

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2008
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. The meeting opened at 6:45 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:

1. On November 12, 2007, notice of this meeting was faxed to the Montclair Times, the Herald and News and the Star-Leger. 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.

B. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:45 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, exclusions report, and suspension report.

BE IT FURTURE 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. Barr and approved by a vote of 7-0.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matters
2. Exclusions Report
3. Suspension Report
4. Out-of-District Report

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Timothy Barr moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by Shelly Lombard and approved by a vote of 7 - 0.

The Board returned to open session at 7:30 p.m.

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:31 p.m.

F. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Timothy Barr	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
John Carlton	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> X </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>
Staff Members Present	<u> 5 </u>	
Members of the Public	<u> 50 </u>	
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>	

G. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Alvarez thanked everyone who has been involved in the STARS program and stated that great improvements have been seen as a result of this program. This is a great indication of the partnerships between the schools and the community. Dr. Alvarez acknowledged that Dr. Thomas Hanes, Vice President of Montclair State University is present at this meeting.

10th Anniversary Recognition of the STARS Tutorial Program

WHEREAS, the Montclair Public School District appreciates the partnerships with Montclair State University and the four neighborhood community sites, Trinity Presbyterian Church, St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, St. Mark's Methodist Church, and St. Paul Baptist Church in supporting the STARS After School Community Tutorial Program.

WHEREAS, the program was piloted in 1995, through Montclair State University's Center for Community-Based Learning and the generosity of our community sites. This program has also been supported by students from the Montclair High School Fed Challenge. The Center for Community-Based Learning has provided more than 1000 student tutors at the seven elementary schools and the four community sites, serving approximately 125 elementary school students per year, 2-4 hours per week in literacy and math enrichment. This partnership has provided an opportunity to lower the student-ratio, provide more individual attention, and a high quality educational enrichment program.

WHEREAS, the Center for Community-Based Learning has provided free books to the students to enrich their personal libraries through their partnership with Borders and *First Book*, a national non-profit that provides free and discounted books to programs that help improve literacy and the motivation to read.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education expresses sincere gratitude to Montclair State University and the Center for Community-Based Learning, and our community partners for their service and support of the public schools and students.

Mrs. Trigg-Scales recognized everyone involved in the STARS program.

Councilwoman Sandra Lang read a proclamation from the Township of Montclair in regards to the STARS program.

H. MINUTES

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following minutes:

1. Public Board Meeting held Monday, January 28, 2008
2. Public Board Meeting held Monday, February 4, 2008

Seconded by Mr. Kautz and approved by a vote of 7-0.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. 2008-2009 Budget Presentation

Presented by Dr. Alvarez & Mrs. Sullivan

Dr. Alvarez noted that we have been involved in the Budget process since approximately October. At this time initial discussions began with the

principals who were asked to engage their school reviews, PTA's, and their school community as to what the needs are for each particular school. The principals then present to Central Office their budget document for the year. The Board then begins to craft from our end, from the different departments such as Department Of Instruction and Special Services Department what our needs are. Those two pieces come together sometime around December or early January and the first tentative budget is put together.

The months of January and February are pretty much spent trying to deliberate among senior staff members what the budget might look like as we bring it forward to the Board. We cut out one piece this year and last year which is the budget wish list, after discussions with parents. They felt they were being led on a little, since we were having a budget wish list meeting but were not able to accommodate all of the wishes on the list because we were trying to accommodate some of the basic needs. Since we cut the budget wish list meeting we have been informed of parent needs through school reviews and PTA's. The budget has been formulated by receiving recommendations from these groups as well as a district leadership team.

The other piece is that in reality when we take into account the contractual obligations and increases for utilities and other fixed costs we truly only have about 15% of the budget to play around with. Pretty much 85% of the budget is spoken for as we move into the first phase.

Tonight's meeting is a little different than what has happened in the past because of new state regulations. The new state regulations are if we submit for waiver (Mrs. Sullivan will explain this later on) on the 4% CAP we are required to submit to the new County Executive Superintendent who will then submit this paperwork to Trenton. There will be a meeting in Trenton tomorrow morning, we submitted our budget initially on February 15th to the county and that's the budget we are going to review with you tonight. Approval on the budget needs to be made tonight from the Board so that the state can even consider the waiver that we requested. Without that approval the waivers will not be considered tomorrow in Trenton. Everyone needs to consider that this a first cut at the budget. Therefore, we will have ample opportunity between tonight's meeting, input that we receive from the public, input from board members, next weeks meeting March 3rd, and then our public hearing on March 17th to continue to work on this budget.

