

Minutes of the Public Board of Education Meeting, 2009-10 budget presentation & adoption, April 2, 2009 at the Monroe Township High School.

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

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Amy Antelis, Board President  
Mr. Lew Kaufman, Board Vice President  
Mr. Marvin I. Braverman – departed 10:17 p.m.  
Mr. Ken Chiarella  
Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich  
Mr. John Leary  
Ms. Rita Ostrager – departed 9:58 p.m.  
Mr. Ira Tessler

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT

Ms. Kathy Leonard

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Ms. Patrice Faraone

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER PRESENT

Ms. Nidhi Bhatt

STUDENT BOARD MEMBER ABSENT

Ms. Melissa Bonamici

STAFF

Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Wayne Holliday, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Dr. Veronica Geyer, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel  
Jeff Gorman, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

ATTORNEY

Mr. Bertram E. Busch, Esq.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – 308

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 6, 2009:

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

#### PERFORMANCE BY APPLGARTH MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORUS

The Applegarth Middle School Chorus under the direction of Nina Schmetterer performed a variety of songs for the listening pleasure of the Board and public in attendance.

BOARD PRESIDENT REPORT – Please refer to Transcript 1.

2009/2010 BUDGET PRESENTATION, PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ADOPTION – Please refer to Transcript 1.

PUBLIC FORUM – Please refer to Transcript 1.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Kolupanowich and seconded by Mr. Kaufman to approve the minutes for the Public Board of Education Meeting held on February 25, 2009. Motion Carried with Mr. Chiarella abstaining.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Ms. Kolupanowich to approve the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting held on February 25, 2009. Motion Carried with Mr. Chiarella abstaining.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

WORLD AUTISM DAY PRESENTATION 04/02/09

### PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Kolupanowich and seconded by Mr. Leary that Personnel Items (A - K) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 8 - 0. Motion Carried. Mr. Braverman was not present for the roll call. The Jamesburg Board Member Representative vote is included 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 Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that Board Action items (A – J) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 9 – 0. Motion Carried. The Jamesburg Board Member Representative vote is included where appropriate. A copy of the Board Action Section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

### BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

A motion was made by Mr. Braverman and seconded by Mr. Chiarella that Board Action items (B – M), with the exception of Item K, be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 9 – 0. Motion Carried. The Jamesburg Board Member Representative vote is included where appropriate. 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 Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Leary to approve Item K as follows: "It is recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge the receipt of the attached Public Employees Retirement System Annual Employer Appropriation Invoice. Based upon additional review of Chapter 19 of the Public Laws of 2009, it is further recommended that the Board of Education authorize the payment of the full amount of \$633,768.00, with no deferrals." Roll Call – 9 – 0. Motion Carried.

### STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Ms. Bhatt spoke about the Applegarth Middle School "State of the School Address" and the Oak Tree Elementary School autism awareness programs.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### FINANCE/BUILDING & GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Leary, Chairperson of the Finance/Building & Grounds/Transportation Committee, stated that there are approximately 150 craft people working on the new high school and that the project is currently on time and budget.

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Ms. Kolupanowich, Chairperson of the Policy Committee, stated that a committee meeting convened on March 20<sup>th</sup> where the policies that were approved tonight were discussed. She then stated that all policies could be found on the District website and that policies will continue to be evaluated to prepare for the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum.

OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS – None.

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Ms. Kolupanowich moved seconded by Mr. Tessler 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 (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

Negotiations between the Monroe Township Board of Education and the Monroe Township Education Association.

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

Motion Carried.

Members of the Board of Education convened to closed session at 9:58 p.m.


Public Meeting Reconvened at 10:18 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM – Please refer to Transcript #2.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Leary and seconded by Mr. Kaufman that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried Unanimously. The public meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

  
WAYNE HOLLIDAY  
BOARD SECRETARY  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

# TRANSCRIPT

## PUBLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

APRIL 2, 2009

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1 MS. ANTELIS: At this time we're going  
2 to move on to the Board President's report.  
3 Unfortunately, an e-mail had been sent out by Miss  
4 Rita Ostrager to a lot of parents in the community.  
5 Miss Ostrager made numerous misstatements of fact in  
6 an unauthorized e-mail from a personal e-mail  
7 account to a presumably large number of recipients  
8 on the topic of the Board's tentative budget for the  
9 2009/2010 school year. Miss Ostrager's  
10 representation that boys and girls freshman lacrosse  
11 are the only new student program which will be  
12 created as a result of the tentative budget. This  
13 is inaccurate. The budget includes several  
14 initiatives that are student centered: AVID,  
15 which provides support to advanced average  
16 performing students to more challenging and rigorous  
17 courses; the implementation of writers workshop in  
18 every third grade classroom with plans to expand to  
19 all elementary classrooms; several curriculum  
20 writing initiatives to improve instructional  
21 programs for students K-12; curriculum -- I'm sorry,  
22 I lost my place -- programs for autistic children,  
23 specifically, Wilson training, learning  
24 assessment tool for monitoring student progress and  
25 early identification of students who may be at risk;

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1 the New Jersey High School Consortium, which is a  
2 research based initiative designed to improve the  
3 quality of instructional services provided to  
4 students, increases students performance, and brings  
5 teacher quality; the conversion of the technology  
6 platform at Barclay Brook School; and the elementary  
7 school automation system.

8 Miss Ostrager's representation that the  
9 Board is reducing spending in student activities,  
10 student services, guidance, health, libraries,  
11 classroom supplies, materials, and text books is  
12 misleading. The budget provides resources for the  
13 expansion of classroom libraries in grades 3 through  
14 8 for the acquisition of trade books and novels to  
15 supplement the balanced literacy initiative in the  
16 elementary schools.

17 The comparison of 2008/2009 budget in  
18 this area is invalid because there were one-time  
19 costs included in the last budget that is not  
20 reflected in this budget. The budget process used  
21 in the district is a zero base process, which means  
22 that items are not arbitrarily rolled over from  
23 1 year to the next, but each year the budget starts  
24 at zero and is built based on program needs,  
25 specific state mandates, contractual obligations,

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1 and legal parameters. The public should be very  
2 concerned if expenditures in this area did not  
3 decline from last year since these costs were  
4 presented as one time expenditures in the previous  
5 budget.

6 Miss Ostrager's representation that  
7 Board employees are going to receive a 4 percent pay  
8 raise is inaccurate, as negotiations between the  
9 Board and the Monroe Township Education Association  
10 are ongoing and to date the parties have not yet  
11 reached an agreement. Miss Ostrager's  
12 representation that her proposed change to the  
13 tentative budget regarding health care benefits  
14 would provide Board employees with a more generous  
15 health care plan than any taxpayer in our community  
16 appears to have been made with no foundation and is  
17 likely inaccurate. Miss Ostrager has not presented  
18 any data to -- I'm sorry -- to validate this  
19 statement.

20 Miss Ostrager's representation that the  
21 elimination of three vice principal positions would  
22 provide a savings to the Board of \$400,000 again is  
23 inaccurate. This may result in a \$290,000 savings  
24 if done by the Board. Miss Ostrager's  
25 representation that the elimination of three vice

1 principal positions would result in an  
2 administrator/pupil ratio of one four-sixteenth  
3 is inaccurate. You cannot take the total number --  
4 I'm sorry -- the total student population and divide  
5 it by the number of vice principals and come up with  
6 a student/vice principal ratio without looking at  
7 the potential impact on the individual schools, the  
8 statutory requirements to evaluate nontenured staff  
9 and the supervision of students. This proposed  
10 student/vice principal ratio could compromise the  
11 quality of safety, supervision, and programs and  
12 successful implementation of some already heavily  
13 invested programs.

14 Miss Ostrager's representation that her  
15 proposed changes to the tentative budget would save  
16 \$3.6 million are inaccurate. We cannot anticipate  
17 what the contract settlements would be. Without  
18 negotiations being completed, there is no way to  
19 accurately assess the impact of these proposed  
20 budgetary changes.

21 In lieu of what I have just stated, I  
22 would like the Board to consider the following  
23 resolution: Whereas the School Ethics Act, N.J.S.A.  
24 18A:12-21 et sic, was enacted by the New Jersey state  
25 legislature to ensure and preserve public confidence

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1 in school board members and school administrators  
2 and to provide specific ethical standards to guide  
3 their conduct;

4 And whereas the School Ethics Act code  
5 of ethics for school board members N.J.S.A.  
6 18A-12-24.1 specifically requires that each member  
7 of the Monroe Township Board of Education agree to,  
8 1, recognize the authority rests with the Board and  
9 that he or she shall make no personal promises nor  
10 take any private action that may compromise the  
11 board, and 2, hold confidential all matters  
12 pertaining to the schools which if disclosed would  
13 needlessly injure individuals or the schools and in  
14 all matters provide accurate information and in  
15 concert with his or her fellow Board members  
16 interpret to the staff the aspirations of the  
17 community for its schools;

18 And whereas the code of ethics language  
19 in Monroe Township Board of Education bylaw 0142 is  
20 substantially identical to the aforementioned code  
21 of ethics for school board members;

22 And whereas on March 20, 2009, Board  
23 member Rita Ostrager acting without the  
24 authorization of the Board distributed an e-mail  
25 from a personal e-mail account to members of the

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1 public regarding the Board's tentative budget for  
2 the 2009/2010 school year, which gave the impression  
3 that it was written in Miss Ostrager's capacity as a  
4 Board member rather than in her capacity as a  
5 private citizen;

6           And whereas Miss Ostrager did not  
7 identify herself in the e-mail as a Board member and  
8 did not indicate that she drafted the e-mail in her  
9 role as a private citizen;

10           And whereas Miss Ostrager did not  
11 indicate that the e-mail was not authorized by the  
12 Board and was not written on behalf of the Board;

13           And whereas as a result of either Miss  
14 Ostrager's direct communication with or a third  
15 party's have been provided the aforementioned e-mail  
16 to one or more writers for the Sentinel newspaper  
17 portions of the content from the e-mail appeared  
18 substantially verbatim in a Sentinel newspaper  
19 article entitled Monroe Board Proposes Tab With a  
20 3.8 Cent Hike, dated March 26, 2009;

21           And whereas Miss Ostrager's action of  
22 sending the e-mail, which subsequently provided  
23 substantially verbatim copy for the aforementioned  
24 Sentinel newspaper article without the authority of  
25 the Board constitutes a private action that

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1 compromises the Board in violation of N.J.S.A.  
2 18A:12-24.1E and Board bylaw 0142;  
3 And whereas the information contained in  
4 the e-mail generated by Miss Ostrager inaccurately  
5 represented the facts with respect to the Board's  
6 tentative budget for the 2009/2010 school year in  
7 violation of N.J.S.A. 18A:12-24.1G and board bylaw  
8 0142;

9 And now therefore be it resolved by the  
10 Monroe Township Board of Education that as a result  
11 of her aforementioned conduct, the Board hereby  
12 imposes a reprimand upon Board member Rita Ostrager  
13 for violation of Board bylaw 0142.

