

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2007
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY**

A. The meeting opened at 7:31 p.m. and the following statement was read:

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

1. On May 21, 2007 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. 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>
Community Trustees	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Staff Members	<u> 6 </u>	
Members of the Public	<u> 10 </u>	
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>	

C. The Pledge of allegiance occurred at 7:32 p.m.

D. MINUTES

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following minutes:

1. Public Board Meeting held Monday, September 10, 2007
2. Public Board Meeting held Monday, September 24, 2007
3. Public Board Meeting held Monday, October 1, 2007
4. Public Board Meeting held Monday, October 15, 2007

Seconded by Mr. Kautz and approved by a vote of 6-0.

E. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Prior congratulated Emily Srebro, a junior at Montclair High School for her extraordinary talents in gymnastics. Emily Srebro represented Montclair High School very well at the 2006 Special Olympics In Shanghai, China walking away with five medals which included the Gold medal for floor exercises, 3 Silver medals, 1 for all around performance, 1 for uneven bars and 1 for vaulting and she won the Bronze medal for the balance beam. Emily's success can be attributed to her talent, hard work, strong will and a determined positive outlook.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez referenced some of the comments that he had made at the State of the Schools Address on Thursday evening. He stated that he introduced five big picture ideas, which consisted of things that need our focus and attention.

The first is the issue of the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding the assignment of students to magnet schools by race. While Montclair has a court-ordered mandate to integrate its schools, which is different than the Louisville and Seattle case where they were voluntary plans, certainly people will be watching what we are doing in Montclair and a challenge is likely. He stated that the decision of the Supreme Court ultimately may have some impact on what occurs in our school district. Nevertheless, we are working with lots of legal experts such as staff from the Department of Education, our attorneys, some professors at Columbia University, and members of the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense Fund. We are trying to think about what the implications might be for Montclair. He added that in the last couple of years we have not used race as a single indicator for student placement. Parent choice drives the system; 90% of families get their 1st or 2nd choice placement. Student assignments begin to sort itself out before we even use any other variable as an assignment measure. He stated that the message which we want to convey to the community is that what we do has merit, that the importance of diversity is something that continues to be a focus and is valued greatly. In review of this new ruling, race-conscious measures are in place and will be used for school assignments. We think that we are well positioned and that our magnet schools are doing the job that they were intended to do when they were first formed 30 years ago. He noted that, interestingly enough, we are celebrating our 30th Anniversary as a magnet school district.

The second big picture idea introduced was the China initiative, which was partly inspired by his trip to China this summer. This initiative would aid in giving thought to how students are prepared for the global economy and understanding that China represents 25% of the world's population and that China is preparing their students quite effectively to deal in the global economy. All of their children begin to learn English in the 3rd grade and by the time they are in 8th grade, they are as proficient as an English-native speaker. He stated that something will be done in order to pay attention to this larger vision of the world. There is a steering committee in place that is looking at initiating a Kindergarten or Grade 1 language program and another at the high school level.

Thirdly, he spoke about the notion of technology and classrooms of the future. This is inspired by some of the work that is being done at Montclair State University's highly technological environment that links students with other students from across the globe and provides access to the latest research from other universities. Connecting students with the outside world and preparing them with the knowledge of what

our students will need to know is essential as they prepare to go out into a very different world. He stated that the MFEE is excited about doing some fund raising for these classrooms of the future. He also noted that a pilot program has been initiated to work with elementary staff in taking traditional lessons and converting them into technologically advance lessons.

He added that there are two other things related to technology: The first is increasing the utilization of Blackboard for all parents, where they could access what students are doing within their own classrooms. A lot of our schools are already doing this, but the goal is to get as many people on board as possible.

The second is offering on-line courses at the high school.

The fourth idea discussed was a Parent Education Advocacy, Communication and Engagement initiative, to get parents more fully involved in meaningful ways, as well as assisting parents who often have a negative outlook develop advocacy skills so that they interact more positively and become more connected with the schools.

