

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2009 AT 6:00 P.M.  
141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. The meeting opened at 6:04 p.m. and the following statement was read:

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

1. On June 10, 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.

B. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:04 p.m. Ronald 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-(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 covered by the attorney-client privilege; and matter rendered confidential by state or federal law: Personnel Matters, Personnel Report, and a Settlement Agreement.

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 Shirley Grill and approved by a vote of 6-0.

At 6:05 p.m. the Board went into executive session.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matters
2. Personnel Report

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Shirley Grill moved that the Board return from executive session; seconded by Shelly Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 7:40 p.m.

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:41 p.m.

F. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	<u>        </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>  x  </u>	<u>        </u>
Robert Kautz	<u>        </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Leslie Larson	<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>
Staff Members Present	<u>    9    </u>	
Members of the Public	<u>   15   </u>	
Members of the Press	<u>    1    </u>	

G. MINUTES

Ronald Riddick moved to approve the minutes of the Public Board meeting held Monday, September 21, 2009; seconded by Carmen Taylor and approved by a vote of 6-0.

H. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez thanked the staff, senior staff and PTA for all their support and encouragement during this past week with regard to the unfortunate issue at Watchung School.

Dr. Alvarez wanted to share the following good news with the public:

Montclair is one of a few school districts that will be participating in a pilot Fire Prevention Program with Dr. Frank Fields. He noted that this program will consist of students and parents watching broadcasts and giving students an opportunity to respond to questions during the school day.

Greg Woodruff, Montclair High School teacher, has been nominated Teacher of the Year by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and will receive his award on October 24, 2009 at the Montclair Art Museum.

Dr. Alvarez noted that out of 400 students attending Yale Law School, the most competitive law school in the country, five of them are from Montclair High School.

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## 1. MHS – Student Coalition

Dr. Alvarez introduced Krista Voorhis, the Teacher Advisor for the Montclair High School Student Coalition. Ms. Voorhis announced the officers for the 2009-2010 school year as follows:

Petal Robinson – Co Advisor  
 David Ellman – President  
 Jamie Fanous - Treasurer  
 Isabelle Foley – Secretary  
 Melanie Hotz - Vice President

David Ellman and Jamie Fanous, who were in attendance, highlighted some of the events that are and will be taking place during the school year; i.e. pep rallies, fall sports, senior college application submissions, car washes, diplomatic core video conference and new clubs. They also noted that they are looking forward to a great year with their new Principal, who they stated is very enthusiastic and open to positive suggestions for the school.

Dr. Alvarez stated that the Board looks forward to their monthly reports.

## 2. Academic Achievement Report

Mrs. Terry Trigg-Scales presented the Academic Achievement Report for 2008. Mrs. Trigg-Scales spoke on the following district goals

- ▶ Improving academic achievement for all students
- ▶ Continuing to achieve equity and improve efficiency
- ▶ Promoting community engagement

Mrs. Trigg-Scales noted that student performance is looked at in four different ways

1. Demographic
2. Student learning Data
3. School process Data
4. Perception Data

Mrs. Scales stated that:

- It is an ongoing effort of staff to improve student performance.
- All staff members are familiar with APIE (Assess, Plan, Implement and Evaluate).
- Information being presented was prepared using preliminary enrollment data and that a comparison was done from 2002 through the current year.
- District goals were driven by Core Standards, No Child Left Behind and State Policy.
- Areas of concentration will be Language Arts Literacy and Math and students with special needs.

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- District is influenced by visits from Tri State consortium, Governor's Awards, MSAN, CAPA/QSAC, visits from Quality New Jersey, Minority Student Achievement, District Leadership
- New Jersey has revised standards for proficiency for grades 3 and 4 – students must now attain 50% possible points to attain proficiency
- Students did well with regard to the New Jersey Goal percentages in grades 3 through 11.
- The slides show the increases and decreases in each grade level (grades 5 to 11) according to group and ethnicity.
- The slides for Grades 8 include Science as well as Language Arts and Math.
- The HSPA tests results are a requirement for grade 11 students (a graduation test) since this is how the AYP is calculated.
- Students continuing onto colleges from Montclair High School have increased in number since 1999.
- Dr. Scagliotti and his staff are working very closely to target on instruction for special needs students and going to take very dramatic steps in these fields; i.e. new programs, professional development for teachers.
- It is a proven fact that many students who do not have access to special tutoring, cultural trips, computers, etc. are economically disadvantaged; therefore all students are not performing on the same levels but that Montclair is providing additional resources through Imani, Stars and summer programs.

