MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE BUDGET WORKSHOP

HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010 AT 7:00 P.M. ATRIUM OF THE GEORGE INNESS ANNEX 141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

I. The meeting was opened at 7:10 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 Tuesday, February 23, 2010 notice of this meeting was faxed to the <u>Montclair Times</u>, the <u>Herald and News</u> and the <u>Star–Ledger</u>. 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 7:12 p.m.
- III. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Jerry Fried	x	
Renee Baskerville	x	
Rich Murnick	x	
Shirley Grill	x	
Shelly Lombard	x	
Staff Members	4	
Members of the Public	70	
Members of the Press	1	

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Baskerville moved to approve the minutes from the following meetings:

- 1. Budget Workshop Meeting Wednesday, March 26, 2009
- 2. Public Budget Hearing Monday, March 30, 2009
- 3. Public Meeting April 2, 2009

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

V. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED 2010-2011 SCHOOL BUDGET

Dr. Alvarez stated it has been a very difficult budget process for the district. When the budget process began in the fall, the Boards' goal was to try to get to a 1% tax levy increase. That was primarily based on information received last year with regard to how difficult it was for people to pay taxes. On February 1, the Board reached that goal. In order to reach this goal, the Board had to reduce the budget by \$3.5 million by trimming some of the edges, providing some new efficiencies and restructuring programs. He stated that they didn't anticipate that it would only get worse as they moved forward. Then on February 11, the Governor forced the district to use surplus funds from this years' budget to replace state aid in the current year. The Board noted that use of the current surplus fund balance in the current year would reduce the amount available for the 2010–2011 school year. The Board was told to expect a 15% loss in state aid but last Wednesday state aid notices were sent including a 60% loss in state aid. The total amount of state aid loss for Montclair is \$5.4 million.

Dr. Alvarez stated the goal was always about maintaining the magnet system, providing transportation for students, improving academic achievement, maintaining the diversity of programs, and maintaining the full-day kindergarten program. He stated that they took a number of things out of the budget that they probably would not have done in a normal year. This was an opportunity to take a good look at some of the programs that are working and also some programs that can be delivered differently.

Dr. Alvarez stated that overall \$7.1 million was cut from the budget. The district lost \$5.4 million in state aid. The budget is well below the allowed CAP. Next years budget is \$2.4 million lower than the current operating budget and because of the loss of state aid, taxes will increase. He stated that regardless to what the Board of School Estimate does the district should also expect that the Executive County Superintendent could also cut the budget. They have the authority to do so and are receiving instruction from the Governor's office to review budgets very closely and asking districts to cut more. He clarified that the principals were active in the discussions of where and what to cut in their schools.

Dr. Alvarez turned over the meeting to Mrs. Sullivan who presented figures and data information of the budget.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the priorities were developed in the fall. She stated that it is important to note these priorities because for the first time in a long time a lot of these things were on the table and really in jeopardy of not being maintained in next years budget. The priorities consist of the following:

- ·Maintain integrated magnet schools
- •Maintain transportation at one mile in grades K-8
- ·Maintain full day Kindergarten
- •Commitment to improve academic achievement for all students and to provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students
- ·Sensitivity to the current economic climate
- ·Provide a safe and secure learning environment
- ·Provide for mandated programs and services

Mrs. Sullivan stated that on March 1 the Board presented a proposed budget that included \$5.1 million in reductions from current programs and services that are offered in the district. That budget had a decrease of \$300,000 in the operating budget. The budget would have been more than \$1 million under the State CAP providing the CAP was 4%. At that point, State CAP information was unknown. The budget would have reflected the lowest school tax increase in 11 years which represented a \$247 tax increase for an average homeowner in Montclair.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that on March 22 the budget is very different. On March 17, information from the New Jersey Department of Education was received stating that state aid for 2010–2011 was reduced by \$5.4 million. The Board had expected and planned for a \$1.5 million decrease. She indicated that the total budget reductions are now \$7.1 million which reflects a reduction of 85.2 staff members. The operating budget is decreasing from 2009–2010 to 2010–2011 by \$2.4 million. She continued that because of all the decreases in revenue, the tax levy increase is going up 4.8% or \$410. She stated that she is uncertain that the 4.8% tax increase will stand because of the authority that the Essex County Superintendent has to further reduce budgets. The CAP that is set by the State of New Jersey was at 4% but adjustments to that CAP are made based on loss in state aid. Therefore, the State would have allowed a 10% tax levy increase in this budget which obviously was unrealistic and not something that could be presented. She concluded that currently, the district is \$5 million under the adjusted school tax CAP.