14 Can I have a motion on this, please?

15 MR. KAUFMAN: Motion.

16 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Second.

17 MRS. ANTELIS: Can I have a motion,  
18 please?

19 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Second.

20 MR. KAUFMAN: So moved.

21 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Second.

22 MRS. ANTELIS: Motion by Mr. Kaufman,  
23 second by Miss Kolupanowich.

24 MR. HOLLIDAY: So noted. That was Mr.  
25 Kaufman, Miss Kolupanowich.

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1 MRS. ANTELIS: Are there any questions  
2 or comments? Mr. Kaufman.

3 MR. KAUFMAN: Just to let the public  
4 know how this stuff is supposed to work because when  
5 you're sitting on this side of the table, the  
6 actions that the people up here have to take are a  
7 little bit different than when you're sitting on  
8 that side of the table. When we go through the  
9 process of determining the things that we can put  
10 into the budget and the things that we can take out  
11 of the budget, it's not a process that we kind of  
12 just kind of put all in a bag and start pulling  
13 things out willy-nilly. It's a very long process.  
14 It lasts months and months and months. The budgets  
15 are reviewed by every single committee that we have,  
16 and we have a lot of them. As you know, we have a  
17 Tech Committee, we have a Finance, Buildings and  
18 Grounds, and Transportation Committee. We have a  
19 lot of them. You know all of them.

20 It's a very long process, and we all  
21 take this job very seriously. It's not in anybody's  
22 benefit on this side of the table to go out and  
23 publicize things that are inaccurate because this  
24 data takes a long time to compile, and it does take  
25 a lot of work. We all take that job very seriously.

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1           When you are on this side of the table,  
2 when you're viewed either in public or you write  
3 documentation or you send it out, even though you're  
4 doing it as a private person, sometimes those lines  
5 are very, very difficult to clearly delineate. Are  
6 you speaking as a resident or are you speaking as a  
7 Board of Education, and if you are speaking from the  
8 Board of Education side, are you speaking on behalf  
9 of the Board of Education. So it kind of gets a  
10 little bit gray. I know for most of us up here we  
11 take that job and we take that responsibility very  
12 seriously.

13           We have these committees. Believe it or  
14 not, they're open to the public. I don't know  
15 whether a lot of you know that. All committee  
16 meetings are now open to the public. We have budget  
17 books that anyone in this town can come out, fill  
18 out an OPRA request, and go through it with a fine  
19 tooth comb. So a lot of the powers that we have as  
20 Board members you have as concerned citizens, that  
21 if you find any item with the budget that is subject  
22 to your scrutiny, you can certainly bring it to any  
23 Board member, come up to the mic, stand up here in  
24 public, and voice your opinion, and we take things  
25 very seriously.

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1           That's what my problem is with what  
2 happened with the e-mails that have gone out, that's  
3 somebody taking it upon themselves to speak on  
4 behalf of what may be interpreted as a Board's  
5 position. That is not the case here, and that has  
6 to be very clearly said. You know, this Board has  
7 10 people that are all individuals. We all think in  
8 little different ways, and we all do things a little  
9 bit differently, but we all take this job very  
10 seriously. I know I do so, and maybe other Board  
11 members will speak to this, as well, but I take this  
12 job very seriously so when someone goes out on the  
13 limb and starts saying things about, well, this is  
14 the only program that we're adding, well, guess  
15 what? This stuff is in the budget. You could read  
16 it. It's stuff that was published weeks and months  
17 ago. It's not stuff that's coming up new. These  
18 things, in fact, some of these items that we were  
19 looking for to bring into this district we brought  
20 into this district because we went through a  
21 superintendent search, and some of the things that  
22 we were asking of the new superintendent, some of  
23 the new programs, like the AVID program, are things  
24 that we're excited about to bring to this district  
25 that will help hundreds of students in this

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1 district, not just, you know, a small little group.

2           So as far as I'm concerned, I'll get off  
3 my soap box, but things like this bother me because  
4 I'm taking my job seriously when I'm up here. I  
5 know a lot of you in the audience, and we see each  
6 other at different functions here and there. I'm  
7 visible. I go out. I go to commencement things.  
8 Not every Board member does do that. I go to award  
9 dinners. I go out. So I take this job very, very  
10 seriously, and it goats me when we have individuals  
11 that take it upon themselves to speak as if that is  
12 what the Board is doing, and that is not what's  
13 happening. I'm done.

14           MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you, Mr. Kaufman.  
15 Miss Kolupanowich.

16           MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I want to take -- I  
17 want to take this in a different direction because I  
18 feel that what we say to the public is very, very  
19 important at all times as we're in the public as a  
20 parent, in the public as a Board member, and we're  
21 always dealing with somebody who is asking us  
22 questions, and it's very important to have the  
23 correct information.

24           I was brought up on ethics violation  
25 charges last year, a year and a half ago, for

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1 speaking at a PTO meeting giving accurate  
2 information, and these charges were brought up by  
3 someone who wasn't even at the meeting so they got  
4 that information secondhand. It was found to be --  
5 the charges were found to be inaccurate, and I was  
6 cleared of all violations so that I know that when  
7 I'm speaking and especially at a meeting that I was  
8 giving the accurate information.

9         And I just want to talk a little bit  
10 about the new programs in the budget that Miss  
11 Ostrager said we've only had one, we had lacrosse,  
12 and the Board had received a memorandum and it was  
13 dated March 13, 2009, on the tentative 2009/2010  
14 budget from Dr. Hamilton and Mr. Holliday, and it  
15 was a summary of the budget and what is in the  
16 budget, and we took that, but some of -- I just want  
17 to read you one part. It says some of the new and  
18 expanded programs initiatives for 2009/2010 are as  
19 follows: Curriculum writing projects, which I know  
20 that we have 35 new or revised curriculums coming up  
21 for next year; professional development, which we  
22 need in order to have a new program, you have to  
23 give our teachers professional development in order  
24 for them to teach the programs; NJ QSAC preparation,  
25 which is state mandated and we have to get ready for

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1 that; Advanced Via Individualized Determination AVID  
2 program, which Amy has mentioned; writers workshop;  
3 technology enhancement from Mack to PC;  
4 instructional equipment -- we're automating our  
5 media centers at our elementary schools, which is  
6 badly needed; and our athletic programs and  
7 lacrosse. We're also adding nine new programs to  
8 our course of studies at the high school.

9       Every month we have a curriculum  
10 committee meeting and at that curriculum committee  
11 meeting we go over old programs, new programs,  
12 considered programs, and when we approve something  
13 at a Board meeting, which we do almost every Board  
14 meeting, it's done with the understanding that  
15 that's going to be part of our budget, that we know  
16 that next year these new programs that are coming  
17 out are going to be incorporated into our budget.  
18 So all year long, and like I think it was Lew said,  
19 these committee meetings are open to the public, and  
20 I know since August I have not seen one noncommittee  
21 meeting attending any of these curriculum committee  
22 meetings. So we do have quite a few new programs  
23 that are being incorporated to the budget.

24       I also want to say that as the head of  
25 the Board negotiating team, it is inappropriate and

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1 unethical for any person on either side of  
2 negotiations to discuss negotiations before  
3 negotiation is completed. We have worked really,  
4 really hard over the 10 years that I've been a Board  
5 member to forge a really great working relationship  
6 with the MTEA and the staff, and I'm very proud of  
7 the accomplishments we have made -- I'm very proud  
8 of the accomplishments we have made in working with  
9 the union, in acquiring quality teachers and  
10 retaining them in our district, and for negotiations  
11 to be discussed in public is -- through either an  
12 e-mail or through the newspaper is just very  
13 inappropriate, and I think that's all I'm going to  
14 state for now.

15 MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you, Miss  
16 Kolupanowich. Anyone else from the Board like to  
17 speak? Miss Faraone.

18 MS. FARAONE: This might be an  
19 overdramatic way to put it, but when you put half  
20 information out to people who aren't familiar with  
21 the process and the way a budget works, you can  
22 cause mass hysteria. I had many parents coming up  
23 to me -- and I live in Jamesburg -- but I have many  
24 Monroe friends coming up to me questioning the  
25 e-mail. I didn't -- I wasn't able to open it so I

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1 didn't see it so when I find out is the half truths  
2 to community members who don't know what's going on  
3 tends to cause a reaction and, you know, confusion  
4 and excitement, and it's not all true.

5       What I just want to say is I have three  
6 children that are either gone through or in the  
7 Monroe Township High School at this point, and, you  
8 know, while the Jim Carreys of the world make  
9 \$20 million a picture to make you laugh, he can't  
10 hold a candle to the teachers that work in this  
11 district from my experience. I have a son, I have a  
12 son who's a junior in college today, and I tell you  
13 it's because of the teachers he had in the Jamesburg  
14 grammar schools, but it's the teachers in Monroe  
15 High School that I was dealing with on a weekly  
16 basis of Mr. Goodall and the child study team and  
17 Miss Adele Fennessy -- she's here -- and many of  
18 you, that he would not be where he is today with the  
19 help of you people. I have a special needs child  
20 that the child study team goes above and beyond to  
21 accommodate his needs every day, and I have a  
22 freshman daughter, who couldn't be happier here, and  
23 her grades are great. So while things are tight all  
24 over, I don't think the teachers make anywhere near  
25 what they should, and I don't think they're valued

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1 to the point that they should be, and to put out  
2 half information just puts people into hysteria and  
3 causes unnecessary anger and ignorance.

