

Minutes of the Public Board of Education Meeting held on April 11, 2007 at the Monroe Township High School.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Kathy Kolupanowich at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich, Board President  
Mr. Lew Kaufman, Board Vice President  
Mr. Marvin I. Braverman arrived 8:00 p.m.  
Ms. Carol Haring  
Mr. Joseph Homoki  
Mr. John Leary  
Ms. Kathy Leonard  
Ms. Rita Ostrager  
Ms. Amy Speizer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

NONE

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Ms. Patrice Faraone

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Gina Antonello arrived at 8:00 p.m.  
Mr. George Leonard arrived at 8:00 p.m.  
Mr. Alex Malvone arrived at 8:00 p.m.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

NONE

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Ralph Ferrie, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Wayne Holliday, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Dr. Edward Forsthoffer, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel

ATTORNEY

Mr. Bertram E. Busch, Esq.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – 22

After the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call, the Board President read the following statement:

In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the Monroe Township Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted April 6, 2007:

1. At all Schools,
2. Home News Tribune,
3. Cranbury Press, and
4. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Ms. Speizer, seconded by Mr. Kaufman the adoption of the following resolution:

“Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe hereby moves to go into closed session, in accordance with Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975 to discuss the following subject:

Personnel: Domestic Partnership and Civil Union Health Care Benefits  
and  
Superintendent’s Evaluation

The discussion conducted in closed session can be disclosed to the public at such time as the matters have been resolved. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Members of the Board of Education convened to closed session at 6:35 p.m. The Public Meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM – None

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Ms. Speizer to approve the minutes of the Public Board of Education Meeting held on March 12, 2007. Motion carried.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

#### ENROLLMENT

Elementary and secondary (within the district)  
Out of district placements

#### HOME INSTRUCTION

#### FIRE DRILLS – ALL SCHOOLS

#### PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Kaufman that personnel items (A –H) of the Superintendent's Report be approved by consent. Roll call – All Yeas – Motion Carried Unanimously 10 – 0. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate. A copy of the Personnel Section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

#### BOARD ACTION

A motion was made by Ms. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Kaufman that Board Action Items (A – C) be approved by consent. Roll Call – All Yeas - Motion Carried Unanimously 10 - 0. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate. A copy of the Board Action section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Speizer and seconded by Ms. Leonard to accept the Superintendent's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Ferrie acknowledged that Student Board Member George Leonard has received notification of acceptance at Carnegie Mellon University and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and that Student Board Member Gina Antonello has been accepted at the University of Miami, Wake Forest University, Lehigh University, Penn State University, University of Florida and Rutgers University.

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A motion was made by Ms. Speizer and seconded by Ms. Leonard that Board Action Items (A-G) of the Business Administrator's Report be approved by consent. Ms. Leonard inquired about the costs to administer the No Child Left Behind program that are not covered by the \$89,250.00 that was approved by the State. Mr. Holliday responded that the Basic Skills Program costs the district approximately \$492,362. to administer. Then, he stated that the \$89,250.00 is approximately 18.13% of the total costs. Mr. Homoki stated that the Monroe Township Board of Education Transportation Department was number one in efficiency in Middlesex County as stated in the NJ Department of Education Transportation Efficiency Report. Mr. Homoki recognized Mr. Holliday and Ms. Reitano for their hard work and effort to achieve this status. Roll Call – All Yeas – Motion Carried Unanimously 10 - 0. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate.

A motion was made by Ms. Speizer and seconded by Mr. Kaufman to accept the Business Administrator's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

### STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Student Board Member Mr. Alex Malvone spoke about the following events at Woodland School: a visit to Trenton Barracks and State House, the Franklin Institute of Science in Philadelphia, and the Cyber Café. Ms. Gina Antonello spoke about the following events at Brookside School: Brookside Buddies, Family Science Night, and a visit to Princeton University's Science Expo. Then, she spoke about the following events at the High School: the music and band trip to Orlando, Florida, the National DECA conference in Orlando, the Senior Fashion Show to benefit Project Graduation, Spirit Week, the Pep Rally and the Spring musical "Pippin". Mr. George Leonard spoke about the following Applegarth events: testing and the donation by WaWa and Bagel Bazaar of bagels, muffins, water and juice for students on testing days which was organized by the PTO, School Wide Career Day and a Disability Awareness Day made possible by a Monroe Education Foundation Grant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (Refer to attached transcript.)

OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS - (Refer to attached transcript.)

PUBLIC FORUM - (Refer to attached transcript.)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Ms. Speizer that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried Unanimously. The public meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

WAYNE HOLLIDAY  
BOARD SECRETARY/  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

TRANSCRIPT  
PUBLIC BOARD OF  
EDUCATION  
MEETING  
APRIL 11, 2007

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2 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We will go on to  
3 committee reports. Curriculum,  
4 co-curriculum activities, athletics,  
5 Patrice.

6 MR. FARAONE: No report.

7 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Finance, buildings  
8 and grounds, transportation, Joe?

9 MR. HOMOKI: We had our ground  
10 breaking ceremony for the new school on  
11 Applegarth Road, March 29. The only  
12 suggestion that I have is that we should  
13 have a sign up there, the rendition of the  
14 school that's just to be built, maybe the  
15 Board of Education, and help from the  
16 township, whatever.

17 But I think we need some kind of  
18 a sign that the builder does have at least  
19 three or four signs up there.

20 And the second part, there is no  
21 change in the status of the high school,  
22 since the last report that I gave, that  
23 they shared services.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Any questions for  
25 Mr. Homoki? Mrs. Leonard.