Mrs. Sullivan presented a chart explaining the revenue for 2009–2010 and 2010–2011 that reflects increases in the tax levy while other sources were decreasing. The state aid reflects a reduction of 60.9%. The fund balance decreased because the district was forced to use it to cover the loss of state aid in 2009–2010 and the Board does not feel that it is prudent to appropriate \$2.4 million next year. She stated the other revenue has also decreased due to decrease in interest income that is earned on fund balance because interest rates are so low. The adult school is a self-sustaining program that does flow through the budget but is at no cost to the tax payer and does show as part of the budget. She concluded that the special revenue fund is state and federal grants. The grants cannot be budgeted for until grants are received so the 2.9 figure will increase. Those grants are for designated purposes so they will not fund things that are being reduced out of this years' budget.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that education is a very labor-intensive industry and that the distribution of the budget consists of the following:

- •83% is for salaries and benefits
- ·10% is for out of district placements
- $\cdot 4\%$ is for supplies and materials
- $\cdot 2\%$ is for cleaning, repairs, maintenance, and rentals
- •1% is for consultants and legal

Mrs. Sullivan indicated that the 2009-2010 general categories of staff consist of the following:

- ·53.3% is teachers
- ·23.4% is instructional aides
- •9.4 % is school support staff
- •5.8% is building administration
- •4.0% is buildings and grounds

·3.7% is central office

 $\cdot 0.3\%$ is technology

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the 5.7 staff reductions at central office are in the following areas:

- Administration
- ·Support staff
- Buildings and grounds/maintenance
- ·Conference & Travel dues
- ·Supplies, materials, and textbooks
- ·Building maintenance and repairs

Mrs. Sullivan stated that there will be 4.0 staff reductions in special education. Additional staff reductions are expected once the report from the District Management Council has been received and reviewed.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the 39.7 staff reductions in the elementary schools are in the following areas:

- ·World Language
- ·Curriculum Support
- ·Related Arts
- ·Librarians
- •ESL
- ·Student Assistance Counselors
- ·Instructional Aides
- ·Stipends paid to curriculum and Subject Matter Leaders
- •Writers Room Paid Coordinators
- •Tutoring/After School Programs
- •Non mandated and community programs
- ·Supplies and materials outside of per pupil budget

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the 15.9 staff reductions in the middle school are in the following areas:

- ·Librarians
- •Classroom and Related arts teachers
- ·Nurses
- Security
- ·Instructional aides
- After school programs
- Summer programs
- Writer's room paid coordinators
- Use of non-district owned facilities
- Stipends paid to subject matter and curriculum leaders
- Summer Scheduling
- Non mandated and community programs

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the 19.9 staff reductions in the high school are in the following areas:

- ·Classroom and related arts teachers
- ·Support staff
- Administration
- •Security
- ·Writers room paid coordinators
- ·Stipends paid to athletics and activities
- ·Summer programs
- •Non mandated and community programs

Mrs. Sullivan stated that in regards to the district's costs per pupil, people usually want to know how much the district spends and how it compares to other districts. She added that the most recent data reflects the 2007–2008 school year. This is data that is compiled by the State of New Jersey and based on actual audited costs. Montclair falls in the middle at \$13,670 . The State average is \$12,881 and Montclair is usually above that average because salaries tend to be higher than the southern part of New Jersey.