4 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Chiarella.

5 MR. CHIARELLA: Thank you. I just want  
6 to just explain quickly about how I found out about  
7 this e-mail. A couple of different people brought  
8 it to my attention after the fact, after they  
9 received it, but I received notification from my  
10 daughter, who came to me and was angrily accusing me  
11 of cutting lacrosse and how that would be an awful  
12 thing and how she loves lacrosse, and I told her I  
13 don't know what you're talking about, and I just --  
14 then I saw the e-mail, and then I saw the Sentinel  
15 article about a day or so later, and I was just  
16 floored.

17 I just want to go back to the meeting  
18 that we had at our last meeting where Miss Ostrager  
19 brought this proposal to our attention. This was  
20 the first time that I was ever able to see that, and  
21 she was asking us to vote on items that I had never  
22 -- and ideas that I had never even seen before, and  
23 you're going to hear probably about the lack of  
24 openness of the Board and the administration and  
25 that we're not able to get our ideas out. It's not

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1 true. I'm a newer Board member, but I can tell you  
2 that any time that I've had any concerns or any  
3 ideas or anything, that I've always been listened  
4 to. My ideas may not always be adopted, but they  
5 are listened to.

6 One of the things that we have in our  
7 committee meetings is that we're barred from having  
8 every Board member at every committee meeting  
9 speaking at every committee meeting because then  
10 that becomes a Board meeting, and we're breaking the  
11 law if we do that. So Board members, though, are  
12 allowed to attend those committee meetings as long  
13 as they are not acting as Board members, and then  
14 they can go and make recommendations to the Board at  
15 a later time, but that's not what's happening here.  
16 So I just want to make sure that I, you know, that I  
17 clarify that from my opinion, from my standpoint,  
18 and also say, because I don't want to be left out,  
19 that I love the teachers, too. Thanks.

20 MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you, Mr. Chiarella.  
21 Anyone else from the Board wish to speak? Seeing no  
22 one, roll call, Mr. Holliday.

23 MR. HOLLIDAY: So noted. Mr. Leary.

24 MR. LEARY: Yes.

25 MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Tessler.

19

1 MR. TESSLER: Yes.  
2 MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Kaufman.  
3 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.  
4 MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Faraone.  
5 MS. FARAONE: Yes.  
6 MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Braverman.  
7 MR. BRAVERMAN: Yes.  
8 MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Ostrager.  
9 MS. OSTRAGER: I recuse myself.  
10 MR. HOLLIDAY: So noted. Mr. Chiarella.  
11 MR. CHIARELLA: Yes.  
12 MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Kolupanowich.  
13 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes.  
14 MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Antelis.  
15 MRS. ANTELIS: Yes.  
16 MR. HOLLIDAY: Madam Board President,  
17 the motion is passed.  
18 MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you, Mr. Holliday.  
19 At this time I will turn it over to the  
20 superintendent. Dr. Hamilton.  
21 DR. HAMILTON: Mr. Holliday, Mr. Gorman,  
22 and I will make the budget presentation to the Board  
23 and to the public and entertain any questions that  
24 you may have following that. There will be a  
25 PowerPoint presentation that will appear on the

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1 screen behind us.

2 Good evening. The slide -- pardon my  
3 back -- the slide before you lists the members of  
4 the central office. Central office administrators,  
5 Mr. Holliday, Dr. Geyer, and Mr. Gorman in addition  
6 to myself make up the administrative team at central  
7 office. The next slide lists you Board members, all  
8 of whom you've met at some juncture between the  
9 present -- the creation of this presentation and  
10 tonight.

11 This budget review goes through several  
12 departments before it reaches the point where it's  
13 being adopted by the Board. It involves a process  
14 whereby principals meet with teachers and they begin  
15 to identify those things that are necessary to  
16 implement programs, provide services to children,  
17 and then that process involves -- also involves K-12  
18 supervisors at the district level. They work with  
19 department chairs or department coordinators and  
20 department supervisors and directors to identify the  
21 things that are necessary to make their program  
22 successful. Then that process goes to the central  
23 office, where there is a review with the principals  
24 about those items. Oftentimes revisions are made at  
25 that level, and then the process starts all over

21

1 again, goes back to the teachers, back with the  
2 principals, and the budgets are revised.

3 Those budgets then go back through the  
4 same process again until we get to a point where we  
5 have a budget that we believe is passable and  
6 represents the district's goals and the pleasure of  
7 the Board in terms of the initiatives that need to  
8 be continued.

9 During this time, there's also an  
10 assessment of whether or not the programs that are  
11 being recommended are yielding favorable results.  
12 After that process happens, there is a committee of  
13 the Board where the budget is reviewed and all these  
14 items are discussed. It then gets presented to the  
15 county superintendent, who says yea or nay. There's  
16 a review process. Oftentimes there are further  
17 recommendations to reduce costs at the county  
18 superintendent's level. Then it comes back to the  
19 Board for a tentative adoption and then ultimately  
20 the final adoption of the budget. So that's what  
21 the process is. So by the time you hear about the  
22 budget, which is a very long process, the budget has  
23 gone through several stages.

24 Our budget presentation this evening  
25 will include a review of the 2009/2010 budget,

22

1 looking at enrollment and the impact of that  
2 enrollment, staffing needs as a result of that,  
3 programs, materials, technology. Then Mr. Holliday  
4 will get into some of the details related to our  
5 revenue sources, including state aid, the total  
6 budget, and then our final slide, of course, will be  
7 the date for budget elections and school elections  
8 and the budget.

9       Probably the most telling slide here  
10 tonight is our projected enrollment for the  
11 2009/2010 school year of 176 students. The reason  
12 this number is important, at one point, the way the  
13 school funding formula was established, you would  
14 generally expect that you would get state aid to  
15 complement the additional students in your building.  
16 Not only are we receiving additional 176 students  
17 and not being funded for them by the state, we, in  
18 fact, are being funded at our previous year's rate  
19 so our state aid has been flat. So what this means  
20 is we have to provide for 176 additional students  
21 within the boundaries of last year's budget. So  
22 even though there have been reductions already made  
23 before the budget was created, there in essence are  
24 additional reductions that have been made because  
25 our state aid is flat and our student enrollment

23

1 goes up, and Mr. Holliday will talk more about that  
2 later on.

3 This budget is student centered. So  
4 what does that mean? That means that what we've  
5 tried to do when creating this budget is to make  
6 sure that every initiative had an impact on  
7 students. Now, of course there are some things we  
8 can't control. You have to have lawyers, you have  
9 to pay lawyers. You have to have transportation.  
10 You have to have some --

11 (End of tape 1) needs resources to  
12 support programs and program improvements and  
13 expansion. These are items that are necessary to  
14 continue to make our school district a successful  
15 school district.

16 What is included in this budget? Mr.  
17 Gorman.

18 MR. GORMAN: All right. Good evening,  
19 everybody. How's everybody doing? All right.  
20 Opening day is Monday. I'm a big Met fan. Let's go  
21 Mets. Big field. Break the ice a little bit.

22 All right. So let's talk about school  
23 and budget and what's in our upcoming 2009/2010  
24 budget curriculumwise. As you see, at the slide  
25 before, we talked about 176 new students, and

24

1 therefore our increased staff is generated primarily  
2 off of student growth and enrolled -- enrollment for  
3 next year. Our mandated programs follow that form  
4 of increased student enrollment so as we have more  
5 children that are possibly classified with learning  
6 disabilities, we have to meet the needs of their  
7 educational needs, and the way we do that is by  
8 supported staff. We discuss oftenly about closing  
9 the gap. It is very important that these kids have  
10 interventions and responses and support to help us  
11 close those achievement gaps so we are equitable and  
12 we are giving the best possible education to  
13 everyone of our children regardless of where they  
14 are and we cause that equity flow throughout the  
15 district for every child.

16 Our technology, we are living in the  
17 21st century. I left my laptop at my son's baseball  
18 game today and had this PowerPoint presentation on  
19 that laptop. Couple years ago, I would have  
20 panicked, but there are workarounds, and that's what  
21 a wonderful thing technology is. So we're able to  
22 bring it up off a document that I sent before and  
23 present it to you tonight. That is what it is about  
24 living in the 21st century, and that's just the  
25 beginning. There are new technologies. We have to

25

1 meet our children where they are as they're growing  
2 up. I have a 10-year-old, an 8-year-old, and a  
3 5-year-old. They are more than efficient and  
4 proficient on my laptop, and that is their mechanism  
5 for learning, and I think we have an obligation as  
6 educators to meet them at that mechanism on how  
7 they're learning and how they're engaging in the  
8 world. Education is definitely different than when  
9 we went to school and learned coming up.

10 All right. Program and curriculum  
11 development along the same line. As we continue to  
12 meet the New Jersey core curriculum content  
13 standards, we have to adjust our curriculum and  
14 instruction to -- for our students so that as a  
15 natural part of our budget process, and it's an  
16 evolving process, and it is never over. It always  
17 evolves. The 2009 standards are in draft form right  
18 now, and we are working off of the 2004 standards so  
19 we are in a transitional period with that, and as  
20 soon as the 2009 standards are updated, then our  
21 curriculum will start to reflect those standards.

22 And our transportation needs by  
23 mandates, as Mr. Holliday will show you in a couple  
24 minutes, is part of this budget, as well.

25 Okay. Staffing needs and special

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1 education we talked about a little bit. I will also  
2 tell you that due to the enormous growth that this  
3 community has experienced over the last several  
4 years, the high school and the middle school have  
5 become an open campus so the temporary classrooms  
6 are not directly connected to the main building.