He concluded that the fifth big picture idea was to look at school funding and create some advocacy and a real voice for districts like Montclair in Trenton. He added that Marybeth Rosenthal from the PTA and others have begun to converse with representatives in Trenton last year. He noted that although the district lost the \$1million grant, we received some additional funding from Trenton in the form of TARA, the Targeted At Risk Aid, but only for \$288,000. Even though the Governor is pushing for a new funding formula, and there is some talk that this might actually be a tiered formula that is going to get phased in over a couple of years; they are going to have to move pretty fast to give us any kind of input within the next couple of weeks, since the Governor usually delivers his budget message towards the end of January. We are still under the timeline of having to submit a budget to Trenton by March which has not changed.

Audit Report, Fiscal Year 2006-2007

John Lauria from Samuel Klein & Co. stated that there are two separate reports every year. The smaller report is administrative compliance and performance for June. The recommendation of the smaller report is broken down into different categories as required by the State of New Jersey. (See attached synopsis of the audit report) In fact, the entire audit report is mandated by the State Department of Education.

He noted that the bigger report shows the financial status and the one schedule that needs attention is the budgetary comparison schedule. It tells us what the surplus number or the fund balance number is as of June of 2007. This has been broken down into a total surplus of \$6,089,813. The \$2,729,670 represents the undesignated surplus, which is 2% of the 2006-2007 general fund expenditures. \$282,858.00 of the \$6 million is designated for encumbrances, \$61,677.00 represents the adult school surplus, \$2,047,047.00 was appropriated in the 2007-2008 budget and \$968,560.00 will be appropriated in the 2008-2009 budget.

G. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Mr. Barr stated the Academic Sub-committee will be meeting on Wednesdays.

Mrs. Taylor stated that she attended the NAACP dinner where the speaker addressed the topic of improvement to the school system.

Mr. Kautz stated that there seems to be some news from Trenton that they are going to try to put together a new school funding formula some time in early January. President Bush vetoed Congress'

fiscal 2008 funding bill out of the Department of Labor Health and Human Services and Education because it's

proposed spending level exceeded his budget request. The NSBA stated that the veto jeopardizes funding for Title I grants for disadvantaged students, special education, school improvement grants, teacher quality grants, career and technical education and other key programs that were slighted to receive needed increases. He added that there is supposedly an attempt to override the veto. The bill relates to education in that the proposed increases for education represents less than a 1% increase of the 2007 budget. This is an opportunity to reach out to your respective Congressman or Senator if you are in favor of the override. He concluded that with regards to the MFEE, he is thrilled to report that the fall 2007 grant requests totaled 128. This is a new record and they are requesting over \$128,000.00 in grant funding and very pleased to report that the budget is at or perhaps even above \$100,000.00 that is available. They have been very effective in getting the word out that money is available. Principals and teachers have been very effective at getting comprehensive grant requests to the MFEE.

Mr. Carlton stated that on December 6 there will be a Project Graduation fund raiser and asked for support. He noted that one of the issues that are dealt with in Montclair is the alternative minimum tax which takes back what we deduct on the property tax. There were Legislators working in Washington to get that done but the vote was not favored. The good news is that the Governor is looking in the coming year to add in \$60,000,000.00 to the state budget for the insurance program for low and moderate income children.

H. COMMENTS

1. MHS Student Coalition

Danielle Martinez, president of the Student Coalition presented the following updates regarding activities taking place in the Montclair High School:

- The Mock Trial Team season has begun.
- The model competition at Rutgers, New Brunswick was a success and four prizes were won in all different categories.
- The CSJ's Macaroni and Cheese drive to benefit the human needs food pantry was successful
- The CGI's annual supply drive of canned and plastic goods was also successful.

She added that there is a new club called Rwanda Teens for Life that consists of a group of girls working along with the non-profit organization Rwanda Gift of Life to support survivors of the Rwanda genocide. As a reminder, she stated that the SVPA showcase musical review entitled "Welcome to Life" is coming up December 7, 8, and 14-16. She concluded that the Montclair

High School's Varsity football team has upcoming games with Hackensack, Bloomfield, and East Orange High Schools. The Student Coalition is preparing for the winter pep rally to bring back Mounties Spirit in Montclair High School. Preparations are underway for activities for Black History Month.

