

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARING AND PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009
141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. STATEMENTS

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

1. On October 17, 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 6:39 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. 10:4-12 (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 report and out-of-district placements.

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 Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

D. 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 7:40 p.m.

E. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:41p.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> </u>	<u> x </u>
Staff Members	<u> 8 </u>	
Members of the Public	<u> 50 </u>	
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>	

G. MINUTES

Mr. Barr moved to approve the following minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Monday, February 2, 2009 and Monday, February 23, 2009; seconded by Mr. Kautz and approved by a vote of 6-0.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. 2009-2010 Budget

Dr. Alvarez indicated that due to difficult economic times, a realistic assessment of the needs of the district is warranted. He added that the priorities the district maintained while drafting the budget were to preserve the integrity of the magnet schools, continue to reduce the minority student academic achievement gap, maintain class size, and provide for a safe and secure learning environment.

Dr. Alvarez stated that administrative costs are lower than the state average, contract settlements are the most reasonable in the state and insurance services and costs have resulted in significant savings. He also noted that it was necessary to take long-term and short-term views of budget development. Those areas to be developed from the long term view are special education, out-of-district costs, transportation, and school reorganization. Short-term areas include the district continuing to work with the MFEE, PTA, state organizations, and members of the town council.

Dr. Alvarez stated that every year there are increases and reductions made in school budget. Currently this budget reflects reductions of \$1.5 million. He also added that the state aid was decreased by \$1million over the last couple of years. He added that the budget is fiscally responsible even during this tough economic time. Dr. Alvarez indicated that some reductions have been made across the district in central office

administration, instructional support staff, professional development and student activities. He stated that the budget reflects a modest increase and the lowest tax increase in 10 years. The district will continue to focus on the work that supports the core values in the schools.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that while developing the budget, the board set the following priorities for the district:

- Maintain integrated magnet schools
- Commitment to improve academic achievement for all students and to provide targeted programs for reducing the minority achievement gap.
- Sensitivity to the current economic climate
- Maintain class size
- Provide a safe and secure learning environment

The summary of the budget include the following:

- No increase in state aid
- 3.3% increase in the operating budget
- \$340.00 increase in school tax for the average homeowner
- Lowest school tax increase in 10 years

Mrs. Sullivan indicated that the last budget presented was \$422,000 over the state CAP. Since then \$425,000 in reductions were made to the second draft of the budget thereby placing the district slightly under the state CAP. Those reductions were made in the following areas:

- Central Office Administration at \$45,000
- Instructional Staff & Benefits at \$180,000
- Technology Support at \$40,000
- PERS Pension Liability \$140,000
- Consultants & Conference and Travel \$20,000

She added that the total amount of reductions made in the 2009-2010 budget is \$1.5 million.

The total operating budget increase is about \$3.5 million and is reflected in the following areas:

- \$1.8 million for salaries
- \$847,000 for out of district tuition increases
- \$406,000 for transportation and utility costs
- \$187,000 for social security and benefits
- \$412,000 for health insurance and other insurance
- \$130,000 decrease for all other areas of the budget

The distribution of the total budget is as follows:

- 83% for salary and benefits
- 10% for out of district tuition, transportation and insurance costs
- 4% for supplies and materials
- 2% for cleaning repair, maintenance and rental costs
- 1% for consultants and legal costs

There about 1,125 employees in the district consisting of the following:

- 53% for teachers
- 23% for aides— instructional and special education
- 10% for school support
- 6% for building administration
- 4% for building and grounds staff
- 4% for central office staff

Mrs. Sullivan continued that the State of new Jersey Department of Education calculates a comparable cost per pupil for each district. The most recent data is based on actual 2006-2007 audited figures. They gather all of the districts audited financial statements and calculate a cost per pupil. There are certain costs that are subtracted from this calculation that are not comparable from district to district such as out of district tuition. The state average for K-12 districts with over 3,500 pupils is \$12,272. Montclair School District spends a total cost per pupil of about \$13,174. The average cost in other similar districts is \$13,379 which is slightly more than Montclair spends per pupil.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that the district is involved in several programs to realize efficiencies and that the district will continue to work with the town on shared services. She indicated that the districts' programs has been reviewed and evaluated by several different outside agencies.