7         The foundation of education is safety,  
8 physical and mental safety, and we have to provide a  
9 safe environment for children, for all of our kids  
10 in this community. We are doubtfully in another  
11 world where we grew up where I just can't even go  
12 outside anymore and send my kids out in the front  
13 without worrying about those other factors that are  
14 now in our paradigm or the way we are growing up in  
15 this day and age. So to provide that security we  
16 need to make sure to meet those basic needs of  
17 students, parents, and community members and make  
18 sure that our facilities are 100 percent safe, and  
19 then we can get to the real good rich stuff, which  
20 is instruction.

21         Okay, as you've heard a couple times  
22 tonight, and I'll reiterate some of them, but I  
23 don't belabor. I know when I start to hear myself  
24 in my ears, it's time to give it up. I haven't  
25 started doing that yet so bear with me a little bit

27

1 longer.

2 The media center automation, we want to  
3 make sure that all of our schools are automated to  
4 conduct the most efficient research for our  
5 children. We bring that through automation. The  
6 four schools that are missing at this point are  
7 Barclay Brook, Mill Lake, Brookside, and Woodland.  
8 Through the automation process, we will be up to  
9 speed, and all of our schools will be automated in  
10 order to conduct the best research for our children.

11 The conversion of the Barclay Brook to a  
12 PC platform will complete this movement. It will  
13 put all of our schools on one platform, and that is  
14 really great, so we do not have to look for  
15 comparable platforms and cause us possible  
16 inequities in another school, or it helps us be more  
17 efficient in our business, and to deal with two  
18 different platforms is very challenging because  
19 everything isn't comparable. So that is a real plus  
20 in increasing our capacity and our efficiency as a  
21 school district.

22 We talked a little bit about some of  
23 these programs. Let me tell you a little bit about  
24 the New Jersey High School Consortium. The New  
25 Jersey High School Consortium is a movement

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1 spearheaded by Grant Wiggins, who is a national  
2 presenter, and he's on a mission, and we're really  
3 happy to be part of that mission to help transform  
4 high schools to the 21st century. There's a lot of  
5 data and research that shows that society and our  
6 communities have changed so drastically in the last  
7 50 years, and yet the one foundational piece that  
8 hasn't changed drastically is the setup of the  
9 American high school, kids in rows, giving of  
10 information, as opposed to meeting the needs of our  
11 global society, and I think we have an obligation  
12 and a responsibility to do it in that capacity.

13 We are joining 16 other high schools in  
14 the State of New Jersey in a very exciting journey  
15 over the next 15 months, and we will be exposed to  
16 some of the best practices, and at the heart of it  
17 is to provide student centered instruction for our  
18 children. Our uniqueness of our consortium is that  
19 we are going to build leadership capacity in our  
20 high school and translate that into instructional  
21 practices. We also will benefit from a curriculum  
22 framework software package that will give us some  
23 exposure to some of the best educational  
24 instructional materials that are out there  
25 nationwide.

29

1           So how does this tie into the budget?

2    The connection is in order to deliver this new type  
3    of instruction and this new type of curriculum, we  
4    have to -- and we have a responsibility to bring the  
5    best type of professional development to our  
6    teachers so they understand, they could help, and  
7    what we're trying to do is we're trying to teach for  
8    transfer so we're not teaching skills in isolations,  
9    we're teaching concepts, and the real, you know, if  
10   you talk education, the terminology is understanding  
11   by design. It's a backward process. It's a  
12   backward design process that starts with big ideas,  
13   essential questions, enduring understandings, and  
14   then gets to the heart of it, which are the  
15   activities and the instruction.

16           That is a different shift from the way  
17   some of us were taught. I know when I was taught, I  
18   was taught primarily where the teacher was the giver  
19   of information, and in this day and age, if I want  
20   information, I just go to the computer and I look it  
21   up, and so I don't need to be the giver of  
22   information. What I need to do is I need to be a  
23   critical thinker and a problem solver. The 20th  
24   century was all about the information age, about  
25   getting information. The more information you had,

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1 the higher you would rise in your association and in  
2 your business.

3 The 21st century is about problem  
4 solving, critical thinking, and coming up with new  
5 solutions to problems that haven't even been  
6 developed yet. One of my favorite slides is that by  
7 the time our kids get to the workplace, the majority  
8 of their jobs haven't even been created, and if you  
9 have nothing to do tonight, go to You Tube and try  
10 the video Did You Know, and it will really give you  
11 a peak at what a 21st century learner is.

12 And so the high school consortium will  
13 help us get to that mechanism so that's an indirect  
14 relationship to the budget, but it is definitely  
15 embedded in our budget process.

16 Also, our Learnia program, our K to  
17 8 Learnia program, it's actually a 3-day  
18 program, and it is an assessment program, and an  
19 assessment gives us information on how to better  
20 instruct children, and we're really excited about  
21 this program because we are doing this for every  
22 child from grade 3 to grade 8, and again, what  
23 turnkeys is that it ties directly into the New  
24 Jersey core curriculum content standards, which is  
25 what we want our children to know, be able to do,

31

1 and what we want them to understand. So when we  
2 have the information, then we could adjust our  
3 instruction appropriately on how to teach.

4 So how does that translate again? That  
5 translates into curriculum, all right, because there  
6 will be a connection between the Learnia /KWRER  
7 formative assessment, formative assessment in its  
8 simplest description is it informs us of what we  
9 want our kids to understand. So by having this  
10 data, we can then adjust our curriculum, revise our  
11 curriculum, and provide the best instructional  
12 strategies for our teachers to meet the needs of all  
13 of our children.

14 Also, you heard us talk a little bit  
15 about the AVID program. The AVID program, we are  
16 going into an exploration year of AVID, and AVID is  
17 a program designated or target primarily for your  
18 mid level learners, and they -- it gears them  
19 directly towards a college preparatory experience.  
20 It deals with creating school based teams with  
21 mentoring processes, with organization, with note  
22 taking skills, different curriculum structure, and  
23 it really makes a connection between kids and adults  
24 in the high school. It's a very impressive,  
25 rigorous, structured program that really gets to

32

1 every kid in the district, and you keep on hearing  
2 me referring to these types of programs. They're  
3 all focused on students and learning and instruction  
4 and curriculum, which is what we're here for, which  
5 is why most of you are here tonight, for those  
6 reasons, for your children.

7 Let's see. Okay. I'm almost done.  
8 Temporary classrooms, eight at Applegarth.  
9 Applegarth right now is currently at about 806.  
10 When I got there 12 years ago, it was a nice little  
11 school with about 300 kids, but those days are over.  
12 We are now going to add eight more classrooms, which  
13 will really take us to the transition to the new  
14 high school and to the new middle school.

15 I think that is my piece for now. Mr.  
16 Holliday.

17 MR. HOLLIDAY: Good evening, everyone.  
18 The first item that I want to address is the  
19 transportation of our pupils, and as you can see, we  
20 want to always maintain our fleet in a safe manner,  
21 and as prescribed by law, we have to replace two  
22 54-passenger buses this year as well as two  
23 16-passenger vans except those 16-passenger vans  
24 will be replaced with 20-passenger vans.

25 Here comes the fun part. Everybody

33

1 likes the numbers. I'm going to try to make it  
2 simple, and when we were designing the slides, I  
3 tried to keep in mind the flow of information.  
4 We're going to divide it between two major funds,  
5 the general fund, which is the general operating  
6 fund, as well as the debt service fund.

7 The major component of the general fund  
8 on the revenue side is the tax levy. On the 21st of  
9 April, between the hours of 2 and 9, registered  
10 voters of Monroe will be asked to go into the voting  
11 booth and to cast their vote. That is the number  
12 that they will see where it says local tax levy  
13 should the Board of Education adopt the budget this  
14 evening. Allocation from fund balance, \$6.4  
15 million.

16 Miscellaneous revenue, a major component  
17 of miscellaneous revenue is that tuition that we  
18 receive from Jamesburg. As most everyone in this  
19 audience knows, we receive Jamesburg students grades  
20 9 through 12, and they pay tuition, 221 students,  
21 \$14,126 per student, and that is the most major  
22 component of miscellaneous revenue. Use of building  
23 fees is another component of it. Interest earned is  
24 another component of miscellaneous. So the total  
25 revenue from local sources outside of the federal

34

1 government, outside of the state government, that  
2 what we must raise locally through taxation and  
3 miscellaneous revenue from fund balance totals to  
4 \$84.6 million.

5 I have two pie charts. They're going to  
6 put into proper perspective these numbers very  
7 shortly. From state aid we receive 4.6, and I  
8 usually like to carry everything out, but everyone  
9 tells me, Wayne, no, just go 4.something so that's  
10 what I'll do. This state aid could be a little  
11 deceptive. As Dr. Hamilton aptly said, our state  
12 aid for 9/10 is the same as 8/9, and that is correct  
13 until last night at about quarter of 8, when I'm at  
14 my office and an e-mail came through from the  
15 Department of Education and said that the state will  
16 not be able to fulfill its obligation for state aid  
17 payments to all districts in New Jersey for the  
18 balance of 08/09. Is that April? Can't be an April  
19 fool's joke, can't be. But sure enough, I have to  
20 find \$281,000. That money is not deferred. I never  
21 want to be partisan. During the McGreevey and  
22 during the Whitman administration, they deferred our  
23 state aid payment, and they said we would get it at  
24 another point. I'm still waiting. However, this  
25 time it was bluntly put. You're not going to

35

1 receive \$281,000, gone. So now, one could say that  
2 revenue isn't even flat anymore if this occurs again  
3 in 9/10. So it's kind of like dealing in the  
4 surreal financial world at times when we are dealing  
5 with the state cutting off our state aid or holding  
6 it flat.

7 Total revenue from local sources, that  
8 figure was on a prior screen at the very bottom so  
9 -- if you remember that figure, so the total general  
10 fund -- and in the very beginning I said it's broken  
11 up into two major components, the general fund  
12 basically for operating, and then the debt service  
13 fund, which I'll talk about. The total general  
14 fund, 89.3.

