

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

A. The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. and the following statement was read:

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

1. On July 23, 2008, 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.

B. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:31 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-(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: Personnel Report, Out-of-District Placements, and Legal 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. Barr and approved by a vote of 6-0.

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

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matters
2. Personnel Report
3. Out-of-District Placements

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Carlton moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by Mr. Barr 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>	_____
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>	_____
Staff Members Present	<u> 5 </u>	
Members of the Public	<u> 15 </u>	
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>	

G. MINUTES

Mr. Barr moved to approve the minutes of the Public Board meeting held Monday, September 8, 2008; seconded by Mr. Kautz and approved by a vote of 6-0 and 1 abstention.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Chinese Initiative

Dr. Alvarez stated that the board is pleased with the Chinese Initiative. China is a major player in the new global economy. With over a quarter of the world's population, China, and Asia in general, will be a significant economic force during the 20th century. Providing young learners an opportunity to study the culture and language of our Asian counterparts is important.

Last year, I was privileged to visit China along with nearly 1,000 educators from the U.S. and Korea. It was evident to me that we ought to be paying close attention. Chinese students begin learning English in the third grade and many are fluent by the time they are in grade eight; Chinese products are increasingly finding their way into the American mainstream; and American corporations are establishing businesses throughout China.

By contrast, 24,000 middle and high school students in America study Chinese and 300,000,000 Chinese students study English.

It is clear that we need to find ways to provide our students with a better understanding of our Asian neighbors-their culture and their language.

Mandarin language studies were introduced this school year at Nishuane and Glenfield Schools. The district had a Chinese language program at one time. We learned from our past experiences and after much thought and research we introduced a new and improved program.

Tonight you are going to learn about how our program is being implemented, what students are experiencing in the classroom, and you might even learn a word or two of Chinese along the way.

Several of the China Initiative Committee members are present at tonight's meeting. The founding members are:

Felice Harrison	George Glass
Jean Wuensch	JoAnne Manse
John Lytle	Joy Scally
Lois Whipple	Margaret Liu
Sharron DiDonato	Terry Trigg-Scales
Virginia Cornue	Yen Yu
Honggang Li	Charles Liu

Dr. Alvarez introduced Felice Harrison who referred to Dr. Alvarez as her inspiration to participate in the 2008 Chinese delegation, along with Joy Scally, Second grade teacher at Nishuane School, and Vicky Chang, teacher of Mandarin at Glenfield and Nishuane Schools.

These delegations were sponsored and funded by the Office of Chinese Language Council International (known as HANBAN). The Chinese Bridge Delegation is just one result of a partnership formed in April 2006 between the College Board and HANBAN to build and expand Chinese Language Programs in United States schools. The partnership also includes a Chinese Guest Teacher Program that brings qualified language teachers from China to teach in United States schools

The College Board is a not-for-profit membership association comprised of over 5400 schools, colleges, universities and educational organizations, whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity.

This past June was the Third Annual Delegation to China. The goal of the trip, was to build sister school ties and network with other United States educators who have, or hope to build, Chinese Language Programs in their schools.

Ultimately, the program aspires to foster a better understanding of Chinese culture and fluency in the language amongst American students.

Jean Wuensch stated that currently there are 16 schools in New Jersey including Montclair and 5 districts in Essex County that offer a Chinese program which is continuing to grow in this state.

Gail Clarke is very glad to have Ms. Chang teaching Mandarin in Kindergarten and first grade at Nishuane. These students participate in the Mandarin class by their parents request.

Alex Anemone has received all positive feedback so far on the Mandarin classes which are offered at Glenfield. The teachers in the foreign language department put signs up throughout the building identifying things such as door, window, chair, desk, etc. in four different languages.

Vicky Chang is honored to be in the Montclair school district. In Nishuane the students focus on oral communicative skills and will be able to recognize simple Chinese characters.

In Glenfield she uses the same content to teach but a different approach. She uses signs, web-based tools, and podcasts with the middle school students. Ms. Chang plans to teach the students Chinese cooking, philosophy, and take them on class trips to learn Chinese culture.

Chinese is easy to learn because there are no verb conjugations, no gender, no articles such as (the, a, an). There is no number agreement (three books), Chinese characters are pictures. Numbers are easy $20 = 2-10's$, $30 = 3-10's$.

