

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2010 AT 5:00 P.M.  
141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. STATEMENTS

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

1. On Wednesday, June 10, 2009 notice of this meeting was faxed to the Montclair Times, the Herald News and the Star-Ledger. The time, date and location of this meeting were accurately set forth therein.
2. On this same date a copy of said notice was filed with the Township Clerk and was posted at the public bulletin board in the first floor main hall of the Board of Education building, 22 Valley Road.
3. Copies have also been mailed to all persons who have requested same at no cost.

B. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:39 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, out-of-district placements, and legal matters.

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. EXECUTIVE SESSION

D. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

The Board returned to open session at 7:38 p.m.

E. The Pledge of Allegiance occurred at 7:40 p.m.

F. ROLL CALL

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
John Carlton	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>
Robert Kautz	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>
Leslie Larson	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>

Shelly Lombard	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>          </u>	<u>    x    </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>
Staff Members	<u>    5    </u>	
Members of the Public	<u>   30   </u>	
Members of the Press	<u>    1    </u>	

#### G. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Alvarez announced this evening's meeting should begin with the acknowledgment of the passing of Mr. Allan Elder, a beloved teacher at Hillside School who spent a great amount of his life influencing an entire generation of students.

Dr. Alvarez and the Board took a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Elder.

Dr. Alvarez commented on the article in the Montclair Times regarding the districts' Adequate Yearly Progress report (AYP). He stated a lot of time was spent talking about the districts' academic achievement but the article failed to capture the efforts of students and teachers. He added that he will write a letter in response to that article to set the record straight. He continued that the district does have some areas in need of improvement but students have been doing some tremendous work alongside the teachers who are making it happen on a daily basis, the work of the administration, and the efforts of the Department of Instruction. Most of the students are making progress from one year to another. Students have actually exceeded the trends of what students in similar districts' have achieved. He stated that this year all of the elementary schools made AYP. Two of the middle schools came off the list of schools that needed improvement. Renaissance and MHS had only failed one indicator out of 41. Overall, students are doing extremely well and for some of the schools where there were students that fell below the benchmark, many of the students represented different subgroup categories. Overall, the performance of the district has been strong. He encouraged all to visit the districts' web-site for an update on the progress of the students and to shed some light on what has been going on in the district.

Dr. Alvarez announced that the district is sponsoring a forum on Thursday, January 28, 2010 in the George Inness Annex at 7:00 p.m. entitled "Understanding State Funding and Implications for the Montclair Public Schools". He indicated that during this budget season the Board wants people to understand how schools are funded in New Jersey and the implications at the local level. The discussion will be a paneled presentation by a number of experts reviewing funding at the state level and ultimately how it impacts the Montclair Public School District.

#### MHS Student Coalition

David Ellman and Jamie Fanous stated that there have been organizations being created to help support funding for Haiti. There was a fundraiser at the Basketball game this weekend in which all of the proceeds went to Haiti. Mid-term exams are this week and all students are stressed and looking forward to second semester which begins on Monday, February 1. In sporting news, Montclair Kimberly Academy and Montclair High School are playing for the Montclair Cup in hockey on Thursday, January 28 at 4:30 pm. The

swim team is participating in the state tournament on Saturday, January 30. The MHS student coalition had been attending the monthly school review meetings and encouraged all to attend them as well.

H. INTRODUCTIONS, AWARDS, AND PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Alvarez introduced Ms. Felice Harrison to present the following awards

Mrs. Harrison presented the following awards.

1. *National Merit Scholarship Program Award Recipients- Montclair High School*

**Semi-Finalist**

Kayla White

**Commended Students**

Vanessa Bishop  
Jeffrey Conti  
David Ellmann  
Francesca Federio-O'Murchu  
Isabelle Foley  
Marco Fornara-Grunther  
Jaco Garfinkel  
Christopher Givens  
Alexancer Glossman  
Ariana Goodman  
Sally Goodman  
Ilana Haines  
Sinead Mac Leod  
Megan McCarron-Haber  
Justin Meretab  
Hannah Rosenblum  
Oliver Waldner  
Kayla White

2. *National Achievement Scholarship Program Recipients- Montclair High School*

**Semi-Finalist**

Justin Meretab

**Outstanding Participants**

Thomas Augustine  
Samuel Dillard  
Samuel Flood  
Erica Hartsfield  
Michael Robinson  
Aaron Williams

