

MONTCLAIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

PUBLIC WORKSHOP BOARD MEETING HELD ON

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016 AT 6:30 PM
AT GEORGE INNESS ANNEX ATRIUM
141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY**

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC BOARD WORKSHOP MEETING
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016 AT 6:30 PM
THE GEORGE INNESS ANNEX ATRIUM
141 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

A. RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:30 PM

David Deutsch moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-12, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed session to discuss certain matters,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss:

- material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;
- a collective bargaining agreement and/or negotiations related to it;
- pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation and/or matters of attorney-client privilege;
- specific prospective or current employees unless all who could be adversely affected request an open session; and/or

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the minutes of this closed session be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Seconded by Laura Hertzog and approved by a vote of 6-0

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
David Cummings	x			
Jessica de Koninck	x			
David Deutsch	x			
Laura Hertzog	x			
Robin Kulwin	x			
Anne Mernin				x
Eve Robinson	x			

B. EXECUTIVE SESSION

C. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:03 PM

D. OPENING STATEMENTS

1. Meeting Notice

E. THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

F. ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
David Cummings	x	
Jessica de Koninck	x	
David Deutsch	x	
Laura Hertzog	x	
Robin Kulwin	x	
Anne Mernin		x
Eve Robinson	x	

Staff Members	3
Members of the Public	15
Members of the Press	3

G. BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP

1. STATEMENT READ BY BOARD PRESIDENT JESSICA DE KONINCK

“A statement was made suggesting the board was negotiating in bad faith. That is inaccurate. Thus far, we have had meetings with the association negotiating team. We have exchanged proposals. Currently, both sides have agreed that a mediator could help us come together expeditiously on a package acceptable to both sides. The negotiations have been professional, courteous, and thoughtful. The other issue the MEA voiced was the mirroring of computers by an outside agency during the assessment matter. It has been relayed to the association prior to the meeting that the documents the board has in its possession do indicate that certain computers were mirrored. There is no expectation of privacy regarding district computers, and anyone who works in the district understands that his or her computer is the property of the Board of Education. As far as the association’s computers being mirrored, the association has also been informed that the Board of Education has no documentation that this occurred. It has also been relayed to the MEA that the board is willing to fund an outside examination of any MEA computer in question. Additionally, after this statement is read, the board will introduce a motion to appoint a special committee of limited duration to review the

legal files concerning the assessment matter, which are currently in the custody of the board attorney. The district has many important issues to address that relate to student achievement; it cannot afford to be bogged down. The Board of Education would like to thank you for your supporting feedback while we continue to strive for educational excellence.”

Robin Kulwin moved to approve the following resolution:

2. Resolution Re: Appoint Special Committee to Review Assessment Investigation Files

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montclair Board of Education hereby appoints a Special Committee of limited duration to review the legal files in the assessment matter, which are currently in the custody of the Board attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby appoints Anne Mernin, Laura Hertzog and Eve Robinson to this Special Committee.

Seconded by David Deutsch and approved by a vote of 5-1

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
David Cummings		x		
Jessica de Koninck	x			
David Deutsch	x			
Laura Hertzog	x			
Robin Kulwin	x			
Anne Mernin				x
Eve Robinson	x			

H. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Board will provide time for the public to comment on the tentative budget

I. ANNOUNCEMENT OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be a Public Budget Workshop Meeting held on Thursday, March 3, 2016. This meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the George Inness Annex Atrium at 141 Park Street.

M. ADJOURNMENT at 10:10 pm