

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008, AT 7:30 P.M.
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. The meeting opened at 6:43 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 6:43 p.m. Ms. Grill 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 placements, and exclusions 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. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.

At 6:44 p.m. the Board went into executive session.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matters
2. Personnel Report
3. Out-of-District Placements
4. Exclusions Report

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

The Board returned to open session at 7:35 p.m.

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:36 p.m.

F. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Timothy Barr	<u> </u>	<u> X </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> X </u>	<u> </u>

Mrs. Lombard left at 7:35 p.m.

Staff Members Present	<u> 7 </u>
Members of the Public	<u> 35 </u>
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>

G. MINUTES

Ms. Grill moved to approve the following minutes:

1. Public Board Meeting held Monday, March 17, 2008
2. Public Board Meeting held Monday, April 7, 2008

Seconded by Mrs. Taylor and approved by a vote of 5-0.

H. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Alvarez stated that this has been a great winter season for Montclair in sports as well as academics. Many students are being honored tonight. Alvin Bove one of Montclair's graduates was picked in the fifth round draft choice for the NFL, and is going to Buffalo he is also a graduate of Iowa State University. Dr. Alvarez introduced for Dr. Cusack to present the awards:

1. Coach of the Year in Girls Swimming

Ms. Jessica Blomn was named Coach of the Year in Girls Swimming by *The Star-Ledger*. Montclair won the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association North Jersey Section 1, Public A Championship Title with a victory of 9278 over Randolph.

2. New Jersey Math League Competition

The Montclair High School Math League ranked # 1 in Essex County and # 6 in the State of New Jersey. This year they received a total of 157 points which is the highest point total, on record for the high school. The last time the high school math league scored over 150 point was in 1996-1997 where they scored 156 points. There are 36 students in the math league:

Kazem Alidoost	Martin Alonzo	Gabriel Alvare	Shira Averbuch
Vanessa Bishop	Michael Blume	Noah Bokak-Lindell	Brooke Briody
Tyler Buckingham	Michael Cooperberg	William Deehan	Brendan Dwyer
David Ellmann	Zev Fagin	Timothy Farley	Paul Fitzgerald
Andrew Giustina	Miriam Gutman	Marcello Halitzer	Jordan Hirschhorn
Gregory	William Kanegis	Kevin Mahoney	Max Mellman
Jamiolkowski			
Justin Meretab	Amanda Messenger	Emily Paine	Alexander
			Papageorgis
Dylan Plofker	Stephen Rooney	Matthew Rosenhein	Reed Sarney
Dana Schechter	Joseph Staehle	Russell Tucker	Adam Weiss

5 of these 36 students received top cumulative scores for 07-08:

Kazem Alidoost	Martin Alonzo	Noah Bokak-Lindell	Miriam Gutman
Marcello Halitzer			

Dr. Cusack acknowledged Mr. Rubin the High School Math League Advisor.

3. State Individual Fencing Championships

Sam Deas is the captain of the fencing team and has lettered all four years of fencing at the High School. Sam placed 12th in the State Individual Sabre Championship, and has also received a trophy for most wins in a season for this year and also most wins in a four year span. He has achieved the rating of C from the United States Fencing Association.

Alen Hadzic placed 1st in the Individual Epee District 3 Championship and 2nd in the Overall State Individual Epee Championship. Alen is a sophomore at Montclair High School and has been named to the Allstate Team by the *Star-Ledger* and the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association and has achieved the rating of A from the United States Fencing Association. Dr. Cusack thanked Mr. Mc Tigie (Coach), Mr. Christie, and Mr. White (the Assistant Coaches) for all of their work.

4. NHSCA Senior National High School Wrestling

5.

Gerson Deleon ranked 4th in the Country at 103 lbs. at the Annual NHSCA Senior National High School Wrestling Championships. Gerson is the second All American in Montclair history. He has the most wins in Montclair history which is 94 career wins.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez congratulated Ms. Shirley Grill and Mr. Robert Kautz who have been re-appointed by the Mayor to another 3 year term on the Board of Education.

1. Northeast School's Cameroon Partnership

Kathy Lindsay (Principal), Samantha Lennon (Teacher), Kristen Shala (Technology Teacher) presented a documentary made by Ms. Lennon and several parents at Northeast School.

Mrs. Lindsay stated that in Cameroon there are 8,000 orphans living on the streets right now, most of their parents have died of Aids and other health issues.

Ms. Lennon visited Cameroon and went to a school that Sister Jane founded. Ms. Lennon gave the children in Cameroon pictures and letters from her students in Northeast and asked for them to send letters back to the Northeast students. She gave books to the older boys and girls in the school and tee shirts to all the students.