Mrs. Sullivan noted that there have been significant reductions made in administrative costs. Montclair is already the third lowest spending district in Essex County. She added that Montclair spends more than the State average on instructional support, and extra curricular activities and less on administration, plant, and maintenance costs.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that over the years the district has made many efforts and joined many initiatives to try to reduce costs and recognize efficiencies wherever possible. Those programs are as follows:

·Privatized night custodial cleaning services

·Participation in the following programs:

Federal E-rate program

Alliance for Competitive Energy Services

Transportation jointure for out of district special education

Cooperative purchasing with hundreds of districts

Cooperative purchasing for liability insurance

Special education Medicaid initiative

·Professional development provided by Montclair State University

·Technology shared with town and library

Private Fiber

Network hardware

IP phones

Webhosting

Shared Internet

Maintenance and volume purchasing

Other shared services in town

Building usage

"Cops in Schools" program

Gasoline for vehicles
Garbage and recycling
Salt
Nursing services

Mrs. Sullivan stated that there are many different groups that evaluate the district such as:

- •QSAC-review of fiscal efficiencies and accountability
- ·Annual financial audit by an independent auditor
- ·Executive County Superintendent review of budget efficiencies
- New Jersey Department of Education Compliance Audits/Monitoring
- ·Special Education Self Assessment
- •Tri-State Consortium
- District Management Council
- ·Kirwan Institute
- ·Boggs Center at Rutgers

Mrs. Sullivan announced the following scheduled Board of School Estimate meeting calendar:

Wednesday, March 31, 2010 Public Hearing Thursday, April 8, 2010 Budget Adoption

DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED 2010-2011 CAPITAL BUDGET

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the capital budget is relatively small compared to the past years. The total capital budget this year is \$2.8 million. She stated that they tried to push off to future years anything that was not a necessity for the next school year which now they have monies designated for the following projects:

- •Roofing in the amount of \$538,000
- •HVAC in the amount of \$100,000
- •Rand Conversion in the amount of \$375,000
- •Site Improvements in the amount of \$40,000
- •Environmental in the amount of \$75,000
- •Furniture/Equipment in the amount of \$20,000
- •Technology in the amount of \$375,000
- •Other Projects in the amount of \$1,348,500

Mrs. Sullivan spoke about the following program improvements at schools:

- •To renovate Rand into a middle school ~\$375,000
- •To renovate the boys' locker room at Glenfield \$107,000
- •To renovate the girls' locker room at the high school ~\$61,000
- •To improve the library at Nishuane School ~\$144,000

- •To improve furniture and equipment district wide ~\$20,000
- ·To install technology upgrades district wide ~\$375,000

Mrs. Sullivan stated the there is money designated district wide for the cost of the following repairs:

- •Replacements to the auditorium steps at Montclair High School ~\$21,000
- •George Inness the North Fullerton retaining wall \$73,000
- •Mt. Hebron Entrance steps and sidewalks ~ \$98,000

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the there is money designated district wide for the following:

- ·HVAC~\$100,000
- ·Landscaping/erosion control~\$40,000
- •Environmental-\$75,000
- •Floor replacements district wide~\$85,000
- ·Sanitary and storm drains~\$20,000

VI. RECEIVE COMMENTS AND/OR QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING THE PROPOSED 2010-2011 SCHOOL BUDGET

Mayor Fried opened up comments to the members of the Board of School Estimate.

Mrs. Lombard thanked senior staff for volunteering not to take their raises this year. She also thanked Dennis Murray and Marge Astorino along with teachers for also giving up their raises to help the Board with taxes and saving jobs. She spoke about the articles in local newspapers about state aid. She stated that state aid decrease has caused dramatic change in the district. She stated that there are no pain free solutions to this budget. The bottom line is to either make choices to cut classroom services or cut programs or raise taxes. She stated that the Board cannot continue business as it was in the past. This crisis presents an opportunity to do some things differently than in the past.

Ms. Grill stated what needs to be kept in mind is that they have created a budget which has been reduced but the intent is not to reduce services to the children of Montclair. Several programs will continue but without the support as before. She stated that there has been a lot of pitting schools against one another. The Board reviewed all schools the same and have tried an equalizing across the district.

Dr. Baskerville thanked the staff at Central Office, Senior Staff, MEA, for their courageous acts. She thanked the Board of Education for taking the time and consideration for the time in order to achieve a budget with such drastic cuts. She stated that she is not ready to fold and accept these cuts and they will have a disproportionate adverse impact on those populations have been traditionally under served. She stated that she will challenge the legality of the state aid cuts and encouraged all to reach out to legislative leaders.

