

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2007 AT 6:30 P.M.
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. The meeting opened at 6:32 p.m. and the following statement was read:

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

On November 12, 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.

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.

Copies have also been mailed to all persons who have requested same at no cost.

B. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:32 p.m. Mr. Carlton 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-(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; matters covered by the attorney-client privilege; and matter rendered confidential by state or federal law: Exclusions 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 Mrs. Taylor and approved by a vote of 5-0.

At 6:33 p.m. the Board went into executive session.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matters
2. Out-of-District

3. Exclusions

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Riddick moved that the board shall return from executive session; seconded by Ms. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 7:33 p.m.

E. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:35 p.m.

F. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	<u> </u>
Shirley Grill	<u> </u>	<u>X</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>
Staff Members Present	<u>7</u>	
Members of the Public	<u>30</u>	
Members of the Press	<u>1</u>	

G. INTRODUCTIONS, AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation for Montclair Inclusive Schools Week

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the week of December 3-7, 2007 is NATIONAL INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK and NEW JERSEY INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK, with the theme of "Lessons from the World: Including All Children;" and

WHEREAS, the Montclair Public School District is committed to providing the children of Montclair an education in schools and classrooms that are welcoming and capable of educating all of our children; and

WHEREAS, closing the achievement gap is one of the central goals of the Montclair Board of Education; and

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WHEREAS, the educators of the Montclair Public Schools recognize that each child is unique, learns differently, and therefore, learns better if teaching is tailored to their abilities and interests; and

WHEREAS, the educators and families of the Montclair Public Schools have been working hard to ensure that our classrooms and schools are characterized as being high-performing and inclusive; and

WHEREAS, by their efforts to make our schools and classrooms high-performing and inclusive, the educators and families of the Montclair Public Schools have contributed significantly to building a stronger and more inclusive Montclair community; and

WHEREAS, the educators and families of the Montclair Public Schools deserve to celebrate their successes and wish to reflect on how they might even further improve,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montclair Public School District joins with the Education Development Center and New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine in declaring the week of December 3-7 as Inclusive Schools Week “Bringing the Gap: Achievement for All Students” in Montclair and encourages schools and classrooms across the district to sponsor appropriate learning and community-building activities in its recognition.

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

	A YE	NAY	
Timothy Barr	<u> X </u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u> X </u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	_____	_____	<u> ABSENT </u>
Robert Kautz	<u> X </u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	<u> X </u>	_____	
Ronald Riddick	<u> X </u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u> X </u>	_____	

Diana Autin thanked the Board for recognizing Inclusive Schools Week. Montclair Board of Education has been doing this for about 5 years and it is always important to highlight the contributions of children with disabilities and their families to the district and the ways in which the district contributes to the development of all children in the district including children with special needs. Ms. Autin stated that the district Self Assessment Team is in the process of reviewing a lot of areas and making recommendations for areas of improvement so the Board will be hearing about some of these recommendations, some of which will go towards making Montclair Public Schools even more inclusive.

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The Board changed the agenda to allow Montclair High School students to talk about the new grading policy in the AP courses at the High School. The High School Administration and many of the students in the AP statistics and calculus classes have mutually

acknowledged a lack of rigor and student success in these courses in past years. The High School Administration proposed a grading policy revision shortly after the start of the school year to try to help with the lack of success in the AP classes. In these two AP courses the students would be administered one test per quarter which would count for 80 % of the quarter grade, and quizzes which would count for the remaining 20 % of the grade. Quizzes and the test would be reflective of the AP test in the types of questions and in their rigor. In contrast to this in past years 95% of the quarter grade was determined by multiple test and quizzes.

In order to accommodate students disrupted by this change, they would be allowed to opt out of their AP course and take the courses at a high honors level and their letter grade would be increased by one level. The AP designation is perceived as better for college admissions. Many of the students have responded to this change and sent a letter to Dr. Katz, copying the board and the appropriate High School Administrators. The students acknowledged the past problems and they question the process of the policy creation and do not necessarily favor the option to change to high honors and question the feasibility of comparing the national AP test scores and curves to the MHS test scores and curves. The biggest concern is the concept of only one test determining the grade for the quarter grade. The students proposed a solution to have multiple tests and quizzes per quarter and to also have homework and class participation help determine the class grade. They believe this is similar to the grading rubric in high honors calculus and calculus BC and the students look forward to further dialog.

H. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC-GENERAL ITEMS

Selena Persico - 217 Park St. – Ms. Persico’s son is in AP calculus and she is concerned with the policy because it is now being implemented after the start of the school year. She feels that this change has affected all of his other classes. If her son decided to opt out of the class he would have had to have changed three other classes in his schedule which is unfair. Ms. Persico has an issue with the grading policy and feels it is extremely unfair. She feels that announcing the policy after the class began is discriminatory because the parents and students did not have a chance to review it and make any changes before the start of the school year.

Zev Fugin – 32 Aubrey Rd. – Mr. Fugin stated that he doesn’t understand how the policy was created. Mr. Fugin wants to know why is it that the students have the option to drop from AP to high honors only in these two classes and this does not exist in any other class. Mr. Fugin also wants to know why dropping the AP class and taking the honors class increases your grade by 10 points, which would be unfair to the other students whom are in the same class. He feels that if this policy will truly raise their scores overall then it should

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be put into effect with all AP classes in the high school rather than just implementing it in these two classes.

Freddie Goldstein – 20 Glenside Terr. – Ms. Goldstein stated that a lot of the students in these two classes are seniors and because this program is being put into affect later in the school year a lot of the students have already applied to colleges. On the transcripts it states AP calculus or AP statistics and now that she applied and sent out these transcripts she would have to send out a letter to each college explaining why her class load has changed. She feels that if this policy does stay in affect that Dr. Katz or whomever is in charge should put something in the transcripts so the colleges understand how this program is run.

Sharon Hurwich – 52 Aubrey Rd. – Ms. Hurwich stated that her son is taking both of these courses and she feels that the timing is not fair especially to seniors. She suggests that Montclair High School pilot the program before implementing change in policy.
Robin Kulwin – 12 Duryea Rd. – Ms. Kulwin stated that her son is concerned with the precedent that is being set. The policies should be in place at beginning of the year.

Jackson Bauers – 25 the Fairway – Mr. Bauers stated that if this test is reflective of the AP test then grading procedure should have the curve like the AP final test has.

Max Kravitz – 24 Aubrey Rd. – Mr. Kravitz stated that on his quizzes he has received no more than an 85 and on his 80% test he received a 76 and he feels as if his efforts throughout the quarter have been depleted. He feels that this policy is promoting a lackadaisical approach to the class; he is seeing his fellow students not doing any homework or studying for any quizzes because it doesn't matter, which is the wrong way to approach this class.

Dr. Alvarez stated that he is very proud of how the students are handling the situation with the AP classes. He has issues with this policy and he asked the High School to go back and review the policy. The High School is trying to fix the problem with the courses.

Mr. Lebida was disappointed that last year's AP calculus and AP statistics scores were much lower than expected. Montclair High School Administrators want the students to perform to the best of their ability and have an opportunity to take the test with all the appropriate preparation. The Administrators want the students to recognize the importance of these tests. It is important that the students who are taking the AP courses are taking them for the appropriate reason not to just have the AP connotation on their transcripts.

Mr. Lebida stated that the High School is looking for a way to increase scores. Montclair High School administrators felt that by making the test count for 80% of the grade the students would put more emphasis on the test. The administrators will continue to look at the policy and they will continue to evaluate and come up with a good policy that will rectify the situation and make sure it works well for the students as well as the entire student population.

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As of right now all students are getting AP connotation whether they are in high honors or not and will have the opportunity to continue on the AP track in the 2nd marking period. At the end of the semester the students will have the opportunity to continue to take the AP test in May. The students that take the test will get the AP connotation and the ones who don't will get the high honors connotation. The test will be administered in three different settings instead of one setting.

Mr. Riddick asked about last year's scores, and why was the policy change not announced before classes started.

Mr. Lebida stated that the students were notified about the change before the school year started.

Mrs. Taylor asked if there were pacing guides in place.

Mr. Lebida responded that there are pacing guides in place to make sure that all the students are in the same place at the same time.