3. *2010 Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars Award Recipients – Montclair High School*

Marjan Alidoost  
Gabrielle Ambrosio  
Nicholas Andre  
Vanessa Bishop  
Sasha Brietzke  
Jeffrey Conti  
David Ellmann  
Sophia Feiertag  
Isabelle Foley  
Emily gold  
Ariana Goodman  
Sally Goodman  
Justin Herron  
Anna Hess  
Jordan Hirschhorn  
Rachel Ishikawa  
Gavriella Keyles  
Chelsea Keys  
Emily Klein  
Emily McDonald  
Justin Meretab  
Allison o'Brien  
Margaret O'Brien  
Margaret Regan  
Anuj Shah  
Amanda strenz  
Arielle Suskin  
Sonia Tsuruoka  
Ian Vanderklein  
Kayla White

I. MINUTES

Mrs. Lombard moved to approve the following minutes:

Public Board Meeting held on Monday, January 11, 2010

Seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a vote of 6-0 with 0 abstentions.

J. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

*Mr. Carlton* stated that the most important topic the district is working on is refocusing the magnets system themes. This involves reviewing programs in the district that will strengthen the magnet themes, programs

that have become extraneous, and programs that are weakening the magnet themes. There are sub-committees reviewing various non-instructional areas of the budget. The Board is looking for several million dollars in savings in this years' budget which include areas not required by the state, restructuring programs with technology or other ways where the district can provide a higher quality of service and/or a lesser dollar amount.

*Ms. Larson* stated that they are reviewing the quality of education to see if there are ways to become more efficient in certain areas.

*Mrs. Lombard* stated that this year the attention is on focusing dollars in places where they do the most good and deemphasizing spots that do not serve our students.

*Ms. Grill* stated that she thinks it's more than looking closely and focusing on fulfilling the primary mission which is to ensure a good education for all children. She added that the Board will make sure that dollars are spent in targeting children who are at risk which is very important. She stated that in the past the district has been able to maintain the budget by working around the edges. However, she doesn't think that would be possible this year and that people should get that message early. She stated that the Board has a fundamental commitment to making sure that all kids get an education and that cuts will not begin at the bottom. She concluded that difficult decisions and cuts will need to be made in the district.

The Board had the second reading of the Freedom of Choice (School Selection and Assignment) Policy P-5117 and Registration/Freedom of Choice and School Assignment Regulation R-5117

## K. COMMENTS

### 1. PTA

Marybeth Rosenthal and Sally Coughlin congratulated the Board on the development of the New School Assignment policy and that the PTA Council appreciates the work that was put into the forward initiative thinking. She stated that the PTA Council is planning to hold a parent-to-parent meeting in February to talk about the process of PTA's to enhance their children's education experience.

### 2. MEA

Dennis Murray stated that he appreciates the moment of silence for Alan Elder.

He stated that he was very angry at the Montclair Times headline regarding the failure of the Montclair Public School District. He continued that it is a misrepresentation of the district since most people do not read past the headlines and that this brings negativity to the district's reputation. Mr. Murray informed the Board that Governor Christie's transition report spells out big trouble for public schools. He mentioned that the date of the MEA retirement dinner is changed to May 18 since there are so many things going on in the district on May 19. He also informed the Board that the MEA would like to assist the Board in developing a more palatable budget.

## L. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – AGENDA ITEMS

None.

## M. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

**Ms. Grill moved to table the vote on resolution #1; seconded by Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0 with 0 abstentions.**

1. Resolution re: Adoption of the Freedom of Choice (School Selection and Assignment) Policy P-5117 and Registration/Freedom of Choice and School Assignment Regulation R-5117

WHEREAS, Board of Education policy requires two readings before policies are adopted, and

WHEREAS, the first reading of these policies took place on January 11, 2010 and

WHEREAS, the second reading is today, January 25, 2010,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education adopts the Board Policies the Freedom of Choice (School Selection and Assignment) Policy P-5117 and Registration/Freedom of Choice & School Assignment Regulation R-5117

2. Resolution re: Approval of School Field Trips

Ms. Grill moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Education Accountability Regulations require approval of all school related field trips by the Board of Education and,

WHEREAS, the field trip must be directly related to instruction and classwork.