1  
2 MS. LEONARD: Do you have any idea of  
3 when the archeological survey will be done  
4 or what stage is that in at the present  
5 time?

6 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: The archeological  
7 survey.

8 MR. HOMOKI: Yes, I think I reported  
9 that would be hopefully around the end of  
10 April.

11 MS. LEONARD: Okay, thank you.

12 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Personnel  
13 negotiations? Amy.

14 MS. SPEIZER: No report.

15 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Community  
16 relations, Rita.

17 MS. OSTRAGER: No report.

18 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Policy, Marv.

19 MR. BRAVERMAN: I'm embarrassed to  
20 say that not being able to agree on the  
21 refreshments we had to cancel the last  
22 meeting.

23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you, Mr.  
24 Braverman. Hopefully we will be able to  
25 agree next time. Technology, Lew.

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MR. KAUFMAN: No report.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Library Board.

DOCTOR FERRIE: The library addition is moving forward. I know that two weeks ago they did have a presentation during the afternoon to outline the new addition and to illustrate what that new addition at the library is going to have occurring as the project moves forward.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. Human Relations Commission, John.

MR. LEARY: Yes. We had a meeting on Tuesday and we've started a dialogue to add student members to the Human Relations Commission. Right now we're talking about getting current sophomores and have them for a two-year term and then on a two year cycle replenish them with new sophomores.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. Municipal recreation Board, Amy.

MS. SPEIZER: We'll be meeting next week.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Jamesburg Board of Education, Patrice?

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2 MS. FARAONE: We have one,  
3 (inaudible) left in our second round of  
4 superintendent interviews and we should  
5 have a candidate picked by Monday

6 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Good.Good.

7 MS. FARAONE: And our next Board  
8 meeting is tomorrow night.

9 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.  
10 Middlesex Regional Ed Services Commission,  
11 John.

12 MR. LEARY: Yes. Next week we'll  
13 have a large number of meetings, we'll  
14 start off with finance committee meeting,  
15 then we'll have the executive committee do  
16 the evaluation of the superintendent and at  
17 the end of the week we'll be having a Board  
18 of Directors meeting at the usual time and  
19 place.

20 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. Any  
21 questions for the committees? Then at this  
22 time is there any other business from any  
23 member of the Board of Education? Mr.  
24 Braverman.

25 MR. BRAVERMAN: On February 5th I was

1  
2 reconciling my checkbook and I found that  
3 my check from the School Boards conference  
4 wasn't cashed.

5 So I contacted Wayne's office and  
6 asked if he would cash my check. This was  
7 in February. The conference was in  
8 November. The answer I got was, from  
9 Joyce, his secretary, I spoke with Wayne  
10 and indeed he indicated that he has not  
11 cashed your check. Currently we are trying  
12 to reconcile what other Board members may  
13 owe.

14 However, this is a difficult process.  
15 Wayne is extremely frustrated and indicated  
16 that he may return your check, not accept  
17 any other checks and absorb all ancillary  
18 expenses personally.

19 I think that is so wrong. Some of  
20 you have honestly forgotten to pay. I know  
21 at least one of you didn't pay from last  
22 year, and I think you ought to reach for  
23 your pockets and get these checks to Wayne  
24 because of the unorthodox way that he  
25 chooses to pay for these expenses, it's

1  
2 coming out of his pocket. And that's not  
3 right.

4 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. Anyone  
5 else?

6 MS. SPEIZER: Mr. Holliday, you  
7 can't absorb the cost of this. Each Board  
8 member knew before we went what was to be  
9 spent and what was to be owed. And I  
10 understand your frustration, I know I've  
11 spoken to you about this. I understand  
12 there were Board members who charged things  
13 to their room. They need to reimburse  
14 you back for that.

15 We had a vote on this and the vote  
16 was that we were going to stick to the \$54  
17 and the Board members who owe you money  
18 really need to step up and give you a check  
19 and you need to cash it.

20 And I would just like to say I know  
21 myself personally because I voted to pay  
22 with the \$54, I never put in for any  
23 reimbursements at all, I absorbed all the  
24 costs myself except for the room.

25 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else? Mrs.

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Haring.

MS. HARING: Doctor Ferrie, I'm wondering, did we formally thank Bagel Bazaar and the other businesses that donated the food, Wawa, did we formally from the district recognize them?

DOCTOR FERRIE: I'm not hearing.

MS. HARING: The people that gave the oh breakfast foods for the Applegarth testing. Did we acknowledge them?

DR. FERRIE: I don't know if we formally acknowledged. I know they were acknowledged from the Applegarth Middle School but we'll do that from the district office.

MS. HARING: Yes, I think that since it was such a generous offer we should definitely acknowledge it.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: That's a good suggestion.

MS HARING: And I would also just like to add that I did have the opportunity to go down to Florida to support the band and the chorus and the

1  
2 chorus performed in Epcot Center for about  
3 20 minutes and they sang a lot of the  
4 Disney standards and was an incredible  
5 performance and <sup>Bev</sup> Beth does an outstanding  
6 job with the chorus.

7 My main reason though for being down  
8 there was for the band and we have the most  
9 phenomenal picture of the band parading  
10 down Main Street with Sleeping Beauty's  
11 castle in the background. It was a truly  
12 amazing experience and I'm sure that the  
13 kids just got so much out of it. And I'm  
14 glad that we were able to do that kind of  
15 thing.

16 DR. FERRIE: I sent everyone a  
17 copy of that picture. Might be a good idea  
18 if we put that on the website, too.

19 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you, Carol.  
20 Anyone else?

21 MR. HOMOKI: Yes, I have a couple  
22 things.

23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Homoki.