Mrs. Sullivan updated the Board on the upcoming calendar for the Board of School Estimate meetings as follows:

Thursday, March 26, 2009	Budget Workshop
Monday, March 30, 2009	Public Hearing on 2009-2010 Budget
Thursday, April 2, 2009	Adoption of 2009-2010 Budget

She indicated that all meetings will be held in the Atrium of the George Inness Annex and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Sullivan indicated that the 2009-2010 Capital Budget is a planning tool that is prepared over a

five year period. The total amount of the budget for 2009-2010 is \$5, 416,000.00 and has been shared with the Capital Finance Committee.

I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC-2009-2010 BUDGET

Alex Zarenin of 77 Buckingham Road stated his concerns about personnel expenses in the district, increases in special education costs, and the magnet system in Montclair school.

Joyce Michaelson of 100 Warren Place commended the Board for presenting a budget under CAP. She asked where the funds for the New School are in the capital budget.

Mrs. Sullivan responded that the New School is not in this capital budget and that the new school has already been funded, contracts have already been awarded and the project is underway.

Hayley Silver of 141 N. Mountain Avenue asked about creative thinking in terms of raising revenues.

Ellen Kolba of 16 Montclair Avenue, on behalf of the Writer's Room, thanked the board for their support of their program.

Jennifer Kohn of 60 Harrison Place expressed her concerns about the board being aware of the current economic crisis. She stated that she reviewed the budget and found areas where cuts could be made such as, secretarial, substitute, and clerical over-time, conference and travel costs, consultant costs, and miscellaneous board expenses.

Jo Senecal of 28 Porter Place suggested that projected bids be minimized, refreshments at meetings be discontinued, administrators not to accept salary increases, and that the district use parents and their resources.

Marybeth Rosenthal of 269 Upper Mountain Avenue stated that parents are pleased that the budget is under CAP given the economic circumstance and that creative thinking and increasing parent involvement are excellent ideas. She also stated that parents do appreciate the work that the district does for the children of Montclair.

Leeta Jordan of 216 Fernwood Avenue reiterated the point of being slightly under the CAP. She agrees that contracts should be renegotiated, administrative salaries are above the state average and curriculum writing costs are high. She suggested that the board discontinue conference and travel expenses for 1 year. She also added that the district should consider adding mileage to the bus routes and hiring an outside firm to conduct residency checks. She concluded that the savings the district would incur with bringing special education students back to the district would increase.

Peter Vaughn of 36 Elston Road stated that he is glad to hear that there is a focus on long-term structural changes. He suggested that rather than use those who manage the budget regularly, the district should allow members of the community to give aggressive and creative ideas to the structural changes that need to be made in the district.

Matthew Senecal 28 Porter Place stated that the community is looking for fiscal discipline in terms of revenue and just meeting the State CAP is unacceptable. He expressed his concerns about the increases in social security, pension contributions, unemployment compensation, out of district tuition, and program costs.

Mrs. Lombard commented that economic issues that are abroad are unsolvable from the Montclair level. She also indicated that the district spends about the same in out of district tuition than any other district so there is no way this can be decreased. She added that education is a labor intensive endeavor and labor costs increase every year. She concluded that the district will look for different solutions with a sense of urgency due to the economic times.

Mr. Riddick stated that he is concerned with the comments that were made regarding issues of special education, and out of district placements. He added that the town of Montclair has a good school system and he encouraged all that volunteered their assistance to give their information to the superintendent so that they could be a part of making things better for the children.

Ms. Grill commented that our school district has helped maintain a healthy property value for everyone. Increasing property value is not the responsibility of the district but educating our children is. She added that Montclair School District is not the best at special education. However, we are a district that tries very hard to do what is required for special education students. She indicated that if there are students that are in the district illegally, then it should be reported. The district does not have any control over state or government insurance increases and that when the student population continues to grow there is an automatic increase in costs. She concluded that the Montclair School District is creating a good education for the children which creates healthy property value for homeowners.

Mr. Barr stated that there are private schools in the town also and that if the economy gets worse, some of those children will be coming back into the district which will further increase student population. The question is how does the Board decide what is right for our students and satisfy the financial and economic concerns of parents and this community? Although there may be many possible answers- there are no easy answers. He added that all are living through difficult financial times. The members of the Board are not politicians but are thoughtful advocates and the primary concern is to make sure that the schools of Montclair not only survive the challenge of the times but thrive in it. Any retrenchment or step backward, justified or not, can take years to correct and this is something that the Board wants to avoid. He concluded that the school budget is an investment of the future that is manifested in the success of the children and that a prudent modest increase in the budget is what these economic times require. He asked all to look at this investment as one that will continue to show measurable returns as the Board continues to support Montclair's academic mission.