A final budget vote will be on March 17th which is what this Board will send to the Board of School Estimate. It is very important that everyone understands the process. In the interim we will be involved in setting up coffees in the wards and various schools to again solicit input from the community. The current status of our budget will be given to you in detail. We are slightly

higher than where we anticipated being at this point. We feel that as we look at this and talk to members of senior staff there may be areas we can cuddle a little more out of the budget, in order to get to a number that we think would be realistic for the community to accept during these hard economic times.

Last year through efficiencies and consolidation we cut \$1.6 million out of the budget and came in at CAP. So if you've been following the discussions in Trenton we have this 4% CAP that we have already made reductions in from last year. We want to live with this 4% CAP but all of our fixed costs have gone up more than 4%, so right there it puts us in a deficit as we begin to move into this budget phase.

So we have in this current budget what we call the base budget then we have a whole set of items that we think are important and know we want to maintain, but which are above and beyond what lives in the base budget. So therefore, we are going to be asking for a vote on a second budget proposal. So there will be two votes and if we get to Board of School Estimate either with this budget or a similar budget they too will have to vote twice, once on the base budget and once on the items that live in the separate proposal.

We are appropriating this year \$2.5 million from our surplus balance which is the largest amount of money that we have appropriated, certainly in the last 4 years that I have been here and I'm quite sure some time before that we have appropriated from our surplus balance. So we have been able to budget prudently during the year and have realized some savings, now we can use that money to offset tax increases in the year ahead. One way is to maintain the current level of programming where we have not lost staff and programs. Two is that we have some new programs in the horizon which are not very costly to the district but which we think will add immensely to what we do. There are some new ticket items at cost effective prices and there are the items that we have been doing and want to continue to do.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the Board goals are the same as they have been over the past several years to achieve academic achievement for all students, to reduce the overrepresentation of minority youngsters in special education, and to infuse technology into the curriculum. Priorities of the budget have also been priorities for several years such as:

- Math Programs
- Meeting the NJ Core Curriculum standards
- Reducing the achievement gap between minority youngsters and Caucasian youngsters
- Special education
- Meeting special education mandates that we are required to meet

- Cost effective planning
- Safety of the students and staff is always a priority
- Meeting enrollment needs of the district
- Trying to maintain class sizes at the levels that they are and not increase them

Sources of Revenue for the District

Total budget for 2008-2009 is projected at \$110,676,634.00 which is broken down into these categories:

- Local tax-oper budget
- State Aid - \$9.5 million
- Fund Balance – almost \$2.5 million
- Reserve for encumbrances
- Other Revenue – mostly made up of interest income
- Adult School – self sustaining program which is funded from tuition collected
- Special Revenue Fund – state and federal grants received from the state and federal government, some of the state aid that we have received in the past has shifted from the special revenue line to the regular state aid.

Overall the increase in the budget is projected to be a 5.95% in the total budget.

The State aid increase for DEPA, Instruction Supplemental Aid, and Targeted At Risk Aid all live in special revenue for this year and are not part of the regular budget in 07-08. The state included it in their calculation for 2007-2008. The extraordinary aid is something that is received after the year is over based on the actual cost for students with extraordinary expenses.

The proposed school tax increase for the first draft is 7.2% which is based on the ratable for 2007. It is possible that the increase will be higher. This year the tax rate increase is at 4.7% because of the reduction of \$1.6 million in the budget. These reductions are carried into this year's budget but regular increases and fixed cost have caused the increase to be 7.2% for 2008-2009.

The Fund Balance is being maintained at the 2% mark and we will be appropriating \$2.5 million which will leave us approximately \$1.8 million in fund balance which is 2% of the budget.

Special education cost continues to be a large part of our increases in the budget. Out-of-District tuition and Out-of-District transportation are a very large increase in the 2008-2009 budget. There has been a dramatic increase in costs in tuition this year.

