

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

- A. The meeting opened at 7:38 p.m. and the following statement was read:
- B. Let the minutes reflect that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in the following manner:
1. On May 21, 2007 notice of this meeting was faxed to the Montclair Times, the Herald and News and the Star Ledger. The time 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.

C. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD

	Present	Absent
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	_____
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	_____
Shirley Grill	<u>X</u>	_____
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____
Shelly Lombard	_____	<u>X</u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____
Staff Members	<u>8</u>	
Members of the Public	<u>0</u>	
Members of the Press	<u>1</u>	

- D. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:39 p.m.
- E. MINUTES

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the minutes of the following:

1. Public Board Meeting held Monday, June, 18, 2007.

2. Public Board Meeting held Thursday, July 12, 2007.
3. Public Board Meeting held Friday, July 13, 2007.
4. Public Board Meeting held Thursday, August 30, 2007.

Seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a roll call vote:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	<u>X</u>	_____	
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	_____	_____	<u>ABSENT</u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____	

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez stated that the grades 6-8 bullying curriculum being presented this evening is a continuation of the K-5 bullying curriculum currently in place. He added that on the first day of school, teachers and principals noted that students were more respectful and well prepared. He believes that the effects of health and wellness, social and bullying curricula, and other efforts have contributed to a greater sense of respect among students at all levels.

1. Bullying Prevention Curriculum – Grades 6-8

Mr. Dabney stated that the bullying prevention curriculum augments the 2005 curriculum, and more lessons addressing the needs of the students have been added.

Ms. Weintraub added that the purpose of this curriculum is to serve as a guideline for teachers to incorporate new bullying lessons into the Language Arts and Social Studies curriculum.

It provides goals and grade-specific objectives that connect lessons to suggested language arts novels, short stories, and social studies units. Also included are activities and worksheets for each lesson.

Mr. Dabney indicated that the idea of implementing this curriculum into social studies and language arts is to prepare every one of certain incidences. He concluded that it is

important that students understand that bullying; harassment, cyber boarding, and the like are unacceptable.

2. Health and Wellness Initiative/Partnership

Dr. Alvarez stated that the Health & Wellness Initiative began about seven years ago in the district. He noted that over the years much of what has been accomplished has had an effect on how students learn. In order for children to be academically competent, social, emotional, and physical well-being support is needed. Therefore, the idea of looking at the whole child rather than academics alone has been a theme this year. He added that health and wellness helps to achieve in making sure that every child succeeds with the right level of support. Dr. Alvarez was proud to announce that the Health and Wellness Initiative is now the Health and Wellness Partnership which is a true partnership between the schools and the community. He commended all who participate in this partnership for a tremendous job at gathering resources such as grant funding to support the programs. He concluded that thus far it has been a wonderful partnership and looks forward to many more years of success.

Health & Wellness Presentation presented by Joann Aidala, Fran Bonczkowski, and Lois Tannous

Ms. Aidala co-director of the health & wellness initiative stated that she is very proud to be partners with the district. The idea is to focus on the whole child and to evaluate the programs that have been in place in the district. The purpose of this partnership is to focus on working toward and supporting district goals. During a six-year period, early prevention curriculum and support services which are mental health services provided for both schools and families have been a focus. The partnership now has over thirty participants that are strongly dedicated and are well known throughout the community. She concluded that social and emotional learning is about promoting a safe environment and encouraging students to engage in being supportive to one another.

Ms. Bonczkowski is the department chair for health and related areas, her primary responsibility is ninth grade health and physical education program. The 9th grade Academy Programs support focusing on the whole child in which for five weeks students participate in different activities. These activities include yoga, badminton, volley ball, and a variety of sampling of other health club-type activities.

Last year a grant for \$9,700 was received so every staff member and student in ninth grade was given a pedometer to see how many steps they take. Everyone really enjoyed this, the students are still talking about it, and a lot are still using them. The staff and students really enjoyed participating in this activity and Ms. Bonczkowski feels that it created a great fitness buzz in the school. It is hoped that enough funding will be raised to continue running this program again this year.

