

Minutes of the Public Board of Education Meeting held on March 12, 2007 at the Monroe Township High School.

The meeting was called to order by Board President Kathy Kolupanowich at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich, Board President
Mr. Lew Kaufman, Board Vice President
Ms. Carol Haring
Mr. Joseph Homoki
Mr. John Leary
Ms. Kathy Leonard
Ms. Rita Ostrager
Ms. Amy Speizer

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT

Mr. Marvin I. Braverman

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Ms. Patrice Faraone

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Mr. George Leonard

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Gina Antonello
Mr. Alex Malvone

STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Ralph Ferrie, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Wayne Holliday, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Dr. Christopher Tienken, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

ATTORNEY

Mr. Bertram E. Busch, Esq.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – 32

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 March 9, 2007:

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

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS OF DISTRICT STAFF WHO WORKED ON THE GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE FOR AUTISM GRANT

Dr. Ferrie introduced and recognized Ms. Marietta Ruela, Supervisor of Special Education; Mr. Joseph King, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and staff who worked on the Governor's Initiative for Autism Grant. Ms. Ruela explained the \$300,000 grant and its purpose. Likewise, members of the Board of Education expressed their appreciation to the staff involved with this grant.

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Mr. Kaufman moved, seconded by Mr. Homoki 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:

Collective Bargaining: – Representation Petition Monroe Township Board of Education Employee Organization

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 7:10 pm. The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:50 pm.

PUBLIC FORUM – None

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 –M) of the Superintendent's Report be approved by consent. Roll call – All Yeas – Motion Carried Unanimously 9 - 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. Homoki that Board Action Items (A – C) be approved by consent. Roll Call – All Yeas - Motion Carried Unanimously 9 - 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. Haring and seconded by Ms. Leonard to accept the Superintendent's Report. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Kaufman that Board Action Items (A-D) of the Business Administrator's Report be approved by consent. Roll Call – All Yeas – Motion Carried Unanimously 9 - 0. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate.

Mr. Holliday called for a separate Roll Call for Board Action Item (E) "Resolution Easement". A motion was made by Mr. Homoki and seconded by Mr. Leary. Roll Call – All Yeas – Motion Carried Unanimously 9 - 0. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative. A copy of the Board Action section of the Business Administrator's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

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

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS - NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Homoki, Chairperson of the Finance/Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Committee, indicated that a meeting has been scheduled with officials of the Township on March 19, 2007 at 3:00 P.M.

TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Kaufman, Chairman of the Technology Committee, indicated that members of the committee convened a meeting on Monday, March 11, 2007 to discuss 2007/08 budget items.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. Leary, Human Relations Commission Board Representative, stated that the Commission will be meeting Tuesday, March 13, 2007, 4:00 pm at the Municipal Center.

MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Leary, the Board Representative to the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission, stated that there will be a Finance Committee Meeting on March 13th and a Board of Directors Meeting on March 16th.


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

PUBLIC FORUM - (Refer to attached transcript.)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Speizer and seconded by Mr. Kaufman that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried Unanimously. The public meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


WAYNE HOLLIDAY
BOARD SECRETARY/
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

TRANSCRIPT
PUBLIC BOARD OF
EDUCATION
MEETING
MARCH 12, 2007

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2 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: At this time we'll
3 go to number 12 on the agenda. Is there
4 any member of the Board of Education that
5 has other business to discuss? Miss
6 Speizer.

7 MS. SPEIZER: Thank you, Mrs.
8 Kolupanowich. I would like to take this
9 moment to talk about the issue of Mr.
10 Bertram Busch representing me as my
11 personal attorney.

12 I'd like to read a law, comes from
13 the 2007 edition of New Jersey Attorney
14 Ethics. It states, and I have copies here
15 for anyone who'd like it:

16 Thus the representation of a member
17 in acquiring commercial or investment
18 property which might require later local
19 action would be barred from him
20 representing me.

21 Although representation in purchasing
22 a personal dwelling as a general rule would
23 not. Neither the drawing of a personal
24 will for the committee person or family
25 member nor the representation in a divorce.

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2 I'd like to state for the record that
3 not only did Mr. Busch help me twice in
4 personal dwellings, his firm also handled
5 my divorce and his firm also handled my
6 will.

7 Again, I'm just trying to read here,
8 it says the New Jersey Advisory Committee
9 on Professional Ethics, the committee held
10 that a municipal attorney may represent
11 individual members of the township's
12 governing body in personal matters,
13 provided that the matters are not
14 intertwined with the township business.