Almost 25% of the budget is targeted towards special education. The state aid for special education actually decreased due to the new formula.

The Tax Levy CAP

This is a straight 4% on last years tax levy. The states' calculation of the cap is \$91.6 million. We are allowed to request waivers for certain areas of the budget which is for extraordinary increases in cost. The state designates in what areas you can request. The Board has requested waivers in 4 areas: energy cost, special education for individual students that cost the Board more than \$40,000, liability insurance, and capital outlay which is for equipment requested by the pupil services department for special education children.

If these waivers are approved this brings our CAP to \$92.5 million and our tax levy right now is \$94.5 million which leaves us \$2,020,000 over CAP. The waivers are not guaranteed from the state. If the waivers are not approved, then we would be \$2.8 million over CAP.

Separate Proposal

A separate proposal can not be items that we are mandated to do such as energy cost, or anything that if it was to get cut we could not live without. When we put the items in a separate proposal, it is by no more a judgment call on our part that we don't want those programs or feel that these programs are not helpful to our students; however, they are programs that are not necessarily mandated. If these programs get cut in a separate proposal, we cannot reallocate to reinstate these programs. We can reinstate items that are in the regular operating budget. \$2 million is in five areas of the budget, the biggest one being student achievement. Most of this will come down to salaries because 83% of the budget is staff salaries and benefits.

The separate proposal is broken down into the following areas:

1. Student Achievement – \$1,200,000 -Minority Student Achievements, SAIL, Kindergarten Screening Program, Writer's Room Program, Guidance & Support
2. Special education - \$444,000 cost which are not necessarily mandated such as child study
3. Arts Initiative – \$157,000 includes a strings program for elementary school
4. Health and Wellness - \$110,000
5. School Security - \$100,000

If the waivers are rejected by the County Superintendent and the Department of Education at the state level, this number many increase to \$2.8 million.

New Initiatives Included in 2008-2009 Budget

- A program to teach Chinese at the elementary schools and probably one of the middle schools
- Instrumental Music in Elementary Schools – Which would expand the program to all of the elementary schools
- Artists in Residency Program – Would provide instruction in drama and dance
- Strength and Conditioning Teacher – Located at the high school to teach physical education classes and work with the athletes

Cost Per Pupil

This cost comes from the Department of Education and it comes from the Comparative Spending Guide. This calculation takes the cost of out-of-district tuition and transportation out of the total budget in order to calculate the comparable cost per pupil. In 2005-2006, Montclair’s cost was \$12,269 compared to the state average of \$11,857.

CAPITAL BUDGET

This is a draft of the capital budget. The Board will be approving the capital budget on March 17, 2008.

BOE Goals Highlighted in Priorities of Capital Budget

The goals are the same as the goals for the operating budget and the priorities are as follows:

- Support Superintendent’s Initiatives
- Support Instructional Programs
- Safety to Students and Staff
- Building Aesthetics
- Quality of Service Provided
- Cost-Effective Long Term Planning

The Board projects the budget out for 5 years and only asks the Board of Education and Board of School Estimates to approve 1 year so the focus of this presentation will be on 2008-2009. The total budget for this year is \$5.1 million.

Building Repairs

1. Roofing Replacements – \$765,000 - Mt. Hebron, Glenfield, Watchung, and Bradford

2. Windows Replacements - \$100,000 – Northeast (Multipurpose Room)
3. Waterproofing/Masonry – Bradford, Watchung, and Glenfield
4. HVAC – Glenfield, Hillside, George Inness, and Mt. Hebron

Classroom Renovations

1. Glenfield – Woodshop is planned to be converted to a classroom of the future, where everything would be wired and connected
2. Nishuane – Classroom that was badly damaged with water and needs ventilation work and other repairs
3. Rand – Replace hardwood floors
4. Auditorium Renovations – Mt. Hebron and George Inness is a large project which would include painting, replacing seats, flooring, and probably replacing the sound and lighting system

These projects are targeted for the summer of 2009.

Program Improvements

There is money in the budget for furniture and equipment - a large part of it is designated for the new fitness center in the field house which is due to be complete in September of 2008. There is money in the capital budget to upgrade technology, including upgrading computers as needed. Most of the money for technology comes out of this budget rather than the operating budget.

