers, students' parents, and municipal and community representatives to implement the Safe Routes to School Program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Township of Montclair Council and Township of Montclair Board of Education jointly endorse the Township of Montclair Safe Routes to School Program.

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

	A YE	NAY
Timothy Barr	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
John Carlton	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>          </u> ABSTAIN	<u>          </u>
Robert Kautz	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>          </u> ABSTAIN	<u>          </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> ABSENT



3. Contract Awards

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following contract awards:

a. Rejection of Bids for Door Frames at Various Schools

WHEREAS, supplies, equipment and services anticipated to be in excess of \$29,000 are subject to the bidding requirements of New Jersey Statutes 18A:18A-4 or are to be purchased under a State of New Jersey contract through the provisions of N.J.S. 18A:18A-10, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared, advertised, and sealed bids received on February 26, 2008, for Door Frames at Various Schools. Fifteen (15) companies received copies of the bid and two (2) bids were received.

Results of the bids are shown on Attachment A, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, a board may reject all bids for various reasons as specified in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the rejection of all bids because the lowest bid exceeded the appropriation and the cost estimate for the project.

- b. Award of Contract for Locker Replacements at Various Schools  
Richard Rigolo, AIA, \$93,195.00 (base bid of \$75,670.00 plus alternates #1 for \$7,650.00 and #2 for \$9,875.00).
- c. Award of Contract for Renovations at the High School - Richard Rigolo, AIA, in the total amount of \$438,800.00
- d. Award of Contract for Classroom Alterations at Mt. Hebron School - Richard Rigolo, AIA, (in the total amount of \$109,970.00 (base bid of \$105,670.00 plus alternate #1 for \$4,300.00).
- e. Award of Contract for Stage Renovations at Mt. Hebron School - Richard Rigolo, AIA, , in the total amount of \$512,100.00.
- f. Award of Contract for Professional Services - Methodist Episcopal Cemetery Reinterment, Washington Street, Montclair, New Jersey

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 states in part "Any purchase, contract or agreement...may be made, negotiated and awarded by the Board of Education by resolution at a public meeting without public advertising for bids...", and

WHEREAS, the nature of these contract awards generally relate to the provision of professional services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation, does hereby appoint Cultural Resource Consulting Group (CRCG), 415 Cleveland Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904, for Methodist Episcopal Cemetery Reinterment, Washington Street, Montclair, New Jersey, in the amount of \$25,600 as per the proposal attached.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall be authorized to issue a contract to such provider agency as described above.

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

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

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the Personnel Report and Out-of-District Placements

- g. Personnel Report (Revised)
- h. Out-of-District Placements

Seconded by Mr. Barr and approved by a roll call:

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

L. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

Mr. Kautz appreciates the public input.

2. Members of the Public

None.

M. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on March 17, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in closed session and will open in public at approximately 7:30 p.m. in Glenfield School, 25 Maple Ave. This meeting will also be the public hearing of the budget.

The Board will also hold a meeting on Monday, March 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road. The meeting will be open in public, but the Board will then go immediately into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

N. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:38 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.