Dr. Frank Alvarez added that it is also a proven fact that all students do not have the same opportunities, resources and exposure and this too makes some students economically disadvantaged.

Board of Education Reports:

Mrs. Leslie Lombard reported on the following:

**Academic Sub Committee Meeting** – A presentation and update on the Learnia Program was given. Information on new programs funded by ARRA and professional development were addressed. A review of the Lucy Caulkins Program and its affect on the Writers Room was discussed.

**High School Advocates for a Positive School Climate** - Discussion were had on the issues affecting the school climate; i.e. students dress code, attitude and dress of faculty, gang awareness, alternative education options. In attendance were members of guidance, interschool police security, and staff members and the group plans on meeting twice a month to reach some action plans.

**Coffee with Dr. Alvarez at Edgemont School** – A discussion was held regarding the Lucy Caulkins program. Dr. Anderson is an early adopter of the program and is excited to expand this program. A discussion was also held on what is happening to address global education and reduce the achievement gap.

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**District Leadership Team** – District goals were discussed as well as the Discretionary Funds Principals receive for their schools and how they use it for magnet programs. A discussion was had regarding the monies that PTA's raise for their schools and how this affects other schools.

**North Star Charter School** – Visit to the school was quite interesting especially the collaborative ways teachers work toward education (curriculum and lesson plans). The school puts a great deal of emphasis on parent communication – the parents must pick up their child's report card four times a year and meet with their child's teacher at that time. There is daily feed back between teachers regarding their lesson plans and goals.

Mrs. Shelly Lombard reported that she had attended Back to School Night at Montclair High School and agreed with what the students have been saying that Mr. Earle is wonderful and can always be seen around the school. Mrs. Lombard commented positively on that night's presentation by Mr. Earle.

Mrs. Carmen Taylor stated that she too had attended Back to School Night at Montclair High School and was moved by the energy felt in the school and by Mr. Earle's presentation.

Mr. Ronald Riddick noted that he nothing special to report but agreed with Mrs. Lombard and Mrs. Taylor about the energy level in the high school.

Ms. Shirley Grill stated that she attended the meetings with Mrs. Lombard. Ms. Grill wanted to note that government money we are receiving to do professional training for teachers for special need students actually does benefit all students.

Mrs. Grill advised that she had attended several Township meetings with the Mayor at which he discussed his concept of how to appoint Board of Education members. Mrs. Grill encouraged the community to also attend these meetings. Mrs. Grill stated that she was passing on questions/concerns received from the community to Central Office.

Mr. John Carlton advised that he attended an Imani Fund Raiser and that, as usual it was a terrific event. Mr. Carlton stated that since the State is re-examining the funding formula, a committee to review the school funding formula is being assembled and anyone that is interested in serving on this committee should contact the Board.

#### I. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

The Board had the second reading of the following policies:

P-5141.21 Administering Medication

#### J. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the public on agenda items.

## K. GENERAL RESOLUTION

## 1. Resolutions

Carmen Taylor moved to approve the following resolutions:

## a. Resolution Re: Adoption of Board Policy

WHEREAS, Board of Education policy required two readings before policies are adopted, and

WHEREAS, the first reading of these policies took place on September 21, 2009 and

WHEREAS, the second reading is today October 5, 2009,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education adopts the Board Policy P-5141.21 Administering Medication.

## b. Resolution re: Approval of School Field Trips

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education Accountability Regulations require approval of all school related field trips by the Board of Education and,

WHEREAS, the field trip must be directly related to instruction and classwork

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following field trips are approved:

<b>SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS</b>						
SCHOOL	DATE	GRD	TEACHER	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
MHS	10-16-09	10-12	G. Burroughs	Van Vleck House, Mtc	None	AVID Retreat
MHS	10-31-09	9-12	J. Petrigliano	Brunswick Eruption, No. Brunswick NJ	\$25.00	Robotics competition for FRC team this tournament will give the robotics team an opportunity to play against other teams.
MHS	10-20-09	12	K. Schnitzer	Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, NJ	None	DECA Chapter officers Leadership Training to help grow chapter and be more competitive at events.
MHS	10-20-09	11-12	S. Nagorea	Chelsea Art Gallery, NYC	\$18.00	To expose students to portfolios/series of art works of contemporary artists thus enhancing their understanding of art today, leading to higher AP scores.

