

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010 AT 6:30 P.M.
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 Wednesday, June 10, 2009 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 6:48 p.m. Mr. Riddick 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.

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 4-0.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Ms. Larson moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 4-0.

The Board returned to open session at 7:38 p.m.

E. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:39p.m.

F. ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
John Carlton	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Leslie Larson	<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> 9 </u>	
Members of the Public	<u> 35 </u>	
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>	

G. MINUTES

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the minutes of the Public Board Meeting held Monday, January 25, 2010; seconded by Mr. Riddick and approved by a vote of 4-0 and 0 abstentions.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. MHS- Robotics Team

Dr. Alvarez introduced the MHS 555 Robotics Team. He stated that year after year students have done phenomenally well at regional, state, national and international competitions and hope that this would be another banner year for the team. He introduced Joanne Petrigliano and Michael Borouch, teachers involved in the program.

Mrs. Petrigliano introduced the team and gave a brief overview of what robotics is all about. The robotics team performed demonstrations for the Board.

2. School-Level reports on Academic Achievement Action Plan

Dr. Alvarez stated that the district has programs that focus on the basic needs of students to help them perform well. He added that the middle school and high school principals will discuss their action plans as they address the Academic Achievement Report on programs that they have implemented in their schools in mathematics and language arts literacy to assist students that have particular needs and that are targeting individual students who are not performing at the level of proficiency.

Mr. James Earle, Principal of Montclair High School, Dr. Alex Anemone, Principal at Glenfield Middle School, Dr. Charles Cobb, Principal at Renaissance Middle School, and Dr. Mark Jennings, Principal at Mt. Hebron Middle School along with Mathematics Teacher, Consuelo Ortiz and Language Arts Teacher, Pat Thomas presented information to the Board regarding their action plans for the remainder of this academic school year.

3. Rand/Renaissance Transition Report

Dr. Alvarez introduced Dr. Barbara Weller, Principal at Rand School and Dr. Charles Cobb, Principal at Renaissance School to present information about the Rand and Renaissance transition process to the Board.

Dr. Cobb informed the Board that the Renaissance community is very excited about the transition and space that they are gaining with moving to the Rand building. He briefly explained how they intend to use the space, how the transition is beneficial to the Renaissance community service programs, and

Dr. Weller stated that Mrs. Sullivan gave them a tour of the New School building so that they could begin the transition process. She added that she and staff are also excited about the transition experience and what it would provide.

4. Role of the Office of School and Community Relations

Dr. Alvarez introduced Ms. Felice Harrison to discuss the role of the Office of School and Community Relations.

Ms. Harrison gave a brief presentation on the role of the Office of School Community Relations to the Board. She stated that the OSCR consists of a director, registrar, information coordinator, secretary, and web-master consultant.

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

The Board had a second reading of the following revised Policy and Regulation

P-5117 Freedom of Choice (School Selection and Assignment) & R-5117 Registration/Freedom of Choice and School Assignment

J. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

Joanne Aidala commented that it is important to keep in mind that the school principals are working very hard to support school climate and are working with Rutgers University to help support school programs. She commended the principals for their efforts. She also added that the STAR Portal at the high school is very helpful to parents. This encourages parents to be more involved with their children's attendance and academics.

K. RESOLUTIONS

1. Other Resolutions

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution re: Adoption of Board Policy P-5117 and Regulation R-5117

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

WHEREAS, the first reading of these policies and regulation took place on January 11, 2010 and

WHEREAS, the second reading of the revised policy and regulation is today, February 1, 2010,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education adopts the Board Policies the Freedom of Choice (School Selection and Assignment) Policy P-5117 and Registration/Freedom of Choice & School Assignment Regulation R-5117

- b. 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						
DATE	SCHOOL	Grade	Teacher	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
6-4-10	Rand	5	Coe	Philadelphia, Pa. Independence Hall, Liberty Bell & Philadelphia Zoo OUT OF STATE	\$25	As a culminating activity to our colonial revolutionary studies, we visit these historic places for guided tours. Our visit to the zoo culminates our research on endangered species, their habitats, and conservation efforts. Children visit exhibits to complete their passports
1-29-10	Hillside	4&5	D'Amico	Wachovia Center, Philadelphia, PA OUT OF STATE	0	Halftime show for 76'ers vs. LA. Lakers
3-16-10	Mt. Hebron	6/7/8	LaStella	Middlesex Community College, Edison, NJ	0	State Competition for Science Olympiad.

2-12-10	MHS	9&10	Burroughs	Seton Hall University, So. Orng, NJ	0	Participate in Video Conference with Ukrainian students as part of Delibrating in a Democracy.
2-11-10 and 2-18-10	MHS	11&12	D. Ryan	UMDNJ School of Health, Scotch Plains, NJ	0	Students shadow dental hygiene students to learn various aspects of dental assisting-requirement of dental program
2-20-10	MHS	10-12	Panayev	Seton Hall University So. Orng, NJ ADDED LATE	0	Educational Simulation

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

c. 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>BOARD MEMBER/EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>SCHOOL/DEPT.</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE</u>
Boiler License Course	Paul McOmish	Buildings and Grounds	\$350.00	As part of job requirement to maintain state licensing.
Update FMLA/Workers Compensation and Payroll Practices and Procedures	Andrea DelGuercio April Wagner Tanequea Baker Gina Zazzarino	Business Office Payroll Office Bus./PayrollOffice Bus./PayrollOffice	\$100.00 \$118.88 \$120.88 \$122.41	To obtain updates on FMLA, workers compensation, payroll practices, agency payments, taxes and voluntary deductions.