Other Capital Improvements

Dollars are budgeted for painting the HS gyms, Bradford gym, and the soffits outside of Central Office. Money is also provided for a large playground renovation for Northeast.

A question was asked of Mrs. Sullivan about state aid. Mrs. Sullivan stated that most of the state aid that the district is receiving now is not designated for a specific purpose. This is general aid and the adjustment aid is a large piece of this. We are unsure what this means in the future, we are told that this will stay for the next three years; it is an aid that gets us to a 2% increase. At some point in time, the legislator can change which means that since the formula isn't giving us this aid, we can lose the aid.

Mr. Barr asked if we do not get the waiver how damaging would it be to the listed programs? Mrs. Sullivan said that if we get the waiver we are over CAP by \$2,020,000 if we don't get the waiver you would then be over CAP by \$2.8 million and it is up to the board to decide what to do with the \$2.8 million. You can either cut \$2.8 million

to get to CAP or you can request a separate proposal. The 7.2% tax levy increase includes the waiver and the separate proposal.

It was asked if the separate proposal of \$444,000 for special education was for existing students or for anticipated new students into the program? This increase is for additional staff that has been requested by pupil services.

Dr. Alvarez stated that if the Board of School Estimate decides to cut this in the second proposal they have to designate which parts they would like to cut. If they cut cops in schools they have to go, if they cut from the base budget we have some flexibility to reallocate funds.

AGENDA AMMENDED

J. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS

Wilfredo Benitez – 169 Midland Avenue - Wants money for addition for the Edgemont School.

Enid Melville – 12 Valley Place - In favor of Edgemont addition and feels that this school lacks space and all the other schools have much more than Edgemont.

Mara Novak – 47 Gordenhurst – Glenfield parent that supports the instrumental music program at elementary schools.

Marlee Laks – 38 Cambridge Rd. – Edgemont parent and former PTA president wants the addition for the Edgemont School.

Cary Africk – 2 Erwin Park – Wanted to see Gifted & Talented Coordinator added to the budget.

Alex Zareniz – 77 Buckingham Rd. – Feels it is getting very hard to live in Montclair because of taxes. Mr. Zareniz feels that changes need to be made by cutting personnel expenses and would like the Board to consider a change in retirement and health benefits to have employees contribute for health insurance coverage. Mr. Zareniz would also like the Board to consider making one school a magnet for special education.

Dr. Alvarez responded that for special education to be placed in one school, there is a mandate which is to include as many students as possible in the regular classroom setting. Mrs. Sullivan stated that the pension system for employees in Montclair is part of the state pension system. She also stated that the health plan has been modified over the last school years to save money.

Thomas Parente – 24 Glenridge Pkwy. – Handed out information regarding the music program and stated that Montclair ranks pretty low within the surrounding districts in terms of number of students per music teacher. Mr. Parente supports additional teachers added to the budget for instrumental music because the district is still lacking in music instruction.

Gail Prusslin – 138 Buckingham Rd. – Thanked Mr. Parente for all of his time in which he devoted toward the music program. Ms. Prusslin supports the instrumental music program and would like more staff added to the Middle and High Schools.

Reina Smith – 7 Grove Terrace – Ms. Smith feels that the Board has sold children short when it comes to the basics that they need.

Sandra Hoyer – 165 Watchung Ave. – Concerned with lack of strings program at the High School. Ms. Hoyer would like more than one teacher added to budget.

Mark Schreoder – 75 Grandview Pl. – Edgemont parent that is concerned with money budgeted for the playground at Northeast when other schools in the district are in need of items.

RETURN TO REGULAR AGENDA

2. Update on Student Assessment

Dr. Alvarez stated that for the next year and a half or so we are focusing on a new goal to look at assessment. This will help to see what it is that teachers do on a regular basis within their classroom, not only structurally, but how does assessment drive the instructional component. The District started this last week in the teachers' conference which was titled "Learning to Love Assessment."

Mrs. Trigg-Scales presented the following:

There are nine New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, in which our youngsters are assessed. The state now has a new project called the New Jersey Standards Clarification Project, which is a new initiative that is bridging the standards with the assessment.