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MHS	10-13-09	9-12	S. Fyfe	Giant Stadium, NJ	None	Punt, pass, & kick with NY Giants
MHS	10-27-09	9-12	S. Nagorea	Museum of Modern Art, NYC	\$20.00	Discover art elements principles, and concepts at used by modern & contemporary artist.
Ren.	10-16-09	8	R. Napolitano	Times Square Expo, NY	\$15.00	To compare/contrast the representation of Lucy as the mother of civilization vs. how African women are represented historically.
Ren.	5-7-10	6	L Durber	Doricy Park, Red Bank, NJ	\$8.00	To study and unearth fossils from the Cretaceous Period as studied in science class.
Ren.	5-14-10	6	L Durber	Chinatown & Brooklyn Bridge, NYC	None	Immersion into Chinese culture to complement Humanities studies as well as observation of bridge construction as studied in our Bridges & Architecture classes.
Ren.	10-9-09	6	L Durber	Bronx Zoo, NY	\$8.00	To observe animals in their natural habitats and classify them accordingly as studied in Science.
Ren.	11-20-09	6	L Durber	United Nations, NYC	\$10.00	To explore the work of the UN in Conflict Mediation as studied in Social Studies.
Ren.	12-4-09	6	L Durber	United Nations, NYC	\$10.00	To explore the work of the UN in Conflict Mediation as studied in Social Studies.
Ren.	10-16-09	6	L Durber	Bronx Zoo, NY	\$8.00	To observe various animals in their natural habitats and classify them accordingly as studied in Science.
Ren.	1-8-10	6	L Durber	Museum of Natural History, NYC	\$10.00	To explore African & Asian peoples exhibits as related to Humanities studies.
Ren.	12-18-09	6	L Durber	Hillside Community Food Bank, NJ	None	To participate in community service as part of our Friday curriculum.
Ren.	1-15-10	6	L Durber	Museum of Natural History, NYC	\$10.00	To explore African & Asian peoples exhibits as related to Humanities studies.

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Ren.	2-5-10	6	L Durber	Clary Anderson Arena, Mtc.	\$6.00	Physical education component of our EXPO demonstration of performance assessment.
Ren.	2-26-10	6	L Durber	SriVenkatesvara Temple & Showpatty Restaurant, Iselin	\$6.00	To immerse ourselves in Indian culture in order to gain a better understanding of Humanities studies.
Ren.	3-5-10	6	L Durber	SriVenkatesvara Temple & Showpatty Restaurant, Iselin	\$6.00	To immerse ourselves in Indian culture in order to gain a better understanding of Humanities studies.
Ren.	4-9-10	6	L Durber	Clary Anderson Arena, Mtc.	\$6.00	Physical education component of our EXPO demonstration of performance assessment.
Ren.	4-16-10	6	L Durber	Brooklyn Bridge, & Chinatown, NYC	None	Immersion into Chinese culture to complement Humanities studies as well as observation of bridge construction.
Ren.	6-18-10	6	L Durber	Mountainside Pool. Mtc.	None	End of the year completion of Breadth of Reading & Writing Portfolio.
Ren.	6-4-10	6	L Durber	Woodman Field, Mtc.	None	To reenact the Greek Olympics to complement Humanities studies and integrate physical education.
Ren.	11-13-10	6	L Durber	Clary Anderson Arena, Mtc.	\$6.00	Physical education component of our EXPO demonstration of performance assessment.
Ren.	5-21-10	6	L Durber	Doricy Park, Red Bank, NJ	\$8.00	To study and uncover fossils from the Cretaceous Period as studied in Science class.
Ren.	10-9 & 10-15-09	7	R. Khan	Harriman State Park, NJ	\$5.00	Environmental Studies
Ren.	10-30-09	7	J. Garzon	Budd Lake, NJ	\$16.00	Live presentation of Edgar Allan Poe, Part of Romantic Period American Literature
Ren.	11-13 & 11-20-09	7	J. Garzon	Sleepy Hollow, NY	\$10.00	Washington Irving sites, house, revolutionary period site, Slavery Plantation and meeting house.