2. PTA

Mary Beth Rosenthal, PTA Council, has started a new fund raising mechanism which is a pilot project that is being undertaken where office and cleaning supplies can be purchased at Staples prices and the profit of every sale are donated to the non-profit organization. She encouraged all to participate in placing an order and that the Pilot program will be active during the Holidays. She added that there are 2,000 items on the web-site but eventually there will be about 7,000 items in the future. She concluded that the Renaissance PTA has a concern about the practice space for the basketball team at Renaissance school.

3. MEA

Dennis Murray stated that he had the opportunity to see Dr. Alvarez in action at the State of the Schools presentation, and was struck by several parts of his speech. He mentioned that Montclair should be very proud of the accomplishments in the areas that he referenced such as the celebration of 30-years of integrated education in Montclair just this past September, the promotion of a safe and encouraging learning environment, and educating the whole child. It is hoped that the June Supreme Court Decision will have little if any effect on what we in Montclair have worked so hard to maintain in giving all children the best education possible which is enhanced by the diversity of our schools. He concluded that Montclair has a great deal of reason to be thankful that include students who are ready to learn, instructional staff who engage students in that learning, building principals who assure that learning takes place, senior staff who aid in the creation of a safe and effective learning environment, a superintendent who believes in educating the whole child and a Board of Education who gives all the aforementioned the tools to sustain learning in our district.

I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- AGENDA ITEMS

None.

J. BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Grill moved to approve the following:

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(c)3, the Montclair Board of Education certifies that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures, which in total exceed the line item appropriation in violation of N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11(a), and that pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2-11(c)4, after review of the board secretary's monthly financial reports, in 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 November in the amount of \$4,960,125.87 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of October, 2007 in the amount of \$20,520.00, 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 \$9,000,000.00 for the month November, 2007, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the attached Budget Reports for the month of October, 2007 and the Secretary's Report for the months of October, 2007.

Seconded by Mr. Riddick and 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> x </u>	<u> </u>

2. Resolutions

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following:

- a. Acknowledge Receipt of the Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2006-2007

WHEREAS, New Jersey Statutes 18A:23-5 states that "Within 30 days following the receipt of the report of the annual audit the board of education of the district shall, at a regularly scheduled public

meeting, cause the recommendations of the auditor to be read and to be discussed and the discussion duly noted on the minutes of said board", and

WHEREAS, the firm of Samuel Klein and Company has forwarded the annual Audit Report for the school fiscal year, July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, to the Superintendent of Schools. John Lauria of Samuel Klein and Company is present at the Board of Education meeting tonight to discuss the Audit Report with the Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the Audit Report for the School Fiscal Year July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, and directs the Administration to implement the recommendations of the Auditor as shown in the Corrective Action Plan (Attachment A).

b. 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:

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Board Member/ Employee</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Educational Purpose</u>
Asbestos Operations and Maintenance Refresher	Frank Belluscio	\$175.00	A refresher course to maintain District Asbestos Manager certification.
NCSS	George Burroughs	\$278.00	To gain information on new methods of Social Studies curriculum and instruction.
NJ Achievement Gap Closings	Jean Wuensch Cenithia Bilal	\$160.00 \$190.00	To focus on gifted education, research and diverse students with high

potential.

Winners! Closer Look at Year's 100 Best Books	Mary Anne Arnold	\$179.00	Workshop is to provide innovative and practical ways to use the best of the year's children books for curriculum connections and lessons to use in the library media center.
NJASBO- Budget 2008-2009	Dana Sullivan Andrea DelGuercio	\$200.00 \$200.00	Conference will provide information from the NJ Department of Education for the 2008-2009 budget process.
21 st Century Strategies for Strengthening the Library Program for Schools	Mary Anne Arnold	\$195.00	Workshop will provide practical ideas to enhance and strengthen the school library program.
Strategies to Help Support Students Literacy Skills	Estella Pearson Phyllis Lowenthal Ellen Haggerty	\$195.00 \$195.00 \$195.00	Workshop will provide practical ideas and resources that can be incorporated in a variety of learning styles and writing skills.
27 th Annual Bilingual/ESL Conference	Pasquale Martire	\$135.00	Conference is to promote the delivery of instruction by providing opportunities to stay up-to-date with current teaching methods relating to educating Montclair's ESL population.
Teaching and Learning	Terry Trigg-Scales Jean Wuensch Cenithia Bilal Joan Moriarty	\$255.00 \$255.00 \$275.00 \$255.00	Science and global awareness, emphasis on sharing of best practice in using technology in teaching and learning.