Mr. Kautz stated that the cuts that were made to the budget were prudent based upon the economic environment. He stated that the district is educating special education children in a manner that is best for them and for the student population in general. The district is maintaining a prudent budget while trying to keep classroom size stable. He thanked all for coming out to share their concerns which are a reflection of the community and that all are educated and drawn to this town for what it provides and the basis for this is the public school system.

Mr. Carlton spoke about the history of class size in the Montclair School District. He added that in it is better to have slow constant funding than to have cuts and increases because the district will never recover. He indicated that the students are also feeling this hardship and most of the support that they receive is in the school setting. He added that Montclair has enjoyed collaboration between teachers and community including senior citizens, cultural, business and institution. Salaries are not competitive with surrounding districts and that people come here to teach because of the creativity of this school system.

J. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

The Board had the first reading of the following policies:

- a. 6171.4 -Special Education

The Board had the first reading of the following regulations:

- a. R-6171.4-Special Education
- b. R-6164.1 Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Pupils

K. COMMENTS

1. PTA

Robin Kulwin stated that they presented the “Our School Our Town” video to the Glenfield staff and it was very well received. It will be presented to the non-profit round table and at the high school. Mt. Hebron and Rand will have a joint viewing. The deadline for Weston awards is March 18th.

2. MEA

Dennis Murray agreed that education is not a business venture. He added that the district is hugely successful in ensuring a strong academic environment. He stated that over this past week there was a pride expo run by the NJEA and ECEA at the Livingston Mall where eight of Montclair groups were involved showing the public what is being done in the Montclair School District. He indicated that he attended the African American dinner that was sponsored by the Civics and Government group where two staff members were honored.

L. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

M. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Barr moved to adopt the following resolution:

1. Resolution re: Adoption of Regulations R-6171.4 Special Education and R-6164.1 Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Pupils

WHEREAS, Board of Education regulations requires only one reading before regulations are adopted,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of education adopts the Board Regulations R-6171.4 Special Education and R-6164.1 Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Pupils.

2. Resolution re: Adoption of the Employment Calendars for 2009-2010

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has approved a school calendar for the 2009-2010 school year, and

WHEREAS, the employment of staff must align with the school calendar; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education adopts the following recommended 10-Month Employee Calendar, 12-Month Employee Calendar and 10 Month Aide employment calendar for staff for the 2009-2010 school year.

3. Resolution re: Approval of School Field Trips

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Education Accountability Regulations require approval of all school related field trips by the Board of Education and,

WHEREAS, the field trip must be directly related to instruction and classwork.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following field trips are approved:

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS						
SCHOOL	DATE	GRD	TEACHER	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
MHS	3-16-09	9-12	Robertson	Livingston Mall, NJ	None	Mall pride project-showcase of talent from local schools
MHS	4/15/09-4/19/09	10-12	Barouch	Atlanta, GA	\$575	Robotics competition
MHS	3-11-09	11,12	Ryan	Edgemont School, NJ	None	To work hands on with Dr. McGrath; as her assistants, the result of the kindersmile experience
MHS	3-13-09	11,12	Burroughs	Seton Hall University, NJ	None	Video conferencing for deliberations in a Democracy
Glenfield	3-6-09	7	Maloy	Clairidge Movie Theater, NJ	\$20	RYW
Hillside	5-15-09	4	Senior	Liberty State Park, NJ	\$12.00	Social Studies-immigration and culture

