

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011 AT 7:00 P.M.
IN THE ATRIUM OF THE GEORGE INNESS ANNEX
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 Friday, December 17, 2010 notice of this meeting was faxed to the Montclair Times, the Herald 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 7:10 p.m. *Ms. Larson* 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 may be disclosed to the public when the reasons for discussing and acting upon it in closed session no longer exist.

Seconded by *Dr. Allen-McMillan* and approved by a vote of 5-0.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

At 7:46 p.m. *Ms. Larson* moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by *Dr. Allen-McMillan* and approved by a vote of 5-0.

E. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:47 p.m.

F. ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Angelica Allen-McMillan	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
	<u>(Arrived at 9:00 pm)</u>	
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Deborah Wilson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Staff Members	<u> 15 </u>	
Members of the Public	<u> 100 </u>	
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>	

G. MINUTES

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following minutes:

Public Board Meeting held on Monday, January, 10, 2011

Seconded by *Mrs. Larson* and approved by a vote of 5-0 with 0 abstentions.

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2011-2012 Budget

Dr. Alvarez stated that the budget process began early this school year with committees meeting in the summer to have a better budget. He indicated that a new audit report reveals that the district has more in surplus due to the reduction in spending from February of last year forward. Figures are not yet ready to be presented at this meeting since there hasn't been any information received about state aid.

Dr. Alvarez budget recommendations to the Board are as follows:

- Outsource of instructional aides. The Board will attempt to bring back aides that are currently working in the district and we are hoping to make connections to the building that they're presently in and with students they have been working with.

- Examine the relationships between the Montclair Board of Education, the Developmental Learning Center (DLC) and the Montclair Community Pre-K to renegotiate contracts and look at some other possible options.
- Increase the courtesy busing mileage eligibility from 1 mile to 1.5 miles. The state mandates a 2 mile limit for elementary students and 2.5 miles for high schools students. Montclair has been doing much more than that for many years and can no longer afford to continue those services.
- Reexamine relationships in the cost recovery items that include organizations such as, the Adult School of Montclair, the Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence (MFEE), and the Montclair Education Association (MEA) which would result in \$100,000 in savings.
- Institute 'pay to participate' which consists of charging a fee for high school students only. The recommendation is for high school students to establish a set rate and to charge a fee.
- This year because of the negotiations that occurred with the contract at the end of last year, there will be a number of retirements. Just from retirements alone there will be a breakage in the area of about \$700,000.
- There will be a number of other reductions across the district such as in Central Office, staffing across the schools supply accounts, stipends for athletics and student activities.

Dr. Alvarez indicated that figures supporting his recommendations will be presented at the February 28th meeting.

Dr. Alvarez stated that the idea behind some of these recommendations were made because of the peoples' support for the schools and it has come across very loud and clear that people love their schools and want to retain them and the fact that they believe that their schools are meeting the high academic standards. One of the things that the Board has talked about repeatedly is that they truly want to support the instructional program. As a result, other avenues were explored in order to continue to hold the instructional core steady. The ideas presented will hold true to the recommitment to provide more inclusive education for special education students and to bring more students back from out of district. It had been one of the recommendations from the committee to actually establish a school but it is uncertain that the Board will move in that direction. A program was developed last year at Bullock School that presented savings and is part of the offset that was previously mentioned.

Dr. Alvarez indicated that ideas about small learning communities were presented at the December meeting where research says that students who worked in smaller more intimate environments ultimately have more success in schools. The creations of small learning communities have been in support of those achievements.

- Dr. Alvarez recommended that the Board maintain the small learning environments for students and provide more room for them. His recommendation would be to keep all 11 schools in the district open.

Dr. Alvarez stated that if the district were not to receive any state aid, he truly believe that this can be done with a minimal tax increase of probably a little lower than 1%. The idea is to commit to supporting and strengthening the system by bringing more children back and creating more small learning environments for a small tax increase of less than 1%.

2011-2012 School Calendar

Dr. Alvarez spoke about the dates presented on the 2011-2012 school calendar. There is no action that will be taken but it will be up for vote at a later meeting.

Dr. Alvarez introduced Mrs. Linda Mithaug, the new Director of Pupil Services to the Board and public.

Dr. Alvarez also mentioned that the Charter School application has been denied by the State Department of Education.

