

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2007  
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY**

A. The meeting opened at 6:30 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 September 6, 2007 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 file 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Timothy Barr	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>          </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Robert Kautz	<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	<u>  10  </u>	
Members of the Public	<u>    7  </u>	
Members of the Press	<u>    0  </u>	

D. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:31p.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. 10:4-12 (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.

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 Mr. Kautz and approved by a vote of 6-0.

At 6:31 p.m. the Board went into executive session.

#### E. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Barr moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by Mr. Kautz and approved by a vote of 6-0.

The Board returned from open session at 7:35 p.m.

#### F. INSTRUCTIONS, AWARDS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Carlton moved to approve the following:

Resolution in Honor of Ms. Louvenia Butler

WHEREAS, Ms. Louvenia Butler served the students of the community of Montclair, New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, throughout her career in Montclair, her caring and devotion made her an outstanding teacher and an integral part of life at Glenfield School, and

WHEREAS, numerous students, staff, and community members benefited greatly from her direct and caring contact with them on a day to day basis, and

WHEREAS, the great personal loss from her passing has left a void in Glenfield School and the community of Montclair that has been deeply felt by all, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education joins the family in expressing its feeling of great loss and sorrow over the passing of Ms. Louvenia Butler, and further

BE IT REOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education expresses to her family its great appreciation for the services provided by Ms. Louvenia Butler on behalf of the children of Montclair.

Seconded by Mr. Kautz and approved by a vote of 6-0.

## G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez stated that students are making tremendous progress in the area of mathematics, which has been a District focus over the last three years. He added that across the nation there is a dip in scores concerning the middle schools. However, the scores in our middle schools remain steady, and there are more students moving to the advanced proficient level in language arts literacy. Although Special Education has been a problematic area in terms of AYP, trend line data indicate that students have consistently made progress over a three-year period.

### Academic Performance Report

Mrs. Trigg- Scales stated that under "No Child Left Behind" schools are mandated to present their academic achievement data for the prior school year by the end of September. She also stated that by presenting the data now, an in depth analysis has not been done as it would if it were being presented later. The District's three goals are to improve mathematics instruction for all students and narrowing the gaps and performance among groups, to eliminate the over-representation of African American males in Special Education, and to infuse technology into the curriculum.

The 2002 school year elementary demographic data showed the number of African American, White, Hispanic, Asian and other student populations in totals for each of the years up to the current 2008 school year. This is preliminary information and is not final until October 15, 2007 however, this report consists of data for the 2007 school year for the elementary, middle school, and high school. Looking at the aggregate over a 7-year period from 2002-2008 in the elementary, middle school and high school, our student population has grown by 188 students within the District.

She added that in terms of AYP when bundling our test scores for grades 3-5 and 6-8 and calculating AYP, there would be one score for the elementary schools, one for the middle schools, and one score for the high school. When assessing our AYP at least 95% of each of the subgroups must be tested. Students with special needs are assessed with accommodations or they take the alternate proficiency assessment. What is new this year is that the GEPA is no longer GEPA but is now the New Jersey ASK 8 and is slightly changed in format. The state is now giving end-of-course biology tests which are given at the end of completion of the first year of biology. The State will also give a performance assessment test starting in science and moving into math and language arts.

She concluded that there has been significant improvement in math performance for students with disabilities, advanced proficiency levels increased for all subgroups in math, and a slight improvement in advanced proficiency performance in language arts for most subgroups for the elementary schools. For the middle schools there is significant growth in math for many on the GEPA, a marked increase in advanced proficiency levels in language arts for most subgroups, continued significant growth in math and language arts and increased proficiency levels for the economically disadvantaged in language arts. Lastly, for the high school, students with disabilities made significant growth in math; Hispanic students' proficiency level increased from 80% to 96% in language arts, and in a comparison of the cohort GEPA 2004/HSPA 2007, the math proficiency levels increased from 66% to 75% for total students and from 80% to 89 % for language arts.

H. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

The Board reviewed changes to the Policies -5142.2 – Students -Pupil Supervision after School Dismissal on first reading. Revisions will be made for a second reading.

I. COMMENTS

1. PTA

None.

2. MEA

Dennis Murray, President of the MEA (Montclair Education Association) commented that the conditions of our buildings are perfect, teaching staff is ready, and the students are eager and ready to learn. He indicated that accountability and perception are the goals of the MEA this year. He added that he is very concerned about the reauthorization of “No Child Left Behind.” However, he stated that he looks forward to a great year.

J. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- AGENDA ITEMS

None.

K. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following:

Adoption of Curriculum Committee Regulation 6-140 (First Reading)

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

	Aye	Nay	
Timothy Barr	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	_____	_____	<u>ABSENT</u>
Robert Kautz	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Ronald Riddick	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>  x  </u>	_____	

## L. BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

## 1. Resolution re: Monthly Budget Reports and Bills and Claims

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following resolutions:

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11<sup>3</sup>, the Montclair Board of Education certifies that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(a), and that pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2-11(c)4, after review of the board secretary's monthly financial reports, in the minutes of the Board each month, the Montclair Board of Education certifies that no major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(b), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the attached Bills and Claims for the month of September in the amount of \$3,341,175.15 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of August, 2007 in the amount of \$11,984.75.00 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education does hereby approve the request for tax levy from the Township of Montclair in the amount of \$8,000,000.00 for the month September and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the attached Budget Reports for the month of August, 2007 and the Secretary's Report for the months of August 2007.