Mr. Murnick thanked the Board for their volunteerd services that they provide for the children of Montclair. He stated that the Board of Education will do what they can in which to make the cuts and the

impact felt across the district – not at one particular school. He stated that the budget will be dealt with equally, progressively, and as fairly as possible.

Mayor Fried commented on the process of the Board of School Estimate. He stated that he believes that the cuts in education funding are illegal and it undermines the State's own court certified funding formula which even though it unfairly punishes Montclair and has for some time by lumping the district with homogenously affluent districts, it is still the law. The Board of School Estimate's job is to produce a budget that is reasonable and tolerable in its scope. They must produce a budget that the State approves. He stated that any community that values education is having issues with this years' budget process. He offered personal thanks to Central Office staff for freezing their salaries. He stated that the Montclair community owes a real debt of gratitude for the sacrifices that the teachers and administrators made for the children of Montclair.

VII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE AND BOARD OF EDUCATION:

- What can be accomplished if Montclair refuses state aid? What mandates would we no longer have to fund? Is the Board of Education or Township of Montclair doing anything to get more funding from Washington?
 - Dr. Alvarez stated that the District would still be liable for the mandates if it were to refuse state aid.
 - Mayor Fried stated that the Town should be doing more to get more funding.
- 2. Is the Montclair Pre-K still being funded through the district and why?
 - Mayor Fried responded no. The township government had given funding for scholarships for students who can't afford to pay tuition at the Pre-K center and that is the whole source of funding connected with the town.
- 3. Northeast's school cuts total over \$300,000 it would seem that each elementary school should suffer the same amount of cuts. How is this equitable?
 - **Dr. Alvarez** responded that they looked at the per pupil count by school and tried to determine what it is that they wanted to allocate from each school. He stated that they came up with a formula because some schools had more staff and aides and so the board has now evened things out across the district.
- 4. Is the instrumental music program being maintained for 4th and 5th grade students at the four elementary schools?
 - *Dr. Alvarez* responded no. This was not what any of the principals wanted, however, it is hoped to bring this back into the schools.
- 5. How is the district meeting core competency state standards in early education in the schools related to music?

- Dr. Alvarez responded that the district is meeting the core standards as there is a music program in all of the schools in the district.
- 6. Where will further cuts be made? Perhaps Athletics. When did longevity pay begin and why hasn't the public been informed of this additional compensation prior to today's coverage in the Montclair Times? Has the committee considered reevaluating this additional compensation? Which non-administrative jobs will be cut at Central Office?
 - Mayor Fried responded that they will not address personnel issues in public. Longevity pay has been negotiated out of new contracts on the township side.
 - *Dr. Alvarez* stated that longevity salaries have been existence for a long time. They are looking into it further.
 - Mrs. Lombard stated that they went through the athletic stipends at the high school line by line and some athletics were eliminated. After they received the second set of cuts from the governor, they asked the principals to go back and eliminate more from the high school athletic budget.
- 7. How will the magnets maintain their distinct identities without magnet coordinators, without funding for the magnet programs, and most especially with the huge staff transitions between schools as a result of layoff? The town has articulated a commitment to retaining the magnet system. How will this be supported in concrete terms?
 - **Dr. Alvarez** responded that the magnet system will be maintained because the themes are ingrained in at each school. There will be some differences to the magnet them due to some shifts in staff. However, the principals are there and a large core of teachers are there so there is no doubt that the culture and essence of what each school is will continue.
- 8. Librarians are very important to the schools, what are the plans concerning them?
 - Dr. Alvarez responded that the principals agreed that they could deliver the services through different means and by way of the classroom teachers and even in places where there are full libraries those could be staffed through some of the aide's and reading specialists in the building.
- 9. Mrs. Sullivan said that summer scheduling, summer programming, non-mandated, and community programs will be cut. Can you tell us what programs are mandated and which are not?
 - *Mrs. Sullivan* stated that there are two summer programs that are being kept in the budget; one is for middle school student recovery and for 9^{th} grade students who failed world literature. There are various community programs that are detailed in the budget book that are not mandated.
- 10. Tenured does not make it possible to remove senior teachers, how can we encourage principals to have the fortitude to follow through in this process? Can we do something to appreciably to decrease gas and oil usage to decrease spending instead increasing by over \$500,000?

