

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007
22 VALLEY ROAD, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY**

A. The meeting opened at 6:38 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 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.
2. On this same date a copy of said notice was filed with the Township Clerk and was posted at the public bulletin board in the first floor main hall of the Board of Education building, 22 Valley Road.
3. Copies have also been mailed to all persons who have requested same at no cost.

B. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:38 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 6-0.

C. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mr. Kautz moved that the Board shall return from executive session; seconded by Mr. Barr and approved by a vote of 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 7:30 p.m.

D. The Pledge of allegiance occurred at 7:34 p.m.

E. 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>
Carmen Taylor	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>

Staff Members	<u> 7 </u>
Members of the Public	<u> 25 </u>
Members of the Press	<u> 1 </u>

F. MINUTES

Mrs. Grill moved to approve the following minutes:

Public Board Meeting held Monday, November 5, 2007

Seconded by Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.

G. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognition of the 2007 Montclair High School Mounties Football Team

Dr. Pryor congratulated Head Coach, Ed Lebida and the Montclair Football team on a successful season and presented them with a certificate of recognition for their outstanding commitment both to their studies and the game of football. Head Coach, Ed Lebida was also recognized and presented with a certificate for all of his hard work and dedication to the success of our football team.

Mr. Carlton moved to approve the following resolution:

Resolution re: Dr. Jeanne P. Pryor

WHEREAS, Dr. Jeanne P. Pryor has been employed by the Montclair Board of Education for 18 years, working tirelessly during this time to maintain the excellence of the Montclair Public schools and being committed to helping the children of Montclair, and

WHEREAS, during her tenure in Montclair she has served with distinction as an Assistant Principal, the Assistant to the Superintendent, and as the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, her professionalism, caring, and devotion have made her an outstanding and integral part of the life of the Montclair community, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jeanne P. Pryor is now retiring from the Montclair Public Schools and through her determined efforts the children of our schools have benefited greatly as have the citizens of our community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE that the Montclair Board of Education recognizes the contributions that Dr. Jeanne P. Pryor made to the education and well being of the children of Montclair and extends its appreciation for a job well done, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Montclair Board of Education extends all good wishes to Dr. Jeanne P. Pryor and that a copy of this resolution be presented to her with the Board's best wishes for a rich, rewarding and healthy retirement.

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

H. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez stated careful attention is being given to the events in Trenton with regards to the School Funding Formula. He added that there is a proposal that may be voted on before the recess ends which is January 8th. At this point it seems like the district will gain about \$188,000 which is not a lot of money and it is part of an effort to appease lots of constituencies across the state. The state has indicated that we will be held harmless for two years in our state aid and maybe receive a little bump up. The key is what will happen three years down the road. We are watching this very carefully and we are bringing in some critical friends to meet with us right after the holidays. We are certainly well aware of the situation, as you are, and trying to talk to some of the right people to stay ahead and be involved in the discussion. Dana Sullivan is on top of things and attending many state meetings to remain as well informed as possible, and Jessica De Koninck a town's person and top legal aide for the commissioner will be here to help us understand not only the formula but what is happening in Trenton and what will happen in the days ahead. Senator Gill has also reached out to us for our input on what we think about the proposal so that she has a point of reference in terms of

representing us in her discussions in the state senate. The district is staying involved with the formula and will inform the community of changes as we go along.

Dr. Alvarez stated that the following STARS program presentation is an update to recap from the previous presentation given at the end of last year and what is new and different this year.

STARS Program – Presented by Terry Trigg Scales, Kathy Carter and Will Adkins.

Mrs. Trigg-Scales briefly talked about STARS and some of the highlights and new data. She stated that the goal is for all children to attain grade level proficiency and beyond. At the elementary level the three components of STARS consists of in-class, after school, and summer class assistance. At the middle school level there are about 162 students in STARS. During the month of January, after school assistance on Saturdays in preparation for the NJASK is currently in progress. She indicated that there are about 190 students from grades 9-12 receiving assistance and that the department chairs use data from the TerraNova and HSPA scores to assign students to academic support classes. Closely monitoring test scores and evaluating data will enable accurate tracking of improvement and newly implemented methods.

Placement in the STARS program is done in June of the prior year and based on a teacher rating scale and the final report card grade for grades K-2; for grades 3-8 partial proficiency (a score of 200 and below) and final report card grade; for grades 9 and 10, the TerraNova and Grade 11 the HSPA. Mrs. Trigg-Scales stated that it has been said that once a student enters STARS they cannot get out. However, that is incorrect. She noted that 53% of the students that enter the program are only in for one year. This program was designed for intervention and not a long-term period of support in the area of need to become proficient.