24 MR. HOMOKI: Since January I had the  
25 opportunity to look at how governance takes

1  
2 place in some of the school districts and I  
3 have some suggestions to this Board to  
4 hopefully improve how we make decisions.

5 I really believe that the time has  
6 come for this Board to assess and evaluate  
7 the process by which decisions are made.

8 At the present time we have  
9 committees, the committees consist normally  
10 of five people, appointed by the President.  
11 And they there can never be more than five  
12 Board members at these committee  
13 meetings.

14 It has some shortfalls. It excludes  
15 non-members from in-depth participation,  
16 reports given to the full Board by the  
17 committee chair at times are very sketchy.  
18 Some members are not part of any of the  
19 major committees and no public is present  
20 when meetings are, because they're not  
21 publicly advertised.

22 There are some options and the  
23 suggestion that I have that this Board,  
24 and when I say this Board, after the  
25 elections, reorganization, look at these

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things.

Another option would be to operate as a committee of the whole. Those of you who don't know what that is, it simply would call for two meetings a month, one an agenda session that would be a meeting of all Board members for the purpose of discussing issues and agreeing on what items to put on the agenda for a regular meeting.

At these agenda sessions there would be no formal vote, simply a consensus that these are items that a vote will have to be taken on.

These would be publicly advertised and public may attend. If they can participate that's another issue, the Board has to make a decision on that.

There's another way of going. Well, let me just say this, that the advantage of this is that all Board members are present for all discussions. And the public hears about the discussions. And that's a very important point.

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2           The disadvantages with the committee  
3 as a whole is you have to have two  
4 meetings a month, not necessarily two  
5 meetings but you have to have two meetings  
6 and the meetings can be extremely long  
7 because all the individual committee  
8 meetings are the agenda items brought to  
9 this one meeting and of course discussed  
10 by everybody.

11           I also have a third option that I  
12 hope the Board will consider, and I'm not  
13 favoring any one of them, but this seems  
14 like one that may be the most workable.

15           The third option is very unique and  
16 not too many boards follow this procedure.  
17 Committees will be established, appointed  
18 by the President of the Board as in the  
19 past, but there will be only five permanent  
20 members that are appointed but we would  
21 advertise these committee meetings,  
22 therefore they will be public meetings and  
23 any one, all of all the other Board members  
24 can attend, as many members as want to  
25 be there can be there, but again

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2 discussions take place and there is no vote  
3 except consensus.

4 The big advantage of this one over  
5 the others is that, number 1, the public  
6 can be there, observe what's going on; and  
7 it's advertised, people will know when the  
8 meeting takes place.

9 So no Board member can say that I  
10 didn't know, I wasn't invited, I'm not on  
11 that committee. Any Board member who has  
12 the interest to be on any one of these  
13 committees can show up.

14 The reason I say that, the Board  
15 President should appoint five permanent  
16 members is because we want to make sure  
17 that we always have enough members for a  
18 dialogue. I don't think that all 10  
19 members of the Board of Ed will attend all  
20 committee meetings, but if the interest is  
21 there, the opportunity is there and you  
22 may attend.

23 Now, the other thing that we need to  
24 look at is there are some committees that  
25 are really non-functional, I think you

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heard some reports this evening.

For example, do we have to have a negotiations committee when we just finished negotiations and we won't have negotiations for another two and a half years or so.

Should we have a personnel committee or should it be the entire Board discussing personnel matters?

My feeling is that there is no need for a personnel committee because most of the times it's the type of thing that we can have in closed session and the entire Board participates.

Do we need new committees? There may be some committees that we need that we never thought about. I think the Board can discuss this. All these and other concerns certainly can be discussed.

If we do make a change and go away from what we're doing right now, this committee system, then we will have to review and change our policies and bylaws.

But if the Board agrees that this is

1  
2 the way we want to go, that shouldn't be a  
3 problem, that can be done very easily.

4 And the final suggestion that I have  
5 is that, I really believe that all of us  
6 are on this Board because each of us  
7 believe that we can make a contribution  
8 towards a better Monroe Township school  
9 system.

10 I think all of us have special  
11 talents and ideas and they all should be  
12 consolidated into a uniform and united  
13 front.

14 I thought about this for a long  
15 time and I waited specifically until the  
16 last debate was over because I didn't want  
17 this to be become an issue at the debates.

18 But I'm urging the Board that when we  
19 reorganize, and I will save my notes, that  
20 we talk about this. I think it's very  
21 important that we include all of our Board  
22 members in all the decisions that we  
23 make so that nobody can say that, no, I  
24 didn't know about this.

25 Again I'm not making a motion to have

1  
2 this, I'm just making a suggestion that we  
3 discuss this and make it a priority when we  
4 do reorganize. And that's basically it.

5 And if you have any questions, I  
6 don't want to get into a big discussion  
7 because my purpose was just to get people  
8 thinking about this so that we can talk  
9 about this before we get into the next  
10 year.

11 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Miss Speizer.

12 MS. SPEIZER: I know that we  
13 addressed this on Wednesday night. I'm one  
14 of these people, I like change and I like  
15 what you say, Mr. Homoki. What I would  
16 like to see is, how much do we pay School  
17 Boards a year? About 27, \$28,000? I would  
18 like to see School Boards come in here and  
19 talk to us, the pros, the cons, what other  
20 districts are doing, what format they use,  
21 and have it open to the public, let them  
22 hear the discussion as well, just to get  
23 some ideas about, you know, what's going on  
24 out there.

25 MR. HOMOKI: Yes, as I said, I'm not

1  
2 tied to this, it's not in concrete. I think  
3 what we need to do is we need to get  
4 ourselves going to start talking about some  
5 of these issues, because we know it's been  
6 a very rough last few months.

