

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2007  
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY**

A. The meeting opened at 7:31 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 May 21, 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. 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>      </u>	<u>  x  </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>   6  </u>	
Members of the Public	<u>  14  </u>	
Members of the Press	<u>   1  </u>	

C. The Pledge of allegiance occurred at 7:32 p.m.

D. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Pryor stated that for the very first time, the Montclair School District entered the School Communications Competition sponsored by the New Jersey School Board Association. Out of the five categories offered, four were entered and won. Those awards are as follows:

1. The Excellence Award for Website Design
2. The Merit Award for Specialty Publications which was a piece that was done about our SAIL program for gifted students.
3. Honorable Mention for the Community News Letter
4. Honorable Mention for the Superintendent's Monthly Bulletin.

She added that the district is very proud to have received these awards and commends two staff members Mrs. Sue Young, district webmaster and Mrs. Laura Federico, public information specialist, for their hard work to help win both of these awards. She thanked and congratulated them for their concerted and consistent efforts to keep parents, caregivers, and the entire Montclair community informed about the many activities in which the school district is involved.

#### E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez congratulated Mrs. Sue Young and Mrs. Laura Federico for receiving several awards in the NJSBA Communication Competition for their work on the web page, community newsletter, back-pack flyer and Superintendent's Bulletin. He also congratulated Susan Bartol and Dr. Jacqueline Cusack on being awarded a PSE&G Environmental Education Grant for Rand School.

He mentioned that the district hosted a delegation of four Russian principals, who visited three of our schools and spent two hours with Senior Staff administrators on Friday, exchanging ideas about school governance and practice.

In regards to the Rand principal search, there were nine applicants interviewed by an eight-member parent-teacher committee. He added that three candidates have been invited back for interviews with Senior Staff members this week.

He concluded by noting that there was a 25% drop in violence and vandalism last year which is good news and that some reported incidences, such as property damage and trespassing, happen after school hours and not while students are in school.

#### Violence and Vandalism Report

Mr. Dabney stated that the State characterizes certain criteria pertaining to students being suspended from school as violence. Over the last year the total number of violence and vandalism in the district decreased by 25%. In comparing 2006-2007 with 2004-2005 the amount of simple assaults decreased to three, whereas, in 2005-2006 there were six simple assaults consisting of reckless fighting. Our goal is to reduce the amount of simple assaults to zero. Programs such as increasing in-school suspension and Saturday detentions, morning and lunch time interventions with SAC counselors, and two resource officers from the Montclair Police Department that conducts workshops in all of the schools were implemented to assist in proactively ending violence in the district.

He added that there were no aggravated assaults but two threats occurred in cyberspace, where students were sending threats through email. There were no sex offenses but one harassment and bullying occurrence. Looking at vandalism, there were no arsons or burglaries however, there were seven occurrences of property damage. Areas such as Woodman Field, windows in schools, and other school

properties were damaged but not the surrounding areas in the neighborhood. Most of the damaged property does occur during mischief night and weekends. The total cost to the district for vandalism was \$6,055

which shows an increase from last year. Three thefts were of iPods and parents are being encouraged to assist in this area by not allowing their children to bring these devices to school. There were two occurrences of trespassing – people trying to enter the building without authorization. There were no bomb threats but one firework offense where an elementary school student brought in fireworks. No substance usage had occurred this past year. Self-willingly students report to the SAC counselors and then are referred to out-patient or in-patient treatment. Three occurrences of possession of substances were reported. In this instance the student is referred for drug testing. If in 24-hours the test results are returned negative, the student would be readmitted to school. In every case that this has happened, the results were negative. Possession of weapons is a problem. Students carry in their backpacks knives and pellet guns for showy display. Overall, there were 33 incidents in 2006-2007 as compared to 44 incidents the previous year.

He concluded that the offender information shows that there were 21 regular students and 14 students with disabilities that were suspended. Most suspensions are one to three days with long-term suspensions consisting of 10 or more days. For regular education, any suspensions over five days must be followed by an individual pupil plan which assures that the student is receiving the services that are needed promptly. If it is a special education student and the suspension is 10 or more days a medical station determination would have to be implemented. The in-school suspension policy has been applied this year with the purpose of keeping the students in school.

#### F. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

None.