The hard part of Chinese is there are four different tones, character writing can be difficult with all of the strokes. Measure words can also be difficult.

Samantha Morra spoke about the I-tunes project which is mostly used to download music, but has other great benefits. One of the best parts of I-tunes is there are podcasts which usually are for free.

Dr. Alvarez announced that Channel 34 is present at this meeting and will be airing the meetings on T.V. Also the Board of Education meetings will be moved to George Inness in November, since the Board of Education conference room is not ADA accessible.

2. MHS CAPA Report

Dr. Alvarez - Last spring, Montclair High School had a Collaborative Assessment and Planning for Achievement (CAPA) visit by the NJ Department of Education. As always, these peer reviews provide a unique perspective on how a district conducts business, what it is doing well, and where it can improve. Tonight, I'm going to ask Ms. Trigg-Scales to share with you the findings of the report, the work initiated at Montclair High School with support from our Department of Instruction, and the action plans that will address areas that warrant our attention.

Ms. Trigg-Scales highlighted the CAPA report. As part of the CAPA review, teams of skillful and experienced individuals were assigned to provide schools with practical, applicable, and helpful assistance, increasing the opportunity for all students to meet the state's Core Curriculum Content Standards. Members of this team consisted of an external team of five members and an internal team of eight. The internal team included members of the Department of Instruction, high school supervisors, and the principal.

The team's focus was to identify the root causes for the missed AYP bench mark targets in language arts literacy and math for students with disabilities, and in math for African American students and economically disadvantaged students.

The root causes identified were:

- ◆ There is little evidence of a systemic understanding among the school community of the relationships between and among structure, freedom, academic excellence, and maturation.
- ◆ There is no formal process of communication between the school and community or within the school.

Some of the highlights of the action plan are:

- ◆ The principal will host meetings with the supervisors and the assistant superintendent every two weeks
- ◆ Professional development in "Differentiated Instruction"
- ◆ Monthly seminars for new teachers
- ◆ Establish an in-school suspension program
- ◆ Develop an academic support program for athletes who need support
- ◆ Revise the attendance policy
- ◆ Communicate new policies and procedures to the school community

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

The Board had a second reading on the following Board Policies:

- a. P-2240 Research, Evaluation and Planning
- b. P-3327 Relations with Vendors
- c. P-4111 Recruitment, Selection and Hiring – Certified Personnel

- d. P-4116 Evaluation
- e. B-9270 Conflict of Interest

Pam Hudson from Montclair High School presented information on Academy of Business and Careers (ABC) program at the high school. The program is an alternative program that began at the High School last year. This program consists of small teacher student ratio classes, and it mimics a work based learning experience. These students also have the option of doing work study after school hours. This is for students that are having difficulties with their attendance.

J. COMMENTS

1. PTA

Robin Kulwin – The PTA council is completing standardized directories for schools, and has updated all of the web sites. They are working on developing a video about the history of the Montclair magnet system.

2. MEA

Dennis Murray – Mr. Murray spoke about the CAPA report and the attendance policy developed by a teacher.

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

Joanne Aidala- 95 Montclair Ave. – Director of Montclair Health and Wellness Partnership – Handed out a brochure on some of the services offered by the Montclair Health and Wellness Partnership.

Kabir Baber – 77 Orange Road – Urging the public to speak out against the proposal to lower the drinking age from 21 to 18.

Charles Liu – 85 Edgemont Road – Supports Chinese Initiative & SAIL program.

Gail Prusslin -138 Buckingham Road – Feels that small learning communities provide a connection between teachers and students.

L. RESOLUTIONS - BUSINESS

Mrs. Taylor moved to approve the following:

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

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the minutes of the Board each month, the Montclair Board of Education certifies that no major account or fund has been over expended 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 from the month of September 2008 in the amount of \$4,331,108.35 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of August 2008 in the amount of \$20,095.45, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education does hereby approve the request for tax levy from the Township of Montclair in the amount of \$8,500,000.00 for the month of September 2008, and

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

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>	_____

M. RESOLUTIONS - GENERAL

Mr. Riddick moved to adopt the following Board Policies:

1. Adoption of Board Policies

WHEREAS, Board of Education policy requires two readings before policies are adopted, and

WHEREAS, the first reading of the following policies took place on September 8, 2008,

- a. P-2240 Research, Evaluation and Planning
- b. P-3327 Relations with Vendors
- c. P-4111 Recruitment, Selection and Hiring – Certified Personnel
- d. P-4116 Evaluation
- e. B-9270 Conflict of Interest

WHEREAS, the second reading is today September 22, 2008,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education adopts the Board Policies included under separate cover.

