

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE
PUBLIC MEETING
 HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.
 ATRIUM OF THE GEORGE INNESS ANNEX
 141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

I. The meeting was opened at 7:04 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 Thursday, February 10, 2011 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 7:05 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Jerry Fried	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Rich Murnick	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Staff Members	<u> 4 </u>	
Members of the Public	<u> 13 </u>	
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>	

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Board allowed time for members of the public to comment on the budget.

V. DISCUSSION BY BSE MEMBERS REGARDING 2011-2012 BUDGET

Mrs. Grill stated that they had a meeting with the MEA about how to address the issue with the aides. She stated that they began with outsourcing Para-Professionals to the Essex County Commission who will place them in various schools. However, a number of concerns were heard throughout the Montclair Community. The negotiating committee of the Board along with Dr. Patterson drafted a proposal that would address some of the concerns. She indicated that they created a way to maintain para-professionals in district, benefits to be continued for those with 20 or more years, they increased the pay rates which are competitive hourly rates, and maintained the savings in the budget. Ms. Grill stated that they came up with a fair agreement. The Board will approve it on Monday, April 11 and the MEA will look at it on Tuesday.

Mrs. Lombard clarified that the agreement has not yet been approved by the Board or the members of the MEA and will not impact the budget.

Dr. Baskerville spoke about her concerns with Ms. Grill's statement about other districts being successful in outsourcing para-professionals. She stated that it is somewhat shortsighted to balance a budget on health benefits. While health benefits may save money in the district this year, the national studies demonstrate that the district is costing the State of New Jersey more money by not providing health benefits. She stated that she is not in favor of trying to balance this budget by not providing health benefits for any family. She stated that there is a lot of staff that work far beyond part-time and are not being compensated.

Mr. Murnick expressed his concerns about the budget that is very responsible and satisfying to the community along with educating the children and ensuring their safety in buildings well maintained. He commended the Board and the MEA for their proposals in order to stay within the budget to provide a quality education to the children. He concluded that he hopes the Board moves forward on the Pre-K discussions.

Mayor Fried thanked members of the Board of School Estimate, Board of Education, and Dr. Alvarez, and Mrs. Sullivan for their hard work. This year's budget is a responsible one which preserves the quality of education and focuses on the outcome for the children. Reasonable decisions were made by professionals and Board of Education members. He concluded that the most important values were upheld and examined which laid the foundation for a successful process this year and going forward.

VI. Resolution Re: Acknowledge Receipt of Certificate from the Montclair Board of Education to the Montclair Board of School Estimate Relating to the 2011-2012 Operating Budget

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 School District Budget for the 2011-2012 school year,

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

Seconded by *Ms. Grill* 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>
Shirley Grill	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

VII. ACTION ON PROPOSED BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE

Resolution Re: Adoption of 2011-2012 Budget

Mayor Fried moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has discussed and reviewed the proposed 2011-2012 Budget, and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation, does hereby approve the fiscal FY2011-2012 school district budget (under separate cover) for submission to the Board of School Estimate:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$107,077,912	\$97,509,698
Separate Proposal	\$ 0	\$ 0
Special Revenue Fund	<u>\$ 2,958,029</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

Total Base Budget **\$110,035,941** **\$97,509,698**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this budget includes a maximum amount allotted for conference and travel of \$125,000, public relations of \$100,000 and legal fees of \$250,000.

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

	AYE	NAY
Jerry Fried	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Rich Murnick	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

VIII. Resolution Re: Acknowledge Receipt of Certificate from the Montclair Board of Education to the Montclair Board of School Estimate Relating to 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 school year,

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

Seconded by *Dr. Baskerville* 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>
Shirley Grill	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

IX. 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 Montclair Board of Education has reviewed the Long Term Capital Needs Plan 2011-2012 through 2015-2016, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education does hereby determine, after careful study and due deliberation, that it is necessary to raise 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 needs identified in the capital plan have also been identified in the District's Long Range Facility Plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the total amount estimated to be necessary for said projects for 2011-2012 is \$1,621,500 (attached), plus Section 20 costs of \$64,860 related to the issuance of bonds, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Montclair Board of School Estimate forthwith.

Seconded by *Dr. Baskerville* 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>
Shirley Grill	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

X. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Board allowed time for members of the public to comment on the budget.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:43 p.m. *Ms. Grill* moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by *Mrs. Lombard* and approved by a vote of 5-0.