MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING HELD MONDAY, NOVEMEBER 5, 2007 22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

- A. The meeting opened at 7:31 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, 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.
- C. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:32 p.m.
- D. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD

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

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez stated that he just returned from Boston where he was attending a Strategy & Tactics for Family Engagement planning meeting with the District Management Council. Montclair was one of seven founding members to the DMC in 2004. There are now 70 districts involved in the corporation. Many useful ideas and research, based on the work of Joyce Epstein at Johns Hopkins and funding from the Harvard Family Research Project were explored. He returned in time for the board meeting, but Sylvia Bryant remained and Dr. Alvarez is certain she will return with useful information.

Dr. Alvarez commented that there was an adjustment to the achievement report presented a few weeks ago. The Montclair High School college/university attendance rate was reported as 83%; the correct number is 87%, which is more consistent with past years.

Demolition of the old buildings on the new school site began today. He stated that he is ecstatic and this is an important milestone for this project. By the end of December all of the buildings will be down.

Dr. Alvarez noted that later in the evening he will be presenting a recommendation to the Board for the new principal at Rand, who is expected to begin on or about February 1.

Dr. Alvarez introduced Dr. Jeanne Pryor who presented the Quality Assurance Annual Report:

Dr. Pryor stated that QAAR is a requirement of the New Jersey State Department of Education. The QAAR can broadly be divided into three basic categories:

- 1. Two measurable objectives for each of the public schools that will be tested
- 2. Compliance and mandated programs
- 3. Facilities and school safety

The planning piece of the QAAR deals with student performance which looks at the performance from the prior school year. The department of education requires 2 measurable objects for every public school. So as part of the QAAR they look at the performance results of the school year which was just completed which is 2006-2007. Then they also look at the two objectives that will be focused on for the current school year 07-08.

In the compliance and mandated programs there is a whole host of activities where the department requires us to summarize our performance which includes professional development, equity plans, government plans, adult programs, special education, and school report card. This year the state reduced the paperwork for the school report card by asking how the board shares that information with the public. They also take a look at the technology plan, substance abuse prevention, and violence and vandalism.

In the facilities area they look at the long range plan, any major building projects or maintenance, and the status of the annual health and safety review.

This year 06-07 is the last year of the QAAR, the New Jersey QSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) will be the new process for evaluating and monitoring public schools. This is the most recent version of the T & E Law of 1975. QSAC will be replacing the QAAR in approximately one calendar year. This will be a much larger report, which will be done every three years instead of annually.

The QAAR looked at three broad based items and the QSAC looks at five overarching key areas which are called district performance reviews. These five areas are: instructional program, operations management, fiscal management, governance, and personnel. In the area of governance, which is a new area it includes ten basic areas: in which some deal with areas of the board, student achievement, board training, disclosure and operations (which is how the board operates and if it is in compliance with the rules and regulations that are required by the Commissioner of Education), ethics and compliance, polices, procedures and bylaws, board practices, annual evaluative process, collaboration between school board and the administration of the public schools, budgets priorities, and communications.

QSAC is a self assessment document which is completed by a team including the following members: the superintendent, designated staff members, parents, caregivers, members of the board, and overall community. If the district has an 80%-100% satisfactory rating of all five areas they are determined to be high performing and receive certification for three school years. If a district has a 50%-79% satisfactory rating of all those five areas the district will be required to develop an improvement plan for any area where they are determined to be deficient. The district may then have to undergo an in-depth evaluation. Any district that has below 50% satisfactory rating of all those five areas must undergo an in-depth evaluation and will be required to develop improvement scores. The percentage range is in all accumulated categories, it is based on how well each task was preformed and completed.

The department will look at two items in order to determine if the district will be required to perform an improvement planner. These items are capacity and effectiveness. Capacity looks at all the resources a district has. The effectiveness looks

at how good of a job was done, how well each task was done, and the fact that all task were completed.