Seconded by Mrs. Taylor 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>	_____

2. Other Resolutions

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following resolutions:

- a. Approval of Bilingual/ESL Three-Year Program Plan
School Years 2008-2011

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education requires Boards of Education to approve submission of a Bilingual/ESL Three-year Program Plan for School Years 2008-2011,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the submission of the Bilingual/ESL Three-year Program Plan for School Years 2008-2011.

- b. 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:

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<u>Conference</u>	<u>Board Member/ Employee</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Educational Purpose</u>
We the People: Citizen & Constitution	Bill Wingren	\$30.00	WTP is an integral part of the USI thematic curriculum. Having a full & complete understanding of the process & ways to utilize the materials in the classroom will enhance learning for the students.
	Nicole Rachel	\$30.00	
NJ Science Convention	Barry Schwartz	\$80.00	Will be presenting strategies of the Montclair school system and will be attending relevant science workshops to help enhance curriculum.
PBSIS - Small Group Interventions for Problem Behavior	Judy Towery	\$54.00	Workshop designed to equip staff members with skills necessary to implement the school's PBSIS program.
	Carolyn Jochem	\$54.00	
	Henry Boote	\$54.00	
	James Sagliotti	\$54.00	
PBSIS – Data Based Decision Making	Marcus Rhaney	\$18.00	Workshop designed to equip staff members with skills necessary to implement the school's PBSIS program.
	Karen Sullivan	\$18.00	
	Judy Towery	\$18.00	
	Sandra Mc Knight	\$18.00	
	Angela Falco	\$18.00	
	Maureen Verducci	\$18.00	
	Marissa Altieri	\$18.00	
	Carolyn Jochem	\$18.00	
Henry Boote	\$18.00		
Coaching Respectful & Responsive Classrooms	Marcus Rhaney	\$18.00	Workshop designed to equip staff members with skills necessary to implement the school's PBSIS program.
	Sandra McKnight	\$18.00	
	Karen Sullivan	\$18.00	
	Judy Towery	\$18.00	
Black Seal Licensing	Mark Clar	\$270.00	Part of job requirement for boiler operation.

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School Superintendents' Summit	Frank R. Alvarez	\$70.00	Summit will focus on the importance of educational leaders in improving outcomes for students and enhancing life in the communities they serve.
The Association of Math Teachers of NJ	Cecil Vincent	\$290.00	Will allow math teachers to share tips and methodology on better ways to teach mathematics and to connect and network with their peers.
2008 Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Conference	Ted Graham	\$350.00	Will further enhance coaching by learning techniques and strategies from the top coaches in the country.
	Michael Freedman	\$350.00	
Governance II: Finance	Timothy Barr	\$37.00	Required training
	Shelly Lombard	\$37.00	
6 th Program for CO Secretaries	Nina De Rosa	\$100.00	Will provide updates on travel for approval, navigating NJASBO website, public records requests, records retention, notice requirements, bidding & quotations, contracts.
	Sonya Rold	\$125.20	
	Tanequea DeCosta-Baker	\$114.31	
Art Educators of New Jersey Fall Conference	Edith Gutierrez-Hawbaker	\$65.00	Conference will allow pathways to be forged to better educate my students by introducing new ideas & opportunities through hands on experimentation and panel discussion.

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Morning Meeting & Academics	Wendy Gismondi	\$179.00	Explores how morning meeting can spark children's engagement with each days academic learning.
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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.

c. Submission of CAPA Report

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education has used the collaborative Assessment for Planning and Achievement (CAPA) for the past four years to meet the NCLB Act for Title I schools designated "in need of improvement" and

WHEREAS, in 2007-2008 this research-based practice was offered to select non-Title I high schools.

WHEREAS, Montclair High School was selected and hosted a CAPA visit from May 19-22, 2008.

WHEREAS, the district has received the final CAPA report which contains findings, recommendations and an action plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the acceptance of the Montclair High School Report from the May 19-22, 2008 CAPA site visit.

d. The Montclair High School Alternative Education Program
"Academy of Business and Careers (ABC) Program"

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Education requires Boards of Education to provide alternative education programs to address individual learning styles and needs of students at risk of failure, and

WHEREAS, this program should also serve those students mandated for removal from general education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education accepts and approves the implementation of the Academy of Business and Careers (ABC) Program at Montclair High School.