15 Debt service, this portion of the budget  
16 has already been voted upon. When the registered  
17 voters of Monroe Township went to cast their vote in  
18 the affirmative for bond referendums, we are  
19 obligated to pay that money back to the bond  
20 holders. They don't want to hear that I don't have  
21 the money. They expect to receive their interest  
22 twice a year, and for those bonds that are coming  
23 due, when they mature, they want their principal.

24 Debt service aid, 802,000 from the  
25 state. Allocation from fund balance as a result of

36

1 interest earnings. Everyone can see the magnificent  
2 365 thousand square feet of magnificent high school that is  
3 being built on the corner of Perrineville and  
4 Schoolhouse Road, and as you well know that  
5 contractors expect to get paid; however, I'm not  
6 going to pay them until they perform the work. So I  
7 get to hold on to the money, and I invest the money  
8 as prudently as I can. I'm not allowed to work in  
9 derivatives or hedge funds or anything like that;  
10 however, 3.6 million, close to \$4 million, was  
11 earned, treasury bills, treasury notes, treasury  
12 bonds, obligations of the U.S. government, to be  
13 able to offset taxes so that money is constantly  
14 being investigated to help lower the tax rate.

15 The debt service, debt service is to pay  
16 the interest and principals. At the local level for  
17 taxes is 5.3. Now, on the 21st of April you won't  
18 see that figure because, as I mentioned before,  
19 you've already voted on that. That's for the new  
20 Mill Lake School that's out there, the addition that  
21 was on the Brookside School, the addition and  
22 renovations to Woodland School, the addition and  
23 renovations that occurred in 1997 here, the new high  
24 school, the new Oak Tree School. I've been through  
25 eight bond referendums so that's paying for all

37

1 eight of them up there, and we do take care  
2 refinancing. We've refinanced when it's prudent to  
3 go ahead, and we get approval from the local finance  
4 board, which is in Trenton. We've done that many  
5 times, as well.

6 This is a brand new one, bullet number  
7 4, transfer from Fund 30, \$510,000. So many of you  
8 that have come to this presentation before would say  
9 what is that, and it's a first for myself, as well,  
10 and truly an anomaly, an enigma in the area of  
11 construction. That is residual monies left from the  
12 construction of Oak Tree Elementary School.

13 When bond proceeds are fully not  
14 expended for their intended purpose, that money goes  
15 back to the taxpayers to offset principal. The Oak  
16 Tree School came in on budget -- excuse me -- below  
17 budget because we're returning 510,000. Two change  
18 orders only, which are phenomenal for a building of  
19 that size, and on time. Below budget, on time, and  
20 a magnificent structure. Kudos to everyone that was  
21 involved with that project. That truly is a  
22 magnificent elementary school on Applegarth Road.

23 Therefore, the total debt service is  
24 approximately \$10.3 million, and that is an  
25 obligation that we have to fulfill for this year.

38

1 State aid, three figures only other than  
2 the debt service aid that I talked about. There are  
3 many different categories of state aid. We received  
4 three, and as Dr. Hamilton had indicated, it's flat.  
5 We received special education aid, 2.2;  
6 transportation aid, approximately \$2 million; and  
7 security aid, almost 400,000. That is the maximum  
8 amount that we received from the state. I said  
9 maximum because next April I don't know if I'm going  
10 to get that e-mail again at quarter of 8 in the  
11 evening saying that they can't pay that balance  
12 again.

13 Now that I've spoken about the revenue,  
14 I want to put it into perspective with a pie chart.  
15 There are many school districts that receive a  
16 larger portion of their revenue from the state, and  
17 that is based on a funding formula, and there are  
18 probably very few people here that want to hear me  
19 go through the various intricacies of the funding  
20 formula. Monroe does not get a lot of money from  
21 the state, and as you can see up there, total state  
22 aid, 5.46 percent. That's it. That's all we  
23 receive from the state. Total federal aid to  
24 support programs such as Idea B Basic, Idea B  
25 Preschool, No Child Left Behind, and the various

39

1 titles, Title 1, that is attached to No Child Left  
2 Behind, less than 1 percent. Total from fund  
3 balance, that money that I'm able to generate to  
4 support the budget, approximately 10 percent. A  
5 half of 1 percent is that transfer from Fund 35,  
6 which I referred to as from the Oak Tree School.  
7 Total other revenues, 3.82 percent, predominantly  
8 tuition from Jamesburg, and then of course the  
9 largest portion of the pie from the local taxes.  
10 None of us in this room have any control over that.  
11 Board members do not have control, administration  
12 does not have control, the public does not have  
13 control. It is in the legislators' hands in terms  
14 of how they devise the funding formula and what  
15 portion Monroe Township will receive.

16 I have to have a balanced budget always  
17 where revenues is equal to appropriations. I cannot  
18 run a budget at a deficit. Deficit spending at the  
19 federal level, deficit lending at the state level,  
20 no deficit spending at the school level, nor would I  
21 ever want to. This chart breaks up the major  
22 components of the appropriation side, which is the  
23 exact same amount as the revenue, as it should be  
24 but somewhat deceptive. You see instruction as  
25 being 49.8 percent, but many of those other

40

1 components relate to instruction, as well, or direct  
2 delivery of services to students, such as pupil  
3 personnel services. What you see up there, health,  
4 the nurses, transportation, these are all things  
5 that go into the children or direct delivery to the  
6 children. These are the major components. Put all  
7 that together, and what does the tax rate come out  
8 to, .038 cents on your assessed value of your home.

9 Now, many people go ahead and ask me the  
10 question, what am I being taxed at. Market value is  
11 if you were going to go ahead and sell your home.  
12 That's not what your house is taxed at, your home.  
13 It's taxed at approximately 46.7 percent of that  
14 value. That's what you are taxed on, and therefore,  
15 you go through your formula and you divide by a  
16 hundred, and that gives you how many taxing units,  
17 and then you multiply it by .038. Sometimes the  
18 newspaper will publish \$168,100. Sometimes the  
19 newspapers will publish \$175,100. So if you use  
20 those two ranges, the taxes will be going up about  
21 63 to \$66 for the whole year for the programs that  
22 Dr. Hamilton and Mr. Gorman exemplified prior to  
23 that.

24 DR. HAMILTON: So what does this  
25 budget have to do with me? Any time I'm talking

41

1 about school budget, of course, people are  
2 interested in the practicalities, the  
3 practicalities. They want to know what reasons do I  
4 have to go out and vote on the budget. Any time you  
5 talk about the community or what the community  
6 values, it comes back to the schools, comes back to  
7 educating our kids. Schools are the backbone of the  
8 community. In order to -- when realtors are selling  
9 homes, one of the first things they look at is how  
10 good are the schools, how do the buildings look, and  
11 how are your fields. That's the introduction to the  
12 community. You want Monroe to be a desirable place  
13 to live. You certainly want to be able to have --  
14 be able to talk about how functional the schools are  
15 and look at effective and efficient operations and  
16 how some of the things we've done to reduce  
17 operational costs.

18 Now, currently, the housing market is --  
19 has taken a considerable slump across the state,  
20 across the country. I don't anticipate that that  
21 will last forever, and we certainly can't afford to  
22 deny our children the opportunities that they  
23 deserve because of the economy. The fact of the  
24 matter is we have to make sure that in spite of the  
25 economy, our children may get the best -- are

42

1 getting the best appropriate education that they  
2 can. Ultimately, our children are competing for  
3 very scarce college seats, and I'll talk about that  
4 on another slide.

5 But when we look at the daily operations  
6 of our schools, we are constantly exploring ways to  
7 save money, going green, for example, trying to  
8 reduce paper consumption, looking at competitive  
9 rates for how our energy bills are paid, and getting  
10 better rates for health insurance and things of that  
11 sort. So there's a lot of stuff that goes on behind  
12 the scenes in order to make sure our buildings are  
13 operating effectively and efficiently.

14 One of the main things that we have to  
15 keep in mind, though, is there are a lot of things  
16 that we often take for granted in public education  
17 because we're so accustomed to those things.  
18 Transportation, for example. We have many hazardous  
19 roads in our community, but there's a lot of  
20 courtesy busing that occurs, as well. There's --  
21 busing, we provide busing for students for after  
22 school activities, for example, a lot of things that  
23 are above and beyond what the state -- what they  
24 used to define as thorough and efficient. So when  
25 you start thinking about how to create a budget, you

43

1 really have to think in terms of what does the  
2 community expect because the truth of the matter is  
3 a lot of districts have unfortunately been forced to  
4 eliminate a lot of those things that we again take  
5 for granted because they are above and beyond what  
6 the state requires. They're increasing class size,  
7 for instance, because they have to reduce teachers.  
8 They're reducing the amount of courtesy  
9 transportation that they're provided because it's  
10 above what the state recommends. So those are some  
11 of the things that the districts -- that districts  
12 have to really put under close scrutiny because in  
13 spite of the economy, you want to maintain quality.

14         What are some of the things we are doing  
15 to reduce spending and to be responsive to the  
16 economy? What we are looking at increasing shared  
17 services. Mr. Holliday will talk a little more  
18 about that. We have reduced administrative costs  
19 considerably, and again, even though there is a  
20 dollar amount associated with that, which is  
21 represented in the bottom line, the truth of the  
22 matter is there's already been an enormous reduction  
23 because of the additional 176 kids that we are  
24 accommodating that we are not getting funding for.  
25 We're negotiating our professional services and

44

1 we're looking at the balance between efficiency and  
2 quality.

3           The difficult -- probably the most  
4 difficult task is to make certain that we are  
5 providing the kind of quality that the community  
6 expects and that you can be proud of and at the same  
7 time being efficient, and I can't tell you the  
8 number of calls and e-mails that I get on a daily  
9 basis, why not do this and why not do that, and I'll  
10 get another call 10 minutes later the exact opposite  
11 because people have different interests and they  
12 have different values, but the bottom line is we  
13 want to make sure that our children are able to  
14 compete, not just with kids from surrounding  
15 communities, not just with kids from Middlesex  
16 County. Our kids are going to be competing for  
17 college seats globally, kids across the country,  
18 kids across the world.