Montclair will need to submit its first QSAC November 15, 2008, and that will be for the 2007-2008 school year. Montclair is hoping to receive certification through school year 2011-2012. It is felt that Montclair should start looking at the five areas of concentration, looking at who should be on their team, and reviewing all the items.

Ms. Grill asked what the value of this certification is.

Mr. Carlton stated that most of the team will need to take board training. He stated that if you take the Quality of New Jersey items that were all ready done and add it to the quality assurance report everything is probably almost covered. It is a three year certification but they can go back in time to look at things. A lot of it is checking what was or wasn't done. There is an annual ethics discussion by the board that has to occur so they check to see if it was done. There are some boards out there who aren't watching certain things and they are getting out of control and they want to have a uniform way to measure across the state.

Ms. Grill stated that her issue with this is that it already takes a lot of time and it is costly. So now they have to embark upon a new quality certification which will take more time and more money. The board has made choices in where they will do certain thing and not do certain things like financial choices of what they will put money behind. She feels that this could be distracting for key administrators to have to cover a new spectrum of 150 items.

Mr. Carlton stated that it is actually 151 indicators which are broken down to about 352 pieces of data much of which is already reported to the state. He stated that it will take up a lot of time but must be done, like the review of special education is much more in depth and in a sense Montclair has already shown compliance.

F. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Mr. Kautz commented that a NY Federal Circuit Court ruling was affirmed by the US Supreme Court last week that the court ruled that a family was entitled to reimbursement for private school tuition for a special education child even though the child never attempted to utilize the public school services nor were they ever a part of the district. He stated that he is very concerned about this because even though this does not effect NJ right now if it was to be brought up in this state this could be used as an example and this ruling goes against all of the hard work that this district has done for the inclusion program.

Mr. Riddick attended two seminars:

1. Data gathering for the purpose of closing the achievement gap

There were representatives from Medham and Hackensack and they discussed how their districts monitor the data in the classrooms. They were targeting the middle schools to try to improve upon the achievement gap and they would measure performance on a monthly basis, to see if there was anything that was not working so they could make the adjustment right then and there. Mr. Riddick stated that the board should take look at whether these types of measures could be used in a district like Montclair.

2. Special Education

This seminar was presented by the Deputy Superintendent of the Jersey City Board of Education. One of the issues she addressed was what can be done in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade to catch children before they fall into special education and what kind of intervention can be placed at that point in time. It is much cheaper to do it then, instead of having a child have an IEP which is a contract which is now something that if it is not followed the district could get sued. It is more money to have an IEP as opposed to doing an intervention when you notice a child is not with their class at their level.

Mrs. Lombard stated there will be a personnel committee meeting reported later.

Mr. Carlton attended the school boards conference. One of the sessions he attended was the overall legislative session. The big discussion was the school funding plan, it is anticipated that any funding formula will be based on students as opposed to geography. It was also stated at the meeting that every district in the state would be held harmless, which means that some districts would keep the same amount of funding and others would gain funding in about three to five years.

Mr. Carlton also attended a meeting on how to integrate Pre-K into public school which talked about inclusion. It is felt that we want children in our district and our regular education classes and we want to ingrate the instruction in the regular day and regular class.

There was another session that was on a report on special education that was done by the state. The level of special education teachers is remaining consistent, aides is going up, speech related services is going up, and speech itself is staying the same (flat). Mr. Carlton stated that they spoke about a different twist on the achievement GAP and they talked about several curricula, K-2 and beyond and it was stressed that a higher order of thinking is really the key in increasing literacy. The instructor talked about pulling back on remedial work because other instruction could be done at this time. The instructor suggested that younger children put on plays so they could discuss their parts, who does what, and who has what roles to get the children to become comfortable with the language.

G. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS

Stacey Brandon – 111 Buckingham Road – Stated that her son was suspended for three days for throwing acorns. Ms. Brandon went to the office to talk to the counselor and he told her to refer to the "blue book" and when she did she found that this was listed as a Saturday detention.

Dr. Alvarez asked Ms. Brandon to call his office to make sure this is handled in the proper manner. He stated that to his understanding three other students were hurt due to this occurrence.

H. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolution:

Approval of Submission Quality Assurance Annual Report

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education is required by the Public School Education Act of 1975 to follow the monitoring process of the New Jersey State Department of Education to ensure quality public education, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education supports the process of reporting in public meetings those indicators of progress in teaching, learning, and achievements, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education discussed district and school level plans for the 2007-2008 school year October 15th public meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education will provide a complete copy of the Quality Assurance Annual Report for community review in the Office of Public Information,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the submission of the Quality Assurance Annual Report in

accordance with the requirements of the Public School Education Act of 1975 and authorizes the superintendent of schools to submit this report to the Essex County Superintendent of Schools.

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

	AYE	NAY	
Timothy Barr	X		
John Carlton	X		
Shirley Grill	X		
Robert Kautz	X		
Shelly	X		
Lombard			
Ronald	X		
Riddick			
Carmen			ABSENT
Taylor			

I. BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

- 1. Resolutions
 - a. Conference and Travel Expenses

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 23 B 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:

	Board Member/	Estimated	
Conference	Employee	Cost	Educational Purpose

Preparing Special Education Students for NJASK	Lisa Robbins	\$155.00	Focuses on special education instruction & preparing students for NJASK.
Giving Life to Problem Solving: Preparing Students for NJASK	Lauren Wenning Radhika Buch Jennifer Wadenius Katrina Harms	\$155.00 \$155.00 \$195.00 \$195.00	Focuses on Math standards & problem solving connected to NJASK and to increase teacher content knowledge.
Getting Ready for NJASK: Using Multi- Tasking to Get it All Done	Aysha Ames Naomi Kirkman Yvette Spicer Cary Bangs	\$155.00 \$155.00 \$155.00 \$155.00	Focuses on standards, NJASK, integrated teaching curriculum and to increase teacher content knowledge.
Making Sense of Numbers	Radhika Buch	\$155.00	Focuses on NJASK standard for math and to increase teacher content knowledge.
Probability, Discrete Math & Problem Solving: A Winning Combination	Yvette Spicer	\$155.00	Increases content knowledge of this math standard & instruction of special education students enhanced.
	Lauren Wenning	\$155.00	Provides information on moving students to more advanced math concepts, important for special education student instruction.
Everyday Math	Kim Dillman Beverly Weitzman	\$360.00 \$360.00	Enhance classroom instruction and pedagogy for

	Renee Kelly Brenda Sinclair Gabriella Bauer John Furey Janis Vascimini Beverly D'Andrea Susan Cowan	\$360.00 \$360.00 \$360.00 \$360.00 \$360.00 \$360.00	Board approved instruction for Everyday Math.
NCTE	Deborah Maher	\$225.00	Differentiated literacy instruction.
League of Municipalities	Michael Zazzarino	\$275.00	Help provide updated legislative information as well as different vehicles to invest funds into thus generating additional interest income.
Facing Challenge Overcoming Obstacles	Dr. Keith Breiman	\$50.00	Will help to develop skills to work with high-risk adolescents who engage in self-harming, suicidal, & violent behavior.
Differentiate Classroom Instruction	Jamie Basset	\$185.00	Help to reach all learning in the classroom and address different learning styles.
Special Education	Gabriella Bauer	\$85.00	To teach techniques for special education children to maximize instruction.
Facing the Challenges- Overcoming the Obstacles	Richard Bartell Andrew Evangelista	\$50.00 \$50.00	Newest therapy approaches that will enhance & emphasize practical interventions to address – carry out Montclair board policies for substance abuse & mental health issues.
Develop More Fluent Readers	Wendy Smith Gismondi	\$195.00	Strengthen students' reading fluency, learn effective ways to teach pacing, engage strategies, for less fluent

effectively & involve families

readers, use assessment

			in supporting students' fluency development.
Best Strategies to Help SLP, Support Student Literacy	Janice Fowler Helen Cox	\$195.00 \$195.00	Increase existing knowledge as an SLP to better support literacy development (phonemic awareness, text comprehension) and how to incorporate literacy skills into speech and language therapy.
Autism Spectrum Disorders	Linda De Corso Valerie Gancarz- DeMarco	\$1299.00 \$1371.00	To remain certifies and able to continue to train district staff in non-violent crisis intervention.
Access for Windows	Alison Urguidi	\$96.00	To help use Microsoft Access for data analysis.
True Colors	Jean Wuensch	\$25.00	Diversity & equity workshop to support basic values of self confidence, pride, dignity, and