Seconded by Mr. Riddick 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. Change Orders

Mrs. Taylor moved to approve the following change order and contract award:

#1 for Masonry Restoration at Various Schools

Topic: 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.

Background Information: In accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared for the Board of Education by Richard Rigolo, Architect for the Montclair Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on May 28, 2008, for Masonry Restoration at Various Schools. The contract was awarded to The Boca Bay Group, 16 South Avenue West, Suite 267, Cranford, New Jersey, 07016, in the total amount of \$222,240.00.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approve change order #1 for an overall increase of \$7,944.00 for the following:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| ▪ Hillside School – All copings exterior and interior parapets – re-point all joints | \$13,417.00 |
| ▪ Hillside School – East wing terra-cotta cornice - glaze coat | \$20,680.00 |
| ▪ Hillside School – West wing inner parapet – re-point & elastomeric coating | \$9,905.00 |
| ▪ Hillside School – West wing North West corner – Re-build parapet | \$3,303.00 |
| ▪ George Inness School – front main portico – clean and caulk | \$5,513.00 |
| ▪ Hillside School – all metal copings – delete | (\$35,000.00) |
| ▪ Hillside School – East wing cornice – delete elastomeric coating – color | (\$5,000.00) |

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ George Inness – Cornice – delete elastomeric patching of sapped areas, apply consolidation and waterproofing treatment ▪ <u>Hillside School – East wing lower band courses – clean</u> | <p>(\$7,200.00)</p> <p>\$2,326.00</p> |
|---|---------------------------------------|

Total Amount of this change order: \$7,944.00

4. Contract Award

Professional Services- Behaviorist and Certified Ready Specialist Positions

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,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education will, after careful study and due deliberation, employ Behaviorist positions to include Certified School Psychologists, and Speech Therapists or Certified Reading Specialists, and

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall be authorized to issue contracts to Behaviorists at the rate of \$100 per hour for a maximum of 15 hours per week to the following people:

- Dina Jonaz, Ph.D.
- Christopher Mesopotanese, Psy.D.
- Mary Jo Reid, LCSW
- Andrew McNulty, Psy.D.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall be authorized to issue contracts to Certified Reading Specialists at the rate of \$75 per hour for a maximum of 15 hours per week to the following people:

- Michele Metula
- Marianne Petrozzino

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>	_____

5. Personnel Report

6. Out-of-District Placements

Mr. Riddick moved to approved the Personnel Report and 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> X </u>	_____
Robert Kautz	<u> X </u>	_____
Shelly Lombard	<u> X </u>	_____
Ronald Riddick	<u> X </u>	_____
Carmen Taylor	<u> X </u>	_____

N. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

Ron Riddick – Attended a Montclair High School football game, and encourages the town to come out and support the team.

Shirley Grill – Montclair Art Museum has a display of photos taken by Rand 4th graders.

Tim Barr – Attended the St. Mark’s breakfast. Mr. Barr feels that this school year is off to a tremendous start.

Carmen Taylor – Also attended St. Mark’s breakfast.

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Shelly Lombard – Attended AVID program at MHS and feels it is a very exciting program. Mrs. Lombard is excited about the China initiative and feels that it will greatly benefit the students when they enter the job market.

Rob Kautz – Attended a MFEE meeting where Dr. Alvarez presented information on State of schools. Mr. Kautz thanked Dr. Alvarez for the China Initiative and he hopes that Mandarin will soon be taught in the High School.

John Carlton - Held a communication committee meeting. Mr. Carlton announced that on the web page there is a daily crawl which updates the hot topics in district.

2. Members of the Public

Reina Smith – 7 Grove Terrace – Had several questions about Renaissance and the asbestos issues that were there last year. She feels that the China Initiative is absolutely wonderful and it is excited to see this program introduced to the Montclair school community.

Fiona Ostemayer – 35 Alexandria Ave. – Ms. Ostemayer is also feels the Chinese program is absolutely fabulous. She also has outstanding questions about the last year's asbestos issues at Renaissance.

O. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 6, 2008, and will open at 6:30 p.m. and go immediately into closed session. The meeting will reconvene in public at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

P. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 meeting adjourned.