

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE  
PUBLIC MEETING  
HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M.  
ATRIUM OF THE GEORGE INNESS ANNEX  
141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

- I. The meeting was opened at 7:13 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 Wednesday, February 25, 2009 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.

- II. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:14 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Jerry Fried	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Rich Murnick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Timothy Barr	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Staff Members	<u>    4    </u>	
Members of the Public	<u>   15   </u>	
Members of the Press	<u>    0    </u>	

IV. DISCUSSION BY BSE MEMBERS REGARDING 2009-2010 BUDGET

**Rich Murnick** stated that he was excited to be on the Board of School Estimate and had the ability to conclude the process and vote on the budget. He noted that he has heard from many people, read many opinions on the new school building and salaries and noted that the results can never make everyone happy. He stated that the goal of Montclair is to have their children get the right education at the right price and is looking forward to starting next year's budget without any doubts.

**Mayor Fried** noted that he approves the budget at a historically difficult time. He realizes that the budget is not as low as the community wants but it is a responsible budget that will preserve the school system. He stated that the budget contains sensible cuts that will not affect the system or jeopardize the education of our students. Mayor Fried thanked everyone for all their hard work during this budget process.

**Renee Baskerville** noted that she met with the Blue Ribbon panel for the new school and they decided that dollars should not be put in the capital budget at this time.

V. Resolution Re: Acknowledge Receipt of Certificate from the Montclair Board of Education to the Montclair Board of School Estimate Relating to the 2009-2010 Operating Budget

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education forwarded the attached Certificate to the Board of School Estimate relating to the School District Budget for the 2009-2010 school year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of School Estimate acknowledges receipt of the Certificate (attached).

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

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Jerry Fried	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>
Rich Murnick	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>

Timothy Barr	<u>    x    </u>	<u>        </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>    x    </u>	<u>        </u>

VI. Action on Proposed Board of School Estimate  
Resolution Re: Adoption of 2009-2010 Budget

Mayor Fried moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, NJSA Title 18A:22-14 requires that the Board of school Estimate fix and determine by official action the amount of money necessary to be appropriated for the use of the public schools in the district for ensuing year and,

WHEREAS, NJAC 6:19-5.2 requires that if the amount of money appropriated by the board of school estimate is less than the amount proposed by the board of education, the board of school estimate shall present to the board of education, the governing body and the county superintendent a statement of the specific line-item reductions made by the board of school estimate, along with a certification that the board of school estimate has reviewed the budget proposed by the board of education and deems the revised budget sufficient for provision of a thorough and efficient system of education and that the reductions will not adversely affect the stability of the district given the need for long term planning and budgeting,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of School Estimate, after careful study and due deliberation, does hereby approve a FY 2009-2010 school district tax levy in the amount of Ninety-Six Million, Eight Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand, Fourteen Dollars (\$96,869,014), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of School Estimate, does hereby certify said amount to the governing body of the Township of Montclair pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-19, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby instructed to prepare two certificate of this action, one to be sent to the Board of Education of the Township of Montclair, and the other to the Council of the Township of Montclair.

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

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Jerry Fried	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Rich Murnick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Timothy Barr	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>

VII. Resolution Re: Acknowledge Receipt of Certificate from the Montclair Board of Education to the Montclair Board of School Estimate Relating to 2009-2010 Authorization of School Bonds for Capital Purposes

Mayor Fried moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education forwarded the attached Certificate to the Board of School Estimate relating to the Authorization of school Bonds for Capital Purposes for the 2009-2010 school year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of School Estimate acknowledges receipt of the Certificate (attached).

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

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>
Jerry Fried	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Rich Murnick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Timothy Barr	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>

VIII. Action on Proposed Board of School Estimate  
 Resolution Re: Authorization of School Bonds for Capital Purposes

Mayor Fried moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has submitted a request for capital funds for school purposes pursuant to NJSA Title 18A:22-18, and

WHEREAS, said purposes relate to raising funds for roofing replacement at various schools, energy conservation and environmental projects district-wide, site improvements district-wide, furniture and equipment in various schools; technology upgrade and district-wide building modifications, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has estimated the cost thereof of Three Million, Seven Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$148,200) related to the issuance of bonds, and

WHEREAS, the projects are included in the district's Long-Range Facility Plan that was previously submitted to the New Jersey State Department of Education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that after careful study and due deliberation, the Board of School Estimate does hereby fix and determine the amount to be raised as Three Million, Eight Hundred Fifty-Three Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars (\$3,853,200), including Section 20 costs related to the issuance of bonds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of School Estimate does authorize funding for the total cost of the project. The local share will be calculated as the total estimated cost of the project less the amount of state funds that will be provided for these projects as determined by the New Jersey Department of Education, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of School Estimate does hereby certify said amount to the governing body of the Township of Montclair pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:22-19, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Secretary is hereby instructed to prepare two certificates of this action, one to be sent to the Board of Education of the Township of Montclair, and the other to the Council of the Township of Montclair.

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

	AYE	NAY
Jerry Fried	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Rich Murnick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Timothy Barr	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>

Shelly Lombard

    x                  

## IX. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Bob Russo**, 10 Crestmont Road, former Mayor of Montclair Township, stated that the Board of Education's job was always much harder than his. He wanted everyone to know that the main reason for the higher budget was due to the reduction of State and Federal funding and that residents have to back up the Board and Township to make the State funds Montclair what they actually deserve. He stated that he would do whatever he could do to help Montclair get more funding.

**Fred Chichester**, 56 Gordonhurst Avenue, stated that he read in the Montclair Times that some staff members are monitoring My Space and Face Book but felt that the primary purpose of staff should be devoted to education.

Dr. Alvarez responded that some staff members were monitoring the sites periodically since a couple of incidents occurred but assured everyone that it would not be an ongoing project.

**Shirley Grill** thanked everyone on the Board, the Town Council, Dana Sullivan and Frank Alvarez for all their time and hard work during this budget process. She stated that she thought the position of the County Superintendent was to join smaller school districts but this was not being done and she felt that if this was done, some school budgets would not be as high as they were.

**Helene Richman**, 101 Gordonhurst Road, stated that she had a question regarding why we are giving Immaculate Conception an increase in rent when we are not using some of their facility.

Dana Sullivan responded that we have withheld \$55,000 in last year's rent and as of now, have not renewed the lease for this year.

**Michael Chernick**, 16 Bellaire Drive, stated that he has never attended a meeting prior to tonight but felt it was necessary since the taxes have increased tremendously within the last seven year. He agreed that the school system was good but was annoyed when the budget did not have a small increase or no increase at all. He questioned how the Board can build a budget with a very small increase that will keep people wanting to

move to Montclair to have their children attend the school system.

**Marybeth Rosenthal** , Co-president of PTA Council, thanked everyone for all their hard work in developing budget. She stated that she has watched this process for 9-10 years and knows that it is not an easy process. She wanted the Board to know that the parent community is willing and looking forward to work with them as they think of structural changes that are needed for the kinds of diversity that the parent and community want.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50 p.m. Shelly Lombard moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Timothy Barr and approved by a vote of 5-0.