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. New Jersey Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approve agreements with the following nonpublic schools in compliance with the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program for the 2007-2008 school year:

Montclair Kimberley Academy

Immaculate Conception High School

worthiness.

St. Cassain

Lacordaire Academy - Elementary

Lacordaire Academy - Secondary

Montclair Cooperative

c. Revised Project Application and Schematic Plans for Classroom305

& 320 Renovations at the High School

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education desires to renovate classrooms 305/320 at the High School, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6:26 requires the submission of a Project Application and Schematic Plans for all projects that the district is requesting Debt Service Aid by the state, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, the proposed project is included in the district's Long Range Facility Plan that was previously submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the submission of the Project Application and Schematic Plans to the Department of Education, Bureau of Facility Planning Services, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education authorizes the Board Architect, Richard Rigolo, to prepare all plans, specifications, drawings and necessary bid related documents for the project.

d. Nursing Services Plan. 2007-2008

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the Nursing Services Plan for the Montclair Public Schools per Title 6A:16-2.1,8b.

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 Robert Kautz	X X		
Shelly	$\frac{X}{X}$		
Lombard			
Ronald Riddick	X		
Carmen Taylor			ABSENT

2. Contract Awards

Essex Campus Program - 2007-2008 School Year

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following contract:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-63 states in part "Commissions may enter into contracts with other public and private agencies for the provision of approved services and programs to participating public schools, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education is in need of a program to serve the

educational needs of disaffected and disruptive pupils in the district, and

WHEREAS, the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission has an Alternative Education Program to provide such service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE, IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation does hereby approve the contract for seven (7) at risk students between the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission and the Montclair Board of Education effective September 1, 2007, in the amount of \$19,313 per student, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall be authorized to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$135,191 to the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission.

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

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

3. Change Orders

a. #1 For Woodman Complex Site Environmental Remediation and Sports Improvements

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following change orders:

WHEREAS, supplies, equipment and services anticipated to be in excess of \$29,000 are subject to the bidding requirements of New Jersey Statutes 18A:18A-4 or are to be purchased under a State of New Jersey contract through the provisions of N.J.S. 18A:18A-10, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared for the Board of Education by TRC Raviv, Environmental Engineers for the Montclair Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on July 12, 2007, for Woodman Complex Site Environmental Remediation and Sports Improvements. The contract was awarded to JC Landscape Construction & Management Co., Inc., 52 Denise Drive, Kinnelon, NJ, 07405, in the total amount of \$451,522.00 (base bid of \$410,222 plus Alternate #2 of \$41,300.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approve change order #1 in the amount of \$24,140.00 for additional drainage improvements.

b. #6 and #7 for Woodman Field House Renovations

WHEREAS, supplies, equipment and services anticipated to be in excess of \$29,000 are subject to the bidding requirements of New Jersey Statutes 18A:18A-4 or are to be purchased under a State of New Jersey contract through the provisions of N.J.S. 18A:18A-10, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared for the Board of Education by The Biber Partnership, Architect for the Montclair Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on March 15, 2007, for Woodman Field House Renovations. The contract was awarded to Jeral Construction Services, 320 Belleville Avenue, Bloomfield, New Jersey, 07003, in the total amount of \$3,999,250.00 (base bid of \$3,152,650.00 plus 6 Alternates).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approve change order #6 in the amount of \$1,076.25 for foundation modifications at the front addition stairway of the field house and #7 in the amount of \$2,478.60 for temporary power to the scoreboard.