15 Now I know there's been some
16 discussion that apparently I committed
17 mortgage fraud by signing some papers.

18 I would like to state for the record
19 that on numerous occasions with my
20 conversations with Mr. Busch, he went over
21 and over and told me I could not live in
22 that dwelling; he asked me in front of
23 witnesses if I was going to live there
24 permanently as my primary residence and in
25 front of witnesses I stated I was not. And

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2 I believe if Mr. Busch had to he
3 would bring them forward. Mr. Busch's name
4 has been smeared through the mud. He did
5 absolutely nothing wrong. In all the years
6 that I've known him, for 15 years he's a
7 man of honesty and integrity. I would
8 never put him out there in that position if
9 I knew that this was going to happen.

10 And I've lost an attorney, and that's
11 what happened here. But Mr. Busch did
12 nothing wrong, so I would like to make the
13 following motion: That the matter of Bert
14 Busch acting as my attorney for personal
15 matters as per the 2007 edition of the New
16 Jersey Attorney Ethics section 20:3-2 be
17 resolved to say: We the Monroe Township
18 Board of Education recognize that Mr.
19 Bertram Busch acted within the New Jersey
20 attorney Ethics Code 20:3-2 and is hereby
21 absolved of any wrongdoing by this Board.

22 MR. KAUFMAN: Second.

23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Second by Mr.
24 Kaufman. Is there any discussion? Seeing
25 none, Mr. Holliday, we'll have a roll call.

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MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Leary.

MR. LEARY: Yes.

MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Kaufman.

MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Speizer,

MS. SPEIZER: Yes.

MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Homoki.

MR. HOMOKI: Yes.

MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Ostrager.

MS. OSTRAGER: Abstain.

MR. HOLLIDAY: So noted, abstained.

Miss Leonard.

MS. LEONARD: Abstain.

MR. HOLLIDAY: So noted. Miss

Faraone.

MS. FARAONE: Yes.

MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Haring.

MS. HARING: Abstain.

MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Kolupanowich.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes.

MR. HOLLIDAY: Madam Board Board
President, the motion has passed, three
yesses, three abstain.

MR. BUSCH: Six yesses.

1 MR. HOLLIDAY: Excuse me, six yesses.

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3 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Okay. Anyone else
4 from the Board? Okay. Seeing no one, we
5 will go to our public forum, and again
6 anyone wishing to speak, please come to
7 the microphone and state your name and
8 address for the record.

9 MR. CHIARELLA: Ken Chiarella, 116
10 Pergola Avenue. I just have a question on
11 the elementary school. Seacoast obviously
12 got the contract. When are they going to
13 get the letter of intent?

14 MR. HOLLIDAY: Seacoast has been
15 notified verbally and also by written
16 documentation, not in the format of a
17 notice of intent. We're waiting for some
18 final comments from the D.C.A. before
19 executing the contract.

20 MR. CHIARELLA: Okay. How long will
21 that take?

22 MR. HOLLIDAY: I hope that we're able
23 to, by the end of the month, actually, by
24 the 28th of March.

25 MR. CHIARELLA: Okay. And I just

1
2 want to just, just for the record. And I
3 don't like when people come up and just
4 lecture and lecture, so I'm not going to do
5 that.

6 But again I just wanted to just ask
7 that, and this goes to the elected
8 officials, not to you guys, but we gotta
9 stop with all this infighting. If we
10 spend, if we spend more time advocating for
11 our children and less time doing this,
12 maybe we'd have our school on the way to
13 being built.

14 So just, you know, like I say
15 to my kids, just stop. Thank you.

16 DOCTOR FERRIE: Mr. Chiarella, I did
17 speak to the Prisco Group on Friday.
18 Architects of record for the elementary
19 school. And they informed me that they
20 were supposed to get some comments back
21 from D.C.A. sometime early this week. So
22 hopefully we'll be within the time lines
23 Wayne talked about.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from
25 the public?

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2 MR. BOYD: Hi, Russell Boyd, 9
3 Pheasant Lane, Monroe. The 20 --
4 I did not see the approval for the
5 minutes for the February 21st meeting in
6 today's agenda. Was that missing or are
7 they not approved?

8 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: They have not been
9 approved yet. They will probably be
10 approved at the March 28th meeting.

11 MR. BOYD: Okay. The taxes in here,
12 the increase in the budget, is there an
13 assessment from the Board as to what the
14 bottom line is for any tax increase for
15 the township?

16 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Holliday, do
17 you wish to --.

18 MR. HOLLIDAY: In as much as the
19 Board of Education adopted a tentative
20 budget tonight, likewise the tentative tax
21 rate as it stands now is point zero 89
22 cents.

23 MR. BOYD: Okay, thank you, Wayne.
24 And the last comment and I don't mean to
25 carry it on, Ken. And I just want to give

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2 Amy a chance to answer this because I think
3 it's important. In the paper they did say,
4 they did, they did quote you as saying
5 that this was an investment property and I
6 think, at least, my understanding what you
7 just read said it couldn't be a commercial
8 or investment property.