Dr. Alvarez stated that the Board will need time to consider and review his recommendations. Since that is the case they will delay the elementary and middle school orientations.

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

1. Committee Reports

a. Budget Committee

Mrs. Lombard stated that the Board has heard for the first time, the recommendations of Dr. Alvarez and the Board will discuss and assess these recommendations. She spoke about her concerns for tax ratables in town. She stated that she is unsure of when that information will be received.

b. Communications Committee

Ms. Larson spoke about the actions of the communications committee. She spoke about communication challenges that arose in recent weeks. She thanked those who volunteered to serve as part of the board's working groups. She thanked the many others who offered constructive ideas, analysis, questions and insights. She added that the mission of the Board as prescribed by state law is to make policy decisions based on information that is professionally analyzed and presented by Central Office personnel.

c. Curriculum Committee

Dr. Allen-McMillan stated that they are looking forward to meeting in February and establishing a monthly meeting schedule with the Department of Instruction.

d. Facilities and Enrollment Advisory Committee

Mrs. Lombard stated that the committee will meet with Mrs. Sullivan next month.

e. Personnel Committee

Mrs. Wilson approved the amended personnel report.

f. Special Needs Committee

None.

J. COMMENTS

1. PTA

Marybeth Rosenthal, Vice President of the PTA Council spoke in behalf of the PTA and read a statement about their support of the Board during this budget process.

2. MEA

Marge Astorino indicated that she and Ms. Weeg will meet with Ms. Grill, Ms. Larson, and Mrs. Wilson on February 3rd or 4th of next month. She thanked the Board on behalf of the schools for keeping all schools open.

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

Maureen Ohlmuller and *Nancy Sickles Edgemont* PTA Co-Presidents spoke in behalf of Edgemont Montessori School. They spoke about the survey they conducted to support keeping Edgemont open. They thanked the Board for all of their volunteer work.

Ervil Spencer of 71 Gordonhurst Avenue reviewed the 2010-2011 budget book and made suggestions to the Board of areas to further reduce in this year's budget.

Lisa Rosenberg of 14 Victoria Terrace thanked the Board for all of their hard work.

Sarah Santora of 161 Valley Road expressed her feelings about special needs students and that it is advantageous for them to be where they would get the best education. She stated that privatizing instructional aids will likely result in a high turnover rate and the Board should consider that aides will only work until they can find a salaried position elsewhere.

Gabriella Bambrick of 238 Grove Street sincerely thanked the Board for listening to her and her suggestion. She stated that it has been a real opportunity and to get to know the Board members and to understand this budget process from their point of view.

Leslie Massuzo of 132 Alexander Avenue expressed her concerns about outsourcing Para-Professionals in the district. The needs of the children are great throughout the district and privatizing Para-Professionals will diversely affect all of the children.

Ira Shor of 402 N. Mountain Avenue asked that if the aides are rehired by the outside agency, will they be hired at a lower salary.

Dr. Alvarez responded that they are in negotiations with the outside agency and at this point they are uncertain of how that will look. However, he does know that it will save the district about \$2,000,000.

Carma Cloud 5 Jerome Place expressed her opinion that no one school is better than another, they are all equal but different. No one school should bear the burden of the entire district's budget gap but that all schools should share equitably in contributing to whatever budget sacrifices need to be made.

Christine Mc Goey representative of "Save Our Schools" (SOS) stated that their efforts have been about each school and their interests have been sparked by their connections to the schools. She stated that people came to Montclair because of the school district. She stated that it is a true belief to preserve magnet schools. She thanked the Board for their hard work.

Wilfredo Bonitez of 169 Midland Avenue respectfully reminded the Board that one of the reasons the community voted against having an elected board was to protect the magnet system. He expressed his trust in Dr. Alvarez.

Linley Jones of 17 Stevens Street wondered if Dr. Alvarez was going to make a recommendation about Kindergarten.

Dr. Alvarez responded that it is not an item on the table for discussion. It is not in anyone's interest to cut Kindergarten to half-day.

Francine Moccio of 56 Beverly Road stated that she supports Para-Professionals in the district and that it would be shameful to outsource them.

John Lytle of 40 Union Street thanked the board members for their hard work. He spoke about Renaissance being a great school with outstanding test results. He made a suggestion to the board to consider changing the magnet flow to have Edgemont flow through to Renaissance.