This project was originally started to raise Global Awareness, it was about opening the eyes of the Montclair students to other things in the world. Once Ms. Lennon arrived in Cameroon she realized that Montclair would be gaining much more from this experience than what she had set out to do. Ms. Lennon stated that this was about influencing children in a way where there is an actual real core value to it. Northeast student's raised over \$800 by asking their parents if they could help out around the house and brought their change in. They purchased a computer for the students in Cameroon so that the students can communicate with each other.

Sister Jane has come to Northeast school several times and talks to our students about the students over there and their health issues. Sister Jane stated that being here in our schools is like being a University. When Ms. Lennon returned from Cameroon she brought back instruments for the Northeast students.

2. 9th Grade Biology Proposal

Presented by Mrs. Trigg-Scales, Mrs. Dede Portas (Science Supervisor at MHS), and Scott White (Director of Guidance at MHS)

Mrs. Trigg-Scales said that probably 5 years ago we changed the delivery of 9th Grade Science from Earth Science to Geophysical Science which was put in place as a pilot. Mrs. Portas had her staff review Geophysical Science to see if this should be kept. Her staff felt that Geophysical Science should be kept but moved to 10th Grade and all of the 9th graders should have Biology. Part of this proposal has to do with Math because Math and Science strongly support each other.

Rationale for Proposal to Change Science Sequence in Ninth Grade to Biology:

1. There is a state mandated end-of-year test. Now students take biology over two years at two different levels. About half are taught in block schedules and half in traditionally scheduled classes. This would make instruction more uniform.
2. There are inconsistencies in middle school recommendations and instruction with make it difficult to adequately judge students' ability to advance through the science and math curriculum. This program would place more of the responsibility for how a student progresses through our science curriculum on their high school performance.
3. It is necessary for students to have Algebra II skills in order to be successful in chemistry. There have been many requests from students and parents to take honors biology as freshman concurrently with algebra I. Because geophysical science is not offered to sophomores at present (it is a blocked freshman course), these students would progress to honors chemistry without the prerequisite skills.
4. Students who were having difficulty with honors Chemistry as sophomores (there were many) were changing to regular level chemistry, causing them to have a class that lowered their quality points and overcrowded the regular chemistry classes, hurting instruction for all. This allows students having difficulty with honors chemistry or who decide that they are not ready for honors chemistry the option to go to honors geophysical science.
5. Our policy of requiring students to take algebra II or algebra I/II concurrently with biology conflicted with our district policy of curricular choice. Having all students take biology allows students and parents to continue with curricular choice.

J. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

1. Policies and Regulations (First Reading)
 - a. Policy 6153, Field Trips
 - b. Policy 5131, Conduct/Discipline
 - c. Policy 5142, Pupil Safety

Presented by Dr. Patterson:

The field trip policy discusses what in & out of school field trips, out of country field trips, and non school sponsored field trips. There is a growing liability for the individual people taking the students on trips because of things that are happening in the world. There is a \$25.00 limitation, on the amount parents can be charged for a one day trip, if the amount is above \$25.00 Superintendent approval will need to be given on the trip.

The conduct/discipline policy is the same as the old policy with one major revision: It includes cyber bullying.

The pupil safety policy now includes additional information regarding the districts responsibility for pupil safety at dismissal.

Mr. Riddick stated the he has gone to basketball games and does not like the way the players are dressed. He feels that these students are representing Montclair and they should be dressed appropriately. Mr. Riddick stated that if these students are attending either sporting or academic events they should to dress to represent their town.

K. COMMENTS

1. MEA

Dennis Murray – Stated that he is happy with the Conduct/Discipline Policy; he recalled speaking to the Board in June about the safety of the staff as far as cyber safety is concerned.

Mr. Murray stated that Dr. Patterson, Mrs. Sullivan, and he have met on this matter and they are going to try to educate the staff on the liabilities laws on trips.

2. PTA

None.

3. Montclair High School Student Coalition

Jonathan Mancinelli – Mr. Mancinelli updated the Board on events in the high school:

Students are preparing for the FED challenge.

The High School had their last pep rally for the year which was a big success. At this pep rally they honored former coaches or teachers that were graduates from Montclair High and have now returned and given their services back to the community.

May 21st is the Junior Prom and May 28th is the Senior Prom at the Westmont Country Club.

Mr. Mancinelli stated that the students who worked on the Student Coalition worked really hard and he is proud of all of them and hopes that they all move onto wonderful colleges.

Senior option is coming up which is an internship where the students work in the field in which they would like to maybe make their careers and try it out.

L. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

Dawn Mohammod – 214 Valley Road –Supports having a required uniform for the district or at least enforcing a dress code at Montclair High School. Ms. Mohammod also stated that she feels there are still many students from other towns attending Montclair’s school system.

Janet Hubert – 5 Ward Place – Ms. Hubert’s son has been bullied for 6 years and she is removing her son from the school system. Ms. Hubert also supports dress code and would like to see uniforms required at Montclair High School.

Grisella Lasknornik- 41 Lexington – Also supports uniforms for the High School. Ms. Lasknornik is concerned with the security at the High School and wants to know what security systems are in the schools.

The response was that there are security guards at each of the doors, the doors are all locked at the grammar schools, there are drills that the students go through to prepare if there was an emergency, also the security cameras are being upgraded.

M. RESOLUTIONS

1. Monthly Budget Reports and Bills and Claims

Mrs. Taylor moved to approve the following:

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 over expended 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 April 2008 in the amount of \$4,867,535.07 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of March 2008 in the amount of \$7790.00, 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 \$7,000,000.00 for the month of April 2008, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the attached Budget reports for the month of March 2008, the Secretary’s Report for the month of March 2008, and the Treasurer’s Report for the month of February 2008.

2. Other Resolutions

a. Appointment of Asbestos Management Officer

RESOLVED, that Detail Associates is hereby appointed as Asbestos Management Officer for the Montclair Board of Education, to serve in such office until the next organizational meeting of the Board and until their respective successors are duly appointed and qualified.

b. Conference and Travel Expenses

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>
Pre-K Science	Susan Bartol	\$36.00	Will strengthen their K science program.
Instructional	Kimberly Dillman	\$36.00	
Techniques	JohnFurey	\$36.00	
	Janis Vascimini	\$36.00	

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.

3. Change Order

#1 for Fire Alarm Replacement at Northeast School

• Two smoke detectors @ \$300 each	\$600.00
• Two heat detectors @ \$280 each	\$560.00
• Deduct from additional device allowance in contract	<u>(\$4,880.00)</u>
TOTAL	(\$3,720.00)

4. Contract Awards

a. Renewal of Contract for Boiler Repair and Service – 2008-2009 School Year –

That the Montclair Board of Education renew their contract for the 2008-2009 school year at the terms and conditions as stated in their letter of April 11, 2008 (see Attachment A).

b. Transportation Contract for the 2008-2009 School Year

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A-18A-5(B) authorizes the awarding of a contract to other governmental agencies without benefit of advertising and bidding, and

WHEREAS, the Sussex County Regional Cooperative has offered to provide transportation service to out-of-district special education students of Montclair for the 2008 2009 school year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education award a contract to the Sussex County Regional Cooperative for transportation of eligible students for whom applications are submitted by the Montclair Board of Education, and BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board President and the Board Secretary be authorized to execute the contract attached and issue a purchase order for this contract effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009.

- c. Storm Drain Replacement at Rand School - Jo-Med Contracting, 815 Garden Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07202, in the total amount of \$19,950.00
 - d. Sidewalk Replacement at George Inness and Mt. Hebron Schools - Jo-Med Contracting, 815 Garden Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey, 07202, in the total amount of \$42,408.00 (base bid of \$38,858.00 plus alternate #1 for \$3,550.00)
 - e. Concrete Ramp and Steps at Nishuane School - C&C Masonry, Inc., 471 Chestnut Street, Ridgefield, New Jersey, 07657, in the total amount of \$37,500.00
 - f. Site Renovations at Northeast School - Chalet Construction Corporation, 13 Race Street, Bloomfield, New Jersey, 07003, in the total amount of \$128,600.00 (base bid of \$125,900.00 plus alternate #1 for \$2,700.00).
 - g. Main Entrance Step Replacement at Rand School - JRC Construction Company, Inc., 710 Elm Street, Kearny, New Jersey, 07032, in the total amount of \$39,500.00.
- 5. Personnel Report
 - 6. Out-of-District Placements

7. Exclusions Report

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

	AYE	NAY
Timothy Barr	_____	_____ ABSENT
John Carlton	_____ X _____	_____
Shirley Grill	_____ X _____	_____
Robert Kautz	_____ X _____	_____
Shelly Lombard	_____	_____ ABSENT
Ronald Riddick	_____ X _____	_____
Carmen Taylor	_____ X _____	_____

N. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

Ms. Grill will miss meeting in May.

2. Members of the Public

None.

O. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on May 5, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in closed session and will open in public at approximately 7:30 in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

P. ADJOURNMENT