9 So I just wanted to give you a chance
10 to answer that, thank you.

11 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Miss Speizer, do
12 you wish to respond to is that?

13 MS. SPEIZER: This matter has been
14 resolved and I will not discuss it any
15 more.

16 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Okay. Anyone else
17 from the public?

18 MS. PROHASKA: Nancy Prohaska,
19 Perrineville Road. I have a question
20 regarding the five foot easement on the
21 agenda for this evening. Can anyone
22 explain to me why it's today or now are you
23 giving up this portion of the easement?
24 Does anybody have an answer to that
25 question?

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2 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I'm going to turn
3 that over to Mr. Busch.

4 MR. BUSCH: We met on February 8th,
5 the committee buildings and grounds and
6 finance. When it came to our attention
7 that page 6 of 9 of the State House
8 Commission summary sheets which I read
9 before had not yet been complied with.

10 We considered putting it on the
11 agenda, I guess for February 21st. We did
12 not have the metes and bounds description
13 then. We hoped that we would.

14 While we have a photograph, or a
15 rendering tonight, we really need the metes
16 and bounds description. So we have
17 negotiated the form of easement with the
18 county where the county will indemnify the
19 Board of Ed for the use of these five feet
20 unless there's some negligence by the Board
21 of Ed.,. which is highly unlikely. Really
22 it was supposed to be on for 21st and we
23 just didn't have the metes and bounds.

24 MS. PROHASKA: All right. Well, my
25 question would have been that originally

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2 this was the greenway that connected
3 Thompson Park to the sewer lines behind
4 Brookside, which is part of the land swap
5 diversion.

6 So I guess my question to you is
7 wouldn't this have been on a survey when
8 this was submitted to either the
9 Freeholders for an approval and/or Green
10 Acres or the State House Commission?
11 Doesn't this seem like this should have
12 been done before?

13 MR. BUSCH: As you know, Mrs.
14 Prohaska, we are not a party to the
15 litigation. We are aware that it's
16 required. We are aware that the State
17 House Commission granted approval over a
18 year ago, subject to this being done.

19 As to why it wasn't on the survey,
20 why it was not submitted on the survey, I
21 really can't answer that. I don't know.

22 MS. PROHASKA: And is there any
23 particular party that became aware of this
24 now or is this something that you just knew
25 had to be done and you just decided now to

1
2 do it or did somebody tell you you have to
3 do it?

4 I'm just trying to clarify.

5 MS. BUSCH: I became aware of it in
6 early February. It's just one sentence in
7 a bunch of papers and I didn't know about
8 it until then but I do recall that we met
9 on February 8th in committee.

10 MS. PROHASKA: Okay. And my question
11 to this five foot easement, is it going to
12 be anything that's clarified? Is it just
13 going to be, is there, is this going to be,
14 is there a public person or anybody who
15 is not an employee of the Board of
16 Education know that this is public land
17 opposed to private land?

18 How are you going to design this
19 or--.

20 MR. BUSCH: Okay. There's not going
21 to be a a design. It's going to be a
22 description and it remains land that's
23 owned in fee title, fee simple by the
24 Monroe Township Board of Education.

25 It's granting a five foot easement

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2 and I don't expect there's going to be
3 construction, it's just the length of the
4 five feet from the property line on Route
5 522 to the rear to lot 12.19 which is one
6 of the replacement parcels.

7 It's not going to be, as far as I
8 know, you know, dug out or put with fences
9 or anything like that. It's just an
10 access.

11 MS. PROHASKA: It's just an access.
12 So anybody can walk that access at any time
13 past the fields where the kids play,
14 whatever and so on. There's not going to
15 be any supervision to that of who's walking
16 the path? Or do you even have a right to
17 ask anybody if they're walking that path?
18 You may not even have that right.

19 MR. BUSCH: First of all, the
20 property is not going to change as far as I
21 know. I don't know of any engineering plan
22 to change it.

23 MS. PROHASKA: Well, it's always
24 about the safety of the children and I'm
25 concerned now, what precautions are you

1
2 going to take for the safety of the
3 children?

4 MR. BUSCH: The Board of Ed still
5 controls the property. The Board of Ed
6 owns the property and will control it just
7 as they do today.

8 MS. PROHASKA: Okay. And are they
9 going to be able to stop anybody from being
10 on that property at any time? What's the
11 answer to that?

12 MR. BUSCH: They can no longer, they
13 can't stop someone from walking across the
14 parking lot now. No. They're not going to
15 just be able to eject people who are
16 walking but if someone is doing something
17 inappropriate, they of course can enforce
18 their rights.