She concluded that compliance under “No Child Left Behind” include the whole parent family community connection that develops procedures for parents to work together, work directly with children, operate volunteer programs, maintain an active school-wide organization involving parents, provide parent education and full-time parent liaisons and evaluate the effectiveness.

Mr. Adkins stated that the advisory board conducted two summer retreats to lay out plans for the program. The outcome of those retreats suggested that each school be required to have two trained parent liaisons to connect the relationship between parents and schools. He concluded that as a result of all methods and ideas being pieced together, an action plan for STARS where all parents whose children has been selected for STARS are given a program that helps them to see what is happening at the district level and how this will get implemented into the schools.

Mrs. Lombard questioned if the STARS summer program is always filled or if there is space available.

Mrs. Trigg-Scales responded that the attendance during the summer program has been tightened up but if students are absent two times they are dropped from the program. She indicated that since

STARS is a valued program, enrollment must be kept constant. There is a waiting list for available space should someone drop or does not show up.

Mr. Barr questioned if there was any collaboration between the summer STARS program and the Project Oasis which seems to be different but a very effective summer program.

Mrs. Trigg-Scales responded that there is only difference between levels, STARS is just elementary and project Oasis is more for the middle and high school for the summer.

Mrs. Grill questioned if there has been any attention given to students who have come out of STARS.

Mrs. Trigg-Scales responded that students are monitored and that there is a safety net for students that are proficient at a score of 205 because it is likely that they will revert. Teachers are aware, therefore, they monitor the students to determine if more support is needed.

Mr. Riddick questioned if there is any data that shows the amount of students that had to return to the program after they exited.

Mrs. Trigg-Scales stated that there is no data available.

Mr. Riddick questioned if there are any situations where students begin STARS in September and are out of the program before the end of the school year.

Mrs. Trigg-Scales stated that if students are progressing they are not taken out during the course of the year since it is the support that is helping them to succeed.

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

Mr. Barr reported that he attended the QSAC training which was thorough and reinforcing.

Mr. Kautz questioned with regards to the school funding formula, based on what is being heard, if there were districts that would be affected or disaffected. He commented that it seems that our district is in the middle where there is an uncertainty of being affected or disaffected.

Dr. Alvarez responded that it appears that some districts are going to be helped slightly more by this funding formula due to receiving larger percentage increases. With regards to some of the other surrounding districts having somewhat of a higher socioeconomic level than we do, we are uncertain as to why their increase is at 9% whereas our district increase is at 2%.

Mr. Carlton reported that they are creating mechanism for donations for renovations at the Little Theater at George Inness.

J. COMMENTS

1. MHS Student Coalition

None.

2. PTA

Robin Kulwin said that she was delighted to be there and thanked Dr. Pryor for her hard work and dedication. She stated that in regards to school tours every school is a good one and every school has a message but the focus is to make sure that everyone gets the correct information. She mentioned that the PTA is very concerned about the funding formula. She concluded that the PTA has been working on the fundraising for Montclair Public Schools for the Pilot program and working to get out any glitches before launching the program.

3. MEA

Mr. Murray stated that as the new year begins it is hoped that the spirit of professionalism and accountability continues to manifest itself throughout the entire educational community. He congratulated Dr. Pryor on her retirement and stated that her opening remarks at the Convocation in September resonated throughout the entire year. He concluded that the MEA has concerns about the State School Funding Formula and how important the effects are to the futures of our students.

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- AGENDA ITEMS

Cary Africk of 2 Erwin Park congratulated Dr. Pryor on her retirement. He commented that he supports the work that is going to be done at George Inness' Little Theater. He concluded by thanking Dr. Alvarez and the Board for the resolutions being on hand for the public at the Board meetings.

L. 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:23-2.11³, 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 December, 2007 in the amount of \$3,526,454.24 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of November, 2007 in the amount of \$1,656.00 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 \$10,081,730.50 for the month December and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the attached Budget Reports for the month of November, 2007 and the Secretary’s Report for the months of November, 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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> ABSENT </u>

2. Approval of Resolutions

Mr. Riddick moved to approve the following:

- a. 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>Estimate d</u>	<u>Educational</u>
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		<u>Cost</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Leaping Into Action for Gifted Children	Mary Morrow	\$190.00	This conference will provide useful ideas and strategies to promote differentiation for high achieving students within the classroom.
Closing the Achievement Gap	Mary Morrow	\$160.00	This conference will provide deeper understanding of factors that contribute to the achievement gap and strategies and resources to address the gap within the schools.
Effectively Using Guided Reading	Barrie Schwartz Wendy S. Gismondi	\$195.00 \$195.00	This workshop will enhance the reading program by incorporating guided reading instruction, literacy centers, and research-based phonics activities.
Asperger's Disorder and Autism	Mary Ann DeRosa	\$149.00	This conference will discuss Asperger's

disorders and autism, and how to plan for long term transition.

