

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008, AT 6:30 P.M.  
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. The meeting opened at 7:08 p.m. and the following statement was read:

Let the minutes reflect that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in the following manner:

On November 12, 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.

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.

Copies have also been mailed to all persons who have requested same at no cost.

B. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:08 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 cover by the attorney-client privilege; and matter rendered confidential by state or federal law: personnel report and personnel matters.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said discussion may 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 6-0.

At 7:08 p.m. the board went into executive session.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matters
2. Personnel Report

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Riddick 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 7:31 p.m.

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:32 p.m.

F. 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 Member Present	<u>      3      </u>	
Members of the Public	<u>     10      </u>	
Members of the Press	<u>      1      </u>	

G. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez’s spoke about the following items:

1. The district is celebrating the Giants’ Super Bowl win with two of our very own David Tyree and Michael Strahan. Friday, Fox News highlighted a Montclair High School pep rally in honor of former Mountie Tyree. Today we had many of the major news stations descend on the High School soliciting comments from students and staff, with particular interest on Coach Ed Lebida who was a mentor to #85.
  
2. The China Initiative is generating much interest. With the assistance of Sylvia Bryant, the district is coordinating two community workshops – one on March 26<sup>th</sup> and the other on April 7<sup>th</sup> – to explore Chinese language learning in the early grades. We invite all of you to attend.

Notices will be distributed via backpacks, on our web page, and in The Montclair Times.

3. At our next Board meeting on February 25th, we will be commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the STARS Program. The Board will conduct its executive session at 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception at 7:00 p.m., and the regular Board meeting at 7:30 p.m.
4. Also on February 25<sup>th</sup>, the Board will hold its first public discussion of the proposed school budget for the 2008-2009 school year. As in past years, Dana Sullivan and I will spend the weeks prior to this first public discussion in conversations with board members and staff regarding needs and anticipated expenditures.
5. African-American History Month is celebrated throughout our schools this month. No where are the activities more meaningful than at the High School, where the Black Student Union and the Student Coalition work jointly with their advisors to design a unique program. This evening we have representatives from the High School who will speak of what's in store for the month ahead.

#### H. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Jade Wormley (Vice President of the Student Coalition at Montclair High School) introduced Philippe Pierre-Paul.

Philippe Pierre-Paul (President of Black Student Union) updated the Board on events planned at Montclair High School to celebrate African American History Month. Erica Davis stated that a calendar has been put together of all the upcoming events and this information will be available on the website.

Daniela Martinez (President of Student Coalition) & Elena Metsch (One of the Vice President's of the Student Coalition) spoke on several topics:

- Mid terms are underway
- On Wednesday there is a big MHS vs. MK Hockey Game which is sold out
- This Friday is one of the biggest events for the Civics and Government Institute; which is for groups who have won the in-house competition for "We the People"
- A few weeks ago there was a conference "Turning On Learning" at Montclair State. Some items discussed were how technology has changed to modern day usage and how text messaging and internet usage might be implemented into education

Mrs. Sullivan spoke about the upcoming budget meetings:

On February 25<sup>th</sup> a detailed presentation will be done of the operating budget and the capital budget. On March 4<sup>th</sup> a tentative budget will be adopted. On March 17 a public hearing will be held at Glenfield School. After the public hearing a final budget needs to be adopted and will be submitted to the Board of School Estimate. Board of School Estimate scheduled their first meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>, on March 24<sup>th</sup> they will have their public hearing on the budget, and are scheduled to adopt this budget on March 25<sup>th</sup> which is followed by a town council meeting. All of the Board of School Estimate dates are still tentative.

Mr. Carlton updated Board on facilities committee meeting.

I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

J. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolutions

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolution and Personnel Report:

Approval of Conference and Travel Expenses

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:

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Board Member/ Employee</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Educational Purpose</u>
Incorporating ABA Principles to Build Functional Communication NJASK8 in Science	Cheryl Starr	\$179.00	Motivating children with autism to speak.
	Nicole Blank	\$40.00	To show strategies for successful student preparation for the NJASK in science.
Writing Success With Six Trait Writing	Maureen Verducci	\$185.00	Using six trait writing strategies with modeled writing, interactive writing, and guided writing to strengthen students writing skills.
	Christina Sparacino	\$185.00	
	Erica Veneziano		
Spring 2007 Counselor Fly-In	Tracie Morrison	\$96.00	Allows the opportunity to obtain first-hand information about Tubine's admissions, programs, and campus life.

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.

- Personnel Report of February 4, 2008, including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.

Seconded by Mrs. Taylor 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>
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>
K. COMMENTS		

1. Board Members

Mrs. Taylor stated she was happy to see the Giants win with the help of Montclair High Schools former graduate David Tyree.

Mrs. Lombard said she was thrilled about the Giants win and is very proud of David Tyree.

Mr. Kautz gave David Tyree credit.

Mr. Barr spoke about Ed Lebida and stated that he is an outstanding man of character.

Mr. Carlton feels that everyone was very happy about the pep rally at the High School which was on Fox 5 News and said David Tyree made what is described as the most important play in Super Bowl History. He is looking forward to the start of the budget presentations.

2. Members of the Public

Kabir Baber – 77 Orange Road. – Stated his concern with the decision of the Board to suspend an employee of the Board for only 10 days after an incident which occurred at Montclair High School.

L. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 25, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. The Board will immediately go into executive session. At 7:00 p.m., there will be a reception for the STARS program followed by the public board meeting which will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

M. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:12 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.