40 th Annual Conference- Reading and Writing	Cenithia Bilal Nami Kuwabara Kathryn P. Carter Grace Ko	\$195.00 \$195.00 \$195.00 \$195.00	To promote the fluency of instruction, research-base practices, fluent reader – oral reading strategies, and comprehension strategies.
Schooling by Design-Mission, Action & Achievement	Frank Alvarez	\$130.00	Opportunity to discuss reorganizing schooling around learning and practical guidance on how to make it happen with educational leaders throughout the state.
Everything You Always Wanted to Know About QSAC	Frank Alvarez Terry Trigg-Scales Laura Federico	\$95.00 \$95.00 \$95.00	Conference will provide details of the five components of the new mentoring and evaluation system for public school districts and to accurately communicate QSAC information to the community and media.
New Jersey Turfgrass Association	Edward Durkos	\$250.00	For renewal of pesticide applicators license.
Connected Mathematics Training	Timothy Aumack Martha Ann Melhuish Dean Portas Alison Morton	\$240.00 \$240.00 \$200.00 \$200.00 \$200.00	To gain insight and knowledge to improve delivery of standard based curriculum.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that reimbursement will be made for expenses that are in accordance with Board of Education policy and for which original receipts are submitted to the Business Office.

- c. Approval of Salaries for No Child Left Behind Grant for School Year 2007-2008

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education hereby approves the following list of salaries charged to the No Child Left Behind Grant (NCLB) for the 2007-08 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Total Salary</u>	<u>To NCLB</u>	<u>Amount of Salary Charged</u>	<u>% of NCLB Funds</u>	<u>% of Local Funds</u>
Amy Foust	Nishuane	\$88,064	\$43,580		49.4%	50.6%
Janice Guerriero	Rand	\$61,451	\$29,663		48.2%	51.8%
Rosalind Thompson	Glenfield	\$85,578	\$44,825		52.3%	47.7%
Shiela Frye	Mt. Hebron	\$56,807	\$45,154		79.4%	20.6%

d. Approval of Salaries for IDEA-Part B Grant for 2007-2008 School Year

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education hereby approves the following list of salaries charged to the IDEA Part B Grant for the 2007-08 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Salary</u>	<u>To IDEA</u>	<u>IDEA Funds</u>	<u>Local Funds</u>
Keith Breiman	\$109,184	\$109,184	100%	0%
Maureen O'Connell	4	\$67,785	100%	0%
Nicole Frasier	\$67,785	\$28,917	60%	40%
Kettelie Joseph	\$48,195	\$37,150	100%	0%
	\$37,150			

e. Resolution re: Rejection of Bids for Addition to Edgemont School Cosmic Observatory

WHEREAS, 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, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared, advertised, and sealed bids received on September 11, 2007, for Addition to Edgemont School Cosmic Observatory. Ten

(10) companies received copies of the bid and eight (8) bids were received. Results of the bids are shown on Attachment A, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, a board may reject all bids for various reasons as specified in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the rejection of all bids because the lowest bid substantially exceeds the appropriation and the cost estimate for the project.