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Ren.	12-11 & 12-18-09	7	R. Khan	Museum of Jewish Heritage, NY	\$10.00	Holocaust studies
Ren.	11-13-09	8	C. Hittel	NY Hall of Science, NY	\$12.00	The study of science through various exhibits
Ren.	11-20-09	8	R. Napolitano	NY Hall of Science, NY	\$12.00	The study of science through various exhibits
Ren.	1-22-10	8	R. Napolitano	Liberty State Park, Ellis Island	\$9.00	Learn/experience what immigrants went through in coming to the US
Glen.	2-25 & 2-26-10	7	B. Schwartz	Cherry Hill/Philadelphia	\$185.0 0	To enhance the Holocaust program run for 7 <sup>th</sup> grade Rogate students.
Glen.	10-29-09	7	B. Schwartz	Edgemont School	None	Reading Enrichment Program
Glen.	10-21-09	8	J. Scribner	Bodies the Exhibition, NY	\$30.00	This will be the final activity of a unit on the human body.
Glen.	2-5 & 2-8-10	6	J. Belmonte	Buehler Science Center, Paramus, NJ	\$30.00	Interdisciplinary Unit involving Math, Social Studies, Science, and Language Arts
Mt. Heb.	10-22 & 10-30-09	6-7-8	A. Ward	Montclair Art Museum	\$20.00	This exhibit examines Cezannes influence on artists & photographers still life & landscapes.
Mt. Heb.	10-22-09	6	T. Berger	Franklin Mineral Museum, NJ	\$12.00	Earth's properties and materials
Mt. Heb.	10-22-09	6	J. Fiore	Essex Fells Elementary School, NJ	None	To attend a problem solving conference with the Essex county Steering Committee for gifted and talented.
Rand.	1-22-10	4	F. Du Mont	Morristown NHP, Visitor Center & Wick House, NJ	\$10.00	Studying New Jersey's role in the American Revolution.
Rand.	10-22-09	2	N. Kuwabara	NJ Museum of Agriculture, N. Brunswick, NJ	\$15.00	Hands on extension of grain study. Study thresh, winnow, grind & bake whole wheat.
Rand.	10-9-09	4	B. D'Andrea	Sandy Hook, NJ	None	Science-Plant and animal adaptations, Social Studies
Rand.	10-20-09	K	K. Dillman	Demarest Farms, NJ	\$10.00	To further our study of the seasons by observing seasonal changes and picking pumpkins.

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Rand.	10-8-09	5	M. Lowy	Old Barracks Museum, Trenton, NJ	\$14.00	Study of American Revolution
N.E.	10-28-09	4-5	S. Dey	Gershwin Theatre, NY	\$40.00	To observe vocal and instrumental performers in a live professional setting, related directly to performance skills being taught in band & orchestra lessons.
N.E.	11-10-09	5	S. Dey	VA Medical Center, E. Orange, NJ	None	To foster community engagement while providing a performance venue for developing instrumentalists.
N.E.	10-20-09	K	J. Beatty	Green Meadow Farm, Hazlet, NJ	\$15.00	Enriching our science unit living things, animals, and plants and enriching our language arts through writing/reading.
N.E.	12-8-09	1	B. Frank	Montclair Memorial Walia Theater, Mtc.	\$15.00	Literature connection
Nish.	6-2-10	K	S. Price	Jenkinson's Aquarium, Pt. Pleasant, NJ	\$15.00	Culminating activity to science unit about ocean life, sea mammals, etc.
Hill.	10-3-09	4 & 5	L. D'Amico	Montclair State University, NJ	None	Halftime Show for homecoming football game
Hill.	10-29-09	3	M. Gorcica	Heaven Hill Farms, Vernon, NJ	\$6.00	The students will be introduced to a working farm as well as plant/animal life
Hill.	10-21-09	3	E. Siebert	Alstede Farms, Chester, NJ	\$15.00	To introduce the students to a working farm and to the introduction of plant and animal life.
Edge.	10-20-09	K	P. DiPietro	Wightman's Farms, Morristown, NJ	\$14.50	Help the children understand the changes that occur in each season (weather, clothing harvest time).
Edge.	10-22-09	5	A. Passamano	United Nations, NY	\$15.00	International studies, world language, foreign relations
Edge.	11-3-09	3	A. Fagan	The Cloister Museum	\$11.00	To see works of Medieval Art and hear the stories and legends related to our theme study of Medieval Times.

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Brad.	10-27-09	Spec. Ed.	R. O'Sullivan	Heaven Hill Farms, Vernon, NJ	\$15.00	It is important for students with ASD to obtain ample opportunities to practice skills they learn at school in the community. This trip also includes an educational lesson on how daily life on the farms takes place.
Brad.	10-26-09	K	R. Klimik	Race Farm, Blairstown, NJ	\$15.00	Apple picking, relates to science curriculum how apples/pumpkins grow and how they are used.
Brad.	10-23-09	1-2	K. Russo	Wightman's Farm, Morristown, NJ	\$15.00	A trip to the pumpkin farm is a wonderful way to bring the lifecycle of a pumpkin to life for our students. We will also be able to expose the children to the seasonal changes that fall brings to our local environment.
Watch.	10-27-09	K	N. Alvarez	Melick's Town Farm, Oldwick, NJ	\$6.50	Month's theme, apples, and pumpkins. Students have read books about apples and pumpkins and we'll be cooking and experimenting upon our return.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the field trips are approved in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education Accountability Regulations.