<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER/EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>SCHOOL/DEPT.</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE</u>
2010 Legislative Conference	Felice Harrison	Office of School Community Relations	\$1,844.00	To enhance the magnet school planning and budgeting opportunities.

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.

d. Resolution re: Dr. Dorothy Rich

WHEREAS, Dr. Dorothy Rich of Washington, D.C., Founder and Director of the MegaSkills program, was responsible for our MegaSkills journey in the Montclair Public Schools in Montclair, New Jersey and in over three thousand schools serving many more thousands of children and parents across the nation.

WHEREAS, the MegaSkills program was implemented in the Montclair Public Schools in 1991 and for eighteen successful years, she counseled, guided, advised and through her training, shared with parent communities in “Building Our Children’s Character and Achievement for School and Life.”

WHEREAS, it was vital to her for the success of our children, to strengthen the involvement, not only with our parent communities, but the training and involvement of our administrators, teachers, and other civic and community organizations.

WHEREAS, the great personal loss from her passing, she has left a void in the Montclair Public Schools and the world, however, her legacy and the work of the MegaSkills program will continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education expresses to her family its feeling of great loss and sorrow and sincere appreciation for the hands on tools, strategies, and age appropriate practical activities incorporating technology in teaching MegaSkills, for the success of our children as lifelong learners.

e. Resolution re: Rejection of Bids for Sale of 1986 GMC Jimmy

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-45 states that a Board of Education may reject all bids for the sale of personal property if the bids are deemed to be too low and the rejection of bids is deemed to be in the public interest, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared, advertised, and sealed bids received on November 21, 2009, for the sale of a 1986 GMC Jimmy. One (1) company received copies of the bid and one (1) bid was received. Results of the bid are shown on Attachment A, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the rejection of the bid because the bid was too low.

Seconded by Mrs. Lombard approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
John Carlton	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>

2. Change Orders

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following:

a. Approval of Change Order #1 for Clock System Replacement 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 October 20, 2009, for Clock System Replacement at Various Schools. The contract was awarded to Bingham Communications, Incorporated, 819 Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove, New Jersey, 07009, in the total amount of \$23,209.35.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approves change order #1 in the credit amount of \$872.94 to reconcile unused additional clock allowance.

b. Approval of Change Order #6 for Theater Renovations at George Inness School

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 June 24, 2009, for Theater Renovations at George Inness School. The bid was awarded to Bismark Construction Corporation, 207-209 Berkeley Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, 07107, in the total amount of \$551,000.00 (base bid of \$570,000.00 plus alternate #2 for \$10,500.00 and less alternates #8 for -\$8,000.00, #11 for -\$10,000.00, #12 for -\$2,000.00, #13 for -\$9,500.00).

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approves change order #6 for \$3,095.00 for the installation of two (2) new inspector test connections.

- c. Approval of Change Order #14, #15, #16, and #17 for General construction for New Elementary School

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 The Thomas Group, Architect for the Montclair Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on March 19, 2008, for General Construction for New Elementary School. The contract was awarded to Niram, Inc., 91 Fulton Street, Unit #4, Boonton, New Jersey, 07005, in the total amount of \$12,949,800.00 which includes the base bid of \$12,377,000 and alternates totaling \$572,800.00.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approves change orders #14, #15, #16 and #17 as follows:

<u>Change Order #14:</u> Supply Aluminum exterior stair nosing. This was at the direction of the Montclair Building Official.	\$1,267.00
<u>Change Order #15:</u> Remove and dispose of large tree stumps that were buried and in the way of the construction.	\$2,376.00
<u>Change Order #16:</u> Provide concrete sidewalk and concrete curb near the new generator location. The added sidewalk will connect the service road to the kitchen area for additional access to building.	\$4,595.60
<u>Change Order #17:</u> Labor, material and equipment necessary to paint the soffits according to ASI GC-27.	\$2,030.00

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
John Carlton	x		
Shirley Grill			x
Robert Kautz			x
Leslie Larson	x		
Shelly Lombard	x		
Ronald Riddick	x		
Carmen Taylor			x

3. Resolution re: Approval of the Personnel Report

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolution:

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 of February 1, 2010, including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.

Seconded by Mrs. Lombard approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
John Carlton	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>

L. COMMENTS

1. Members of the Public

Michael Laser of 51 Christopher Street expressed his concern about some issues he had experienced with several teachers in the district. He asked the Board to conduct a survey so that parents can inform them of what teachers are problematic in the district.

Dr. Alvarez explained the evaluation process for tenured and non-tenured teachers.

Debbie Villareal of 179 Midland Avenue, informed the Board that there is an opportunity to host a Robotics competition in Montclair. She added that it would be a great fund raiser and give the Montclair community an opportunity to see what Robotics are about.

Andrea Coben of 43 Aubrey Road, emphasized that supervision of teachers will help to recognize shortcomings in teachers. She stated that the focus should be to use the existing structure but to be more diligent in following up with more accountability.

2. Board Members

Mr. Carlton stated that the Board will be starting the budget discussions in earnest. They have directed Dr. Alvarez to prepare a budget with \$3.5 million to \$4 million dollar worth of cuts. They will be reviewing almost all discretionary programs. He indicated that they hope to have a meaningful discussion with all of the community and that all will have an understanding that every one will be working on this together. That is the negative. The positive is that the district is focusing on making the Kirwan model work in recreating the magnets. He stated that there are very important programs addressing very specific needs of students.

M. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 22, 2010 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.

N. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:27 p.m. Mr. Riddick moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 4-0.