7 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else? Mr.  
8 Braverman.

9 MR. BRAVERMAN: Yes. As long ago as  
10 eight years at a reorganization meeting  
11 and as recently as three years ago at a  
12 reorganization meeting, I've been trying to  
13 get a change. Thanks, Joe, for finally  
14 coming around.

15 The reorganization meeting will not  
16 change anything because what's going to  
17 happen, what usually happens is, based on  
18 past experience, Wayne is going to coming  
19 in here with our dates already made up and  
20 he's going to put them in front of us and  
21 most of you are going to say, hum, looks  
22 good and we've always had good meetings in  
23 the past. And that moves along and we can  
24 laugh at each other. Or at least at me.

25 Joe, I'm really glad that you brought

1  
2 it up. I think a committee as a whole  
3 might be a good idea but the problem with  
4 the committee as a whole is that it's  
5 just too, too lengthy. You can't discuss  
6 everything.

7 I would be amenable to having  
8 committees but have them establish the  
9 dates for the year right after the  
10 reorganization meeting, have them open,  
11 it doesn't matter if you have too many or  
12 too few Board members, but everything will  
13 be open and people can come in and see what  
14 they want to see, the Board in action, of  
15 course you close it when you have to close  
16 it.

17 I do agree with you that we don't  
18 need so many committees. Negotiations is  
19 ridiculous. That's personnel. And most  
20 personnel has to do with policy or policy  
21 has to do with personnel. That should be  
22 one committee, personnel and policy. It  
23 just goes hand in hand.

24 Buildings, grounds and transportation,  
25 takes care of almost everything, takes care

1  
2 of all our real estate, all our rolling  
3 stock and things like that.

4 Finance could stand alone.

5 In the ten years that I've been  
6 around here I've not once seen the Board  
7 review any insurance policies; I've not  
8 seen us go over any physical inventories.

9 I was riding so around the district a  
10 few weeks ago and I saw in one school, I  
11 saw three broken file cabinets outside for  
12 the trash.

13 And I said to myself, hum, I wonder  
14 if they told Wayne to keep his inventory  
15 up. Because if you ask him he'll tell you  
16 he has an inventory of everything in this  
17 district. And he probably thinks he does.  
18 But I wonder when the last physical  
19 inventory was taken. Probably many years  
20 ago and it's probably not up to date.

21 There are so many little things that  
22 have to be done and should really be done  
23 by committees but they're just not done  
24 because we don't give ourselves a chance to  
25 talk to each other. And that's the

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problem.

Things come in from the administration, most of them are good, but they ought to be questioned, not just rubber stamped. They don't know everything about everything. And that's why we're here.

MR. HOMOKI: I just want to say I know, Marvin, over the years you have brought this up but I'm giving a number of options and one of my goals was, not to have much of a discussion this evening because we like to have whoever, whatever the new Board is, let them make the decision, unless somebody wants to talk, but I really don't want to choose and pick at this time. But I agree with the things you've said, Marvin, thank you.

MR. HOLLIDAY: Thank you, Mrs. Kolupanowich.

Just as a point of reference for both the Board of Education and the public. By law for the last five years under generally accepted accounting principles and under

1  
2 the governmental accounting financial board  
3 I am required to have a physical inventory  
4 of all fixed assets by the district.

5 It's extremely detailed right down to  
6 every file cabinet. So there has been a  
7 fixed asset inventory every year for at  
8 least, and I have them on file in my  
9 office, I'm going to say for at least seven  
10 to ten years annually, and that is  
11 furthermore reported out in the  
12 comprehensive annual financial report right  
13 down to the very dollar that lists all the  
14 assets of the district.

15 Also it is done just as a point of  
16 reference for the audience as well as  
17 members of the Board of Education, in terms  
18 of insurance policies I do present before  
19 the Board of Education annually the  
20 insurance policies that do list the  
21 carriers for health care and general  
22 property liability which is voted upon by  
23 the Board of Education.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else?

25 MR. HOMOKI: Madam President, just

1  
2 one more thing I want to say is that what I  
3 have proposed could be the nucleus of a  
4 retreat, you know, in the future, maybe  
5 even earlier.

6 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from  
7 the Board? Mrs. Haring.

8 MS HARING: Joe, I'm truly gratified  
9 to hear that the Board may be interested in  
10 changing the way it does things because  
11 this has been my message at the last three  
12 candidates nights and more openness would  
13 certainly be great in terms of the way that  
14 we operate.

15 Opening things up to the public,  
16 including all Board members in the process,  
17 public dialogue and debate, public dialogue  
18 and debate, and respect for differing  
19 opinions, without people rolling their  
20 eyes and making faces; and it's okay if we  
21 don't all agree and I don't think the  
22 public wants us to all agree all the time,  
23 so thank you for bringing it up, Joe.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else?  
25 Patrice.

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2 MS. FARAONE: I actually wanted to  
3 say something with regard to Disney World.  
4 Quickly, I know the band used to  
5 participate in either the Thanksgiving Day  
6 parade, Macy's Day parade, Saint Patrick's  
7 Day and I don't know if they do either of  
8 those any more and I'm wondering why and if  
9 they can go back to doing one or both.

10 DOCTOR FERRIE: Well, I don't know.

11 MS. HARING: They used to do Saint  
12 Patrick's Day, yes.

13 MS. FARAONE: They don't do it any  
14 more.

15 MS HARING: Well, I believe the  
16 former band director, that was what he  
17 liked to do and the new band director likes  
18 to do more marching band, competition. So  
19 he might be, you know, up to doing a  
20 parade.