In education there are two kinds of forms of assessments which either fall in summative or formative. Summative is where you push it along and hope that when it comes to the end and hope that everything is done correctly. Formative is when you have quality control.

There is a continuum of assessment when we talk about what is going on in the schools. One is at the beginning of the year when the students come back from

summer vacation; another might be done at the beginning of a new unit. Teachers walk around the room, talk to the students, and learn from this as to whether the students are learning or not.

There are many assessments needed before a final assessment can be made. Such assessments are peer assessments, self assessments, quizzes and tests.

Much professional development is needed to reach the goals of the following new assessments:

1. Focusing on curriculum application, problem solving, and higher standards.
2. Authentic practical relevant activities so that our youngest students will be equipped to be problem solvers in this new millennium.
3. Clearly identify standards so that we know what standards are and the need to make sure that the students move through these requirements

On February 20, 2008, the teacher's workshop theme was "Learning to Love Assessment" which was an articulation opportunity for us and enabled the teachers to meet and talk about assessments. This theme will be on-going. October 13, 2008, Grant Wiggins will be the key note speakers for our staff. Montclair will probably engage a partnership with Madison Institute that will help us with professional development.

Assessments can be relevant, realistic, challenging, and interesting. Student's can assess their own progress because it tells them how they can get better. Rubrics state the possible scores that students can get and what needs to be done to get the highest possible scores. Rubrics are used in Language Arts and Math a lot.

Assessments are not just about tests or grade books, not always formal, not about readiness and not always separate from the curriculum. Assessments is "in-formative" instruction, and helps teachers make decisions about what should be taught and ultimately what is learned by the students.

As we move forward in Montclair we will learn to love assessments and understand that it takes multiple forms of assessment to assess student growth.

Ms. Grill stated that it is this kind of assessment that really beginnings to identify where a child is gifted, where a child needs support, and where a child can grow because it is a continuous feedback loop. If we can build this into every classroom we start to see difference and look at test scores to see what we can build on.

Ms. Trigg-Scales stated that the Department of Instruction worked closely with the Department Supervisors of the High School to plan the activities subsequent meeting. The teachers own the whole concept that we are going to spend the next 18 months examining how we assess students learning. Ultimately, we are assessing what we are teaching.

Dr. Alvarez stated that on the Professional Development Day on February 20th we had a number of our teachers run the workshops and facilitate the session. So the fact that this is sort of a new initiative, is not necessarily new information and we have a lot of good teachers who are already doing this in the classroom. This is more to get everyone to do this continuous loop and get on the same page during every period.

K. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Mr. Riddick attended a meeting of Essex Regional Educational Services Commission where a presentation was made by Essex High School which is a school for Junior and Senior High School students who are at risk with disciplinary problems, lack, or motivation. This presentation was very moving and an indication of what they are trying to do to help these students with these problems and to try to take control of their lives and complete their educational processes.

Mr. Carlton facilities community met and decided to re-bid Edgemont school addition.

L. COMMENTS

1. PTA

Robin Kulwin – The PTA council is at the early planning stages for a series of coffees to discuss budget with Board members. They will be continuing with fundraising project. PTA concerned with inequities between schools such as resources and class size.

2. MEA

Dennis Murray – Mr. Murray wishes the budget could be passed as presented, however he is a realist & knows that reductions will probably be made to meet the budget especially if the waiver request is denied. Secretaries and custodians are two of the most important people in school buildings and he hopes these two segments of the organization are not cut in the budget.

M. RESOLUTIONS

1. Budget Resolutions

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following budget resolution:

- a. Commissioner Tax Levy Cap Waiver Adjustment for Increases in Capital Outlay, Special Education Expenditures, Energy Costs and Insurance Costs

WHEREAS, a school district may request a Commissioner Tax Levy CAP Waiver Adjustment for extraordinary costs in the areas of capital outlay, special education costs in excess of \$40,000, energy and insurance costs, and

WHEREAS, the proposed expenditures are essential to the administration of necessary school level activities, and

WHEREAS, the district is seeking a waiver in the amount of \$7,852 for capital outlay, \$346,443 for special education costs in excess of \$40,000; \$484,672 for energy costs; and \$28,611 for insurance costs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education authorizes the district to request a Commissioner Tax Levy CAP Waiver Adjustment in the amount of \$867,578, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit to the County Superintendent for approval the Commissioner Tax Levy CAP Waiver Adjustment in the amount of \$867,578 in the 2008-2009 budget.