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS						
SCHOOL	DATE	GRD	TEACHER	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
Hillside	3-7-09	4,5	D'Amico	Madison Square Garden	None	Halftime performance for NY Knicks
Hillside	6-18-09	3	Mulhall	IMAX, West Nyack, NY	\$15.00	Students will be seeing IMAX movies deep sea and bugs, topics that are covered in class
Renaissance	3-6-09	7	Smith	Chelsea Art Galleries & Market, NY	\$5.00	Art history and Art studies
Renaissance	3-13-09	7	Garzon	Chelsea Art Galleries & Market, NY	\$5.00	Art history and Art studies
Mt. Hebron	3-19-09	7,8	Perillo	Intrepid Space Museum, NY	\$20.00	Student will experience a guided tour of the Intrepid and will participate in a hands on water related workshop
Mt. Hebron	3-17-09	6,7,8	Rozna	Middlesex Community college, NJ	\$20.00	Science competition
Mt. Hebron	5-29-09	6,7,8	Cool	Dorney Park, PA	\$150	To participate in a national music festival adjudicated by professional music judges
Bradford	3-12-09	2	Morrow	MSU, NJ	\$1.00	Read across America celebration sharing reading with students in MSU Children Center
Bradford	4-30-09	K	LaForgia	Point Pleasant, NJ, Jenkinsons Aquarium	\$15.00	To explore sea life and learn facts through hands on activities about animals
Edgemont	3-27-09	4	Plaskow	Montclair Art Museum	None	Study of landscapes and seascapes, weather, seasons, and time in art, create own landscape
Edgemont	3-7-09	4,5	Price	Livingston Mall, NJ	None	To provide a live performance
Watchung	3-4-09	2	Berman	Montclair Art Museum	None	Artlink outreach program

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS						
SCHOOL	DATE	GRD	TEACHER	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
MHS	3-21-09	9	Jalil	Seton Hall University	None	National History Day Regional Competition
MHS	3-24-09	10-12	Lavosky	Union City NJ	\$30.00	The students will experience a linguistic and cultural immersion as they come in contact with the products & practices of Spanish speakers
MHS	4-14-09	9-11	Portas	Liberty Science Ctr	None	Students will attend the interactive theater presentation of cardiac classroom and tour
MHS	4-4-09	9-10	Portas	American Museum of Natural History	None	Student will tour the water exhibit for water conservation and renewable resources
MHS	3-19-09 3-24-09 3-31-09	10-12	Burroughs	Trenton, NJ	None	NJ State Bar Foundation for Mock Trial Competition
MHS	3-31-09	9-12	Nagorica	Museum of Modern Art, NYC	\$20.00	View art works related to class assignments, develop critical thinking skills
Glenfield	3-7-09	6-8	Washington	Princeton, NJ	None	Princeton Physics Plasma Lab. National Science Bowl
Glenfield	4-13-09	6	House Gil	NYC	\$65.00	Intrepid Museum. Lunch, Madison Square Garden for RYW
Glenfield	3-18-09	6-8	Washington	Willowbrook Mall	None	Challenge 24, math competition
Glenfield	3-20-09	7-8	Washington	Caldwell, NJ	None	Harrison School, Math Competition
Glenfield	3-19-09	6	Washington	Caldwell, NJ	None	Harrison School. Math Competition
Glenfield	6-17-09	8	Belmonte	Jackson, NJ	\$65.00	Great Adventure, end of year 8 th grade trip
Glenfield	4-9-09	8	Lofrano	South street seaport, NYC	\$40.00	Bodies exhibit, science-anatomy

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS						
SCHOOL	DATE	GRD	TEACHER	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
Glenfield	3-21-09	6,7,8	Kitts	Chatham Middle School, Chatham, NJ	\$10.00	Theater fest Drama competition
Hillside	6-18-09	4	Stout	Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ	\$10.00	End of the year trip
Renaissance	3-20-09	6		Clary Anderson Arena, Mtc.	\$7.00	Culminating activity to our 3 rd expo day, the exhibition of our performance assessments
Renaissance	6-19-09	6		Mountainside Pool, Mtc	None	Our final activity of the school year after successful completion of Breadth of Reading
Mt. Hebron	4-15-09	7	Rezman	Buehler Challenger Science Ctr.	\$27.00	Simulate a Space Mission to Mars during our space science unit
Mt. Hebron	3-19-09	6	Ort	Harrison School Bld, W. Caldwell	None	Challenge 24 competition(math)
Mt. Hebron	6-19-09	8	Scala	Jackson, NJ	None	Great Adventure, end of year activities
Mt. Hebron	6-24-08	8	Scala	Valley Regency, NJ	None	End of the year dance
Mt. Hebron	6-18-09	8	Scala	Mountainside Pool, Mtc	None	End of the year activities
Bradford	3-24-09	K	Cahill	MSU	\$6.00	Charlottes Web Production
Edgemont	3-27-09	4	Plaskow	Montclair Art Museum	None	Study of landscapes & seascapes, weather & seasons
Watchung	4-3-09	2	Blafer	Montclair Art Museum	None	To enhance social studies curriculum
Watchung	5-27-09	3	Verducci	Liberty Science Center	\$15.00	Explore science exhibits
Watchung	4/15/09-4/17/09	4	Arnold	Fairview Lake YMCA Camp	\$45.00	Outdoor environmental education
Nishuane	5-7-09	2	Scally	American Muse		Returned to teacher for out of state form 3-12
Nishuane	3-17-09	2	Clarke	Hillside School	None	Articulation/transition between Nishuane /Hillside for second graders