19 MS. PROHASKA: Well, then I hope
20 that there's some type of, I don't know,
21 of there's there, you know, who's looking
22 out the window every day or I hope there's
23 some kind of monitoring to who's outside
24 there and, you know, who's watching if
25 there are children playing.

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2 I just hope there's some kind of
3 supervision. Thank you.

4 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from
5 the public?

6 MR. SALVADORE: Yes, Rich Salvadore,
7 3 Talmadge Drive. First I want to
8 congratulate all of those that helped get
9 that wonderful grant for autism, I believe
10 it was \$300,000, Doctor Ferrie, and that's
11 a large amount and people that worked on it
12 really should be commended.

13 Next up, I want to first say that
14 last week's meeting, and I'm sorry, Amy,
15 that you had to go through the nonsense
16 that you did, and I'm just puzzled, you
17 know, why this Board wasn't unanimous in
18 voting.

19 You had all your documents and to get
20 a digital license as Lew said, it's one of
21 the hardest things. And it just clearly
22 shows that there is truly motives on some
23 of the part of some of the Board members up
24 there.

25 And it's just a disgrace. And I want

1
2 to remind people that this is about the
3 kids. You are voted up there by the
4 residents to serve the parents and more
5 importantly our kids, okay. And the
6 nonsense has to stop.

7 Trying to catch people off guard with
8 questions really has to stop. Okay.
9 Based on Miss Dressel, this Board wasted
10 four days of working on this budget which
11 is a disgrace that they had to give up
12 their time to stop this and look at
13 nonsense.

14 And I have a couple of questions.
15 First, I know Mr. Braverman is not here,
16 but I just wanted to know his motive why he
17 passed when all the documents were there.
18 There must have been 20 points in front of
19 him, okay.

20 The next question, I'm sure many
21 people here want to know, we know that
22 Miss Ostrager owns a mortgage company, and
23 did you or your husband or anybody in your
24 company provide documentation to Miss
25 Dressel? Just out of curiosity.

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2 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Miss Ostrager, do
3 you wish to answer that question?

4 MS. OSTRAGER: The filing was done by
5 Miss Dressel; after it was filed because I
6 have access to information, I just got the
7 documentation there, I was able to look at
8 things that support what --

9 MR. SALVADORE: But your company had
10 nothing to do providing information to --

11 MS. OSTRAGER: I did not provide any
12 information.

13 MR. SALVADORE: Okay, thank you.

14 MS. OSTRAGER: Miss Dressel's filing
15 actually shows the receipts from getting
16 things, apparently she got them from the
17 County Clerk's office.

18 MR. SALVADORE: Okay. I mean, this
19 is all about our kids, okay. Everyone is
20 frustrated that it's taken this long, okay.
21 We have to do what's best for the kids, all
22 right. And I hope everybody gets it.
23 Because you are voted in there, and believe
24 me, some people can be voted out. Thank
25 you.

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2 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. Anyone
3 else from the public?

4 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Good evening, Tom
5 Nothstein, 15 Nathaniel Street. I would
6 also like to thank the Board for looking at
7 a challenge that on the surface of the
8 challenge looked completely accurate. It
9 tells me that the system can work. There's
10 nothing wrong, there's nothing out of the
11 ordinary about challenging a petition.
12 That's why there is election law to do
13 this.

14 Everything in those documents that
15 Miss Dressel was not here and I'd like to
16 thank her, too, everything in her paperwork
17 was in fact accurate. I have problems with
18 people not paying taxes in Monroe, yet
19 voting to raise my taxes. That's where I
20 have a problem.

21 So I would like to thank the members
22 of the Board for doing your job, because
23 no challenge to anybody if it's presented
24 properly should ever be called what Mr.
25 Salvadore called it. This is how it works

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2 and it did work.

3 I also have a question now regarding
4 the budget. Could someone please walk me
5 through the process. We have adopted
6 a tentative budget this evening. What is,
7 I know it goes to the state. What exactly
8 is the process?

9 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Doctor Ferrie.

10 DOCTOR FERRIE: It goes to the county
11 office tomorrow and then they will review
12 it for its accuracy.

13 Once it's approved, if it's approved
14 by the county office, certainly it's our
15 position then to go throughout the
16 community to various organizations and have
17 conversations about the budget.

18 We will have an open public hearing
19 here, first of all there's a couple, there
20 will be a lot of conversations but on March
21 28th is when we will do the formal
22 presentation of the budget at the next
23 Board meeting.

24 And then on April 11, I believe we
25 have a Board meeting, we're doing an open

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2 community presentation at 5:30, prior to
3 the budget-- I'm sorry, prior to the Board
4 meeting.