Mr. Carlton and Dr. Alvarez encouraged Montclair High School to change this policy. Dr. Alvarez recommends a moratorium on the policy until it is figured out on what the policy will ultimately be.

Mr. Fugin feels that there is nothing that can be done to rectify the first quarter grades and the solution needs to be fixed now for second quarter.

I. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Governor Corzine has announced a preliminary funding proposal, which is expected to provide greater equity in the disbursements of funds across the state, based on the concept of "adequate funding for programmatic needs." There are nine things outlined in a paper which was received this afternoon:

- Each district will receive at least the current aggregate amount of state aid for the next two years.
- Total state aid would increase approximately \$450 million with a significant amount providing an increase in special education aid for most districts. A hybrid wealth-based formula would be used to calculate the increase districts would receive for special education.
- Extraordinary special education costs would be funded at 75% above \$40,000 for students placed in district and 75% of costs above \$55,000 for students enrolled in an out-of-district placement. A single amount would be used for all classified special education pupils and the current four funding tiers would be discontinued.

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- Adequacy budget would be based on the dollar amount needed for an "adequate" education as a base amount with additional per-pupil weights for speech, special education, at-risk due to poverty, limited English proficient, and adjustment increases for middle school, high school and vocational education. Free or reduced price lunch would be used to determine at-risk due to poverty.
- Early Childhood Education with full-day kindergarten would be included for all districts as part of the adequacy budget. However, districts would not be required to offer full-day kindergarten. Districts in factor groups "A" or "B"

and “CD” districts with 40% or more students at-risk due to poverty would receive at-risk early childhood aid and be required to provide the program for all at-risk 3-and 4-year-olds.

- Increased aid would be provided for recent increases in enrollment and after the two-year hold-harmless period decreases in enrollment could result in decrease of aid.
- Fair share for each district’s local property tax effort would be based on current per capita income and property values.
- Security categorical aid on a per-pupil would be provided for all districts with an additional weight for high concentration of pupils at-risk due to poverty.
- The adequacy amount will be based on a single model district of 5,000, K-12 students.

All of this to say that it is very complicated there are lots of pieces to this and it will take about three weeks for this legislature to actually approve any funding proposal. The challenge remains as to whether or not the legislature can agree on a new funding formula in the next few weeks, during a lame duck session. We have a small group in town that is vigilant on this issue. One thing on which we all agree is that a new funding formula is too important to race through in a few weeks without much public dialog. We will certainly be watching closely all developments in Trenton and will keep you posted.

Montclair was one of fifteen or so districts that were seeking to receive some legal relief in terms of our position in our athletic league for Northern New Jersey. The issue is that Montclair is in a league where they play a number of non-public schools which can recruit from all districts even out of state therefore it is not a level playing field. We have to use our students and other districts can recruit from all over and pay students to attend their schools. We lost the suit today by six votes, so Montclair will join other districts and create their own league in Northern New Jersey. Montclair will still be able to compete at state level but right now if you are in the league they actually set up the schedule and provide the referees. This will apply to all sports but primarily will affect football.

In a related matter, Dr. Alvarez announced that the High School football team played state championships yesterday but lost. Dr. Alvarez is extremely proud of Coach Ed Lebida and the entire coaching staff.

1. Enrollment Report- Presented by Bruce Dabney

Mr. Dabney stated that Montclair numbers have stabilized this year. We lost 60 students throughout the district which was primarily in the elementary range. Elementary population dropped by 71 students this year mainly because there were a lot of people that moved. Middle school level dropped by 8 students and the High School is still steady at 1,981 close to 2,000 students. Montclair's total student population in the district is 6,346 which include all of the special education and regular education students who are not self contained when you add the self contained students the total is 6,561. The grand total does not include the out-of-district students which is 98.

Mr. Barr asked how the Board tries to increase minimum enrollment in certain schools since it is a freedom of choice district. Mr. Dabney stated that when parents come in to register their children and have to rank their choice of schools they are encouraged to rank Watchung and Northeast. The parents concerns are if there are any after school activities then there is no late bus for the students to take which the Board is working on these issues.

Mr. Riddick asked how many elementary schools have late buses. Mr. Dabney answered that none of our elementary schools have a late bus.