21 MS. FARAONE: Yes, I just didn't know  
22 if they wanted to stop doing it or they  
23 didn't have a choice.

24 MS. HARING: I think it was just a  
25 difference between the band directors.

1  
2 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from  
3 the Board? Rita.

4 MS. OSTRAGER: I have a question for  
5 Mr. Holliday. The schedule of meetings  
6 that we always have at the reorg meeting, I  
7 know there is some state regulations on  
8 when what he need to have, need to firm up  
9 those meetings. What is the regulation?  
10 What's the requirement?

11 MR. HOLLIDAY: At the next meeting  
12 which I believe is the 25th of April is  
13 the, some people say reorganization  
14 meeting, some people say organization  
15 meeting. Look in the law book it says  
16 organization meeting.

17 At that point in time I do present  
18 and make a recommendation in regards to the  
19 schedule of meetings for the Board of  
20 Education so that it can be published in  
21 its entirety in the newspaper.

22 As Mr. Braverman aptly said, I do  
23 present it to the Board of Education, I  
24 present it after consulting with  
25 superintendents always in the past, as well

1  
2 as looking at the calendar in regards to,  
3 sometimes it falls within various holidays,  
4 both religious or otherwise; and then the  
5 Board of Education can certainly debate  
6 that particular schedule of meetings.

7 It's only a recommendation. I can't  
8 set it into stone. The Board of Education,  
9 there's a motion made, there's a second  
10 made and then the Board of Education takes  
11 a vote on whether or not to accept that  
12 meeting schedule.

13 Certainly I don't take any pride in  
14 ownership, it can be modified in any way,  
15 shape or form. Over the years this Board  
16 of Education has discussed it as to whether  
17 or not there should be only one meeting a  
18 month. Mr. Braverman aptly quotes the law  
19 that boards of education are on only  
20 required to meet once every two months.  
21 He's right.

22 So there are many permutations. Next  
23 month in accordance with the bylaws I will  
24 present a calendar and certainly this Board  
25 of Education may adjust it as it sees fit

1  
2 and then once it's established it has to be  
3 established, so I then can print it in the  
4 newspaper so that the public can go ahead  
5 and make the appropriate plans so that they  
6 can decide whether or not they wish to  
7 attend this particular meeting.

8 So at the organization meeting I will  
9 present a calendar in accordance with the  
10 bylaws of the Board of Education, past  
11 practice of the Board of Education and  
12 certainly will be open to Board  
13 discussion and a vote by the Board of  
14 Education.

15 MS. OSTRAGER: That was a very  
16 thorough explanation but I guess my  
17 question was, isn't there some type of  
18 regulation that says we must have that  
19 calendar by X date? And what is that  
20 date?

21 MR. HOLLIDAY: Technically we should  
22 adopt the calendar for the upcoming year  
23 at the organization meeting.

24 MS. OSTRAGER: I guess because I  
25 thought that Mr. Homoki's suggestions

1  
2 and, you know, what I've heard from some  
3 of the candidates during the debates was a  
4 very good suggestion, to sit there and at  
5 this reorganization meeting to sit there  
6 and evaluate how we want to run this  
7 Board. So maybe --

8 MR. HOMOKI: I don't believe you  
9 would have time to reorg -- that's not the  
10 proper place to discuss all this. I think  
11 what has to be worked out is, not to  
12 approve the entire year's meetings, maybe  
13 just approve one and then have a meeting  
14 between that and the first and then discuss  
15 where we want to go from there. It's a  
16 technicality that I'm sure can be worked  
17 out.

18 MS. OSTRAGER: I guess that was my  
19 question.

20 DOCTOR FERRIE: Mrs. Ostrager, the  
21 meeting schedule needs to be adopted at the  
22 April meeting and what everyone says is  
23 accurate but at a later meeting, a next  
24 meeting or whatever, that schedule can  
25 be revised and republished.

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MR. HOMOKI: Right.

MR. HOLLIDAY: That is correct. As a matter of fact, this is for the tape, Wayne Holliday speaking. This Board of Education actually did do that. The Board of Education did revise, I believe the last five to seven meetings in terms of the times as opposed to the traditional starting time, which was eight o'clock. The meeting now convenes at 6:30, opens, and goes into executive session and then comes back out.

So it was revised. So again reiterating, I will present in accordance with the bylaws and past practice of the Board of Education a meeting schedule and at that point in time it will be up to the Board of Education to look at it and to make any modifications if they so desire or establish that for the time being and revisit at a later point.

MS. OSTRAGER: Thank you.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from the Board have any questions? Mr.

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Braverman.

MR. BRAVERMAN: I still have some other things things to discuss. I was very excited to be invited to that March 19th meeting with the representatives of the town council and the building and grounds committee and I thought at the conclusion of that meeting we had agreed after the town council representatives had left, we had agreed that it was our responsibility to build a new high school.

I think we also agreed that we were going to go at it alone and not worry about shared services, et cetera, et cetera. I can't think of a time in this whole community that anybody has asked to use our facilities that they weren't permitted to use them.

So then I read in the paper that Jerry <sup>Tague</sup> Kay and Ernie Feist are getting together to see what it would cost to build the --I lost that.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Performing Arts Center?

1  
2 MR. BRAVERMAN: To build the gym and  
3 the theatre. I might have missed the  
4 meeting but did the Board authorize that?

5 The next comment I have about this  
6 article is somewhere or other somebody is  
7 floating 36 million dollar shortfall. I'd  
8 like to bet that the shortfall is not going  
9 to be less than 43, 44 million.