The State of New Jersey mandates are pending for BMI (Body Mass Index) testing where this test will be recorded on student report cards. Channel 9 news came in and spent 2 hours with the Montclair High School ninth grade physical education class, to report on BMI.

Ms. Tannous stated that she has been working with a group of students on filming. These films consist of history film, theory, story boarding, writing scripts, producing, videotaping, and editing. She added that it was decided that the film classes are going to assist with the health and wellness committee where students would write, produce, and act about issues that affect them. So it is peer to peer information and some of them are a little light hearted but they do address issues that are very deep and handle them very well. This was really a nice addition to the program and the curriculum because it really gave a lot of meaning to what was going on.

Kathy Smith stated that Rutgers developed an initiative called The Development of Safeness in the School Initiative, which is funded by the New Jersey Department of Education. This program was piloted in the High School and Glenfield School. Two committees were formed at these schools and while Rutgers guides the process, staff members decide what is important to teach in their classrooms. The health and wellness initiative co-partnership has been proactive in assisting the district with state mandates and will soon receive training from the New Jersey Department of Education on exactly how these programs are to be aligned next year.

Dr. Alvarez stated that the next step is reforming the Health and Wellness partnership committee to guide this into the future. This whole program has branched out into many areas the arts, physical educations, classroom, core curriculum competence and it has all fallen together.

G. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

None.

Mr. Carlton commented on the Health & Wellness perspective and nutrition in the school. He feels that some level of activity and nutrition is good. Hopes that the message continues that the aim is for good health.

H. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following resolutions:

a. Approval of Conference and Travel Expenses

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

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Board Member/ Employee</u>	<u>Estimated Reimbursement</u>	<u>Educational Purpose</u>
Trainer & Speaker	Nina De Rosa Karen Bell	\$44.40	Evaluate speakers and content for future professional development seminars for district secretaries.
Establishing Integrated Therapies	Janine Lawlor Nicole Fried Vanessa Riccardelli	\$18.00 \$18.00 \$18.00	Enhance inclusive services to preschool students.
Blackboard K-12	Maria Narciso	\$125.00	Will focus on best practices and uses of Blackboard in K-12 education environment.

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.

b. Approval of Submission of the FY2008 Idea Basic Part B Funds Application in the Amount of \$1,617,176 and Preschool Funds in the Amount of \$59,787

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education requires Boards of Education to approve application of submission of IDEA funds

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the submission of the FY2008 IDEA-B Basic in the amount

of \$1,617,176 and Preschool Funds in the amount of \$59,787.

c. Approval of Bullying Prevention Curriculum Grades 6-8

WHEREAS, the recommended curriculum has been developed and written by the staff of the Montclair School District, and correlates closely with the New Jersey Department of Education Core Curriculum Content Standards, 2007

WHEREAS, Title 18A (NJSA) requires New Jersey Boards of Education to adopt courses of study for children in grades 6-8, and

WHEREAS, this curriculum is developmentally appropriate, inclusive and challenging

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the adoption of the Bullying Prevention Curriculum, Grades 6-8.

d. Change order #1 for Roof Replacement at Mt. Hebron School - for an overall increase of \$5,000 for "Earth Green" slate.

e. Increase in Contract for Professional Services – Construction Manager for Woodman Field House

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 provision of professional services,

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has funds allocated in the capital budget to renovate the Woodman Field House, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education awarded a contract to Epic Management for construction management services, and

WHEREAS, the project was redesigned and was delayed for approximately one year, and the construction manager is requesting an increase in fees as follows:

Pre-Construction Phase	\$4,500
Construction Phase	\$1,134/month

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation, approves an increase in fees for additional services for construction management services for the renovations to Woodman Field House.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall be authorized to amend the contract to such provider agency as described above.

f. Professional Services-Design & Construction Related Services for Woodman Complex Soil Remediation

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 provision of professional services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation, does hereby appoint Land3 Studio, L.L.C., 1907 Swift Street, Suite 204, North Kansas City, Missouri, 64116, for Design & Construction Related Services relative to the Soil Remediation of the Woodman Complex at the rates shown on the attached proposal, not to exceed \$25,000.