Since October 15, another 12 students have signed up for kindergarten and have been enrolled at Nishuane. Nishuane is usually not filled early because it is a large K-2 school with a late starting time.

2. Language Arts Curriculum K-8 – Presented by Terry Scales & Cenithia Bilal

Ms. Scales stated that the plan for the new curriculum to be implemented is that it will be rolled out at faculty meetings. There are representatives from each of the elementary and middle schools who have worked on the curriculum development who know it best and will be responsible for presenting an introductory presentation of the curriculum at an upcoming faculty meeting. At the February professional development day there will be a chance to break into smaller groups and go through the new curriculum.

Ms. Bilal highlighted changes to curriculum. The format has changed because the teachers decided that they wanted to be able to look across grade levels, so there are two packets one for the K-6 teachers and another for grades 5-8 teachers. A fifth grade teacher can now look ahead to what a sixth grade student will be doing. Career standards are being incorporated; teachers have created pacing guides (which is for teachers coming into the district to look at so they will know what they need to teach

right away). Also, being incorporated is foundation which is based on the Wilson's Program for special education students aligned to

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a reading program. Performance assessments are new and measure the ability of the students in what they are actually able to do. The goals of the district are being followed in terms of the Technology Matrix all of the 8.1 goals are included in the curriculum and are aligned to the language arts literacy standards.

The second piece of the curriculum is the resource packets which will support the curriculum guide itself. Teachers will be able to share and articulate across the curriculum by sharing the resource packets. Learning centers, ideas, strategies, and best practices are being incorporated in grades K-8 instead of just grades K-5. The home school computer connection has been updated so that parents will have access to documents that they can use to help their children at home in terms of language arts literacy such as persuasive writing.

Mrs. Lombard asked what a learning center was. Ms. Bilal responded that a learning center is set up in a classroom as a resource with a focus, goal, objectives, and benchmarks.

Mrs. Taylor asked how often performance assessments will be done. Ms. Bilal stated that the students will accomplish at least two district wide tasks per semester. This is aligned with the NJASK.

Mr. Carlton asked what grades are foundations and will reading lists that vary between schools be made the same? Ms. Bilal responded that K-3 are the grades which have foundations and the resource packets will be used to update the reading list each year.

Mr. Riddick questioned what pacing guides are. Ms. Bilal stated that pacing guides are a month to month guide to help teachers with the process of teaching skills. This is a guideline for teacher to follow as to what should be accomplished each month.

3. Budget Assumptions – Dr. Alvarez & Mrs. Sullivan

The Budget Assumptions will be one of the items required by the NJQSAC. Mrs. Sullivan stated that the budget is going to be developed to meet the goals and objectives of the Board. Priorities of the district as they are set will be funded in the upcoming budget; they will cover increase in utility and insurance cost to meet inflationary needs. Capital budget items will be budgeted separately as usual. The district will review enrollment projections and budget appropriately to fund the enrollment increases which are expected.

The contract was just settled with the Montclair Principals Association; the salary increase will be budgeted. All of the other associations are in negotiations for next year so the district will budget an estimated increase. In the past the Board has budgeted supplies and materials on a per person allocation which has been an effective way to distribute money so this is the intention again. The increase in the per pupil allocations is 3% over last year's amount.

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J. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Mr. Barr attended Academic Sub Committee meeting, and he thanked Mrs. Scales for her work on this committee.

Mrs. Taylor stated that the football team did a tremendous job making it to the finals.

Mr. Riddick reminded everyone that there is a premiere showing of "Kite Runner" on Wednesday night at 8:00 which is an MFEE fundraiser.

Mr. Carlton invited everyone to attend the Project Graduation Fundraiser Thursday night at Diva Lounge.

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - AGENDA ITEMS

None.

L. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Language Arts Curriculum Grades K-8

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the recommended curriculum has been developed and written by the staff of the Montclair School District, and correlates closely with the New Jersey Department of Education Core Curriculum Content Standards, 2007

WHEREAS, Title 18A (NJSA) requires New Jersey Boards of Education to adopt courses of study for children between the ages of 5 and 20, and

WHEREAS, this curriculum is developmentally appropriate, inclusive and challenging.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education approves the adoption of Language Arts Curriculum, Grades K-8.