c. Resolution re: Approval of Conference and Travel Expenses

Resolution Re: Approval Of Conference And Travel Expenses

WHEREAS, New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 23 B and Board of Education policy required approval of the Board of Education prior to expending Board of education funds for travel 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:

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<u>Conference</u>	<u>Board Member/ Employee</u>	<u>School/ Department</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Educational Purpose</u>
Responding to Misbehavior	Lauren Wenning	Brad.	\$179.00	Will enhance the classroom management skills and gain a better understanding of positive discipline.
Shadowing: supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Inclusive Environments	Joanna Zschack	Pre-K	\$175.00	Will promote the delivery of instruction with the included students. It will give further strategies to address challenging behaviors and increase independence and socialization in the classroom.
NJ Science Convention 2009	Emrah Altunkaya	HS	\$95.00	Exposure to the newest ideas and technology improves instruction.
Augmentative Communication	Jane Sellar	Pre-K	\$25.00	Will learn techniques to facilitate communication.
In Praise of Education	Frank Alvarez Felice Harrison	CO CO	\$871.80 \$1765.00	To contribute to panel discussions to support partnership between Montclair State University and school district pertaining to teacher education, curriculum, and program development.
NSTA Conference in Phoenix	Pamela Wright	HS	\$204.00	This part of the summer FDA program that I attended in food science and food safety, going to conference was signed off last year when accepted to program.
“Samuel Bak: Artist/Witness to the Holocaust”	Victoria Skopak Arin Leard Sheila Allen Frederick Reissig Davida Harewood	Mt. Heb.	\$18.00 \$18.00 \$18.00 \$18.00 \$18.00	Conference presented by Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide study. It commemorates “Kristallnacht: and focuses on incorporating art into the Holocaust Study Area. Information will be used in the Holocaust study component.
2009 Fall Conference – Power of Midsets	Tracey Wolfson	Glen	\$157.00	Focus on fluency and developing writing skills in students who struggle will promote the delivery of instruction to special education students taking multisensory reading.
A Closer Look at Accountability Regulations	Dana Sullivan	CO	\$100.00	Learn how to deal with accountability regulations, deadlines involved, interpret what it all means.

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NJ Science Convention	Andrea Dolan-Astorino	Glen.	\$95.00	Will have a variety of workshops including ways to integrate technology, ideas for interdisciplinary activities, grant writing, working with new science equipment.
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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.

Seconded by Shirley Grill and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Robert Kautz	Absent	<u>      </u>
Leslie Larson	<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>

2. Business

Shelly Lombard moved to approve the following resolutions:

Resolution Re: Revision of Maximum Conference & Travel Amount

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education approved \$125,000 as the maximum travel allowance, and

WHEREAS, subsequent to this approval, the Board has received additional grant funds that will be used for this purpose,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education hereby approves a revised travel budget for general and special revenue (including ARRA funds) in the amount of \$150,000 which will support the improvement and development of professional and curricular activities during the FY2009/10 school year.

3. Contract Awards

a. Resolution Re: Award of Contract for Curriculum Mapper Proprietary Software 2009-2010 Fiscal Year

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 purchase of proprietary computer hardware and software

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education is in need of software that will be used to align and revise curriculum to the NJCCCS,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation does hereby award a contract to Collaborative Learning, Inc., for the purchase of Curriculum Mapper at a cost of \$72,750 in the year 2009-2010 and \$10,050 each subsequent year for maintenance and site-licensing.

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

- b. Resolution Re: Award of Contract for Student Leadership Support Curriculum for 2009-2010 Fiscal Year

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 purchase of curriculum for long term leadership support, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education is in need of curriculum that will be used to support student leadership and life skills training,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation does hereby award a contract to Pro Athletes, Inc., for the purchase of Student Leadership Support Curriculum at a cost of \$65,000 for the year 2009-2010 school year,

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

#### 4. Change Orders

- a. Resolution Re: Change Order #1 for Science Wing Roof Replacement at the High School

Topic: 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.

Background Information: In accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared for the Board of Education by Richard Rigolo, Architect for the Montclair Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on June 10, 2009, for Science Wing Roof Replacement at the High School. The contract was awarded to Kraft Roofing Company, Inc., 212

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Lauren Lane, Sussex, New Jersey, 07461, in the total amount of \$165,650.00 (base bid of \$140,650.00 plus alternate #1 for \$25,000.00).