5 And I do believe we will be going to
6 the League of Women Voters on March 26th.

7 MR. NOTHSTEIN: When you say they
8 check it for, I think you said accuracy, is
9 that just like math and stuff?

10 DOCTOR FERRIE: Well, yes. I don't
11 want to steal Wayne's thunder here, but
12 it's all through a computer program, the
13 program determines whether there are edits
14 and everything has come out extremely
15 accurate down to the pennies. Wayne, do
16 you want to talk to that?

17 MR. HOLLIDAY: The purpose of the
18 county review is to make sure that I
19 structured the budget in accordance with
20 two laws that were recently passed by both
21 houses of the legislature; namely, A-1 and
22 S-20. There were monumental changes that
23 were made to the formation of the budget.

24 So officials will be reviewing my
25 documentation to make sure that I am in

1 strict compliance with those laws that were
2 passed related to the budget.
3

4 The county officials do not review
5 for how many additional staff or the
6 implementation of new programs. They look
7 strictly is this budget in compliance with
8 the law.

9 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Like the cap and
10 everything, I guess?

11 MR. HOLLIDAY: Yes. You're not
12 allowed to exceed the cap, they look for
13 that.

14 MR. NOTHSTEIN: I just have one other
15 question regarding the March 19th meeting,
16 Mr. Homoki mentioned. Who will be at that
17 meeting and what specifics will be
18 discussed?

19 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Homoki.

20 MR. HOMOKI: Yes. I'm sure you were
21 at the meeting maybe four, five weeks ago
22 and we talked about what's going to happen
23 to the high school, remember that?

24 Well, this is a response to that.
25 And what I have indicated that, I believe

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2 with Miss Leonard who wanted us to have
3 some kind of a meeting with the township,
4 and we were able to set up a meeting with
5 the shared services committee which will
6 take place on Tuesday at three o'clock, and
7 we will survey the Board members, we talked
8 about this before, as to what question,
9 what concerns they would have, and we will
10 collate that and we will go in as a team,
11 basically the committee, the finance,
12 building, grounds committee, but at the
13 same time I also said that we'll include
14 some other members, but we can not
15 have more than five because that will be
16 a majority.

17 But we will certainly have a fair
18 representation of the Board at that
19 particular meeting.

20 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Just another
21 question. The budget for the township is
22 coming up also. Is it the intent that if
23 they are going to provide some shared
24 services money that that would need to go
25 into this budget that they're working on

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now or are we talking next year?

MR. HOMOKI: I don't believe that our meeting has anything to do with the current budget that we were working on. It's totally separate from that.

MR. NOTHSTEIN: I meant the council budget.

MR. HOMOKI: Oh, I don't know about that. It could be but I don't know.

MR. NOTHSTEIN: I mean, if they approve a certain amount of money for shared services, that would have to be in the current budget.

MR. HOMOKI: I believe that, if I read correctly in the paper, the township also introduced their budget already. Am I correct on that?

MR. NOTHSTEIN: That's actually going in, there's a workshop on the 14th and 15th of ever this week.

MR. HOMOKI: They will be having discussions on that particular budget. But as far as I'm concerned at the moment, we're simply going with our questions, our

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2 concerns, see where we can get some help
3 and we'll take it from there, so we have
4 nothing to do with their budget, nor do
5 they have anything to do with our budget.

6 MR. NOTHSTEIN: I guess my question
7 more goes to a timeframe, again. If they
8 do decide, let's say to give us a million
9 dollars for shared services for the new
10 high school, do they need then, if they put
11 it in their current budget or is that going
12 to be another year down the road? I guess
13 that's probably the question.

14 The timeframe situation.

15 MR. HOMOKI: First of all, I doubt if
16 they're going to do that just like that. I
17 don't really know. But I'm sure if they
18 give us anything in the future, it will
19 have to be part of their budget, that's how
20 I understand it.

21 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Okay, thank you, very
22 much.

23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from
24 the public?

25 MS. RYAN: Hi, Andrea Ryan, 5

1
2 Regent Drive.. Just a couple questions,
3 really. I echo Mr. Salvadore's sentiments,
4 what he had to say and I have a couple of
5 questions to follow up on that.

6 Number 1, Miss Leonard, with your
7 vote as to no, were you voting on the
8 evidence presented to you or you voted
9 on a personal agenda?

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10 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mrs. Leonard, do
11 you wish to respond to that question?

12 MS. LEONARD: Yes, I will. Since I
13 was communicating via telephone, I did not
14 have the opportunity to view those
15 documents, but I would like to have checked
16 just the dates on them, and based on what I
17 heard I voted no.

18 MS. RYAN: Wouldn't you agree that
19 it would have been fair, then, since you
20 were on the phone and couldn't see the
21 documents but we've heard them ad nauseum,
22 to pass on that vote then?