Seconded by Ms. Grill 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> X </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>

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following budget resolution:

- b. Appropriation of Additional Fund Balance – Adult School

WHEREAS, the Adult School has accumulated a fund balance from operations, and

WHEREAS, the estimated fund balance as of June 30, 2007, is \$25,999, and

WHEREAS, this balance is required to be appropriated in the following year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the appropriation of the Adult School fund balance in the amount of \$25,999 for use by the Adult School for operations in the 2008-09 school year.

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> X </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>

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following budget resolution:

c. Adoption of Tentative 2008-2009 Budget

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has discussed and reviewed the proposed 2008-2009 Budget, and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Statutes Title 18A:7D-27 and the New Jersey State Department of Education prescribe the method, time and format for the submission of a proposed Budget to the County Superintendent of Schools,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation, does hereby approve a tentative FY2008-2009 school district budget (under separate cover) for submission to the Essex County Superintendent:

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General Fund	\$105,904,665	\$ 92,547,721
Separate Proposal	\$ 2,020,981	\$ 2,020,981
Special Revenue Fund	<u>\$ 2,750,988</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

Total Base Budget **\$110,676,634** **\$ 94,568,702**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education is applying for the following the Commissioner Tax Levy CAP Waiver Adjustment for the FY2008-2009 school budget:

Capital Outlay - Equipment	\$ 7,852
Special Education over \$40,000	\$ 346,443
Energy Costs	\$ 484,672
Insurance Costs	<u>\$ 28,661</u>
Total SGLA	\$ 867,578

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves a separate proposal to be presented to the Board of School Estimate as per Attachment A, and this separate proposal will result in a permanent increase to the tax levy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this budget includes a maximum amount allotted for conference and travel of \$125,000, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that there should be raised an additional two million, twenty thousand, nine hundred eighty-one dollars (\$2,020,981) for General Funds in the same school year (2008-2009). These taxes will be used exclusively to fund the separate proposal specifically for achievement. The approval of these taxes will result in a permanent increase to the district tax levy. These proposed additional expenditures are not required by law and are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

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

	Aye	Nay
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>	_____

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolution:

2. Monthly Budget Reports and Bills and Claims

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11 (c)3, 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 overextended 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 February 2008 in the amount of \$2,487,470.40 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of January 2007 in the amount of \$22,115.89, 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 \$7,000,000.00 for the month of February 2008, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the attached Budget reports for the month of January 2008, the Secretary's Report for the month of January 2008.

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>X</u>	_____
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____
Shelly Lombard	<u>X</u>	_____
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____

3. Other Resolutions

Mrs. Taylor moved to approve the following resolutions:

- a. Increase in Contract for Professional Services – Architectural Services

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 construct a new elementary school, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education awarded a contract to The Thomas Group for architectural services, and

WHEREAS, the length of time for design has been greatly extended, and the amount of time required for architectural services has increased,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education, after careful study and due deliberation, approves an increase in fee for architectural services for the construction of a new elementary school:

Escalation of Professional Service Fees	\$33,635.00
Escalation of Sub-Consultant Fees	\$6,010.00
Remobilization of Staff	<u>\$26,400.00</u>
TOTAL	\$66,045.00