Seconded by Mr. Carlton and 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> x </u>	<u> </u>

3. Contract Awards

Mr. Carlton moved to approve the following:

- a. Professional Services Supplemental Educational Services 2007-2008 School Year

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 18A:18A-5 states in part “Any purchase, contract or agreement...may be made, negotiated and awarded by the Board of Education by resolution at a public meeting without public advertising for bids...,” and

WHEREAS, the nature of these contract awards generally relate to the provision of professional services, and

WHEREAS, the No Child left Behind Act requires that supplemental educational services be provided to eligible students in Title 1 Schools that have not made Annual Yearly progress (AYP) for two or more consecutive years, and

WHEREAS, these tutoring services must take place outside the regular school day and must be provided by a vendor approved by the State of New Jersey,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education does hereby appoint the following firms to provide tutoring services for a minimum of 16 hours per student for the 2007-2008 school year at the hourly rates noted below, but not to exceed \$812.00 per student:

Preferred Tutoring Services	\$50.75
Educational Elevation	\$50.75
AAO Foundation	\$50.75
Sylvan Learning Center	\$40.60

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator shall be authorized to issue contracts to such provided agencies as described above.

Seconded by Mrs. Lombard and 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> x </u>	<u> </u>

4. Change Orders

Mr. Barr moved to approve the following:

- a. #3 for Toilet Renovations at Various Schools

WHEREAS, 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, and

WHEREAS, 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 March 15, 2006, for Toilet Renovations at Various Schools. The contract was awarded to Salazar & Associates, Inc., 1460 Morris Avenue, Suite 3A, Union, New Jersey, 07083, in the total amount of \$494,401.00 (base bid of \$476,601.00 plus alternates #1 for \$5,500.00, and #2 for \$12,300.00).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approve change order #3 for a credit amount of -\$385.50 as follows:

Credit for Access Panels not installed	-\$157.50
Credit for Saddles & Tile	<u>-\$225.00</u>
Total	-\$385.50

- b. #1 for Fire Alarm Replacement at Mt. Hebron 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 May 25, 2006, for Fire Alarm Replacement at Mt. Hebron School. The contract was awarded to Open Systems Integrators, Inc., 207D Woodward Road, Manalapan, New Jersey, 07726, in the total amount of \$197,000.00.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approve change order #1 as follows:

•Cost of additional devices, beams detectors at lobby, and annunciator cover	\$10,808.00
•As required by Building Department, install two additional pull stations in stage areas	\$462.00
•Credit to delete Lorrain Avenue annunciator and conventional detectors in lobby	(\$4,070.00)
•Allowance for additional devices in contract	(\$7,200.00)
TOTAL	\$0.00

- c. #2 for Professional Services-Site Investigation and other Environmental Activities, 45 Elm Street, 39 Washington Street, 51 Washington Street, Vacant Lot – Bloomfield Avenue, Proposal #0525450

Topic: N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 states in part “Any purchase, contract or agreement...may be made, negotiated and awarded by the Board of Education by resolution at a public meeting without public advertising for bids...”.

Background Information: The Montclair Board of Education appointed PMK Group, 1415 Wyckoff Road, Suite 206, Farmingdale, New Jersey, 07727, to provide a site investigation and other environmental activities at 45 Elm Street, 39 Washington Street, 51 Washington Street and the vacant lot at Bloomfield Avenue at an estimated cost of \$77,800.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approve the following change order #2 in the amount of \$23,195.00 for collection, analysis and reporting of concrete samples.

Seconded by Mr. Kautz and 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> x </u>	<u> </u>

K. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

- a. Mr. Riddick stated that he attended the State of the Schools Address and appreciated the fact that there was a large number of parents in attendance and supports Dr. Alvarez’s initiative to get parents more involved in the process to understand that the teachers are part of the education solution.
- b. Mr. Barr reported that he attended the football game and was inspired by the way the student body interacted and cheered and that it was nice to see the team move on to the next level.
- c. Mrs. Taylor wished all a happy Thanksgiving.
- d. Mrs. Lombard stated that it is nice to see progress being made regarding the new school construction and nice to hear about the positive comments regarding the State of Schools Address as well as the issue of parent involvement.
- e. Mr. Kautz stated that he attended a game at Fortunato on Sunday and was pleased to see the progress at the Field House.
- f. Mr. Carlton stated that he was impressed and very glad of the decision to hire Epic as construction managers and that it appears that they are really doing a good job for the district.

He mentioned that Scott White at the High School sends out email blasts to parents of students going to attend college encouraging them to get involved in the college experience. This is a good way to be educated on just how the college experience works and that information is provided to help set the mind frame.