23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mrs. Leonard?

24 MS. RYAN: I mean, you're basing your
25 judgment on a person without even seeing

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2 anything. And I think you took it as a
3 personal --

4 MS. LEONARD: No, I did not take it
5 personal. I saw the document with her name
6 signed saying that it was going to be a
7 primary residence, and to me, she signed
8 it. That was a true statement. But on the
9 other hand she's saying she did not move
10 out of town. One of them has to be
11 untrue.

12 MS. RYAN: I own three times and I
13 live in this town. Some of them are
14 out of state.

15 MS. LEONARD: Are all of them your
16 primary residence?

17 MS. RYAN: No, only one.

18 MS. LEONARD: You have documents
19 saying, you signed three documents saying
20 each one of your primary residence.

21 MS. RYAN: I'll have to look at
22 documents, but no, my primary residence is
23 in Monroe. It sounds to me it was used for
24 mudslinging.

25 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Miss Leonard.

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MR. RYAN: My next question --

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I just want to make sure who is speaking to have it clear on the tape for the record.

MS. RYAN: My next question, Miss Ostrager. I heard you say, I just want to get a little clarification, that you provided Miss Dressel with information after she filed the lawsuit since you have your own mortgage company you're able to look that up.

MS. OSTRAGER: That is incorrect.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Miss Ostrager.

MS. OSTRAGER: That is incorrect. What I stated is from the filing, I received the filing from the Board Secretary on Friday informing us that there was a special meeting scheduled for a week ago Monday.

At that time we only received a copy of the complaint. I didn't have any supporting documents. I looked at what was public records, that anybody can obtain over the Internet, just for my own

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2 understanding of knowing what this was
3 about.

4 But I did not have any supporting
5 documents. The supporting documents that
6 the Board had for the complaint was
7 presented to us at the meeting on Monday.
8 It was not presented to us beforehand. We
9 just had the complaint.

10 Looking at the supporting documents
11 that were handed to us on Monday, it
12 appeared to me that Miss Dressel had gone
13 to the county courthouses to obtain these
14 documents because included in the
15 supporting documents that were given to us
16 Monday were receipts from, I believe it was
17 Burlington County and Middlesex County to
18 obtain the various mortgage documents that
19 were included in the, I guess, apparently
20 was included with the complaint that was
21 delivered to, I guess it was delivered to
22 Wayne. I don't know. Wasn't included
23 included in the package that we received as
24 Board members on Friday.

25 Normally what I would do is study

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2 things and prepare for a meeting so I know
3 what I was voting from. That document that
4 I received on Friday was inadequate for me
5 to really understand what her complaint
6 was.

7 MS. RYAN: So you only found out
8 about the complaint or the lawsuit --

9 MS. OSTRAGER: On Friday afternoon.
10 We received, I think it was, it was
11 evening. It was pretty late that we got
12 the Board package.

13 MS. RYAN: So you didn't know
14 anything about that beforehand.

15 MS. OSTRAGER: I had heard rumors of
16 it but I hear rumors of all sorts of
17 things.

18 MS. RYAN: So if there was
19 documentation to prove that you knew
20 about this lawsuit months ago, what would
21 you have to say about that?

22 MS. OSTRAGER: I heard about it.

23 MS. RYAN: But seen written
24 information that you knew firsthand that
25 Miss Dressel had actually filed a suit

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2 months ago, that you seen in black and
3 white and known about that, what would you
4 say about that now? Very curious to see
5 that you knew about it months ago.

6 MS. OSTRAGER: I would be very
7 interested to see who may create such
8 documents.

9 MS. RYAN: Okay. My final question
10 is, if you never had proof or knew about
11 Miss Dressel and her lawsuit prior to
12 Friday, then why Monday after the vote,
13 okay, you went up to Miss Dressel said, I'm
14 sorry, I had to vote that way, I apologize.

15 MS. OSTRAGER: Well, because she
16 had --

17 (Tape change.)

18 (Inaudible.)

19 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Can we have one
20 person talking at a time and let me make
21 sure -- go ahead, Miss Ostrager.

22 MS. OSTRAGER: I don't know that I
23 need to justify what I say to any member of
24 the public.

25 MS. RYAN: You're a Board member

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2 representing the children of this
3 community, representing education, you're
4 representing me as a voter and representing
5 my child.

6 If we're going to go up here and
7 represent ourselves to climb up a ladder,
8 well guess what, those prongs that you're
9 getting on are going to break.

10 And there's going to be no place at
11 the top for you. Okay. You represent my
12 child and you represent me. And the
13 behavior of you and a couple members of
14 this Board did not represent me or my
15 child, okay.

16 And I want to you keep that in mind,
17 okay. Because I've got the voting power
18 and I've got the voting public behind me.