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

### SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

DATE	SCHOOL	Grade	Teacher	DESTINATION	COST	PURPOSE
6-10-1- thru 6-11- 10	Glenfield	6	Belmonte	Hershey, Pa. OUT OF STATE OVERNIGHT	\$300	Our Reading Incentive Program, RYW
2-3-10	Glenfield	7	Astorino	Ellis Island	\$30	The history of immigration into the US relating to the cultural background of the students in our house.
2-24-10	Bradford	K	Cahill	Buehler Science Ctr. Bergen County College, Paramus	\$15	This is part of an ongoing project about outer space which incorporates studies of ordinal #'s volume and measurements history and literacy
6-3-10	Bradford	K	Klimik	Montclair State U	\$6	Study of Charlottes Web: Literature
3-23-10	Bradford	4	Gismondi	Montclair State U	\$8	Freedom Train: Harriet Tubman comes to life and explains the Underground

						Railroad-Connects with 4 <sup>th</sup> grade literature
6-21-10	Mt. Hebron	7	Lenz	Liberty Science Ctr.	\$25	Students will visit galleries that show science and technology as they are in real life. They will learn through hands on and interactive exhibits & they will also view a 3D Imax movie on space.
2-1-10	Hillside	4&5	D'Amico	Rutgers University	0	Halftime show for basketball game.
2-10-10	Hillside	4&5	D'Amico	West Point Academy OUT OF STATE	0	Halftime show for basketball game and tour of the academy.
3-13-10	Hillside	4&5	D'Amico	Verizon Center, Washington D.C OUT OF STATE.	0	Performance as well as a bus tour of Washington.
2-26-10	MHS	10-12	McGriff	Yogi Berra Museum MSU	0	Workshop for newly implemented organ donor education program
2-11-10	MHS	10&11	Burroughs	MSU	0	Motivational program for black males
3-17-10	MHS	9-12	Wasko	St Patrick's Day Parade, NYC OUT OF STATE	\$20	Performance in the parade
2-5-10	MHS	12	Wingren	Trenton State House, Trenton, NJ	0	To compete in the state "We the people" competition
2-1-10	MHS	9-10	Falce	Newark Airport	0	Opening ceremonies and airline tour for Continental Airlines Black History Month celebration.
2-9-10	MHS	10-12	Richberg	16W Marketing Group, Rutherford,NJ	0	Career Development
2-5-10	MHS	11&12	Ryan	First Presbyterian Church, Montclair	0	This is a major community service project, Kindersmile, students assist Dr. Nicole McGrath working with preschoolers for oral exams and dental hygiene.
2-21-10 thru 2-23-10	MHS	11&12	Schnitzer	Crowne Plaza, Cherry Hill, NJ OVERNIGHT	\$195	State DECA Competition. Students earned a spot at Regional Competition

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

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

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Robert Kautz	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Leslie Larson	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

N. BUSINESS

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

Ms. Grill moved to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.A.C.6A:23-2.11©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 January 2010 in the amount of \$6,290,273.82.40 and the attached Appropriation Adjustments for the month of December, 2009 in the amount of \$167,065.69 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 \$6,500,000.00 for the month January, 2010 and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the attached Budget Reports for the month of December, 2009 and the Secretary’s Report for the month of December, 2009.

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

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
John Carlton	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Robert Kautz	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Leslie Larson	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>    x    </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u>    x    </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

2. Resolutions

Ms. Grill moved to approve the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution re: Approval of Uniform State memorandum of Agreement between Education and Law Enforcement Officials, 2010-2011 School Year

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



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

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

- b. Resolution re: Project Application and Schematic Plans for Hillside School Stage Fire Curtain Replacement

WHEREAS, the Montclair Board of Education desires to replace the stage fire curtain at the Hillside School, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6:26 requires the submission of a Project Application and Schematic Plans for all projects that the district is requesting a Regular Operating District grant by the state, and

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

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

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

- c. 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:

<b>CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>				
<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER/ EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>SCHOOL/ DEPT.</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE</u>

