

# **MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



**MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY**

## **PUBLIC WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING HELD ON**

**MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 AT 6:30 PM  
AT GEORGE INNESS ANNEX ATRIUM  
141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY**

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 AT 6:30 PM  
THE GEORGE INNESS ANNEX ATRIUM  
141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Joe Kavesh moved to approve the following resolution:**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-12, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law;
- any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting
- pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

**Seconded by Franklin Turner and approved by a vote of 6-0**

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jessica de Koninck	x			
Jevon Caldwell-Gross				x 6:35 pm
Laura Hertzog	x			
Joseph Kavesh	x			
Anne Mernin	x			

Eve Robinson	<b>x</b>			
Franklin Turner	<b>x</b>			

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

C. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION at 7:45 pm

D. OPENING STATEMENTS

1. Meeting Notice

E. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

F. ROLL CALL

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Jessica de Koninck	<b>x</b>	
Jevon Caldwell-Gross	<b>x</b>	
Laura Hertzog	<b>x</b>	
Joseph Kavesh	<b>x</b>	
Anne Mernin	<b>x</b>	
Eve Robinson	<b>x</b>	
Franklin Turner	<b>x</b>	

Staff Members	
Members of the Public	<b>35</b>
Members of the Press	<b>3</b>

G. BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP

H. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Board will provide time for the public to comment on the tentative budget.

I. BUSINESS OFFICE

**Eve Robinson moved to approve the following resolution:**

1. Resolution Re: Adoption of 2017-2018 Tentative Budget

RESOLVED, that the Montclair Board of Education’s tentative budget be approved for the 2017-2018 School Year utilizing the 2017-2018 state aid figures and a health care cost adjustment to the 2% tax levy increase totaling \$351,518 and the Secretary to the Board of Education be authorized to submit the following budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenue Fund</u>	<u>Debt Service Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
2017-2018 Total Expenditures	\$ 120,266,410	\$ 2,730,725	\$ -0-	\$ 122,997,135
Less: Anticipated Revenues	\$ 7,794,862	\$ 2,730,725	\$ -0-	\$ 10,525,587
Taxes to be Raised	\$ 112,471,548	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 112,471,548

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12, the Montclair Board of Education is required to adopt a policy related to travel expenses for board employees and board members that ensures local, State and/or Federal funds are spent on travel that is educationally necessary and fiscally prudent; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:11-12(P), specifically, annually in the pre-budget year, the Board shall establish a maximum travel expenditure amount for the budget year, which the school district shall not exceed in that budget year; and

WHEREAS, the Board shall also include the maximum amount established for the pre-budget year, \$85,000, and the amount encumbered to date is \$40,373.92 as of February 28, 2017;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the maximum expenditure, including all travel for the 2017-2018 school year that is supported by local and state funds, shall not exceed a total amount of \$85,000.

**Seconded by Jevon Caldwell Gross and approved by a vote of 7-0**

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jessica de Koninck	x			
Jevon Caldwell-Gross	x			
Laura Hertzog	x			
Joseph Kavesh	x			
Anne Mernin	x			
Eve Robinson	x			
Franklin Turner	x			

2. Resolution Re: Moratorium on Establishment of New Charter Schools

**Eve Robinson moved to approve the following resolution:**

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey's public schools are engaged in continuous efforts to provide high quality services to the children of New Jersey in the face of limited resources; and

**WHEREAS**, key factors affecting school funding and policies affecting those schools are the positions taken by the Governor of New Jersey, the Legislature and the State Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, another such key factor is the position on these matters taken by the federal Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, there are gubernatorial and legislative elections taking place in November 2017, which may well change funding plans and positions on other priorities affecting New Jersey public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, past statements by the new US Secretary of Education raise concerns about the federal Department of Education's positions with regards to public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montclair Board of Education believes that it is unwise to establish new charter schools during this time of uncertainty re funding and policy, and major changes in state and federal administrations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montclair Board of Education believes that, particularly during such a time of uncertainty, the establishment of new charter schools would unduly burden local school board budgets and have a detrimental impact on the resources necessary to maintain educational programming for New Jersey's public school students.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Montclair Board of Education urges the state Legislature and Governor to do a comprehensive review of the processes by which charter schools are approved, including but not limited to a review of the standards to be met, the justifications required, and the opportunities provided to districts in which charter schools are proposed to be a part of the process;

**Seconded by Jevon Caldwell Gross and approved by a vote of 7-0**

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Jessica de Koninck	<b>x</b>			
Jevon Caldwell-Gross	<b>x</b>			
Laura Hertzog	<b>x</b>			
Joseph Kavesh	<b>x</b>			
Anne Mernin	<b>x</b>			
Eve Robinson	<b>x</b>			
Franklin Turner	<b>x</b>			

3. Resolution Re: In Support of Universal Access to High Quality Preschool For All 3 and 4 Year Old Children in New Jersey