June Raegner 317 N. Fullerton Avenue expressed her concerns about the heat in the buildings. She stated that she drove by all of the schools in the district and found several windows opened. She suggested that the board turn down the heat to save money.

Jennifer Rittenhouse of 121 Buckingham Road expressed her feelings about the public having the freedom to approach the Superintendent and Board members as often as possible. Since they are a part of this community and pay taxes they should be able to voice their opinions and be heard whenever possible.

Nancy Sickles 10 Morningside Avenue spoke about how suggestions, decisions, and comments are being repeated. She suggested that there be an organized selected location of information on the public website

Dr. Allen-McMillan stated that a way to bridge the communication gap and move forward is to let the public know that the Board will be spending a lot of their time working on the exploration of the recommendation so that individuals expect to meet with board members or Central Office personnel, they may not be readily available. This should be done so that the public does not feel rebuffed and all can continue to move forward through the process.

L. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following resolution:

1. Resolution Re: Revised Approval of Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials, 2010-2011 School Year

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education approves the submission of the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement between Education and law Enforcement Officials as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)13 through 15 and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education further agrees to comply with the guidelines pertaining to New Jersey Administrative Code,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this agreement be forwarded to the State Department of Education

Seconded by *Ms. Larson* and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Allen-McMillan	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deborah Wilson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

2. Resolution re: Approval of School Field Trips

Dr. Allen-McMillan moved to approve the following resolution:

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 class work,

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

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS						
DATE OF TRIP	SCHOOL	GRD	TEACHER	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
2-16-11	Edgemont	5	Passamano	Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY	\$24	This is a follow up experience to our literature study of mixed up fields of Mrs. Basile E. Frankweller
6-7-11	Bullock	5	Coe	Independence Hall, Liberty Bell, Philly Zoo, PA	\$25	As a culminating activity to our colonial revolutionary studies we visit these historic places.
1-15-11	Hillside	4&5	D'Amico	Rutgers, New Brunswick	0	Drums of Thunder - Halftime performance
1-12-11	Hillside	4&5	D'Amico	West Point Academy, NY	0	Drums of Thunder - Halftime performance
4-12-11	Hillside	3	Gorcica	Community Theatre, Morristown	\$15	The students will be shown ecological lessons with humor and fun to supplement our district's goal in going green
1-26-11	Hillside	4&5	D'Amico	West Point Academy, NY	0	Drums of Thunder – Halftime performance
1-29-11	Hillside	4&5	D'Amico	Penn State U, PA	0	Drums of Thunder, Halftime performance
2-2-11	Northeast	2	Maliszewski	Montclair State U	\$12	Continent study of Africa, Egypt and correlation of school magnet theme
2-17-11	Northeast	4	Conahan	Liberty Science Ctr. NJ	\$12	To extend the physical and life science units with hands on activities.
2-4-11	MHS	11&12	Ryan	First Pres Church, MTC	0	Community service- Kindersmile- students work with dentist, preschoolers

SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS						
DATE OF TRIP	SCHOOL	GRD	TEACHER	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
2-10-11	MHS	11&12	Ryan	UMDNJ, Scotch Plains	0	Students participate in hands on activities in dentistry and shadow dental students
2-4-11	MHS	12	Wingren	NJ State House, Trenton, NJ	0	Students will compete in the "We the People" State Finals Competition
3-9-11	Bradford	K	Klimik	Montclair State U	\$6	Study of Charlotte's Web,

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

Seconded by *Ms. Larson* and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Allen-McMillan	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deborah Wilson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

M. BUSINESS

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

Mrs. Kulwin moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11³, 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 the month of January, 2011 in the amount of \$2,395,197.56, a Supplemental Bills and Claims list for the month of December, 2010 in the amount of \$347,130.66, a Bills and Claims list for Transportation in the amount of

\$133,606.39 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of December, 2010 in the amount of \$83,971.5 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 January, 2011

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education acknowledges Receipts of the attached Budget Reports for the month of December, 2010, the Secretary's Report for the month of December, 2010 and the Treasurer's Report for the month of November, 2010. **(Attachment A)**

Seconded by *Mrs. Wilson* and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Allen-McMillan	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deborah Wilson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

2. Resolutions

a. Resolution re: Project Application and Schematic Plans for Woodman Field Track Renovations

Dr. Allen McMillan moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education desires to renovate the running track at Woodman Field, and WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6:26 requires the submission of a Project Application and Schematic Plans for all projects, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, the proposed project is not included in the district's Long Range Facility Plan that was previously submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the submission of the Project Application and Schematic Plans to the Department of Education, Bureau of Facility Planning Services, and is submitting an amendment to the district's Long Range Facility Plan, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education authorizes the Board Architect, Richard Rigolo, to prepare all plans, specifications, drawings and necessary bid related documents for the project.