<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER/ EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>SCHOOL/ DEPT.</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE</u>
PRISM Motivators: Get Students Hooked on Math	Linda McNish	Rand	\$70.00	This workshop will focus on making mathematics visual and easy to understand and provide new strategies in the resource room.
PRISM Guiding Reader's and Writer's through Science	Susan Bartol	Rand	\$70.00	This workshop will support writer's/reader's workshop model through science.
Advocacy and Public Policy	Janice Kirn	MHS Guidance	\$495.00	This conference will help to understand student counseling issues across the country and allow the chance to offer input on counseling issues at the legislative level.
2010 FLENJ Spring Conference	Vicky Chang Genevieve Aurian Karen Rolandelli	Nishuane Nishuane Nishuane	\$210.00 \$210.00 \$210.00	The Chinese Immersion program workshop will enhance the professional teaching methods and help to develop a higher level of teaching practice.
Small and Large Group Time	Joanna Zschack Trish Asaro	DLC DLC	\$240.00 \$240.00	To gain state recommended curriculum to implement new strategies in the classroom
Governance: School Finance	Ronald Riddick Carmen Taylor	Board Member Board Member	\$50.00 \$50.00	Required Board Member Training
Advanced Training:: Legal Update	Shelly Lombard	Board Member	\$50.00	Required Board Member Training

<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER/ EMPLOYEE</u>	<u>SCHOOL/ DEPT.</u>	<u>ESTIMATED COST</u>	<u>EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE</u>
Oppositional Deficient Disorder	Sheldon Schwartz	MHS/CST	\$169.00	This workshop will on conflict resolutions to assist me in handling students with conduct disorders.
Communicating with Tact and Skill	Jean Wuensch	DOI	\$179.00	To hone communication skills with a collection of techniques that can be cultivate in today's highly demanding work place.
Memorial Service for Dr. Dorothy Rich – Founder and Director of Mega Skills	Sylvia Bryant	DOI	\$175.10	To present a resolution on behalf of the Board at the memorial service.

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

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

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Robert Kautz	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Leslie Larson	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

3. Change Orders

- a. Resolution re: Approval of Change Order#14 for General Construction for New Elementary School

Mr. Kautz moved to approve the following:

Topic: Supplies, equipment and services anticipated to be in excess of \$29,000 are subject to the bidding requirements of New Jersey Statutes 18A:18A-4 or are to be purchased under a State of New Jersey contract through the provisions of N.J.S. 18A:18A-10.

Background Information: In accordance with Public School Contract Law, specifications were prepared for the Board of Education by The Thomas Group, Architect for the Montclair Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on March 19, 2008, for General Construction for New Elementary School. The contract was awarded to Niram, Inc., 91 Fulton Street, Unit #4, Boonton, New Jersey, 07005, in the total amount of \$12,949,800.00 which includes the base bid of \$12,377,000 and alternates totaling \$572,800.00.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approves change order #13 in a credit amount of \$17,000 to deduct remainder of unused Terrazzo Floor graphic allowance.

- b. Approval of Change Order #4 for Structural Steel Ornamental iron Work for New Elementary 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 The Thomas Group, Architect for the Montclair Board of Education, advertised, and sealed bids received on March 19, 2008, for Structural Steel and Ornamental Iron Work for New Elementary School. A contract was awarded to J.G. Schmidt Steel, 211 Central Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055, in the total amount of \$1,663,600.

Superintendent's Recommendations: It is my recommendation that the Montclair Board of Education approves change order #4 in the credit amount of \$7,500 to deduct unused labor and material allowance.

Seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a roll call vote:

	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
John Carlton	x		
Shirley Grill	x		
Robert Kautz	x		
Leslie Larson	x		
Shelly Lombard	x		
Ronald Riddick			x
Carmen Taylor	x		

Mrs. Taylor moved to approve the following resolutions:

- 4. Resolution re: Approval of the Personnel Report

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the Personnel Report January 25, 2010, including the indicated individuals who have been hired under the Emergent Hiring Procedures as required by law.

5. Resolution re: Approval of Out-of-District Placements

WHEREAS, the Superintendent recommends that the Board approves the actions contained in the attached Out-of-District Placements.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board approves the actions attached in the Out-of-District Placements of January 25, 2010.

Seconded by Ms. Grill and approved by a roll call vote:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
John Carlton	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Shirley Grill	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Robert Kautz	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Leslie Larson	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Shelly Lombard	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Ronald Riddick	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>    x    </u>
Carmen Taylor	<u>  x  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

O. COMMENTS

1. Members of the Public

None.