10 So I don't know where these numbers  
11 come from, we certainly don't discuss them  
12 here in the full Board in public session,  
13 but it was bothering me so I thought I had  
14 to bring it up. Thank you.

15 MR. HOMOKI: Marvin, if I may just  
16 respond very briefly.

17 One of the things we agreed is that  
18 we will have Epic in who will make a  
19 presentation to us and justify the 36 and  
20 it may be more, but when I gave my report I  
21 don't believe you were here, but I never  
22 gave the impression that we're going to  
23 wait and wait. When the time comes we will  
24 be responsible for bonding whatever needs  
25 to be bonded to build the high school. I

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believe that's the report I gave.

MR. BRAVERMAN: Okay.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from the Board? Okay. Seeing no one, we'll again go to our public forum. Anyone from the public wishes to speak, please come to the microphone and state your name and address for the record.

MR. GILBERT: Frank Gilbert, 59A Winthrop Road. This is addressed to Mr. Busch. The archeological report is due at the end of this month, right?

MR. BUSCH: It's not a question of when it's due. That was the estimate that Mr. Homoki gave. I don't know whether it will be due, Peg Schaffer will know and the council will know because they're getting it. We don't get it right away.

It's not a question of being due. The estimate was given at the Appellate Division oral argument on March 13th that it would be given at some point and I think the court asked for the attorneys in that case to send it to the court. I can't

1  
2 promise April 30 it will be received.

3 MR. GILBERT: Secondary question. If  
4 and when it's received are there any other  
5 obstacles to the transfer of land?

6 MR. BUSCH: The Phase 1 report which  
7 the county required for hazardous waste  
8 citing also has--

9 ( Changed tape. )

10 MR. BUSCH: (Cont'd) Theoretically  
11 there's a 20 day time limit for D.C.A. but  
12 it wasn't honored any more than it was  
13 honored by D.E.P.

14 MR. GILBERT: So we'll have to wait.

15 MR. BUSCH: Yes. And the Appellate  
16 Division sort of made the point that these  
17 rules are set up for the administrative  
18 agencies and the court is not going to step  
19 in the way and if they don't follow their  
20 own rules no one can enforce them.

21 MR. GILBERT: How about, I have a  
22 question for Mr. Homoki. Joe, this plan  
23 that you have where it's either committee  
24 of a whole or committee of five and the  
25 public will be invited, I assume the public

1  
2 will not be able to talk because basically  
3 this is supposed to be a meeting of the  
4 Board.

5 Most of the ones that I know of that  
6 comply with the Sunshine Law they can sit  
7 there and listen but not talk. When they  
8 want to talk they have to come to the  
9 public meeting here and have any objections  
10 at that time.

11 MR. HOMOKI: I think you're correct.  
12 The only thing that I can say is there may  
13 be extenuating circumstances when a person  
14 would have information that would be  
15 valuable for the committee in making a  
16 decision but the rule generally would be,  
17 again the Board has to decide that you can  
18 observe.

19 MR. GILBERT: And not talk.

20 MR. HOMOKI: Because it's an agenda  
21 session.

22 MR. GILBERT: By the way I want to  
23 thank all the people that attended the  
24 candidates night last night. Audience  
25 wasn't as large as I had hoped for but the

1  
2 questions were pointed and the answers were  
3 illuminating and I hope everybody comes out  
4 and votes on the 17th on the budget and on  
5 the candidates. Thank you very much.

6 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. Anyone  
7 else from the public?

8 MR. TESSLER: Ira Tessler, 11 Elliot  
9 Drive. I'd just like to mention something  
10 else that happened in Applegate School the  
11 week before spring break.

12 Applegarth put on a production, high  
13 School Musical school musical and even though my daughter  
14 was in it I think that was an outstanding  
15 production for a middle school program. I  
16 just want to give my kudos to Mrs. Kaufman  
17 and all, anybody who assisted her in that  
18 production.

19 I was so impressed with all the work  
20 that the kids did and with the production  
21 of the cast of 80, I volunteered my time  
22 the whole week to help back stage and  
23 keeping 80 kids off stage there quiet is a  
24 little challenge unto itself. But it's  
25 just kudos to our production department,

1  
2 Mrs. Kaufman and just the amazing programs  
3 we have here in Monroe Township.

4 It was just an amazing program and I  
5 understand it's going to be televised the  
6 first half tomorrow on channel 3, on cable,  
7 followed by the second half the week after,  
8 Thursday night at 7:30. Thank you.

9 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. Anyone  
10 else from the public?

11 MS. SCHNEIDER: Good evening. Betty  
12 Schneider, 437A Newport Way. Mr. Holliday,  
13 maybe you can clarify something for me. I  
14 was a member of the North Brunswick Board  
15 of Education until I moved here six years  
16 ago so I know some of the work that goes  
17 into it and I applaud Board members who  
18 serve and give there are name and the  
19 administrators.

20 But my clarification is, how soon  
21 does the Board members receive their, I  
22 call it back up, the package for their  
23 public meeting? How many days in advance  
24 before that meeting does the Board have  
25 their information?

1  
2 MR. HOLLIDAY: The Board of Education  
3 receives a weekly update which is in regard  
4 to Board business traditionally on Friday,  
5 and in preparation of the Board of  
6 Education meeting on Wednesday, they  
7 receive it on Monday.

8 MS. SCHNEIDER: All right, so they  
9 have at least four days, five at the most.

10 I think my problem was, at the last  
11 public Board of Education meeting there  
12 was a line item that when a Board member  
13 took almost 20 minutes asking you  
14 questions. That could have been called, or  
15 the person could have went in to you or Dr.  
16 Ferrie and expressed their concern over one  
17 of the line items.