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

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	AYE	NAY	
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	_____	_____	<u>ABSENT</u>
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	<u>X</u>	_____	
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____	

M. BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolutions

a. Conference and Travel

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following resolution

WHEREAS, New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 23 B 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>
U.S. All-Star	Anthony Keys	\$85.00	To learn the latest training techniques for the athletes.
NJLALA Winter Conference	Cenithia Bilal	\$90.00	The presentation will focus on improving how writing is taught in schools.
No Standing Around in My Gym	Ted Shrensel	\$155.00	A stimulating assortment of action-packed educational games and ideas not only focuses on maximum participation and involvement but includes ways to motivate students.
Working Successfully with Difficult and Disruptive Students (Strategies That Work)	Kimberely Couden Carol Nagourney	\$195.00 \$195.00	Will provide practical strategies for increasing effectiveness with difficult, disruptive, and non-compliant

			students.
Strategy & Tactics for Family	Sylvia Bryant	\$850.00	Family engagement and parental involvement.
NJPBIS Team Training	Jim Scaglotti	\$15.00	Promotes positive behavior for all students' initial training for Watchung Team as part of NJPBIS program.
	Rebecca Ross	\$15.00	
	Karen Sullivan	\$15.00	
	Gail Clarke	\$15.00	
	Marissa Altieri	\$15.00	
	Judy Towery	\$15.00	
	Georgette Zacharias	\$15.00	
	Carolyn Jochem	\$15.00	
	Angela Falco	\$15.00	
	Christen Berman	\$15.00	
Maureen Verducci	\$15.00		
Schooling by Design	Terry Trigg-Scales	\$130.00	Helps to reorganize around learning and practical guidance on how to make it happen.

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.

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b. Acceptance of Department of Education Determination of Preliminary Eligible Costs for:

HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATIONS	3310-050-07-1000	\$328,142.00
GEORGE INNESS RENOVATIONS	3310-050-07-3000	\$73,915.00
RAND DOOR HARDWARE REPLACE	3310-060-07-1000	\$5,440.00
BRADFORD SITE IMPROVEMENTS & MASONRY WATERPROOFING	3310-100-07-1000	\$41,038.00
EDGEMONT RENOVATIONS	3310-110-07-1000	\$100,686.00
GLENFIELD RENOVATIONS	3310-116-07-1000	\$90,886.00
HILLSIDE RENOVATIONS	3310-123-07-1000	\$130,480.00

MT. HEBRON RENOVATIONS	3310-127-07-1000	\$440,171.00
NISHUANE ENTRANCE RAMP & STEP REPLACEMENT	3310-130-07-1000	\$48,100.00
NORTHEAST RENOVATIONS	3310-140-07-1000	\$86,895.00
WATCHUNG ANNEX WING ROOF REPLACEMENT	3310-170-07-1000	\$80,510.00
WATCHUNG RENOVATIONS	3310-170-07-2000	\$37,640.00

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 5 of the Educational Facilities Construction and Financing Act, the Montclair Board of Education submitted applications to the Department of Education for Rehabilitation at the schools listed above, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has approved the above project and has determined that the State's share of preliminary eligible cost for project as listed above, and

WHEREAS, the School Business Administrator certifies that capital funds are available for the local share of these projects,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education accepts the State's determination of preliminary eligible costs and the State's share of preliminary costs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education elects to accept debt service aid from the EDA as its funding option, and

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

c. Out-of-Districts

d. Exclusions

Seconded by Mrs. Taylor and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	_____
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	_____
Shirley Grill	_____	_____ <u>ABSENT</u>
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____
Shelly Lombard	<u>X</u>	_____
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____

2. Contract Awards

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following contract:

Renewal of Contract for Athletic Runs 2007-2008 School Year

Topic: New Jersey Statutes 18A:39-3 requires that transportation contracts anticipated to be in excess of \$15,000 be awarded after advertisement and receipt of sealed bids and provides for the annual extension of contracts entered into through competitive bidding when the increase in the original contractual amount does not exceed 30% (or Consumer Price Index (CPI)).