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approves Change Order #1 for a total increase in the amount of \$4,500.00 for:

- As required by field conditions, installation of tapered ISO fasteners with Carlisle toggle bolts per contractor's quote dated 8/18/09 for an extra in the amount of: \$4,500.00
- Excess fasteners to remain with Board of Education
- Extension of time is granted to allow roofing work to Proceed during the following school closing dates:  
November 5-6; December 28-31; April 19-23, 2010

Total Amount of this change order: \$4,500.00

- b. Resolution Re: Change Order #2 for Gymnasium & Corridor Ceiling & Lighting Replacement at the High School

Topic: 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.

Background Information: In accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared for the Board of Education by Richard Rigolo, Architect for the Montclair Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on June 2, 2009, for Gymnasium & Corridor Ceiling & Lighting Replacement at the High School. The contract was awarded to Molba Construction, 392 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, New Jersey, 07643, in the total amount of \$41,900.00.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approves change order #2 for a credit amount of \$1,350.00 for a project sign that was not required.

- c. Resolution Re: Change Order #8 for Plumbing and Gas Fitting Work for New Elementary School

Topic: 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.

Background Information: In accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared for the Board of Education by The Thomas Group, Architect for the Montclair Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on March 19, 2008, for Plumbing and Gas Fitting Work for New Elementary School. The contract was awarded to Annese Mechanical, 699 Cross Street, Unit 2, Lakewood, New Jersey, 08701, in the total amount of \$1,349,015 which includes the base bid of \$1,346,165 plus Alternate #1 – Roof Drains for Clock Tower for \$2,850.

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Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approves change order #8 for \$1,741.61 as follows:

- Provide labor and material necessary for installation of standard height floor mounted water closets in lieu of primary height specified water closets in the kindergarten toilet rooms. \$1,741.61
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- Total Amount of this change order: \$1,741.61

Ms. Leslie Larson questioned the Student Leadership Curriculum Contract. Mrs. Terry-Trigg Scales responded that there are twenty-five athletic students who are at risk of failing and this program will help them in their academic achievement, their self-esteem as well as leadership skills, mainly sophomore and juniors. Mrs. Terry-Trigg Scales stated that D. West will be working with them and will be bringing in some pro-athletes to speak to them. Mr. West will also work with star peoples at Glenfield.

Seconded by Shirley Grill and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY
John Carlton	___x___	_____
Shirley Grill	___x___	_____
Robert Kautz	Absent	_____
Leslie Larson	___x___	_____
Shelly Lombard	___x___	_____
Ronald Riddick	___x___	_____
Carmen Taylor	___x___	_____

5. Resolution re: Approval of Personnel Report as amended:

Ronald Riddick moved to approve the amended Personnel Report:

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has recommended that the Board approved the actions contained in the attached Personnel Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the amended Personnel Report of October 5, 2009, including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.

Seconded by Carmen Taylor and approved by a roll call vote:



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	AYE	NAY
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Robert Kautz	Absent	<u>      </u>
Leslie Larson	<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>

6. Resolution re: Authorizing Settlement of Lawsuit and Claims in the Matters of Backstage Lighting v. Montclair Board of Education, Docket No. ESX-L-5499-09, and Claims for Fees Owed by Pakis Construction, Inc. Related to the Mt. Hebron Stage Project

Shirley Grill moved to approve the following Settlement Agreement:

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education entered into an agreement with Pakis Construction, Inc. to provide construction services related to the Stage Renovations at Mt. Hebron School (hereinafter referred to as the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, Pakis Construction, Inc. hired Backstage Lighting & Rigging to subcontract some of the work on the Project; and

WHEREAS, a dispute arose among the Board, Pakis and Backstage regarding fees owed and delays that occurred in the Project; and

WHEREAS, Backstage filed a suit entitled Backstage Lighting & Rigging v. Pakis Construction, Inc. and Montclair Board of Education, et al, venued in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Essex County and bearing Docket Number ESX-L-5499-09; and

WHEREAS, Pakis Construction, Inc. filed a claim against the Montclair Board of Education for fees owed on the Project, which claim would proceed to arbitration if not settled; and

WHEREAS, Backstage, Pakis and the Board are desirous of settling this dispute amicably without further resort to litigation or arbitration; and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education finds that it is in the best interest of the school district to amicably resolve this dispute with Backstage and with Pakis without resort to further litigation; and

