

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL ESTIMATE
ADOPTION OF SCHOOL BUDGET
 HELD MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.
 ATRIUM OF THE GEORGE INNESS ANNEX
 141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

- I. The meeting was opened at 7:03p.m. and the following statement was read:

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

1. On Wednesday, February 29, 2012 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.

- II. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:04 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD

	PRESENT	ABSENT
Jerry Fried	x	
Renee Baskerville	x	
Nick Lewis	x	
Robin Kulwin	x	
Shelly Lombard	x	
Staff Members	2	
Members of the Public	5	
Members of the Press	1	

IV. DISCUSSION BY BSE MEMBERS REGARDING 2011-2012 BUDGET

Mr. Lewis stated that the Board of Education, Dr. Alvarez and Dana Sullivan are to be commended for the work that they've done over the years with the budget and how they were able to sustain a budget without sacrificing the quality of education for the students. It has resulted in a positive budget which essentially has no tax increases but increases to staff.

Dr. Baskerville agreed with Mr. Lewis' sentiments. She thanked the Board of Education members, Dr. Alvarez, and Dana Sullivan for their hard work and decisions. She stated that she is extremely happy with the decision made not to close Edgemont, with hiring a nurse, adding programs back to the schools, and how the budget maintains the academic and athletic curriculum, clubs and activities.

Dr. Baskerville thanked Dr. Alvarez for his years of service and support of the Township. She personally thanked him for supporting her while a member of the Board of Education. She applauded Dr. Alvarez for standing strong and carrying out his assignment as superintendent.

Mrs. Kulwin stated that she is happy with the things that were added back to the budget and the investment in technology. She stated that she is interested in beginning the negotiations with the MEA.

Mrs. Lombard reiterated comments made at previous meetings regarding the budget. She stated that the Board is pleased with this years' budget because they kept taxes flat. She stated that they are trying to maintain the diversity in town by not pricing people out of the town, but by the same token investing in education. She added that she is proudest of Mrs. Sullivan's suggestion to put money into the capital reserve which enables the Board to continue to add to that in June and enables less debt in the future.

Dr. Alvarez thanked Mrs. Sullivan for spending an enormous amount of time preparing the budget and acknowledged her willingness to help everyone to understand when new regulations are implemented. He thanked the members of the Senior Staff and the Principals for their efforts. He stated that it is a more hopeful time than in previous years. He thanked the Board members, Mayor, and Council on their support of the budget.

Mayor Fried stated that the flat budget is a good thing for the people of Montclair. He saluted the efforts behind using the additional surplus for capital projects. He stated that one of the main changes over the last 4 years is the faith in the Board of Education from the public. With major changes to staff especially with the number of new principals in the district, Dr. Alvarez has been involved in that process and made excellent decisions. He stated that he thinks the schools in the district are doing extremely well since the quality of leadership in the schools have changed. He added that another main change in the district is the Board of Education being more accessible to the public and operating more effectively by using citizen groups.

- V. Resolution Re: Acknowledge Receipt of Certificate from the Montclair Board of Education to the Montclair Board of School Estimate Relating to the 2012-2013 Operating Budget

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education forwarded the attached Certificate to the Board of School Estimate relating to the School District Budget for the 2012-2013 school year,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of School Estimate acknowledges receipt of the Certificate (attached).

Seconded by **Dr. Baskerville** and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY
Jerry Fried	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Nick Lewis	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

- VI. Action on Proposed Board of School Estimate
Resolution Re: Adoption of 2012-2013 Budget

Mrs. Kulwin moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education has discussed and reviewed the proposed 2012-2013 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 FY2012-2013 school district budget (under separate cover) for submission to the Essex County Superintendent:

	Budget	Local Tax Levy
General Fund	\$111,316,148	\$97,509,698
Separate Proposal	\$ 0	\$ 0
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 2,913,122	\$ 0
Total Base Budget	\$114,229,270	\$97,509,698

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves a deposit of \$950,000 into a capital reserve account,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this budget includes a maximum amount allotted for conference and travel of \$150,000, public relations of \$100,000 and legal fees of \$250,000.

Seconded by **Dr. Baskerville** and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY
Jerry Fried	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Nick Lewis	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

VII. Resolution Re: Acknowledge Receipt of Certificate from the Montclair Board of Education to the Montclair Board of School Estimate Relating to 2012-2013 Authorization of School Bonds for Capital Purposes

Dr. Baskerville moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education forwarded the attached Certificate to the Board of School Estimate relating to the Authorization of School Bonds for Capital Purposes for the 2012-2013 school year,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of School Estimate acknowledges receipt of the Certificate (attached).

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

	AYE	NAY
Jerry Fried	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Nick Lewis	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

VIII. Action on Proposed Board of School Estimate

Resolution Re: Authorization of School Bonds for Capital Purposes

Dr. Baskerville moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education forwarded the attached Certificate to the Board of School Estimate relating to the Authorization of School Bonds for Capital Purposes for the 2012-2013 school year,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of School Estimate acknowledges receipt of the Certificate (attached).

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

	AYE	NAY
Jerry Fried	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Renee Baskerville	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Nick Lewis	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Robin Kulwin	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

IX. MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Beth Albert of 219 Montclair Avenue thanked the Board for their hard work. She pointed out that the MEA is the third mainstream that helped the budget to get where it is today. They have been proactive in giving back to the district for the past few years. She hopes that the MEA working collaboratively with the School Board in the future with negotiations will bring about a better resolution for health benefits for all. She also expressed her concerns about foreign language and librarians in the district. She concluded that the MEA members has been involved at meetings in trying to get their points across, and as a group, they still feel the burden of those who do not have health benefits and hopes that this can be resolved.

James Zarrilli of 176 Bellevue Avenue expressed his concerns about the budget and loss of benefits for the teacher assistants. He asked the Board to take into consideration those who do not have health benefits.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 p.m. **Dr. Baskerville** moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by **Mr. Lewis** and approved by a vote of 5-0.