19           The polls will be open on April 21,  
20 2009, from 2 to 9 p.m. This is different than the  
21 way it's been before. You'll also be getting a  
22 pretty detailed mailing over the holiday next week  
23 on the School Story, which is predominantly devoted  
24 to providing explanations to the budget, a narrative  
25 about the budget, and some philosophical issues as

45

1 it relates to creating the budget, and you'll also  
2 be asked to vote for Board of Education candidates,  
3 and Mr. Holliday can tell you a little more about  
4 that process.

5 Mr. Holliday.

6 MR. HOLLIDAY: Good evening once again.  
7 Looking at increased shared services, and we do  
8 engage in quite a bit of shared services already.  
9 Just give you a few examples. For instance, we  
10 engage in providing the food services for the  
11 Jamesburg Board of Education. Nancy Mitroscak  
12 is the food service director not only for  
13 Monroe but also for Jamesburg. Then 2 years ago we  
14 also expanded it to provide for the Academy Learning  
15 Center on Matchaponix, which is part of the  
16 Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission.  
17 We also engage in shared services with jointures,  
18 where we provide transportation services to other  
19 districts, especially for the special needs children  
20 if they're going to an out-of-district placement.  
21 Instead of transporting perhaps just one student, we  
22 search to see if other districts need to have  
23 children transported to the same school, and we ask  
24 them to join us; therefore, the name ^ Jointure.  
25 There are the two major endeavors that we go into.

46

1           Dr. Hamilton already spoke about the  
2 reduction in administrative expenditures. We are  
3 substantially below the regional limit, and we are  
4 below the 08/09 per pupil administrative cost so  
5 there has been quite a reduction in that, and it's a  
6 large amount of money, and when I could mention  
7 before when compared, we are below the regional and  
8 below last year's. We're constantly examining  
9 programs and expenditures to see how we can get more  
10 bang for the buck, as they say. Also negotiating  
11 professionals services. Anyone knows me with  
12 dealing with any professional, I always ask. I say  
13 can you decrease the price. That's the first thing  
14 I say before we say can you hold the price. And  
15 then the one thing, which really, immense kudos have  
16 to go to, as Dr. Hamilton mentioned, the balance  
17 between efficiency and quality.

18           This is so important. Many, many years  
19 ago, the seated Board of Education gave me the  
20 directive to start to migrate away from contracted  
21 bus services, and at the time, it was about  
22 50 percent/50 percent, 50 percent in-house,  
23 50 percent contracted, and now it is up to  
24 85 percent in-house, 15 percent contracted, third  
25 year in a row, the highest efficiency rating, number

47

1 1, number 1 in Middlesex County, but couple that  
2 with in my opinion the best quality also in  
3 Middlesex County, and that's that important balance,  
4 and many kudos to the bus drivers, who I know all by  
5 name and transport all of our children on a daily  
6 basis.

7 So administration and the Board of  
8 Education is constantly looking to be able to  
9 deliver more monies to the instruction. That is our  
10 instructional delivery process. That's what we're  
11 looking at always, and likewise to be able to  
12 contain taxes at .038, and that's the number that's  
13 coming in. That is the lowest tax increase in over  
14 a decade since 1999.

15 MR. GORMAN: All right. I got to finish  
16 big. I don't know if I can work this audience like  
17 Wayne has done, but, obviously, we'll bring it home.  
18 The bottom line with this budget is that it is a  
19 student centered budget. We are going to provide  
20 staff and program improvement for our continued  
21 expansion in this community. We're going to address  
22 curricular and programatic needs. As Dr. Hamilton  
23 mentioned, we are living in a global society. Our  
24 kids are going to grow up in jobs outside of the  
25 United States. They need to be prepared for those

48

1 jobs, and we need to give them the skills to get to  
2 those places.

3 The data's really interesting about the  
4 way we achieve. We achieve -- really, we're showing  
5 nice progress in the United States, but when we  
6 start comparing globally, it's really staggering how  
7 we're not as efficient as we need to be globally.  
8 So we are aware of that and cognizant of that, and  
9 it is very important that we get our standards up,  
10 and the way we do that is through quality schooling,  
11 and I think that's a great way to end this  
12 presentation. Thank you very much for all of your  
13 consideration.

14 MRS. ANTELIS: At this time we will open  
15 it up to the public. Anyone wishing to speak in  
16 regards to the budget, please state your name and  
17 address for the record.

18 MS. CASTALDO: Good evening, Caren  
19 Castaldo, president of the Monroe Township Education  
20 Association. First and foremost, kudos. Thank you.  
21 First and foremost, kudos to Wayne Holliday, Dr.  
22 Hamilton, Jeff Gorman, Dr. Geyer, and our interim  
23 superintendent, Joe King, for doing a fabulous job  
24 on the budget. Wayne, I've never seen anyone get so  
25 excited about numbers other than you, and it's fun

49

1 to watch. I did go and request a copy of that  
2 budget book, and it's very heavy, and Wayne offered  
3 to put it in my car for me, and anyone out there, if  
4 you haven't seen it, it's -- everything is in there.  
5 Kudos to you guys on doing such a great job.

6 I just want to go back a little bit  
7 because I'd like to say thank you to those Board --  
8 to the Board members who I go way back with for the  
9 kind words and to the new Board members. Many of  
10 you all know 10 years ago, I think that was probably  
11 the last time I stood up here and had a crowd like  
12 this due to the issue that you talked about earlier,  
13 and we have come a long way. Our relationship has  
14 improved greatly. We have a great working  
15 relationship. We're all here for the kids. That's  
16 the bottom line, and I thank you, and I thank you  
17 for the opportunity to work with you all and do the  
18 best we can for everybody in our Monroe family.

19 The concern, though, is, as some of you  
20 have mentioned, you know, reaction, the e-mail, the  
21 article in the Sentinel. It created a buzz amongst  
22 our people, and here we are. We have  
23 paraprofessionals, transportation, media  
24 coordinators, secretaries, our teachers. I  
25 apologize if I forgot anyone, but we're all here

50

1 because they reacted to what was in the newspaper.  
2 They're frightened, and they didn't know, you know,  
3 what to do. So here I am, and as you know, both the  
4 Board and the association are currently involved in  
5 negotiating a new agreement and that discussing any  
6 negotiable topics in public and with the public  
7 are a breach of the ground rules set by the Board  
8 and the association and could possibly result in an  
9 unfair labor practice charge filed against the  
10 Board, and we know it's not the entire Board so I  
11 need to say that.

12 The association is deeply dismayed and  
13 disappointed with the actions taken by one Board  
14 member, who distributed these views in an e-mail on  
15 March 20, 2009, and this article that I have in my  
16 hand that was printed in the Sentinel on March 26,  
17 2009. So I just want folks to know that we are  
18 reacting just like you are reacting, and we're in  
19 support of what you do. So thank you for your time  
20 and have a great holiday.

21 MR. MAGIELNICKI: Good evening,  
22 everyone, my name is Ted Magielnicki, and I'm an  
23 assistant principal of Brookside School. Thank you  
24 very much, and those are my statements for the  
25 evening. No.

51

1           I have been fortunate to work in this  
2 district for 33 years. Wayne Holliday would  
3 probably have better information than I'm going to  
4 offer right now, but I think maybe we've only lost  
5 four budgets within that 33-year time, and without  
6 doing the numbers in my head, that's close to  
7 90 percent, and I think that astonishing fact is the  
8 representation of so many different people who  
9 served on the Board of Education working together  
10 for the benefit of the students in this district.  
11 We've had different superintendents, many different  
12 Board members, but the priority has also -- has  
13 always been the students, notwithstanding any  
14 personal differences.

15           In a couple of weeks, we're all going to  
16 -- well, we may have a situation where we're going  
17 to gripe because April 15 is tax day, and some of us  
18 may feel our tax burden is fair to pay, and some may  
19 not feel it's fair to pay, but I'm thinking that all  
20 of us will play by the rules, and whatever our taxes  
21 are or whatever the bottom line is, we're going to  
22 follow it. Behind me are wonderful people who are  
23 employees within this district. Whether they're  
24 administrators, bus drivers, teachers, custodians,  
25 paraprofessionals, coaches, security people, they

52

1 play by the rules every day. They may not like it  
2 all the time. I have some staff members who  
3 complain about having to sign in in the morning, but  
4 they'll still sign in. But my point is regardless  
5 of what level the employee's at, they play by the  
6 rules, and what I find ironic is that I'm hearing  
7 information tonight regarding an action of a Board  
8 member, who in essence is our employer, who may not  
9 have played by the rules. I only ask that in the  
10 future that any individual who seeks public office  
11 make a decision. Are they seeking public office for  
12 the benefit of the people they want to serve, or is  
13 it for their own personal aggrandizement. Thank  
14 you.

15 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Tom Nothstein, 15  
16 Nathaniel Street. First question regards the Rita  
17 resolution. First question regarding that, I'd like  
18 to know how much money legal expenses were expended  
19 to draft that resolution. Do we have those figures?

20 (Inaudible)

21 MRS. ANTELIS: Excuse me, sir, we -- we  
22 already have -- Mr. Ragucci, we already have someone  
23 speaking. You're out of order. He --

24 (Inaudible)

25 MR. NOTHSTEIN: I believe that's what

53

1 the other people were speaking of, too, the two  
2 previous people.

3 (Inaudible)

4 MR. NOTHSTEIN: You're out of order,  
5 sir.

6 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Ragucci, please,  
7 allow him to speak. It's fine. We are open -- I  
8 understand, but we're an open Board.

9 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Exactly.

10 MS. ANTELIS: I don't think anyone  
11 here --

12 MR. NOTHSTEIN: That's the beauty of  
13 this Board. So that's my first question regarding  
14 that, and my second question regarding that is why  
15 was that not on the agenda.