WHEREAS, the Board’s legal counsel will prepare a Settlement Agreement that will resolve all claims for fees between and among Backstage, Pakis and the Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board Attorney to enter into a settlement agreement that reduces the fees owed to Pakis Construction, Inc. by Seven Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) representing costs for delays to the Project, and that disposes of all other claims for fees from Backstage Lighting & Rigging and from Pakis Construction, Inc.; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Superintendent, the Business Administrator, and the Board Attorney to take whatever steps are necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

Seconded by Shelly Lombard and approved by a roll call vote:

Mrs. Dana Sullivan was questioned what the \$7,000 credit was for and responded that is was due to the fact that the project was not completed in a timely fashion.

	AYE	NAY
John Carlton	___x__	_____
Shirley Grill	___x__	_____
Robert Kautz	Absent	_____
Leslie Larson	___x__	_____
Shelly Lombard	___x__	_____
Ronald Riddick	___x__	_____
Carmen Taylor	___x__	_____

L. COMMENTS

1. Members of the Public

Dorothy Oliver applauded the Board for the transparency and professionalism in negotiating the Superintendent’s Contract and allowing the community to be aware of all intimate details.

Deborah Wilson stated that on Friday, Members of the Board of Education received a copy of a memorandum to the Curriculum Sub-Committee on behalf of Glenfield parents. Mrs. Wilson requested that the following letter be read into the minutes:

In following the parent complaint question procedure we received, we recently have spoken to and/or corresponded with Dr. Anemone ,Guy Whitlock, Terry Scales and Dr. Alvarez about a situation at Glenfield Middle School involving the math curriculum. We are writing to bring what we consider a serious issue to your attention. Our children are currently taking 7<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra B and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Geometry and based on our experience parents are being given inconsistent and potentially misleading information about the middle school math curriculum as it relates to Algebra and Geometry in particular. In addition, we believe the following may be occurring as it relates to Algebra and Geometry. The district may not be providing appropriate curriculum direction and guidelines, Principals may not be aware of curriculum direction and guidelines, Principals may not be following curriculum direction and guidelines and as a result teachers may be left to individually interpret the curriculum.

Answers to the following questions will provide critical information in general as we advocate for our children. In addition, we expect these answers may help us clear up our confusion and dissatisfaction with regard to recent decisions at Glenfield

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involving the math curriculum. The questions are grouped into the following categories:

Algebra Readiness Test – we would like to understand what the district criteria is for taking the Algebra Readiness Test and who is responsible for making parents aware of this criteria. In the area of middle school Algebra and Geometry courses we like to know if middle school Algebra and Geometry are considered high honors courses. We looked at page 65 from the 2008-2009 Montclair High School Planning and noted that 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra B is listed as high honors and Geometry is listed as high honors. Who is responsible for communicating the middle school math curriculum to parents and is the information on the Glenfield website approved by the district? Is there a specific syllabus that teachers are required to follow and how does the district determine the failure rates for middle school Algebra and Geometry? In the area of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra we would like to understand and get answers to what the district guidelines are for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra with regard to testing, course work and grading standard. Who is responsible for making parents aware of these standards? We looked at a memo that was sent on May 13, 2009, regarding State Assessment and it was a communication to Chief School Administrators. On page 7 we found reference to Algebra for grades 7 through 12 but no reference to grade 6. How does the district determine student failure rates for grade 6 Algebra? In the area of middle school math and the SAIL program, we would like to know if our middle school Algebra and Geometry courses are part of the SAIL program and if so, where is this documented for parent access. Who is responsible for notifying parents of students' status in this SAIL program? We looked on the district's website, the SAIL overview does not indicate who will notify students and parents. What is the class size average for SAIL courses? Do the district's guidelines differentiate instruction in any particular teaching methods as inappropriate for SAIL courses? What is the homework standard for SAIL courses and is the standard the same as general education courses and finally in the area of middle school math homework assignments we like to understand and get answers to what is the district's policy for homework and how does the district determine how long in terms of the number of hours required for students to complete homework. We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. We are available to meet with you to provide additional parent insight and/or answers to questions we believe is critical to provide transparency, facts and information to parents about the middle school math curriculum and we await your answers. The parents that participated in drafting this letter are Alexis and Michael Ellison, Marvin Deupree, Felipa Gurling, Dawn and Jason Harris, Masiel Rodriquez Vars, and Deborah and Curtis Wilson.