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

3. Seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a roll call vote:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	<u>X</u>	_____	
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	_____	_____	<u>ABSENT</u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____	

J. COMMENTS

Mr. Barr doesn't want anyone to forget that September 11 is tomorrow and to keep in mind that it is hard on children seeing the images on television.

Mr. Grill wished everyone a great school year, and he feels lucky to have Ms. Tannous in this school district.

Mrs. Taylor is looking forward to a great school year.

Mr. Kautz reminded everyone to come to Montclair Rocks at 7:00 on September 29.

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mary Beth Rosenthal – Co. President of the PTA council stated that she is looking forward to working with the district. She would like to be a resource for the PTA leadership and to the district. Ms. Rosenthal plans to attend the Board of Education meetings to inform everyone what the PTA council is working on, and what is on their minds. Ms. Rosenthal also plans to help keep the parent community updated and involved in decisions, and working with MEA to enhance communication. She appreciates all of the good work that the Board members do.

Emily Tilaro – 5 Roosevelt Place – Ms. Tilaro is the parent of sixth grader at Renaissance School, she is happy that there is aftercare at all the middle schools. Ms. Tilaro signed her daughter up to go to after care but her daughter is unable to be bussed. There are not enough children that signed up for after care at Renaissance School and the few that did are not able to be bussed to after care because they live too close. Ms. Tilaro would like the Board to look at this as an unusual circumstance for after care because their children are less than a mile away from the school in the morning. There are seven children that signed up for after care and four are less than a mile away.

Valeria Daly – 415 Claremont Ave. – Ms. Daly stated that these parents are paying the Y.M.C.A. to have aftercare services but are prohibited from taking advantage of these services because it applies to something they are not interested in having.

Erica Lapel – 66 Cambridge Rd.- Parent of a sixth grader at Renaissance expressed her concern for her son riding his bike from Renaissance to Mt. Hebron instead of being allowed to ride the bus. Ms. Lapel would prefer bus transportation for her sons safety.

Dr. Alvarez stated that there has been a long standing board policy that states that the board does provide transportation to an alternate site in the afternoon if the child is bus eligible in the morning. This situation has occurred in the past.

Ms. Sullivan said that in the past the Y.M.C.A had a program and provided a bus for the children from Glenfield to the Y.M.C.A. because of the number of children in the program. The policy was not changed in the past. Ms. Sullivan reminded the Board members if this policy is changed then the wording has to be looked at very carefully, so that this change will not cause other problems down the road.

Dr. Pryor stated that another letter was sent home with the students to see if anyone else would like to join the after school program. She is hoping there will be more students joining then the program (which needs 15 students) can be run at Renaissance.

The parents feel that this is a different situation because Renaissance is a smaller school and not as many students signed up for the after school care. They would like this to be looked at as an exception. The board would like some time to see what they can do legally to resolve this problem.

L. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, September 24, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

M. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:10 p.m. Mr. Barr 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: Exclusions Report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said discussion may be disclosed to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting upon it in closed session no longer exist.

Seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a vote of 6-0.

N. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Carlton moved that the board shall return from executive session; seconded by Mrs. Taylor and approved by a vote of 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:47 p.m.

O. APPROVAL

Mr. Barr moved to approve the following:

1. Personnel Report of September 10, 2007 including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law;
2. Out-of-District Placements of September 10, 2007.
3. Seconded by Mr. Riddick and approved by a roll call vote:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	<u>X</u>	_____	
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	_____	_____	<u>ABSENT</u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____	

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Minutes, 9/10/07

P. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:50 p.m. Mr. Barr moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Sullivan
Board Secretary