Seconded by *Ms. Larson* and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Allen-McMillan	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deborah Wilson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

b. Resolution re: Approval of Conference and Travel Expenses

Dr. Allen-McMillan moved to approve the following resolution:

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>	<u>LOCATION</u>
The Great Gatsby and The Roaring 20's	Bette Bland Orah Massarsky	MHS MHS	\$80.00 \$80.00	To enhance and broaden the pedagogical repertoire, in particularly using differentiated instruction in the teaching of the Great Gatsby.	Montclair State University

CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL EXPENSES					
<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER/ EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>SCHOOL DEPT.</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Lucy Calkin's- February Writing Workshop	Kay Whang Susan Synnott	Northeast Bullock	\$600.00 \$600.00	This conference would provide more strategies and effective teaching methods in order to improve teaching and writing.	Columbia University, NY, NY
Workers Compensation Law and How to Control Costs	Dana Sullivan Andrea Del Guercio	Bus. Office	\$75.00 \$75.00	Training and Seminars	Rockaway, NJ
Legal and Employment Issues	Dana Sullivan Andrea Del Guercio	Bus. Office	\$75.00 \$75.00	Training and Seminar	Rockaway, NJ

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. Kautz* and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Allen-McMillan	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deborah Wilson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3. Change Orders

Approval of Change Order #9 for heating and Ventilating Systems and Equipment for New Elementary School

Ms. Larson moved to approve the following:

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 Heating and Ventilating Systems and Equipment for New Elementary School. The contract was awarded to Centralpack Engineering Corporation, 359 Green Pond Road, Hibernia, New Jersey, 07842, in the total amount of \$3,236,429.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approves change order #9 the amount of \$876.00 to replace gym return grilles.

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Allen-McMillan	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deborah Wilson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

4. Resolution re: Approval of the Amended Personnel Report

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following resolution:

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the Amended Personnel Report of January 24, 2011 including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law. **(Attachment B)**

Seconded by *Mrs. Wilson* and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Dr. Allen-McMillan	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Leslie Larson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Deborah Wilson	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

N. COMMENTS

1. Members of the Public

Milly Silva of 439A Valley Road talked spoke about Edgemont Montessori as one of the reasons her family chose Montclair as a place of residence.

2. Board Members

Dr. Allen-McMillan stated that she is very excited about Dr. Alvarez' recommendation to keep all schools open. She stated that that should be very reassuring for the community and as a parent she is very excited to go and share it with her family. While facing closing a potentially huge gap and looking to outsource Para-professionals which is discomfoting, she stated she still feels comforted in the fact that there will be dedicated individuals working with the children. She stated that she remains optimistic that the commitment shown by the professionals in the district is not going to wane because of one challenge.

Ms. Larson stated that she doesn't feel better because the process isn't over. It isn't over for the Board.

Mr. Kautz stated that this is a very painful process. Looking at the areas to consolidate or reduce, each one of them effects people's professions, their lives and their ability to be a part of the community. The Board is looking at what is considered to be the least intrusive cuts with the ability to maintain school district at its high level. He emphasized that because of Central Office starting early good news was presented this evening. He stated that all are excited about the concept of cost savings with bringing students back from out of district and the creation of small learning communities. He stated that he is thrilled to be part of a board that is at least anticipating keeping all schools open. He thanked all for attending the meeting and listening to the budget process though messy and time consuming.

Mrs. Kulwin apologized to the public about being tardy and that she meant no disrespect. She stated that she is proud to be part of a board that is truly working very hard to be transparent.

Mrs. Wilson thanked Mrs. Lombard for her leadership.

O. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 7, 2011 and will open at 7:00 p.m. in public in the Little Theater of the George Innes Annex, 141 Park Street for the presentation of the Budget Working Group.

P. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m. *Mrs. Kulwin* moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by *Ms. Larson* and approved by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Sullivan
Board Secretary