Mrs. Shirley Grill questioned what grade these parents represented and Mrs. Wilson responded that they were seventh and eighth grade parents. Mrs. Grill asked if there was a specific change that is causing parents to question the curriculum and Mrs. Wilson responded no. Mrs. Wilson noted that some staff changes were made and parents want to know the reasons why these changes were made. Mrs. Grill responded that the Board will review this matter

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Dr. Alvarez noted that he has contacted the Department of Instruction and will get some answers. Dr. Alvarez also stated that the same curriculum should be taught regardless of who the teacher is and will get a response to parents by the end of the week.

Jason Harris, 155 Highland Avenue, stated that he was in agreement with the information in the letter and felt that misinformation was also given with regard to the number of hours being spent on homework and the failure rate. Mr. Harris asked that the following response from the State of New Jersey with regard to his press release be made part of the minutes:

Dear Mr. Harris

Thank you very much for sharing with us the success of the Agile Mind pilot program at Glenfield Middle School and the Montclair school district. It pleases me to learn of the success of this exciting mathematic program. As a former math teacher I found the information particularly exciting. It is a real pleasure to learn that Algebra and Geometry are alive and well in Montclair and has been embraced by the superintendent, principals and teachers. I enjoyed learning about one of New Jersey educational success stories. Once again, thank you and I wish you and all the students at Glenfield Middle School a very successful school year.

Lucille Davy

Commissioner of Department of Education - New Jersey

Mr. Harris was questioned if the parents had evidence that their children will not do well in the course. Mr. Harris noted that this teacher has never taught Geometry and feels that a teacher should have more experience before teaching a high honors course. Mr. Harris also stated that some children have dropped out of the class.

Masiel Rodriquez Vars, Co-president of PTA Council, stated that she was with the Glenfield parents and Mrs. Vars reiterated her concerns about the instructor having difficulty teaching the course. Mrs. Vars stated her concern that students in this class may have a tough year when they enter the high school.

Mary Beth Rosenthal, Co-president of PTA Council, noted that the PTA Council has the following on their agenda for this year:

- John Hopkins Program
- Presentation of Kirwan's Institute Work
- Sub-committee for school tours
- Sub-committee for non profit roundtable regarding collaborating on holiday gifts
- Focus groups with PTA and Kirwan Institute regarding magnet schools and integration
- Sub-committee for PTA directories
- Discussion and presentations regarding school budget process
- Parent conference planning

## 2. Board Members

Mrs. Carmen Taylor stated that she had attended a Fourth Ward Council Meeting held by Dr. Renee Baskerville. Mrs. Taylor noted that this meeting was very well attended and honored four fourth ward members, one being Guy Whitlock. Mrs. Taylor expressed her gratitude to Dr. Baskerville for a very well organized meeting.

Mr. Ronald Riddick commended the district for participating in the Minority Student Achievement Network which was held in Chicago. Mr. Riddick noted that his son was a participant and brought home much excitement and enthusiasm with regard to the creation of programs on inclusion within schools to bring all students together regardless of race or ethnicity.

Ms. Shirley Grill wanted to clarify the issue of fund raising. Ms. Grill noted that she felt that PTA's in different schools are not raising the same amounts of money and felt that possibly all monies raised should be funneled through MFEE so that there would not be an inequity in school fundraising.

Ms. Leslie Larson commented that she would like the Board to have in depth presentations on various programs. Ms. Larson stated that she felt this would be a way that the Board could be assured that all students are receiving the same curriculum and it is taught the same way in all schools.

Mrs. Shelly Lombard thanked Terry Trigg-Scales and Dr. Frank Alvarez in advance for the work they will be doing with regard to the math curriculum. Mrs. Lombard noted that it is critical how decisions are made with regard to curriculum.

Mrs. Lombard wanted to add a comment to Mr. Carlton's presentation regarding the funding formula. Mrs. Lombard wanted everyone to be aware that the average district receives 40% of their budget from State funding and Montclair receives 9 – 10% in funding; therefore it is critical that we lobby for additional funding.

Ms. Lombard wanted to thank Mrs. Leslie Larson for setting an excellent example of a new board member by her attending meetings and coffee discussions.

At 9:50 p.m. the Board and Dr. Frank Alvarez went back into executive session to discuss personnel issues.

At 11:04, Shelley Lombard moved that the Board return from executive session; seconded by Shirley Grill and approved by a vote of 6-0.

## M. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, October 19, 2009, and will open at 6:30 p.m. in public but will go immediately into executive session. The meeting will reconvene in public at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium of the George Inness Annex, 141 Park Street.

N. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:05 p.m. Shirley Grill moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Shelly Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.