## 2. 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,

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Board Member/ Employee</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Educational Purpose</u>
NJ School	Frank Alvarez	\$800.00	Attend
Boards	Dana Sullivan	\$800.00	workshops on
Annual	James Patterson	\$800.00	school law,
Convention	John Carlton	\$800.00	policy, budget,
	Ronald Riddick	\$800.00	etc.
	Tim Barr	\$800.00	

P.W.C.A.	Ted Graham Mike Freedman	\$310.00 \$310.00	To better assist or athletes.
Autism Spectrum and Feeding	Jane Sellar	\$180.00	To help ASD students attending our program to better participate and engage in food-related activities
NJ Science Teacher's Conference	Barry Schwartz	\$90.00	Presenting a workshop and then discussing and brainstorming ideas.
Rebecca Sitton's Best Practices for Teaching, Spelling and Word skills	Barrie Schwartz	\$169.00	Learn best practices on spelling, proofreading, grammar and vocabulary development.
Connected Math	Howard Bousel Brienne Fitzpatrick Sharon Hurwich Jerry Belmonte Bydette Dostie Brand Turner Sue Miller Emmett Murphy Valerie Hamilton Rosalind Thompson Cecil Vincent Pete von Hoffman	\$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00 \$40.00	Middle School Connected Math PD supports the board approved curriculum and enhanced classroom instruction.

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:

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.

3. Toilet Room Facilities For Early Intervention, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Classrooms-Bradford, Nishuane and Northeast Schools For 2007-2008 School Year

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:26-6.2(h)4i provides that individual toilet rooms shall be provided in each pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classroom, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:26-6.2(h)4ii provides for an alternate method of compliance by providing toilet rooms adjacent to or outside the classroom,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation, approves an alternate method of compliance for Bradford, Nishuane and Northeast, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator will forward a copy of this resolution to the County Superintendent of Schools.

Seconded by Mr. Barr and approved by a roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	
Timothy Barr	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	_____	_____	<u>ABSENT</u>
Robert Kautz	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Ronald Riddick	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>  x  </u>	_____	

M. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

- a. Mrs. Taylor said that the data from the Academic Achievement report was excellent.
- b. Mrs. Lombard reported that she attended the training on QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum).
- c. Mr. Kautz stated that he attended the MFEE (Montclair Fund for Excellence) meeting and expressed his concern with the reauthorization of “No Child Left Behind.”
- d. Mr. Riddick thanked the Department of Instruction for their presentation.

- e. Mr. Barr stated that he was very happy to have received a warm welcome from the Bradford School and the Montclair High School.
- f. Mr. Carlton reported that he had also attended the seminar on QSAC.

## 2. Members of the Public

- a. Thomas Perente of 24 Glenridge Parkway, music professor, commended the District and teachers for jobs well done. He stated music education in Montclair is in a poor state and would like to raise awareness of the need to improve music education in the district. In addition, he wanted to know if the District was going to put something in place so that children like his daughter who wants to be a violinist, would have an opportunity to play in the regional competitions.

Dr. Alvarez responded that he thinks that it is unfair to categorize our music program as partially proficient, and that teachers do a great job at what they have been asked to do with the resources that they have been given. The idea of participation in regional competitions is a possibility and is something that is encouraged. He continued that he had explained to Mr. Perente that limited resources are an issue but if resources were available, specifically supporting music education would be a possibility. There is an arts supervisor whose responsibility encompasses all of the arts in the district, and an art's committee that is looking at the entire area of arts including music, with the possibility of having string instruction in the future. For the record, Mr. Perente, has been invited to participate with our arts committee in shaping arts education in the district. He concluded that others have raised issues regarding our arts program with dance, music, and fine arts, but that involving parents and staff in that discussion to address our needs is necessary. Whether it will be something that the committee brings forward as a recommendation during budget season or not, remains to be seen and will be discussed.

- b. Dennis Murray stated that the NJEA will be focusing on programs at Rand School and the DLC.
- c. Shirley Eason of 340 Orange Road, expressed her concern with the property around the new school site.

Mrs. Sullivan responded that there is a contract that has been awarded to a company that is in the process of beginning to remediate the asbestos in all of the buildings and then they are going to demolish and clean up that entire site to prepare for construction. There will be a construction fence around the whole area and then demolition will proceed afterwards. She added that next Wednesday evening, October 3, there will be a meeting at St. Marks church

for the neighbors, with the construction manager and the architects on site to answer any questions that anyone may have about the demolition.

N. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 1, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

O. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:18 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. 10:4-12 (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.

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 Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.

P. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

The Board returned from open session at 9:45 p.m.

Q. APPROVALS

Mr. Barr moved to approve the following:

1. Personnel Report of September 24, 2007 including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.

Seconded by Mr. Kautz and approved by a roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	
Timothy Barr	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	
Shirley Grill	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Robert Kautz	<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>	

R. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:46 p.m. Mr. Kautz moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Sullivan  
 Assistant Board Secretary