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS						
SCHOOL	DATE	GRD	TEACHER	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
MHS	3-26-09	9-12	Cleeronin	NYC	\$15.00	Presentation lecture and viewing medieval gothic art work as pertains to AP Art
MHS	3-31-09	9-12	Weber	NYC-FRBNY	None	Academic competition
Northeast	4-1-09	2	Caldwell	Montclair Art Museum	None	Themes include portraits landscapes native Americans and color line and shape

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the field trips are approved in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education Accountability Regulations.

Seconded by Mrs. Lombard 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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>

N. BUSINESS

1. Budget Resolutions

Ms. Grill moved to adopt the following resolution:

- a. Resolution re: Adoption of the 2009-2010 Budget

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has discussed and reviewed the proposed 2009-2010 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 the FY2009-2010 school district budget (under separate cover) for submission to the Essex County Superintendent:

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>LOCAL TAX LEVY</u>
General Fund	\$109,091,585	\$ 96,869,014
Separate Proposal	\$ 0	\$ 0
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 3,116,728	\$ 0
Total Base Budget	\$113,018,313	\$ 96,869,014

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

b. Resolution re: 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, 2008, is \$27,929, 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 \$27,929 for use by the Adult School for operations in the 2009-10 school year.

c. Resolution re: Authorization of School Bonds for Capital Purposes

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has reviewed the Long Term Capital Needs Plan 2009-2010 through 2013-2014, and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education does hereby determine, after careful study and due deliberation, that it is necessary to raise funds for roofing replacement at various schools, energy conservation and environmental projects district-wide, site improvements district-wide, furniture and equipment in various schools; technology upgrade and district-wide building modifications, and

WHEREAS, the needs identified in the capital plan have also been identified in the District's Long Range Facility Plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the total amount estimated to be necessary for said projects for 2009-2010 is \$5,416,000 (attached), plus Section 20 costs of \$216,640 related to the issuance of bonds, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Montclair Board of School Estimate forthwith.

Seconded by Mrs. Lombard 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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>

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

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11©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 overexpended in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(b), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the attached Bills and Claims for March, 2009 in the amount of \$2,644,318.39 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of February, 2009 in the amount of \$112,433.00 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 \$75,000,000.00 for the month March, 2009 and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the attached Budget Reports for the month of February, 2009, the Secretary’s Report for the month of February, 2009 and Treasurer’s report for the month of January, 2009.

Seconded by Mr. Kautz 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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>

3. Resolutions

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution re: Acceptance of Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Education Act Combined, FY 2009

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education has approved the Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Education Act Combined, FY 2009 for the Montclair Board of Education in the amount of \$1,653,525 for Basic and \$56,238 for Preschool,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education accepts this funding.

- b. Resolution re: Approval of Essex County Educational Service Commission-IDEA-B Services for School Year 2009-2010

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Montclair has the authority to employ outside agencies to provide necessary and appropriate IDEA-B services for the Non-public students who are classified and are residents of the District, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Essex County Educational Services Commission, in consideration of the making of this contract for the 2009-2010 school year has agreed to be paid hereunder by the District from IDEA funds allocated to non-public students as the maximum and full compensation to provide additional speech services during the 2009-2010 school year to nonpublic students who are classified and are residents of the District.

- c. Resolution re: Agreement for the Provision of Bedside/Home Instruction for Students Treated at Hospitals or Rehabilitation Facilities

WHEREAS, the Essex County Educational Services Commission has offered to provide home instruction services to Montclair Public School students at an hourly rate of \$40.00 for the 2009-2010 school year from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education award contracts to the Essex County Educational Services Commission for these services and authorizes the Board Secretary to execute the contract.

d. Resolution re: Contract for Services under Chapters 192/193, P.L. 1977-School Year 2009-2010

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has authorized the renewal of this service contract pursuant to Chapters 192 and 193, Laws of 1977, and

WHEREAS, the Commission Direct Services Project will provide these services through a means of delivery identical to that provided by the Commission in the past,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education intends to effect a contractual agreement with the Board of Directors of the Essex County Educational Services Commission for the purpose of authorizing the Board of Directors of ECESC to provide the following auxiliary services:

Compensatory Education
 English as a Second Language
 Home Instruction
 Supplemental Instruction
 Speech -Language
 Evaluation and Determination of Eligibility to the
 Eligible Nonpublic School Students

From September 1, 2009, to June 30, 2010, to students who attend non-public schools in Montclair, New Jersey, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:46A-1 et seq, (Public Laws of 1977, Chapters 192 and 193) and the rules and regulations governing the provision of auxiliary services to students in non-public schools. The total allocation for these services shall not exceed the dollar amount allotted under Chapters 192 and 193.

e. Resolution re: Approval of Conference and Travel Expenses

WHEREAS, New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 23B and Board of Education policy require approval of the Board of Education prior to expending Board of Education funds for travel and related expenses, and

WHEREAS, the travel must be directly related to the employee's or Board member's current responsibilities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following Board members and employees are approved for travel-related reimbursements for an amount up to the estimated cost indicated:

CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL EXPENSES			
<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>
Annual AP Institute for Experienced Teachers	Anna Panchecka Anthony Orso	\$739.00 \$1,012.60	Annual update on the requirements and testing content for the AP exams.

CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL EXPENSES			
CONFERENCE	EMPLOYEE	COST	PURPOSE
Mark Marrebelli Track and Coach	Anthony Keys	\$80.00	Learning the basics of sprinting.
41 st Annual Conference on Reading and Writing	Jennifer Gilman Deborah Maher	\$195.00 \$195.00	Provides strategies for strengthening reading and writing skills
Star-base User Conference	Nina DeRosa	\$115.00	To keep abreast of changes and enhancements to our student data base.
Responding to Misbehavior	Kristen Kaelin Wendy Gismondi Melissa Buttiglieri Vanessa Neilan	\$179.00 \$179.00 \$179.00 \$179.00	To reinforce and expand skills in managing common classroom discipline problems.
Guided Reading	Melissa Buttiglieri Kelly Russo Nan Evangelista Kara Mancini Karah Barroqueiro Bridgett Grubenmann	\$189.00 \$189.00 \$189.00 \$189.00 \$189.00 \$189.00	To gain Step-by-Step procedures and techniques for using guided reading techniques throughout the day.
Institute on Teaching of Writing	Peggy McGrath Janis Vascimini Susan Synnott Robin Alvarado	\$600.00 \$600.00 \$600.00 \$600.00	This workshop will promote the delivery of instruction through the teaching of writing.
Institute on the Teaching of Reading	Michele Lowy Susan Becker John Furey Beverly Weitzman Barbara Weller Susan Synnott Robin Alvarado Janis Vascimini	\$600.00 \$600.00 \$600.00 \$600.00 \$600.00 \$600.00 \$600.00	This workshop will promote the delivery of instruction by helping teachers to develop theoretical framework for teaching reading and enhancing students' independence and skills as readers.

CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL EXPENSES			
CONFERENCE	EMPLOYEE	COST	PURPOSE
Responsive Classroom I	Vanessa Jetter Kathy Cooney Barbara Weller Wendy Gismondi Kimberly Dillman	\$695.00 \$695.00 \$695.00 \$695.00 4695.00	To reinforce social and emotional curriculum.
Responsive Classroom II	Janis Vasimini	\$695.00	To continue school-wide implementation of responsive classroom.
NJ School Law for Secretaries	Diane Bertrand	\$161.30	To enable staff to be more responsive to legal matters involving students.
Responsive Classroom Conference	Nami Kuwabara Barbara Weller	\$702.43	To build a school-wide culture that supports optimal academic and social learning.
Overcoming Writing Disabilities	Jennette L. Williams	\$165.00	To enhance reading and writing instructional delivery based on intervention, progress monitoring, multi-model instruction, and treatment for oral and written language learning disabilities.
FLENJ Teachers at the Core	Monica D. Lavosky	\$100.00	To learn how to incorporate art into daily Spanish lessons and to learn more communicative classroom activities.
Guided Reading –Grades 3-6	Sandrene Twyman Barrie Sultan Wendy Gismondi Kristen Freeh	\$189.00 \$189.00 \$189.00 \$189.00	To learn practical, proven ways to flexibly group students for successful participation in literature circles and guided reading groups.
2009 Leadership Development Meeting	Frank R. Alvarez	\$325.00	This conference focuses on financial crisis planning, how to guide districts responsibly through these challenges.
4 th Annual Conference	Dana Sullivan	\$535.00	This conference will cover topics such as management, finance, green projects, law, recovering IT, solar energy, stress management, and OPRA.

CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL EXPENSES			
CONFERENCE	EMPLOYEE	COST	PURPOSE
District Leadership Institute	Sylvia Bryant	\$752.70	This workshop prepares district facilitators to lead and support schools in building goal oriented programs of school, family and community partnerships utilizing the national network of partnership schools research-based approach.
Institute Teaching of Reading	Barbara Weller	\$600.00	These seminars will develop a theoretical framework for teaching reading and repertoire of strategies for enhancing students' independence and skills as readers.
AASA National Conference (<i>previously approved, amount revised</i>)	Frank R. Alvarez	\$2,301.00	National Conference on Education
Boston Area College Counselor Tour (<i>previously approved, amount revised</i>)	Nedra Clark	\$350.00	To assist counselors to learn more about the colleges academic programs, student life, internships and job placements.
Responsive Classroom Conference	Jennifer Gilman Janis Vascimini John Furey	\$179.00 \$179.00 \$179.00	This workshop is on managing misbehavior using responsive classroom techniques.

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 Mr. Barr 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	_____ x _____	
Carmen Taylor	_____ _____	<u>ABSENT</u>

4. Contract Awards

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolution:

- a. Resolution re: Award of Transportation Contract for the 2009-2010 School Year (Renewal)

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A-18A-5(B) authorizes the awarding of a contract to other governmental agencies without benefit of advertising and bidding, and

WHEREAS, the Essex County Services Commission has provided transportation service to out-of-district special education students of Montclair and has offered these same services for the 2009-2010 school year, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education award a contract to the Essex County Educational Services Commission for transportation of all eligible students for whom applications are submitted by the Montclair Board of Education, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Board President and the Board Secretary be authorized to execute the contract attached and issue a purchase order for this contract effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

- b. Award of Contract for Mt. Hebron and George Inness Girls Gym Painting

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 by the Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on March 3, 2009, for Mt. Hebron and George Inness Girls Gym Painting. Thirty-nine (39) companies received copies of the bid and twelve (12) bids were received (see Attachment A).

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education award a contract for Mt. Hebron and George Inness Girls Gym Painting to J.G. Painting and Contracting Company, 14 Brook Road, Kendall Park, New Jersey, 08824, in the total amount of \$18,500.00.

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

	AYE	NAY
Timothy Barr	_____ x _____	_____
John Carlton	_____ x _____	_____

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolutions:

5. Resolution re: Approval of the Personnel Report

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has recommended that the Board approved the actions contained in the attached Personnel Report.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the Personnel Report of March 16, 2009, including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.

6. Resolution re: Approval of Out-Of-District Placements

WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends that the Board approves the actions contained in the attached Out-of-District Placements.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the actions attached in the Out-of-District Placements of March 16, 2009.

Seconded by Ms. Grill 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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>

O. COMMENTS

1. Members of the Public

None.

2. Board Members

Mr. Kautz stated that he applauds the level of volunteerism in this district and stated that it really makes the district work.

Mr. Riddick attended the Youth Explosion Concert and Art Exhibition held at the high school which was a wonderful event. He commended faculty and staff members for their hard work. He indicated that there is a program to help prepare students for the NJASK where alumni and faculty members assist students who scored proficient or below proficient on the NJASK. This wonderful program helps our students and our schools to meet the AYP. He encouraged all to take advantage of this program.

Mrs. Grill stated that she thinks that there are wonderful volunteers in the district. She thanked the professionals and volunteers. She thanked Dr. Alvarez and Mrs. Sullivan for their hard work on the budget.

Mr. Barr thanked Mrs. Sullivan and Dr. Alvarez for their understanding and preparation of the budget. He thanked board members for their professionalism and dignity with which they conduct themselves.

Mr. Carlton thanked the public for attending and supporting the meeting and the budget process. He thanked the councilmen and women for attending the meetings about the budget. He concluded that he hopes that all will show their support and attend the Board of School Estimate meetings as well.

P. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, April 6, 2009 and will open at 6:30 p.m. in public but will go immediately into executive session. The meeting will reconvene in public at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium of the George Innes Annex, 141 Park Street.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:00 p.m. Mr. Barr moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a vote of 6-0.