**Eve Robinson moved to approve the following resolution:**

- WHEREAS** Educational leaders believe in the power of high quality preschool to support the goals of educational equity for all
- WHEREAS** Scientific studies show that high quality preschool benefits all groups of children and brings extraordinary benefits to groups that could otherwise not afford it; and
- WHEREAS** Strong research evidence suggests that universal access to high quality preschool in New Jersey will help increase the academic attainment of young children in all districts, decrease Generational poverty, and increase graduation rates of students ; and
- WHEREAS** Rigorous studies show that high quality preschool programs improve the cognitive and social skills of children, preparing them to succeed as they enter elementary schools; and
- WHEREAS** Universal preschool is a proven, nonpartisan policy nationally and New Jersey should join states like Oklahoma, Georgia and Florida who fund statewide universal pre-school programs; and
- WHEREAS** Ensuring access to quality preschool for 3 and 4-year-olds whose parents choose to send them has proven to be one of the soundest educational investments the public can make, providing demonstrated, significant, long-term savings on the costs of special education, grade retention, welfare and crime; and
- WHEREAS** During their K-12 years and beyond, children who attend quality preschool perform better on standardized achievement tests in reading and math; exhibit more positive behaviors in the classroom; are more likely to graduate from high school, continue their education and be more prosperous as adults; and
- WHEREAS** A recent study from the US Department of Education found that children who have been born in a town or district where the preschool program was generously funded demonstrated better academic outcomes; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Montclair Board of Education urges the NJ State Legislature and NJ Department of Education to fully fund Universal Preschool initiatives for school districts in NJ, expanding the already high quality preschool programs that currently exist in urban districts; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that this resolution be submitted for consideration and adoption by the New Jersey School Boards Association at its May 2017 Delegate Assembly.

**Seconded by Jevon Caldwell Gross and approved by a vote of 7-0**

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Jessica de Koninck	<b>x</b>			
Jevon Caldwell-Gross	<b>x</b>			
Laura Hertzog	<b>x</b>			
Joseph Kavesh	<b>x</b>			
Anne Mernin	<b>x</b>			
Eve Robinson	<b>x</b>			
Franklin Turner	<b>x</b>			

- Resolution Re: Requesting the State of New Jersey to Study Equity of Access to, and Use of, Private Resources in Ensuring Appropriate Public Education for Special Needs Students

**Eve Robinson moved to approve the following resolution:**

**WHEREAS** The State of New Jersey has made a commitment to ensuring that all children are an equal part of the school community, and

**WHEREAS** Children with special needs have been recognized by the State of New Jersey to require special legal protections to ensure that their educational needs are met by public schools, and

**WHEREAS** The laws of the State of New Jersey are designed to allow families to hold school districts accountable for educating children with special needs, and

**WHEREAS** The State of New Jersey has recognized that implementation of special needs programming is not reflective of the equity in outcomes across socio-economic groups, and

**WHEREAS** It is recognized that families with strong financial resources are better able to secure independent professional advice and resources in evaluation and documentation of their children's special needs as well

as in engaging legal experts to ensure appropriate accommodations

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** That the Montclair Board of Education requests the NJ State Department of Education to study the impact of family income disparities on access to, and use of, private resources for the purposes of identifying and evaluating children with special needs; and be it further

**RESOLVED** That the Montclair Board of Education requests that the state study the use of private advocacy and legal resources by families of varying income groups for the purposes of ensuring that special needs are appropriately supported by school districts; and and be it further

**RESOLVED** That the Montclair Board of Education requests that the State report the findings and conclusions of such a study to the public and provide recommendations for addressing any identified disparities; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that this resolution be submitted for consideration and adoption by the New Jersey School Boards Association at its May 2017 Delegate Assembly.

**Seconded by Jevon Caldwell Gross and approved by a vote of 7-0**

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
Jessica de Koninck	<b>x</b>			
Jevon Caldwell-Gross	<b>x</b>			
Laura Hertzog	<b>x</b>			
Joseph Kavesh	<b>x</b>			
Anne Mernin	<b>x</b>			
Eve Robinson	<b>x</b>			
Franklin Turner	<b>x</b>			

**J. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES**

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be a Public Meeting held on Monday, March 13, 2017. This meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the George Inness Annex Atrium at 141 Park Street. The meeting will immediately go into closed session and will re-open to the public at approximately 7:30 pm.

**K. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION #2**

**Joe Kavesh moved to approve the following resolution:**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-12, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters,



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- a matter rendered confidential by federal or state law;
- any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting
- pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

**Seconded by Jevon Caldwell Gross and approved by a vote of 7-0**

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jessica de Koninck	x			
Jevon Caldwell-Gross	x			
Laura Hertzog	x			
Joseph Kavesh	x			
Anne Mernin	x			
Eve Robinson	x			
Franklin Turner	x			

L. ADJOURNMENT at 10:30 pm

**Joe Kavesh moved to adjourn**

**Seconded by Jevon Caldwell Gross and approved by a vote of 7-0**

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Jessica de Koninck	x			
Jevon Caldwell-Gross	x			
Laura Hertzog	x			
Joseph Kavesh	x			

Anne Mernin	<b>x</b>			
Eve Robinson	<b>x</b>			
Franklin Turner	<b>x</b>			