## G. COMMENTS

### 1. MHS Student Coalition

Daniella Martinez, President, Noah Bokar-Lindell, Vice President, and Jade Wormley Co-Vice President, of the Montclair Student Coalition presented information regarding several activities taking place in the Montclair High School this year such as assistance with the admissions process, PSAT for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade levels, SVPA December showcase musical review entitled "Welcome to Life", CGI preparation for the "We The People" competition in February, center for social justice lab classes focusing on environmental issues, police and student bonds, and mentors to resolve conflicts with elementary school students.

### 2. PTA

Robin Kulwin co-president of the PTA reported that the first fall meeting was successful and was attended by all schools. She added that the meetings have been reconstructed to where they now begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. The goal of the PTA is to have PTA's and parents seek the counsel as a resource. The PTA websites are more effective and all are invited to view the website. The PTA adopted their budget which focuses on the increase in the parent co-sponsored programs. She concluded that there is a concern regarding some of the cuts that were made to the after school programs in the middle schools.

### 3. MEA

Mr. Murray stated that the MEA is extremely happy with the work that is being done by the district making a safe environment for teachers and students. Currently, the MEA is assembling proposals for the contract agreement between the Board of Education and the MEA. This will assist both certified and non-certified professionals' accountability to their positions. He stated that at the Health and Wellness partnership meeting he addressed the concern of the teaching staff being left out of the Health and Wellness program. He concluded that some local organizations are willing to assist the teaching staff and have given several suggestions and ideas.

## H. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- AGENDA ITEMS

None.

## I. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following:

2007-2008 School Level-Objectives – New Jersey State Department of Education

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Department of Education requires measurable objectives of student performance annually, and

WHEREAS, these objectives must be submitted to the New Jersey State Department of Education by October 31, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the district will include these measurable objectives of student performance as part of the total listing of objectives which will be presented to the board of education as part of district's annual planning process

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the attached listing of measurable objectives for student performance for submission to the New Jersey State Department of Education.

Seconded by Mrs. Lombard 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>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	
Ronald Riddick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	
Carmen Taylor	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	

J. BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following:

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

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 October in the amount of \$and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of September, 2007 in the amount of \$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 \$9,000,000.00 for the month October and

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

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>ABSENT</u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>x</u>	_____	
Ronald Riddick	<u>x</u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>x</u>	_____	

2. Resolutions

Mrs. Taylor moved to approve the following:

- a. Resolution re: 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 Cost</u>	<u>Educational Purpose</u>
Strategy & Tactics for Family	Frank Alvarez Sylvia Bryant	\$300.00 \$300.00	Help manage the activities aimed at

Engagement			increasing family engagement.
National Association for Professional Development	Naomi Kirkman	\$353.30	Learn how other school university partnerships operate.
NJ Edge.Net Conference 2007	Maria Narciso Alan Benezra	\$740.00 \$740.00	Enhance e-learning and home/school communication.
NJ Law & Ethics	Dana Sullivan Andrea DelGuercio	\$189.00 \$189.00	Update/instruction of the NJ ethics law.
A Team Approach to Children	Kelly Russo	\$70.00	Gain knowledge of students with diabetes to learn to monitor diabetic second-grade student.
NJ Literacy Consortium	Cenithia Bilal Patricia Thomas Jim Aquavia	\$493.00 \$493.00 \$493.00	Provides a forum of educators who are interested in advancing best practices in language arts literacy to meet instructional needs.
How to Deal with the Hard to Handle Student	Chris Jackson Gabriella Bauer	\$189.00 \$189.00	Learn techniques that can be applied to behavioral issues.
Written Lang. Assessment & Intervention Strategies	ToniLynn Paccione	\$150.00	To learn how to improve the students' communication and writing skills.
ASHA Annual Convention	Megan Matson	\$280.00	To learn the latest ways for service delivery and treatment of children.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual	Lora A. Orta	\$455.00	To remain current on

Conference on Mainstreaming Students With Hearing Loss			issues related to the field.
ALC Fall Symposium	Miya Thompson-Smith	\$140.00	To remain current on issues related to the field.
Mindfulness: Enhance Your Therapeutic Skills	Gail Derivan	\$195.00	To learn Cognitive Behavioral Therapy used to treat behavioral problems.
NJ School Boards Assoc.	Laura Federico Sue Young	\$50.00	Accepting an Award of Excellence for our website on behalf of the district.
Using Technology In Physical Education	Francine Bonczkowski	\$350.00	Hand-on experience with technology that is available for physical education.
Everyday Mathematics	Shawn Seabrooks Samantha Roem Linda DeCorso	\$95.00	Adapting everyday math for students with special needs.
Sensory Processing Disorder	Ruthelyn Elkin	\$179.00	Strategies and techniques to properly work with kids with sensory integration difficulties.
Sex Ed: Basics & Beyond	Kate Stanton Paule Laura Schwartz	\$125.00 \$125.00	To learn how to provide sex education to student with developmental disabilities