Mrs. Lombard responded that the problem is that the buildings in Montclair are very old, inefficient, and very expensive to heat. When heating prices increase, the district feels the brunt of it because some of the heat may be leaking out of old windows.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that heating controls were updated at Hillside and Glenfield last year. She stated that they are aware that sometimes classrooms overheat and sometimes they are too cold. The heat cannot be centrally monitored in each individual classroom. They are making as much improvements as possible given that these are old buildings.

- **Dr. Alvarez** stated that it is difficult to remove tenured teachers. Principals are encouraged to go above and beyond with teacher evaluations. The first step in the process is withholding of increment which gives a warning that teachers are not doing their jobs effectively. There is a model in place to monitor teachers. The goal is to help all teachers to improve.
- 11. Have you considered cutting spending on outside consultants, such as those to motivate athletes or teach principals to identify parents who should be more involved?
 - Dr. Alvarez responded yes and some of those are funded with grants.
- 12. While agreeing to give up contracted raises is admirable, these times call for even more drastic measures. Long-term current benefits are not sustainable to the district and still looking at sizeable job losses and big cuts in programs. Is there any thought being given to benefit reductions and additional wage give backs in order to save additional jobs with in the schools?
 - Dr. Alvarez responded that there is a law in effect that everyone has to pay 1.5% towards benefits.
- 13. What initiatives for voicing concerns and detailing positions have been started by elected officials and if there is where can the community apply to do that? We do this budget dance each year filled with angst and inefficiencies and divisions within our town. How do we fix the Board of Education process to make it a uniting process?
 - Dr. Alvarez responded that there was a meeting hosted about the struggles of the budget. He stated that the Board didn't think they could literally influence any change in formulas last years but thought they could create advocacy around certain areas. Not realizing that this budget season would be difficult, we were not able to begin discussions but plan to begin discussions beyond budget season. Some of those advocacy areas are around integration, special education, pre-k education and discussions with the town about ratables. In the Interim, the District will continue to work with Stan Karp and the Education Law Center. PTA will be conducting letter writing campaigns. He stated that he spoke with Senator Nia Gill's office about holding a town hall meeting at the high school for the surrounding Essex County communities.
- 14. Why can't the Board of Education cut transportation instead of languages?
 - Mrs. Lombard stated that they talked about cuts to courtesy busing. After much discussion the feeling was that it would tamper with the magnet program.

- 15. We appreciate the financial sacrifices by staff and teachers. Do we know if the Principals union will also make a similar step?
 - *Dr. Alvarez* responded that they do not know that at this point. However, the principals are negotiating their contracts and it is hoped that they will take a similar stand.
- 16. Imani and Sister to Sister and community based programs in the 2009–2010 school year have been moved to code 424 as per state regulations. What is code 424?
 - Mrs. Sullivan responded that it is just the account code that moved from last year to this year as mandated by the state.
- 17. Can you please explain the big jump in cost of salaries-job coaching on page 72?
 - Mrs. Sullivan responded that those costs are for those who escort special education students at the high school to work programs to assist with the transition from high school to the workplace.
- 18. Why do private school parents get a transportation check and will this continue?
 - *Mrs. Sullivan* stated that the district is mandated by law to pay it and up until now state aidwas received in order to cover the cost.
- 19. There is approximately \$1.1 million in supply costs throughout the budget. Is there an opportunity to cut that in half across the budget and return \$500,000 to the budget? This number equals to \$90 per students, staff, and supplies.
 - Mrs. Sullivan responded that it is not allocated that way. The high school has allocated more money per student than the elementary and middle schools. The district is very low spending in that area and has not increased that budget in a number of years. She doesn't recommend cutting that in half because the schools would not be able to function without supplies.
- 20. Since there is a \$2.1 million grant the will be given to the district, why can't it be used in the budget?
 - **Mayor Fried** responded that the grant is very specific as to how it is to be used in the district. It will not help with the budget. The freezing of salaries is historic and has not happened anywhere else.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Joanne Aidala, Director of the Health and Wellness partnership commended the board for looking carefully at the activities at the high school particularly in athletics. Since the Health and Wellness has been instrumental in assisting with grants, fundraising, and bringing health and wellness and money into the district, it should be one of the programs that the Board keep in the budget.