Background Information: In accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared, advertised and sealed bids for Public School Athletic Transportation Routes. The contract was awarded to the Eagle Rock Bus Company, and they have offered to renew their Athletic contract for the 2007-2008 school year (with no increase over the 2006-2007 contract prices).

Superintendent's Recommendations: Since the Montclair Board of Education continues to be satisfied with the services provided by Eagle Rock Bus Company, 63 Mississippi Avenue, West Orange, New Jersey 07052, it is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education renew the Athletic contract for the 2007-2008 school year as per Attachment A in the total estimated amount of \$190,000.

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

	AYE	NAY	
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	_____	_____	<u>ABSENT</u>
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	<u>X</u>	_____	
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____	

3. Change Orders

Mrs. Taylor moved to approve the following change order:

Change Order #1 for Toilet Renovations 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 March 21, 2007, for Toilet Renovations at Various Schools. The contract was awarded to E.R. Teshkoyan & Co., Inc., 11 Cavell Place, West Caldwell, New Jersey, 07006, in the total amount of \$107,333.00.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approve change order #1 to replace a broken drinking fountain at Rand for an overall increase of \$1,400.

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

	AYE	NAY	
Timothy Barr	<u>X</u>	_____	
John Carlton	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shirley Grill	_____	_____	<u>ABSENT</u>
Robert Kautz	<u>X</u>	_____	
Shelly Lombard	<u>X</u>	_____	
Ronald Riddick	<u>X</u>	_____	
Carmen Taylor	<u>X</u>	_____	

N. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

Mr. Barr impressed with students presentation tonight.

Mr. Riddick congratulated the football team and the students whom spoke tonight.

Dr. Alvarez stated that Ms. Scales and he will be attending a presentation by Grant Wiggins to discuss his new book.

2. Members of the Public

Thomas Sabino-Benowitz – 21 Dodd St. – Mr. Sabino-Benowitz stated that he came to the board to get some information because he is the archivist for the Students and Government Institute so he spends a lot of time going over old documents and archiving them. The next week he came down to seek some board policy for his own personal use and felt he was given the “run around.” While at the board Mr. Katz happened to walk in and told Mr. Sabino-Benowitz to come down to his office and ask for the information he needed, which is currently being worked on. Mr. Sabino-Benowitz wants to remind the board of New Jersey Title 47 Chapter 1A1 which is the open public records act and it states that any citizen of the state can access public documents without any statement of who they are or why they want the information; they only need to provide that they live in the state.

Mr. Sabino-Benowitz came to the board twice and was told he could come back at another time and he gave his phone number. The next day he was pulled out of his French class by the secretary in to the principals' office and was told he has broken every protocol in the book by going to seek this policy from the district and he superseded the administration and that for all further policy request he should seek this through the administration specifically. Mr. Sabino-Benowitz stated he has very little problem doing that however, the statute is very clear in stating the any citizen can access this from any public house of record. Mr. Sabino-Benowitz did a lot of research on this, he listened to a few years worth of minutes and he wants to ask that the board be a little bit more transparent in this respect.

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Mr. Sabino-Benowitz wants to remind the district that the student hand book at the high school is very unclear with a lot of issues that are really important and feels that the students really need to have access to this documentation. Many of the records that are available are really outdated and there are a lot of different versions available on line. He thinks that one initiative that would be appropriate would be to have all of the district policies and a current copy of the district budget forwarded to the Montclair Public Library for access by anyone. Right now what is available is a draft copy of 06-07 budget which has a lot of the numbers missing. Another appropriate action would be to have this documentation available to anybody on the website and Mr. Sabino-Benowitz was told that this was going to happen within the next week when he came to the board a month and a half ago.

Mr. Sabino-Benowitz is specifically looking for the entire board policy and the contract of Aramark Corporation. He stated that many times when the students tried to have fundraisers they have an issue with the administration because of potential conflicts with the foodservice contract on whether or not it allows for students to sell food during lunch periods. Mr. Sabino-Benowitz thought that it would be an appropriate thing to do to check the contract, considering that he is actively involved with the fundraising.

Dr. Patterson responded that anyone can view the policies and copies are only made available for the public when they pay a small charge.

O. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on December 10, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

P. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:26 p.m. Mr. Riddick moved to adjourn the meeting: seconded by Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Sullivan
Board Secretary