16 MRS. ANTELIS: It was under the  
17 President's report.

18 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Wasn't it a resolution?

19 MRS. ANTELIS: I have the right to read  
20 a resolution.

21 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Yeah, but I'm just  
22 asking. You absolutely have the right. I'm not  
23 denying that. Why was not it on the agenda?

24 MRS. ANTELIS: Because it was done under  
25 the President's report. I don't put -- I don't put

54

1 an agenda under the President's report. I never  
2 have.

3 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Even for -- I've never  
4 seen you do a resolution under the President's  
5 report.

6 MRS. ANTELIS: Okay.

7 MR. NOTHSTEIN: It was very interesting  
8 anyway that you did it that way. With regard to the  
9 budget, I'm very concerned with item K even though  
10 we haven't gotten to that. My question with regard  
11 to item K, it actually really should be upsetting to  
12 the teachers and their union in here because we are  
13 deferring their pension payment, and my question to  
14 you is why wasn't that part of the budget  
15 presentation.

16 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Holliday.

17 MR. HOLLIDAY: At this particular time,  
18 I'm going to go ahead and let counsel provide you  
19 with the answer.

20 MR. BUSCH: The Board will be given a  
21 replacement item. Item K will be withdrawn from  
22 Wayne's report. Item K instead will state that  
23 \$633,768 will be paid in advance. There will be no  
24 deferral. We've looked into chapter 19 of the laws  
25 of 2009, and did not want to go down an uncertain

55

1 path.

2 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Fantastic, because quite  
3 frankly, that was astounding to me that you would  
4 even have considered that, and I realize it actually  
5 matches. It looks like the reduction in the state  
6 aid that Wayne did mention. So I could see you were  
7 probably scrambling at that point, but I'm just  
8 thankful that the Board has not gone down that path  
9 because the Township Council has agreed to fund  
10 their pensions a hundred percent. I think it's  
11 important to the teachers, to their union, that we  
12 fund their pension and that is never on the table  
13 again.

14 MR. BUSCH: We are doing that, Tom. The  
15 Board hasn't seen the amended resolution. Wayne and  
16 I worked on it between 4:30 and 6 today.

17 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Okay. So I guess the  
18 next question, the larger question, where are we  
19 making up that \$281,000 shortfall in the state aid  
20 that you did mention in your initial budget  
21 presentation?

22 (End of tape 2)

23 MR. HOLLIDAY: -- to elaborate on some  
24 of the statements made by Mr. Busch. The original  
25 resolution was presented such because as you well

56

1 know, chapter 19 was just recently passed, and there  
2 are -- it is very, very unclear about all the  
3 aspects of it, and so, therefore, the original did  
4 show a deferral of payment because of the state aid;  
5 however, when we were able to get some -- finally  
6 some utility bills in, to answer your question  
7 directly, we had an extremely mild winter, and we  
8 were able to recoupe in energy cost a substantial  
9 amount of money to be able to not defer that amount  
10 of money.

11 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Okay. So was that ever  
12 -- did we ever get to the point that this was  
13 submitted to the finance board, or we never even --

14 MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Nothstein, that's a  
15 real interesting question that you ask because it's  
16 only required of municipalities but not required of  
17 boards of education to go before the local finance  
18 board in Trenton. I don't have an answer why the  
19 law was written to make a municipal body go before  
20 the local finance board but not a school board.

21 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Interesting. Thank you  
22 very much for your time.

23 MR. HOLLIDAY: My pleasure, sir.

24 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Ragucci.

25 MR. RAGUCCI: Carmine Ragucci, 121

57

1 Hoffman Road, Monroe. You know, going back, I  
2 seriously -- don't we have Robert Rules here? I  
3 thought we go by Robert Rules. I believe we do.  
4 Maybe I forgot about it, because number 7 says after  
5 presentation, questions would be asked before number  
6 -- public forum. I think that was correct, right?  
7 Now, he kept continuing. I don't understand that  
8 really. But anyway, forget about that.

9 For the budget, yes, I know it's a lot  
10 of work, and I'm glad that we passed those budgets  
11 previously, and when I lived in Spotswood, my bride  
12 and I were also on the budget stuff helping out, and  
13 it's tough. It's tough to get a budget passed, and  
14 it's going to be even tougher today on April 21 to  
15 pass this budget. We all know that. Just a basic  
16 fact.

17 But a few questions I have is, out of  
18 the 176 additional students, do we know how many  
19 illegal aliens will be there out of the 176? I  
20 doubt it. We don't know. I'm just curious.

21 Now, another point, of the 221 students  
22 coming from Jamesburg, do we know if there's any  
23 illegal students there? I don't know. I'm just  
24 curious.

25 As I said, to get this budget passed, we

58

1 must or everybody here, we got to be talking about  
2 it, talking it up because I really sincerely -- I'm  
3 going to vote yes on the budget, and I know my bride  
4 will vote yes on the budget, and I will make sure my  
5 son votes yes. But it's going to be tough. We have  
6 to go out there now. I see a lot of people here.  
7 Wow, I'm surprised we have it in here, not the  
8 library, but we have to convince more of the public.  
9 I don't have the answer. I don't know like -- we're  
10 going to get the package in the mail. Big deal. I  
11 don't know how. If I had the answer or the pixie  
12 dust to go around, I would really like. The people  
13 I talk to, kids do come first. I want to see this  
14 budget passed. What I don't know, the people I talk  
15 to, doesn't look good, and I try to be a good  
16 convincer, too, sometimes, but that's about it for  
17 the budget. Thank you.

18 MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you. Anyone else  
19 from the public like to speak?

20 MR. GARAVANTE: I'd like to talk about  
21 the lacrosse program. Is this the right time?

22 MRS. ANTELIS: But could you please  
23 state your name and address?

24 MR. GARAVANTE: Yes. My name is Joe  
25 Garavante. I am the director of the rec Monroe

59

1 lacrosse program, and I, of course, heard about the  
2 e-mail, and I worked quite hard in the last few  
3 years. I think we have quite a few kids here  
4 tonight. Anybody here from -- I think some of them  
5 may have left.

6           When a program gets a attacked that's a  
7 new program, I think it's not time to defend that  
8 program. It's time to educate. Lacrosse is the  
9 fastest growing sport in the U.S. it is the fastest  
10 growing women's scholarship sport. There are 89  
11 Division 1 schools that play women's lacrosse, 59  
12 men's. What's holding back the men's program is the  
13 number of women that play due to Title 9  
14 restrictions.

15           We sit here in Monroe with a second year  
16 varsity program. Yesterday we did win our first GMC  
17 game in our first attempt, but over 150 schools play  
18 lacrosse in New Jersey. It is -- both women's  
19 lacrosse and men's lacrosse are in the top 10  
20 participation sports. Our lacrosse program is a  
21 sign of vibrancy. It's a sign of growth. If you  
22 see the upward mobile, if you see the -- where young  
23 professionals are moving, if you see the growth  
24 schools in New Jersey, they are all top lacrosse  
25 programs. That kind of seems to be a common link of

60

1 what people -- I guess the sport they are  
2 comfortable with. The reason why it is the fastest  
3 growing sport, because it is a great sport. It's a  
4 combination of a number of sports. The kids like  
5 it. It's faster than basketball. It's not video  
6 games, but it keeps them busy. It's a combination  
7 of soccer, basketball, hockey, football.

8 The -- excuse me -- why do you need a  
9 9th grade program, because it is such a skilled  
10 sport, and there is a size difference. You need to,  
11 just like you do in the other sports, the top  
12 sports, lacrosse in the top areas is one of the top  
13 sports in the program. You have football,  
14 basketball, and lacrosse. So you do need the  
15 different grade levels. You do need teams to  
16 accommodate the number of players.

17 Our rec program has gone from -- this is  
18 our third full year. We've gone from 27 kids to 110  
19 boys, 60 girls. We'll be up at the 120 girls within  
20 2 years. We'll be at 150 boys within a couple  
21 years. If you have not seen a game, go out there on  
22 a Saturday, Sunday afternoon, see how much the kids  
23 love it, and then you're going to see why the sport  
24 is so popular at the high school level.

25 So thank you for your time. Is there a

61

1 question?

2 MR. CHIARELLA: I'm a member of the  
3 recreation board, and I just wanted to get on the  
4 record a thank you for you for your efforts because  
5 I know how hard you work. I see what you're done  
6 and how you've built that and the amount of just how  
7 much of yourself you put into this, and I just  
8 wanted -- I just want all the parents and teachers  
9 and the Board and the administrators to know how  
10 hard you actually work to do this, and it's a great  
11 program. Thank you.

12 MR. GARAVANTE: Thank you.

13 MR. GILBERT: Good evening, Frank  
14 Gilbert, 59A Winthrop. Reading in the papers that  
15 the people in Washington are considering not  
16 millions but billions and now trillions in their  
17 budget, and one of the items is for the building of  
18 schools. Is there any prospect of us getting a part  
19 of the action on that, Wayne?

20 MR. HOLLIDAY: Good evening, Mr.  
21 Gilbert. It's good to see you as always. At this  
22 particular time, it's too premature to tell. I  
23 can't tell you how that will go. Just as in the  
24 past, whenever there are monies available for  
25 construction, we have always eagerly sought those

62

1 monies.

2 MR. GILBERT: I know if anybody gets it,  
3 you will. I just want to again invite everybody to  
4 our candidates night, which is next Monday at Green-  
5 briar Whittingham. Just go to the main gate and  
6 tell them you want to go to candidates night, and  
7 they'll let you in. I made a promise to friends of  
8 mine who are basketball fiends that we will try to  
9 end the meeting early so they can watch the finals  
10 of the NCAA tournament if anybody's considering.  
11 Thank you.