18 I as a board member when I served  
19 as president used to stress if you have any  
20 concerns, if you have anything that's on  
21 that agenda for the public meeting please  
22 go into the administration, call someone  
23 and find out what it is.

24 And then when you come to the public  
25 meeting you're prepared. So that I now sit

1  
2 on the opposite side do not have to sit  
3 here for almost 20 minutes, and it looks  
4 like grandstanding to me. This is my  
5 opinion.

6 I don't feel it should be that way,  
7 but as a fellow board member, like I said,  
8 this is my interpretation. You don't have  
9 to agree with me.

10 But I was just curious. I figured  
11 all board members received their packets  
12 at least in time. But thank you.

13 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. Anyone  
14 else from the public? Seeing no one, we  
15 will close our public forum. Our next  
16 scheduled public Board of Education meeting  
17 will be on Wednesday April 25, 2007, 6:30  
18 p.m. at the high school, which is our  
19 organization meeting.

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**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - PUBLIC MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2007**

**I. Enrollment**

A. Elementary and secondary (within the district):

|   | <u>3/31/07</u> | <u>2/28/07</u> | Increase+<br>Decrease- | <u>3/31/06</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Applegarth School                           | 676            | 675            | +1                     | 669            | + 7               |
| Barclay Brook School                        | 695            | 698            | -3                     | 683            | + 12              |
| Brookside School                            | 937            | 938            | -1                     | 811            | +126              |
| Mill Lake School                            | 694            | 687            | +7                     | 648            | + 46              |
| Woodland School                             | 491            | 490            | +1                     | 486            | + 5               |
| Monroe High School                          | <u>1455</u>    | <u>1463</u>    | <u>-8</u>              | <u>1380</u>    | <u>+ 75</u>       |
| <b>Total Elementary<br/>&amp; Secondary</b> | <b>4948</b>    | <b>4951</b>    | <b>- 3</b>             | <b>4677</b>    | <b>+271</b>       |

**I. Enrollment Continued**

|   | <u>3-29-07</u> | <u>2-28-07</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Academy Learning Ctr. Monroe                | 14             | 14             |                   |
| Bancroft                                    | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Bridge Academy                              | 1              | 1              |                   |
| <b>Jamesburg Student</b>                    | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Center School, Highland Park                | 2              | 2              |                   |
| <b>Jamesburg Student</b>                    | 2              | 2              |                   |
| Children's Ctr. At Monmouth                 | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Collier School, Wickatunk                   | 3              | 3              |                   |
| CPC High Point                              | 5              | 5              |                   |
| <b>Jamesburg Student</b>                    | 2              | 2              |                   |
| East Mountain <b>Jamesburg Student</b>      | 0              | 1              | -1                |
| Eden Institute                              | 2              | 2              |                   |
| Harbor School                               | 3              | 3              |                   |
| High Roads                                  | 5              | 5              |                   |
| <b>Jamesburg Student</b>                    | 2              | 2              |                   |
| Joseph Cappello                             | 2              | 2              |                   |
| Kidspeace                                   | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Kiva High School                            | 0              | 0              |                   |
| <b>Jamesburg Student</b>                    | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Mercer Elementary                           | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Mercer Jr./Sr. High School                  | 3              | 3              |                   |
| <b>Jamesburg Student</b>                    | 3              | 3              |                   |
| Mercer County Reg Day                       | 3              | 3              |                   |
| Midland School, North Branch                | 4              | 4              |                   |
| Millstone River School WW/Plainsboro        | 1              | 1              |                   |
| New Brunswick H.S. <b>Jamesburg Student</b> | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Nu-View Academy                             | 0              | 0              |                   |
| <b>Jamesburg Student</b>                    | 0              | 1              | -1                |
| Pine Ridge                                  | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Piscataway Reg Day                          | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Raritan Valley Academy                      | 0              | 0              |                   |
| Rock Brook                                  | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Rugby School                                | 1              | 1              |                   |
| <b>Jamesburg Student</b>                    | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Schoth School                               | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Somerset Co. Day Training                   | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Somerset Hills Residential                  | 2              | 2              |                   |
| Spotswood H.S. <b>Jamesburg Student</b>     | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Summit Speech                               | 1              | 1              |                   |
| UMDNJ                                       | 1              | 1              |                   |
| Youth Consultation Services                 | 1              | 1              |                   |
| <b>TOTAL Monroe Students</b>                | <b>63</b>      | <b>63</b>      |                   |
| <b>TOTAL Jamesburg Students</b>             | <b>14</b>      | <b>16</b>      | <b>-2</b>         |

## II. Home Instruction

March 2007

| Student Number | Rea. | Gr. | Teachers                                    | Sch. | Start Date | End Date | Hours Per/wk |
|----------------|------|-----|---|------|------------|----------|--------------|
| HI 06/07-4     | Med  | 7   | Marshak                                     | A    | 9-18-06    | 11-1-06  | 5            |
| HI 06/07-11    | Med  | 12  | DeJesus                                     | HS   | 1-8-07     | 3-9-07   | 10           |
| HI 06/07-17    | 504  | 11  | Laffey, DeJesus,<br>Schwartz,<br>Tolboom    | HS   | 2-1-07     |          | 10           |
| HI 06/07-18    | 504  | 9   | Quindes                                     | HS   | 12-8-06    |          | 10           |
| HI 06/07-19    | Med  | 12  | Stapenski                                   | HS   | 1-30-07    |          | 10           |
| HI 06/07-20    | Med  | 7   | Connelly<br>VanGorden,<br>Weiner            | A    | 3-12-07    |          | 10           |
| HI 06/07-21    | Med  | 9   | Weiner, Beahm,<br>Milonas, Kuhl,<br>DeMarco | HS   | 2-12-07    |          | 10           |
| HI J 06/07-1   | CST  | 10  | Fleisig                                     | OD   | 2-12-07    |          | 10           |
| HI J 06/07-2   | CST  | 12  | DeBellis                                    | OD   | 3-2-07     |          | 10           |
| HI J 06/07-3   | CST  | 11  | Castaldo,<br>Fennessy                       | OD   | 3-14-07    |          | 10           |