Dr. Baskerville asked about how many assistant principals in the district and if they considered taking the name away would it save the district any money?

Dr. Alvarez stated that there are still functions that they serve that require the administrative certificate. There are a total of nine assistant principals.

Marybeth Rosenthal 269 Upper Mountain Avenue, Co-President of the PTA stated that the PTA Council appreciates that everyone has done on the budget and they recognize that this is a big period of change. The PTA Council is in the process of trying to work with the member PTA's to do some collaborative work to help support some of the programs that are going to be cut. She stated that they look forward to working with Dr. Baskerville as she moves forward at the State and Legislative level.

Dennis Murray stated that the MEA is not just made up of teachers but include secretaries, and custodians. The MEA gave back to the community so that jobs can be saved. The budget cuts will have a profound effect on 82 employees and the children in the classrooms. He urged the Board to reconsider cutting librarians, student assistant counselors, teaching assistants, and great teachers.

Jacqueline Rider of 133 Christopher Street stated that all she cares about is paying taxes. She stated that she has not seen a single story about the pain that affecting the tax payers.

Sarah Wolman of Christopher Street stated that student assistant counselors are needed in the district because there are enhanced needs for each student in each school. She stated that the program does directly affect the delivery in the classroom.

Dr. Baskerville asked if there will be 11.6 psychologists remaining in the district for a total of \$916,339 and how this will help so that no children will fall through the cracks. Will they be able to take up the slack for the loss of the student assistant counselors?

Dr. Alvarez stated that all of the psychologists are part of a child study team and part of their duties includes evaluating students, following up on their needs, and counseling. In most cases they are working with classified students but there are opportunities for working with students that are not classified.

Bebe Landis of 9 Victoria Terrace, and Program Administrator for the Montclair Community Alliance spoke in support of the Health and Wellness program as well as other programs they support. She asked the Board to reconsider cutting programs and she looks forward to working with the Board. This is a serious issue and it needs to be addressed.

Peggy McGrath of 125 Inwood Avenue, and Librarian at Rand and resident of Montclair spoke about the loss of librarian positions in the elementary and middle schools.

Melissa Walker of 21 Mountainside Park Terrace and from the Jazz House spoke on behalf of music and she feels that core skills, quality of life, and boosting children's ability go beyond the core skills of math, science, history, and language arts. For music not be considered a core value in the schools is distressing.

June Raegner of 317 N. Fullerton Avenue stated that she suggested that the Board reduces the heat in the buildings to cut energy costs. She stated that she feels that the Board of Education are discussing boondoggle trips for consultants in Baltimore and, spending too much money on athletes

being encouraged by professional consultants about staying in school. She feels that teachers should come up with creative solutions to handle that to cut costs. There are a lot of values that are not being taken seriously and there are more cuts that can be made.

Mrs. Lombard stated that the school review program is about \$200 per school and was something that is beneficial in terms of parent involvement. There are no trips that are held secret. All conferences and travels are approved at every board meeting and the majority is for professional development for teachers.

Mayor Fried stated he understands the concerns for saving energy and heating. He stated that the building is an old building and there are only certain zones of the buildings that can be controlled. These are issues and do need to be addressed but are not symptomatic to the cuts in the district. The main bulk of the budget is salaries and everyone wants salaries to be reduced more.

Ms. Grill clarified that the Superintendent and one administrator went to Boston to meet with a group that has been working with the Board on reviewing special education in the district. That group has been helping to look at restructure and to save money. There was one person that went to Baltimore to be trained in this process of engaging parents.

Mayor Fried thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that there are two more meetings with the Board of School Estimate.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10.14 p.m. Mayor Fried moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 5-0.