Superintendent Strategy Summit	Frank Alvarez	\$1,250.00	Organizational and personal development topics will be discussed in the area of leadership development.
Successful Co-Teaching Strategies	Gay L. Marcellus Samantha Roem	\$195.00 \$195.00	This seminar will assist in attaining effective strategies for working in collaborative first grade class experience.
The Best of the Best Web-Sites that Enhance Instruction and Enrich Student Learning	Abigail Hoffman	\$215.00	Workshop is to discover web-sites most useful to K-5 teachers and students, and apply innovative ways to bridge the gap with concrete learning and abstract concepts using technology.
Stuttering Practical Therapy Strategies	Denise Roche	\$195.00	To expand repertoire of strategies and techniques for addressing moderate fluency disorder.

Helping Children with Auditory Processing Disorders	Maureen K. O'Connell	\$217.00	This program will provide an understanding of the specific factors that underline auditory processing, how APD differs from other disorders, and what can be provided to appropriately support students in the school environment.
Hurricane Forensics	Jean Wuensch	\$175.00	Convocation on Global Warming for SAIL Students

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.

- b. Personnel Report of December 17, 2007 including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.
- c. Exclusions Report of December 17, 2007.
- d. Settlement Agreement to Resolve J.K.'s Transportation Program for the 2007-2008 School Year.

WHEREAS, the attorney for the Board of Education has forwarded a Settlement Agreement in the matter of M.K. and L.K on behalf of J.K vs. the Montclair Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Secretary is authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education

- e. Settlement Agreement to Resolve A.W.'s Educational Program and Placement for the 2007-2008 School Year.

WHEREAS, the attorney for the Board of Education has forwarded a Settlement Agreement in the matter of V.W. and D.M. on behalf of A.W. vs. the Montclair Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Secretary is authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

- f. Settlement Agreement to Resolve S.Z., A.Z., and H.Z.'s Educational Program and Placement for the 2007-2008 School Year.

WHEREAS, the attorney for the Board of Education has forwarded a Settlement Agreement in the matter of S.F. and T.Z. on behalf of S.Z., A.Z., and H.Z., vs. the Montclair Board of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board Secretary is authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

Seconded by Mr. Barr 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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>

3. Change Orders

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following:

- a. Resolution to approve Change Orders #1, #2, #3 for Site Demolition for the New Elementary School are as follows:

- #1 Disposal of Linoleum Containing Asbestos at the YMCA Building. \$7,693.92
- #2 Disposal of Asbestos Containing Mastic at the Project Peace Building. \$8,844.16
- #3 200 sf of Flashing & 200 Window Units Containing Asbestos Caulk St. Vincent's \$39,000.00

Hospital

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> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>ABSENT</u>

M. COMMENTS

1. Board Members

Mr. Lombard congratulated the football team for a very impressive year.

Mr. Kautz congratulated Montclair State University named as 1 of the top 10 schools in teacher preparation in the nation.

Mr. Riddick congratulated Dr. Pryor on her retirement and the football team for a great season. He stated that they are beginning a new program entitled "Brothers to Brothers" to help young men to deal with each other and the world around them.

Ms. Grill congratulated Dr. Pryor on her retirement and all involved in the STARS program for great success.

Mr. Barr thanked Dr. Pryor and wished her success, happiness, and continued good health through her retirement. He noted that some of the members of the football team made the Star Ledger's first and second team list for the county and the state which are amazing accomplishments.

Mr. Carlton thanked Dr. Pryor on behalf of the students for being a wonderful example to them. He commended the football team for their commitment to an excellent season.

2. Members of the Public

Mary Ellen Don Leavy and the Edgemont Parents Association expressed their concerns about the additions to the school building. With reference to an article in the Montclair Times which stated the beginnings of construction for the addition to Edgemont School were to take place Spring 2007, she noted that nothing has happened to date. She indicated that they are limited in space and that the multipurpose room is being used as a gymnasium, cafeteria, and auditorium. She

stated that they would like to receive the help and guidance from the Board to assure that changes will happen.

N. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, January 7, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Building, 22 Valley Road.

O. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:23 p.m. Ms. Grill moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Riddick and approved by a vote of 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Sullivan
Board Secretary