### Home Instruction for Suspensions

| Student Number  | Rea. | Gr. | Teachers                                 | Sch. | Start Date | End Date | Hours |
|-----------------|------|-----|--|------|------------|----------|-------|
| HI-SUS 06/07-7  | SUS  | 11  | Alayna                                   | HS   | 1-8-07     | 2-12-07  | 10    |
| HI-SUS 06/07-8  | SUS  | 10  | Demarco,<br>Milonas                      | HS   | 2-12-07    | 2-21-07  | 10    |
| HI-SUS 06/07-9  | SUS  | 12  | Beahm,<br>Tolboom                        | HS   | 2-12-07    | 6-21-07  | 10    |
| HI-SUS 06/07-11 | SUS  | 9   | Himmelheber,<br>Drust, Campo,<br>Milonas | HS   | 2-12-07    | 3-13-07  | 10    |
| HI-SUS 06/07-12 | SUS  | 9   | Weinstein                                | HS   | 3-15-07    | 3-16-07  | 2     |
| HI-SUS 06/07-13 | SUS  | 11  | Weinstein                                | HS   | 3-15-07    | 3-16-07  | 2     |
| HI-SUS 06/07-14 | SUS  | 3   | Castaldo                                 | BS   | 4-9-07     | 6-21-07  | 10    |

### III. Fire Drills

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Applegarth School -----    | March 27 and 28, 2007 |
| Barclay Brook School ----- | March 13 and 27, 2007 |
| Brookside School -----     | March 21 and 28, 2007 |
| Mill Lake School -----     | March 12 and 22, 2007 |
| Woodland School -----      | March 9 and 22, 2007  |
| Monroe High School -----   | March 27 and 30, 2007 |

### IV. Personnel

- A. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation, due to retirement, of **Ms. Sharon Hansen**, physical education teacher at the High School, effective July 1, 2007.
- B. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of **Ms. Melissa Williamson**, mathematics teacher at the High School, effective June 30, 2007.
- C. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of **Ms. Holly Pappas**, fifth grade teacher at Brookside School, effective June 30, 2007.
- D. It is recommended that the Board approve an extended maternity leave of absence to **Ms. Melissa Chou**, preschool teacher at Mill Lake School, effective September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except to the extent Ms. Chou is entitled to utilize any remaining sick days she may have available.
- E. It is recommended that the Board approve a maternity leave of absence to **Ms. Kerri Tafrow**, sixth grade teacher at Brookside School, effective September 1, 2007 through February 1, 2008. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except to the extent Ms. Tafrow is entitled to utilize any remaining sick days she may have available.
- F. It is recommended that the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act, to **Ms. Bernice Schultz**, special education teacher at Mill Lake School, effective April 18, 2007 pending further action of the Board (approximately five weeks).
- G. It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence (approximately one week) to **Mr. John Emerson**, custodian at Woodland School, effective April 26, 2007 pending further action of the Board. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except to the extent Mr. Emerson is entitled to utilize any remaining sick days he may have available.

- H. It is recommended that the Board approve the following certificated employee at the following step and guide:

| Employee         | Position                        | School    | Salary Guide | Dates    | Reason for hire                         |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|---|
| Georgette Nelson | Teacher of the Handicapped- ICS | Mill Lake | Step 1 BA    | 4/16/07- | Extension of contract-leave replacement |

**V. Board Action**

- A. It is recommended that the Board approve the submission of the Governor’s Grant application entitled “The Governor’s Initiative: Enhancing and Expanding In-district Program Options for Students with Disabilities” in the amount of \$400,000.
- B. It is recommended that the Board extend the suspension of student 06/07-14 for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year.
- C. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of requests for Staff Professional Development.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - PUBLIC MEETING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2007

I. BOARD ACTION

A. TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY REPORT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of the "Transportation Efficiency Report Comparative Spending Guide for 2006/07". Whereby, the Monroe Township School System placed #1 in Middlesex County and #29 out of 413 school systems in the State with a 2.292 efficiency rating.

B. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND FINAL REPORT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and approve the "Final Report" for No Child Left Behind Expenditures for fiscal year 2006 as related to Title I: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Education Agencies.

C. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND FINAL REPORT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and approve the "Final Report" for No Child Left Behind Expenditures for fiscal year 2006 as related to Title I SIA: School Improvement Act.

D. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND FINAL REPORT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and approve the "Final Report" for No Child Left Behind Expenditures for fiscal year 2006 as related to Title IIA: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund.

E. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND FINAL REPORT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and approve the "Final Report" for No Child Left Behind Expenditures for fiscal year 2006 as related to Title IID: Enhancing Education Through Technology.

F. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND FINAL REPORT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and approve the "Final Report" for No Child Left Behind Expenditures for fiscal year 2006 as related to Title IV: Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act.

G. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND FINAL REPORT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and approve the "Final Report" for No Child Left Behind Expenditures for fiscal year 2006 as related to Title V: Innovative Programs.

The above action authorizes the Business Administrator to sign and administer contracts and/or purchase orders.