He wished all a healthy Thanksgiving and said that there are lots of reasons to be grateful in Montclair. He concluded that he thinks that one of the things that makes Montclair unique

is that there is diversity, racially and in many other ways, ethnically and that one of the strengths when we come together from PTA's to Boards of Education is the ability to think of the needs of the people. There are people who may have medical and family challenges and to that extent we come together and try to address those concerns beyond the people who look just like us or act just like us. It really becomes the strength of the town and when speaking about educating the whole child it is really educating the whole community.

2. Members of the Public

Agnes Rossi of 126 Lorraine Avenue, stated that she has four children in the system three attending Glenfield and one at Bradford and her question was is there a system in place to monitor whether the teachers are actually implementing at the classroom level the things that are stated in the curriculum and things that are brought up at meetings.

Dr. Alvarez responded that the answer to that question is yes. He stated that a couple of ways that is happening is that teachers submit lesson plans periodically which are checked by the principal to ensure they are consistent with the curriculum and that teachers also as differentiate for special education students and for SAIL students. The other is that principals do walk-through's, something that is done on a regular basis in order to know that what is going on in the classroom is really on target. He stated that he thinks that principals and house leaders do this at Glenfield through discussions and common planning periods.

Mrs. Rossi stated that as an example the Language Arts Curriculum specifically advises against traditional spelling tests that are teacher-generated lists for good reason because they don't improve student spelling. There is a ton of research to show this. However, she stated that her children have had traditional spelling tests every year in school. Therefore, she was very surprised to see it so clearly advised against in the Language Arts curriculum. She stated that it appears that teachers are given an enormous amount of autonomy and that is great if there is a great teacher, but if it is not such a good teacher then using outmoded practices is not so great.

Dr. Alvarez responded that he thinks that some occurrences of things that are happening in classrooms are not necessarily directly in-line with the curriculum. Part of that is because teachers do have a certain amount of autonomy once they are in their classroom; and perhaps some teachers are relying on methods that they have used for many years even though the curriculum advises them otherwise. What would be helpful to us when situations like this exist and parents have spoken to the teacher and do not see any change, then the next level of discussion should be with the principal. If no change is noted at that point, it should be discussed with our Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. We want to know about these things, so that we can refocus our teachers and get them back on track.

Mrs. Rossi stated that she feels that no questions regarding the opinions of parents or children's experience in the school system are asked and why there isn't any instrument for parents and children to give feedback on teachers, schools and principals.

Dr. Alvarez responded that there are a lot of opportunities that are provided for parents to give feedback. There are the Public Board meetings twice per month where people come to ask their questions and state their concerns. There is a parent survey that goes out every other year or every three years that provides us with feedback. School Review is a vehicle, along with monthly parent coffees at different schools, which are also an opportunity for parents to ask some of the uncomfortable questions.

John Lytle of 40 Union Street, stated that he enjoyed Dr. Alvarez' presentation at the State of the Schools Address. He also agreed with Mrs. Rossi in that he supports all of the opportunities of communication to which he is a participant in all of them. However, he feels that it is not enough because most of them are directed from the Board down to the parent but there is not enough listening the reversed way. He added that every school review meeting that he has attended has had very little or no informal questions or answers but that it is usually a presentation of material.

L. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, December 3, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

M. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:48 p.m. Ms. Grill 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, personnel matters, out-of-district placements and sidebar agreement with the MEA.

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 7-0.

N. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Kautz moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by Mr. Carlton and approved by a vote of 7-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:44 p.m.

O. APPROVALS

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following:

- 1. Personnel Report of November 19, 2007 including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.
- 2. Out-of-District Placements
- 3. Resolution re: Sidebar Agreement with the MEA

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act grants collective bargaining rights to certain public employees, and

WHEREAS, changes to the terms and conditions of employment have been outlined in a sidebar agreement to the MEA contract regarding the recognition of the degree of Juris Doctorate, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to formally recognize this sidebar agreement,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the conditions outlined in this sidebar agreement pertaining only to the Montclair Education Association regarding the degree of Juris Doctorate.

Seconded by Mr. Carlton and 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>