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. Resolution re: Approval of Submission of the Governor's Initiative on Autism Amendment Application for FY-2008

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education requires Boards of Education to approve application of submission of the Governor's Initiative on Autism Amendment Application,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT REOSOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the submission of the attached Governor's Initiative on Autism Amendment Application for FY2008.

- c. Resolution re: Submission of Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of the Montclair Board of Education are consistent with these requirements, and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the Montclair Board of Education in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

- d. Resolution re: Parental Contract for Student Transportation

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education is desirous of having the parent/legal guardian of (ED-P) transport their child to and from Chancellor Academy, Lincoln Park, New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, if the parent/legal guardian fully performs the services require by this contract, the Montclair Board of Education shall pay the parent/legal guardian \$3,492.00 to transport said child as per the attached contract,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montclair Board of Education does approve the Parent Contract for such transportation.

- e. Resolution re: Authorizing that Procurement of Goods and Services Through State Agency for the 2007-2008 School Year

WHEREAS, Title 18A:18A-10 provides that, "A board of education, without advertising for bids, or after having rejected all bids obtained pursuant to advertising therefore, by resolution may purchase

any goods or services pursuant to a contract or contracts for such goods or services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property, “and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has the need, on a timely basis, to procure goods and services utilizing state contracts, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education desires to authorize its purchasing agent for the 2007-2008 school year to make any and all purchases necessary to meet the needs of the school district throughout the school year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education does hereby authorize the district purchasing agent to make purchases of good and services entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property utilizing various vendors as listed:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>State Contract</u>	<u>Commodity/Service</u>
Pitney Bowes	63753	Mailroom Equipment and Maintenance Various State Agencies
	55220	Mailroom Equipment Maintenance Services

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	
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>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>x</u>	<u>_____</u>	
Ronald Riddick	<u>x</u>	<u>_____</u>	
Carmen Taylor	<u>x</u>	<u>_____</u>	

K. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

- a. Mr. Barr stated that he had a great experience at the Montclair High School back to school night.
- b. Mrs. Taylor reported that she attended workshops sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Education regarding closing the achievement gap.

- c. Mrs. Lombard also stated that she had an excellent experience at the Montclair High School back to school night and that the PTA council is off to a great start.
  
- d. Mr. Carlton agreed that the back to school night at Montclair High School was great. He added that Facilities committee is reviewing attempts to reduce class size and hope that solutions addressing the smaller problems are made. The Special Education committee will meet soon and The Board members on the Board of School Estimate will be meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup> to begin planning for next year.

2. Members of the Public

None.

L. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on November 5, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

M. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:29 p.m. Mr. Carlton 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 matters.

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. Riddick and approved by a vote of 5-0.

N. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Barr moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by Mrs. Taylor and approved by a vote of 5-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:05 p.m.

O. APPROVALS

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following:

1. Personnel Report of October 15, 2007 including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.
2. Exclusions Report
3. Out-of-District Placements

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>ABSENT</u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Ronald Riddick	<u>  x  </u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>  x  </u>	_____	

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following:

4. Final Agreement with the Montclair Principal’s Association for the Years 2007-2010

WHEREAS, the negotiated agreement between the Montclair Principals Association and the Montclair Board of Education expired on June 30, 2007, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education and its representatives and the Montclair Principals Association have negotiated in accordance with the law in good faith over a successor agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association have reached a tentative agreement, and

WHEREAS, the details of that tentative agreement have been mutually defined and agreed to,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education hereby agrees to the terms of the tentative agreement reached by the parties in respect to modifications, alterations, amendments and changes to said agreement, which is retroactively effective beginning July 1, 2007

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education directs the Secretary to the Montclair Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to take such actions on its behalf as are necessary to effectuate the terms and conditions of the negotiated agreement.

Seconded by Mr. Barr 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>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	
Ronald Riddick	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	
Carmen Taylor	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	

P. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:07 p.m. Mr. Barr moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Riddick and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Sullivan  
Board Secretary