2. Board Members

*Mrs. Taylor* stated that she attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship breakfast and said that the district should be very proud of the young men who presented that evening.

*Ms. Grill* asked a question about the teams that presented at the “We the People” event.

*Ms. Larson* attended the Academic Sub-Committee meeting where they reviewed the benchmarks for writing at each grade level, discussed the professional development day, and tutoring preparation for students taking the NJASK test. She added that she went with Dr. Alvarez to “Coffee at Northeast School” where they discussed writing curriculums, school funding, non-residence students, and class size. She concluded that she attended the monthly guidance meeting where they discussed information about the change in the Montclair High Schools’ policy regarding students being present in school the whole day of their mid-term exams.

***Mrs. Lombard*** stated that she attended a school review meeting last week where Mr. Earle's policy for mid-term exams was an excellent idea. She said that Mr. Earle is making sure that all teachers report grades on Star Portal so that parent's can review. All of these changes are very good things that are happening in the high school. She also commented on school funding stating that it is going to be a difficult budget season She encouraged all to go to the State Funding meeting on Thursday evening.

***Mr. Kautz*** attended the quarterly meeting for the MFEE where they accrued \$100,000 in proceeds from Montclair Rocks! MFEE is in the process of meeting with the principals in the schools in order to allocate those funds. He congratulated the National Merit Scholarship award recipients. He concluded by giving his condolences to the Elder family in their time of loss and agreed that Mr. Elder will be sorely missed.

***Ms. Grill*** pointed out that when missing certain elements in AYP does not mean that we have a failing school. There are kids that didn't pass. We have schools where children need more from the district. They are good successful schools and that language needs to be changed.

***Mr. Carlton*** talked about the upcoming school funding forum. He stated that he will be speaking along with the other experts on Thursday evening. He said he spent about nine months trying to answer the question of why taxes are high in Montclair. He indicated that unfortunately, it is very hard to answer that question and one of the reasons is that data exists in three different areas such as tax assessment data, land-use data, and department of education data. It does not correlate exactly and it is very difficult to compare things. While Montclair probably spends about the same amount per student as other districts the Montclair funding source is much different. The average school portion for housing tax in Montclair is about \$10,000.00. West Orange spends more per student than Montclair and their housing tax is a little over \$7,500.00. The difference is made up in non-single family houses. Wayne school district spends slightly less than Montclair and their single family burden is only \$6, 200.00 per average household. The specific question is why are single family houses in Montclair paying such high taxes relative to the state. He stated that this will be discussed along with several other questions such as what is the make up of the residential community in terms of housing stock and what is the make up of the non-residential community as a ratable base and overall population. The enrollment report showed a bell curve where there were many more students for the same amount of people. He said that when comparing Montclair to West Orange, Montclair has more students but less residents, so Montclair have fewer people paying for more students.

***Mr. Carlton*** indicated that in regards to state aid, Montclair does not receive a large portion of their budget -approximately 9% from the state. The average in the state is around 39%. He also noted that Montclair has certainly taken on as a mission that is perhaps a much broader educational mission than some of the other communities. He stated that when you look at Livingston and Ridgewood – districts that may not have significant, if any, proportions of economically disadvantaged students, Montclair has 15%-18% consistently. The extra money the district receives from the state does not begin to address the things the Board feels need to be addressed for that population. The experts will address matters concerning politics, procedures, and what possible actions of the budget. He concluded by stating that when you look at the enrollment report at the per student cost of Montclair it becomes a pretty good

bargain as compared to Mountain Lakes, Princeton High School who are spending thousands more per student. Montclair does have some economies of scale of deficiency because of size but a lot of times Montclair is compared to districts that spend a lot more and have a lot more resources but do not take on the mission of educational service as Montclair. He stated that he hope that some of those things will be educational for a lot of people since it is not a cost issue but a revenue issue in Montclair.

P. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, February 2, 2010 and will open at 6:30 p.m. in public but will go immediately into executive session. The meeting will reconvene in public at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium of the George Innes Annex, 141 Park Street.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:12 p.m. Ms. Grill moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mrs. Lombard and approved by a vote of 6-0.