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

AYE	NAY	
X		
X		
X		
X		
X		
X		
		<u>ABSENT</u>
	X X X X X	X X X X X

J. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

Mr. Kautz stated that he is thrilled that the demolition has started on the new school.

Ms. Grill commented that she had a conversation with someone about the budget process for the coming year. She would like it if a schedule for the budget workshops that will take place can be publicized soon.

Mr. Carlton stated that there was a meeting with Mrs. Lombard, Mr. Barr, Mrs. Sullivan, Dr. Alvarez, and himself to start talking about the budget process and what needs to be done on the board side, for the public, and what is going on in the various schools.

2. Members of the Public

Jim Price – 47 Gordonhurst St.- Mr. Price spoke about the music program, and the comparison of the music curriculum of Montclair High School and West Orange High School. He feels that a district wide music supervisor or an art supervisor and more staff need to be added in Montclair. Mr. Price stated that it is great that there is going to be a long term plan and he will help in any way he can and hopes that it does not take three years to come up with the resources in order to start rebuilding the music program. Mr. Price feels that the teachers are great but as far as he is aware there is no strings instruction. Also he feels that it is unfair for the Drums of Thunder students who play for tens of thousands of people and then after 5th grade percussions ends for them. He would like percussions classes implemented in the middle school and high school.

Susan Abraham – 35 Clinton Ave. – Ms. Abraham stated that she is very concerned about the deficiency in the music program in the whole Montclair district. She said that not only West Orange but also Bloomfield, Belleville, and Little Falls all beat out Montclair's music program. The elementary schools in almost every other district in the state start children on instruments in 3rd and 4th grade, while Montclair does not. Ms. Abraham stated that in the middle school Glenfield does have a good program but the other schools do not. In the high school orchestra there are 16 students and this is the largest it has been in years. In the surrounding towns they have a junior orchestra, senior orchestra, wind ensemble, string ensemble, jazz band and Montclair has none of these programs. Ms. Abraham stated that these programs do a lot for the students to learn team work and it brings the students into academics that don't have that opportunity.

Erica Appel – 66 Cambridge Road – Ms. Appel stated that her family moved to Montclair three years ago from Nutley and her daughter was finishing elementary school and was playing the trombone. In Nutley the students were offered an opportunity to play wind instrument and string instruments in all of the elementary schools. She was very surprised when they came to Montclair that none of these programs are in the curriculum. She would like to see pull out instruction, which is where there is a band and once a week the student is pulled out of class to attend the band class. Ms. Appel said she would like to see a district coordinator added to the staff to be in charge of the music program.

Mary Beth Rosenthal – 269 Upper Mountain Ave. – Co. President PTA Council – Ms. Rosenthal stated that the PTA met with Tom Parrenti and several PTA presidents had some suggestions on how to leverage some of the current resources such as: having the high school band visit the middle schools and the middle school band going to the elementary school to get those students interested in music. The PTA council also is supportive of having someone to coordinate a music program.

Ms. Rosenthal said the PTA is exploring a fund raising mechanism vehicle that all of the schools can participate in. Also they are following the school funding formula. Ms. Rosenthal attended a conference in which it was stated that the money is following the child in special education. The PTA council is continuing to pursue middle school homework help.

Cary Africk – 2 Erwin Park – Mr. Africk stated that he feels that it would be a big help for the resolutions on the agenda to be made available so people could see them before the meeting on the web site.

K. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on November 19, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

L. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:40 p.m. Mrs. Lombard 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: out-of-district placements.

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.

M. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

The Board returned to open session at 10:10 p.m.

N. APPROVAL

Mr. Barr moved to approve the following:

- 1. Personnel Report of November 5, 2007 including individuals who have been hired under Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law;
- 2. Addendum to Personnel Report
- 3. Out-of-District placements

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

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

O. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:11 p.m. Ms. Grill moved to adjourn the meeting: seconded by Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Alvarez Assistant Secretary