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

b. Approval of Conference and Travel

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>
Copywriter's Workshop	Nina DeRosa	\$895.00	Learn successful strategies for "selling your message." Untangle confusing and messy copy. Learn to write lean, error-free copy that gets results.
Smart Masters for Educators	Bernard Maniscalco	\$320.00	Will "Promote the Delivery of Instruction" by enhancing content knowledge of the use of the smart board.
	Aysha Ames	\$320.00	
	Helena Tamasco	\$320.00	
Everyday Math	Beverly Weitzman	\$36.00	Enhance classroom instruction and pedagogy for Board approval instruction for Everyday Math.
	John Furey	\$36.00	
	Susan Cowan	\$36.00	
	Janis Vasimini	\$36.00	
Responsive Classroom	Wendy Gismondi	\$179.00	Enhance skills to manage common classroom discipline problems, and tie with Responsive Classroom strategies. Describes problem behaviors, articulates ideal behaviors, generates theories about children's misbehaviors & considers options for intervening.
	Ellen Cahill	\$179.00	
Connected Math Workshops	Lisa Vanzini	\$36.00	Enhances the delivery of Connected Math program in the class setting. Teachers will learn techniques to differentiate concepts to enhance the learning of all students.
	Nisha Gandhi	\$36.00	
	Ridwan Khan	\$36.00	
	3/11/08	\$36.00	
	Ridwan Khan	\$36.00	
	4/02/08	\$36.00	
Paulette Schlatmann	\$36.00		
	3/12/08		

	Paulette Schlatmann	\$36.00	
	4/3/08	\$36.00	
	Shalini Taneja	\$36.00	
	3/12/08	\$36.00	
	Shalini Taneja		
	5/14/08		
	Courtney Washington Michael Geremia		
Multiple Intelligences	Kathy Hart	\$139.00	Will teach how to provide science instruction through the use of multiple intelligences and allows us to reach all learners.
Responsive Classroom	Wendy Gismondi	\$179.00	Enhances skills to manage common classroom discipline problems, and tie with Responsive Classroom strategies. Describes problem behaviors, articulate ideal behaviors, generates theories about children misbehaviors & considers options for intervening.
	Ellen Cahill	\$179.00	
40 th Annual Conference Reading & Writing	Colleen Markham	\$195.00	Promotes the delivery of instruction in Reading & Writing for the 3 rd & 4 th grade resource room.

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.

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>X</u>	_____
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____
Shelly Lombard	<u>X</u>	_____
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____

4. Change Orders

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following change order:

#3 For Professional Services – Site Investigation and Other Environmental Activities, 45 Elm Street, 39 Washington Street, 51 Washington Street, Vacant Lot – Bloomfield Avenue, Proposal #0525450: Additional Underground Storage Tank (UST) Consulting and Post-Excavation Soil Sampling

Change order #3:

- On-site field inspection, subsurface evaluation, NJDEP reporting and project admin for three (3) additional UST removals, including subsurface evaluator, PID and post-excavation soil sampling
\$7,461.75
- UST/ash pit related post-excavation soil sample analysis
\$5,635.00

Total
\$13,096.75

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

	Aye	Nay
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>	_____

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the Exclusions Report & Suspensions Report

- 5. Exclusions Report
- 6. Suspensions Report

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>X</u>	_____
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____
Shelly Lombard	<u>X</u>	_____
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____

- 7. Out-of-District Placement

The Out-of -District Placement was tabled.

N. COMMENTS

- 1. Board Members

Mrs. Taylor is happy that the assessment dialogue is with the staff members.

Mr. Kautz stated that the public session is to hear and be heard and everyone should remember that the Board is advocates for the children. The Board has fiduciary responsibility to provide the best education to the most people but we are not the ultimate deciders of the budget. Once the budget is prepared it goes to the Board of School Estimate which is made up of two Board members, two council members, and the mayor. The Board is listening to the public and will try to do their best.

Mr. Riddick congratulated the sports teams that are participating in state championships.

Ms. Grill stated that the Board members feel the tension of tax payers and educators. Ms. Grill feels that the Board needs to think differently about how to provide for our students and our town.

Mr. Barr agrees with Mr. Kautz comments.

Mr. Carlton is happy that teachers participated in professional development.

2. Members of the Public

Marlee Laks – 38 Cambridge Rd. - Liked assessment report and is happy that facilities committee decided to go out for re-bid for Edgemont School.

Reina Smith – 7 Grove Terrace - Would like the Board to give surveys to parents to get feedback from parents on.

Dr. Alvarez responded that we have done parent surveys in the past which is done about every three years. The Board has made a huge effort in the past two years to make sure that these budget discussions occur at the school level where they need to occur as part of school review. The parents are also encouraged to talk to the school educators to relay their feelings to the Board.

O. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on March 3, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in executive session and will open in public at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

P. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:30 Mrs. Grill moved to adjourn Mr. Riddick seconded and was approved by a vote of 7-0.