19 And if you don't step out and start
20 representing the children of this
21 community, you're not going to be voted in
22 again. And people are going to ask you to
23 resign. Thank you.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else?
25 Anyone else from the public?

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2 MR. GILBERT: Frank Gilbert, 59A
3 Winthrop. I have no complaints, I'm not
4 arguing with anybody at all. I was
5 very interested about candidates night. I
6 learned tonight there are two candidates
7 night, one on March 15th, the Republican
8 Club, and the other March 20th by the PTA
9 of one of the elementary schools, I don't
10 remember which one.

11 I spoke to the president of our
12 residents association and we have agreed to
13 have a candidates night on April 9th which
14 is a Monday night at 7:30 at Greenbriar
15 Whittingham and everybody, all the members
16 of the Board and hopefully a goodly number
17 of the public, we have about seven or 800
18 seats that we can fill, that they will
19 partake in it and ask any questions they
20 might have.

21 There are three members of the
22 current Board running for reelection and
23 there are three other contestants.

24 Unfortunately, Mr. Boyd is going to
25 be in California that day and he won't be

1
2 sign for a mortgage have a representation
3 in them that you are occupying the
4 residence property as a primary residence.

5 If you're not occupying the property
6 as a primary residence there would be a
7 document modifying that mortgage. Now,
8 there's some people that think this is no
9 big deal. I've heard people say that.

10 You want to know something? Read the
11 Wall Street Journal, every day for the last
12 three weeks and see what's going on in the
13 mortgage industry.

14 I've testified in mortgage fraud
15 trials where people have been imprisoned
16 for doing exactly what Miss Speizer did,
17 and I see the look on Miss Speizer's face.
18 And you know what? I've been there and
19 I've done it. And you want the names of
20 the people, you could you look up their
21 federal ID numbers in prison. Okay.

22 Mortgage fraud is a crime.

23 Now, Miss Speizer either committed
24 mortgage fraud or she lied on her petition.
25 Okay. The Board met on Monday, I wasn't

1
2 here, Board, but they met to decide which
3 she did, okay, and they heard the evidence
4 and they concluded, they believed her that
5 she had misrepresented her occupancy on her
6 mortgage and they voted to allow her to
7 remain on the petition. Which is the
8 proper decision. Thank you.

9 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Miss Speizer, can
10 we respond after the public forum?

11 MS. PUGNER: Ellen Pugner.

12 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Can you please give
13 your address?

14 MS. PUGNER: Certainly. 10 Fox Run.

15 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.

16 MS. PUGNER: You're very welcome.
17 I just have to say once again, I'm
18 appalled. I'm sorry but I do not see any
19 professionalism in this room. I'm not here
20 to attack anyone. I don't like the public
21 coming up and speaking to our Board
22 members, Board members pointing at the
23 public.

24 Quite honestly, the chair of this
25 committee needs to protect her people as

1 well as Ralph protects our teachers. This
2 cannot happen. That hammer comes down,
3 you are out of order. You do not attack
4 these people. They do not have to defend
5 their votes.
6

7 And, yes, I voted for these people.
8 And who's on the left and who's on the
9 right and the rumors that are going around.
10 If kids were first, we wouldn't be here
11 four years later. April, we need a school.
12 I'm so sorry. Who sold anybody a bill of
13 goods? I apologize. Four years later, I'm
14 frustrated, I'm done.

15 We have these few parents paying
16 \$15,000 in taxes a year. That's not right.
17 For their children to be playing in
18 trailers and behind gates or pulling up to
19 a school and you can't park.

20 So each and every one of you going to
21 be questioned? Absolutely. And you
22 should. You all belong on the committee
23 and you all have to answer to us. And
24 we're not getting the answers. Four and a
25 half years later. Blame it on the state,

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2 blame it on this, enough is enough.

3 We have lost our unity in our
4 community, our sense of regard for one
5 another. And it has to start with the
6 President down. Everybody has to act like
7 an adult. We're coming into this election,
8 may the best man win, but do your job or
9 don't take the position. Because there's
10 other people out there that will. So
11 thank you, very much.

12 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from
13 the public?

14 MS. KAPOOR: Yes, Tracy Kapoor, 4
15 Saddle Court. I was here on Monday and the
16 only thing they voted on was whether or not
17 Miss Speizer lived in Monroe, which they
18 did.

19 But I do have a question and Mr.
20 Busch you might be the one to answer this
21 about ethics. I'm trying to discover if
22 somebody filed a suit against one of the
23 Board members how it would be ethical for
24 her husband who owns the business that can
25 provide the information, for giving, you

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2 know, having even a conversation, and then,
3 because it looks very suspicious because I
4 was here and watched Miss Ostrager go and
5 apologize to Miss Dressel, so clearly Miss
6 Dressel was under the perception that she
7 had swayed the vote.

8 Now, Miss Ostrager did not oblige her
9 but that was the impression that she had
10 because I watched them screaming at her.
11 So I just want to understand how that can
12 be ethical.

13 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Busch, do you
14 wish to respond?

15 MR. BUSCH: Yes. Miss Kapoor, if I
16 may respectfully correct one or two things.
17 Jennifer Dressel did not file a suit. She
18 filed an objection to the nominating
19 petition of Amy Speizer. Under the statute
20 which is N.J.S.A. 19:60-7, Miss Speizer,
21 seeing that her rights as a nominee were
22 being invaded, under that same statute
23 filed suit that afternoon. There was a
24 window of opportunity of less than four
25 hours.

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2 Mr. Holliday received the objection
3 which technically is not a suit, at 12:55
4 p.m. But I understand what you're saying.
5 Miss Ostrager did not file the suit. The
6 only suit --

7 MS. KAPOOR: She is still a Board
8 member and her company is having
9 conversations, it just doesn't seem right.

10 MR. BUSCH: Okay. And I'm not going
11 to go there. I just wanted to clarify the
12 record that there was an objection, there
13 was a suit filed, ultimately the Board as
14 you know last Monday made a ruling 8 to 1
15 in favor of residency of Amy Speizer.

16 Subsequently Miss Speizer told Judge
17 Happas in New Brunswick to withdraw her
18 suit because it wasn't necessary. It would
19 have been heard tomorrow otherwise.

20 And as far as whatever any Board
21 member or their spouses did with regard to
22 that or Miss Dressel, I mean, as I think
23 people have said tonight, that's already
24 done. I'm not going to comment.

25 MS. KAPOOR: So that's not an ethical

1 violation? It seems like it should be.

2 MR. BUSCH: It's not for me to make
3 that ruling but I understand your question.
4

5 MR. KAPOOR: Okay, thank you.

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

8 MS EGIERD: Hi, Leslie Egierd, 10
9 Andrew Drive. Two things. One is that the
10 Barclay Brook-Brookside PTA is very excited
11 that we have all these candidates that are
12 running for the Board of Ed. I think the
13 active participation of parents and in our
14 township is crucial to get things done in
15 the town.

16 And along those lines, we're having a
17 moderated debate, it's actually more of an
18 information session, called candidates
19 night and we're having that at Barclay
20 Brook School on the 20th, it's starting
21 at eight p.m. and it will be moderated by
22 the League of Women Voters and all the
23 candidates are being asked to provide some
24 written answers to questions that have been
25 provided that we're going to provide to all

1
2 of our members.. We'll also try to
3 have that available on line.

4 And then the candidates will be able
5 to give some information about themselves,
6 then take some questions from the public.
7 There will be timed questions and they will
8 be moderated by a professional moderator,
9 so it should be a good opportunity for
10 candidates to get out, where they stand on
11 positions.

12 And a bonus to this night, especially
13 for the parents, is that there will be
14 babysitting available by a local girl
15 scout troop and that's going to be in the
16 library, the Barclay Brook library. And
17 refreshments will be available as well.

18 And one last comment. When you talk
19 about unity in the community, I personally
20 love Monroe Township. Three generations of
21 my family currently live in Monroe

22 My kids are having a fantastic
23 experience in school here. I have had
24 nothing but wonderful teachers in the town,
25 dedicated professionals from the principals

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2 to the support staff to everyone in the
3 township in the schools have treated my
4 children, have treated me, and as far as I
5 have ever seen treated all the parents with
6 respect, and with a warmth that makes
7 our community one whole.

8 I know that there's, there's been
9 some divisiveness about the high school,
10 where it should be, but I think overall,
11 the big picture in our town is that we all
12 know about the school, we all know we
13 desperately need a school; I think that
14 it's going to be coming but the unity in
15 our town as far as people living in Monroe
16 Township, as far as the children getting a
17 wonderful education here, and by wonderful,
18 I just don't mean like fuzzy wonderful, I
19 mean academically wonderful, that is really
20 second to none.

21 And I think that the Board and I
22 think that the parents and the teachers
23 should really be proud of the education
24 that they're providing in the township.
25 And I just wanted to comment on that.

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Thank you.

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

MS. KOPPEL-EGIERD: Oh, I'm sorry, Leslie Egierd. We will accept the five children from the Chiarella family for the babysitting on our candidates night and if any of the candidates -- my time's up.

MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from the public? Okay. At this time we'll close the public forum.

And our next scheduled public Board of Education meeting will be Wednesday, March 28th, 2007, 6:30 p.m. at the high school. Motion to adjourn.

(Adjourned.)