12 MS. WINTERS: Jackie Winters, 14  
13 Alexander Drive. First of all, I'd like to commend  
14 the Board of Education. Through the years that I've  
15 been coming to these meetings, you have been  
16 supportive of children. The kids come with  
17 anything, and you find a way to do it, and I know  
18 that the community, the kids, and the parents  
19 appreciate that. So I would like to first commend  
20 you because not every board of education is like  
21 that, and I don't know if everybody realizes it, but  
22 there are many towns where they don't always do  
23 everything that the kids come and ask for when it's  
24 something that will help them grow as an individual.  
25 So my compliments.

63

1 I'd like to address Rita, if I may.  
2 First of all, I know you opted not to run for  
3 reelection, and even though I have disagreed with  
4 many things that you have said, I know we have had  
5 private conversations. I would like to commend you  
6 for your service because you have given 3 years.  
7 You have put in what you thought was possibly the  
8 best thing. It's not always easy to be in a  
9 position like this, but I would to like to just make  
10 mention that you did not stand on the side and just  
11 complain. You did get on the Board and you did what  
12 you thought was right.

13 However, although I do feel that way  
14 because I have been also -- have had things said,  
15 whatever, I have to say that I have at times been  
16 very disappointed. You know that I also have served  
17 as a chairperson of Kids First, and I've been told  
18 by my steering committee that they are also  
19 disappointed with some of the things that you've  
20 done through your tenure, and they have certainly  
21 not helped to bring our high school process along.  
22 There's things that you've done that I felt were  
23 hurtful to that process and probably ended up  
24 costing more money because of some of those things,  
25 but again, I would like to compliment you for

64

1 serving on the Board.

2 As far as the e-mail, I have talked  
3 about this before with you. I personally disagree  
4 with it. When I first learned of it, I actually  
5 asked some people I know that are on other boards of  
6 education in other towns. My cousin has served on  
7 the board of education, and when I discussed this  
8 with these people, they find it very unusual. As a  
9 person who I believe I've received a lot of  
10 different training on how to get messages out, and  
11 one thing that you always learn is you want to get  
12 the same information out at the same time in the  
13 same way, and what you're doing does not do that.  
14 It provides for inconsistency, and in the past there  
15 have been other times when you have given false  
16 information, which I also brought to your attention  
17 and you did have to correct.

18 Another thing is I had requested to be  
19 on that e-mail list. I was on it once. Suddenly  
20 stopped getting them. Requested again, was put back  
21 on, and stopped getting them again. So it seemed to  
22 have been a selective group that would receive those  
23 e-mails.

24 As far as the Board and the educational  
25 staff relationship with the MTEA, about 8 or 9 years

65

1 ago, we had a very serious situation in this  
2 district. We lost 56 teachers, many of whom cried  
3 to this Board. Some of you were on it at the time.  
4 They did not want to leave. Decisions that were  
5 made through the years forced them to resign mainly  
6 due to the morale, the climate at that time, and  
7 also salary structure. Our science and math  
8 department in our high school, which are probably  
9 two of the hardest areas to fill with teachers  
10 today, pretty much were in a state of evacuation. I  
11 don't know if there was hardly anyone left. My  
12 children at the time were students in this district.  
13 I along with the parents were extremely concerned,  
14 and as any Board member that is here now that was  
15 there back then, I think you recall a  
16 2-and-a-half-hour public forum. The community came  
17 and let you know about that; however, following  
18 that, we all learned through growing pains, and I  
19 believe that we are in a great place right now. Not  
20 only did the Board members after that point  
21 recognize the problem, they worked very hard to fix  
22 it, and they are still working hard to keep that  
23 relationship healthy, and when we have a healthy  
24 relationship between a board of education and an  
25 educational staff, including the MTEA, the

66

1 association, that can do nothing but help our kids,  
2 and again, as said by many people tonight, that is  
3 why we're here, for the kids.

4 MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you.

5 MS. RYAN: Good evening, how are you.  
6 Andrea Ryan, 5 Regent Drive. I'll be very short. I  
7 want to thank you all for your hard work and the  
8 effort that you've put into the budget and all that  
9 you do throughout the year for the children. I  
10 really appreciate it. It's truly a service to the  
11 kids.

12 I'm here tonight because I got some  
13 information that was a little off, so thank you for  
14 getting my blood up because it got me here, but at  
15 any rate, I strongly support the program that you're  
16 offering in your budget for the children because it  
17 is about the children, it is about giving them the  
18 most, the competitive edge.

19 I strongly support the lacrosse program.  
20 I'm very active in sports with my children and all  
21 the activities, and I see what it provides for them.  
22 They're wonderful opportunities, and lacrosse is  
23 another edge that you can give them. It's not like  
24 you have -- with some of the supports in high school  
25 you have 150 kids competing for 18 spots, 20 spots.

67

1 Then you have all these children down in the rec  
2 program that are playing it now, and what are they  
3 going to do when they get to freshman year. And  
4 kind of going off what Dr. Hamilton started talk  
5 about and I believe he's going to talk about later  
6 is in today's world, it is extremely competitive,  
7 and I see it and you see it all the time. They're  
8 not only looking at the best basketball player to  
9 recruit to their college. They're not only looking  
10 at the best baseball player or the kid that has the  
11 straight A's. They're looking at that well rounded  
12 child, a child that gives community service, a child  
13 that has good grades, a child that's involved in  
14 sports. They're looking for the well rounded child,  
15 and I could tell you, you know, there's only so many  
16 spots up in BU or whatever, very few, but there's  
17 thousands of children competing for that one spot at  
18 that college, and, you know, that's what you have to  
19 look at, and you know what, I'm on Kids First with  
20 Jackie. We're the founding members of it, and you  
21 didn't fight for 7 years for a high school not to  
22 give these children more programs. We have to give  
23 them quality, good educational programs via the  
24 classroom, via sports or whatever it may be. We're  
25 not here to take away from them, and I'll tell you

68

1 what, you know, as going back to lacrosse or  
2 whatever, you don't want to be behind in the state  
3 or in the nation, you know, you don't want to be  
4 just par with it. You want to be the leader, and  
5 that's what we want to teach our children, to do the  
6 best and to be well rounded, and that's all I got to  
7 say. It's good to see you. Thank you.

8 MRS. ANTELIS: Anyone else from the  
9 public wish to speak?

10 MR. RAGUCCI: Carmine Ragucci again.  
11 Can't remember your first name. Ann was it? But  
12 anyway, she's exactly right for colleges. They want  
13 a well rounded student athlete, especially when it  
14 comes to that, and I was one of the fortunate ones  
15 to be a student athlete and go to college on a  
16 scholarship, and my daughter presently is a student  
17 athlete, and they look at everything. Even back in  
18 the 60's they looked at everything, too, but when  
19 Title 9 came about, changed everything in athletics  
20 in college. Changed everything, from the number of  
21 scholarships given out to a football team and the  
22 basketball team. All right, we all know the major  
23 sports. It's the minor sports for men's that they  
24 really been hurting. For example, men's  
25 cross-country, men's wrestling. But I definitely

69

1 see equality. I want to see lacrosse. I want to  
2 see both men and women, especially at the high  
3 school level. There's no need to cut programs, you  
4 know, especially to get these children away from  
5 what I see, the damn computer, the iPods or  
6 whatever. I'm a dinosaur. I'm a product of the  
7 60's, more ways than one, too, but I've grown, you  
8 know. I learned through my mistakes, and that's  
9 what we're here for is to help our students, you  
10 know, go back on this budget to, like Mr. Gorman was  
11 mentioning, you know, it was different when we were  
12 -- when we grew up. I agree. But still the  
13 teachers -- and I was a teacher, also. Before --  
14 you know, you taught values. You taught good  
15 citizenship, which now we call helping the  
16 community, whatever, but I was instilled good  
17 citizenship. Matter of fact, they used to have a  
18 civics class for history, and this is what our  
19 teachers do. I'm sure they do it today. But back  
20 to the physical activity, I think we should have  
21 more sports if possible, all right, and once again  
22 coming to the budget, you know, Mr. Holliday, you  
23 must be fantastic having your budget balance because  
24 everywhere I know, I can't even balance my  
25 checkbook. That's very grateful because that's the

70

1 way it should be. That's why we're in this mess  
2 today, our country, and this is why -- I hate to  
3 reiterate, but the budget, as I said, I don't know  
4 what the answer is. Some people leaving. I don't  
5 know what it is. Put an add in the paper to pass  
6 the budget. I don't know, but we have to get more  
7 communication out there. I don't know. Thank you.

8 DR. HAMILTON: I just feel obligated to  
9 make a comment. I was -- when the budget process  
10 began, I was still working in my previous district,  
11 but I knew that during this budget process I would  
12 be the person, the spokesperson for the budget and  
13 would need to be involved in the process so I worked  
14 with Mr. Holliday and was sure that what was placed  
15 in this budget were programs and initiatives that I  
16 could support as the superintendent, and I want to  
17 dispell the myth that the budget won't pass. I  
18 believe the budget is going to pass. I believe that  
19 the people in the community are going to recognize  
20 the value of this budget. It is a sound budget. It  
21 is a budget that is developed on sound educational  
22 research. There is no fluff in this budget, and I  
23 challenge you. We can't tell you how to vote, but  
24 you can tell your neighbors how to vote. If you  
25 believe in the budget and you believe that it is

71

1 created on the principals that I just described, I  
2 encourage you to talk to your neighbors about that.

3 MS. ARMINIO: Michelle Arminio, Camelot  
4 development. Number -- page 8, if -- Madam Chair  
5 President, the allocation from funds -- fund balance  
6 as a result of interest earnings, can we speak to  
7 that? I believe if I -- I've been to a few of the  
8 explanations, Mr. Holliday, but I'm wondering, is  
9 this going -- this approximately 3 and a half  
10 million dollars, that will be gone when, when will  
11 we deplete, not have that interest coming through?

12 MR. HOLLIDAY: Good evening, Michelle,  
13 how are you? As you know, the more that I pay  
14 contractors, the more work that is performed, that  
15 is less money for me to invest. Last year there was  
16 \$4.6 million. This year it's 3.6, which makes it  
17 even harder to bring in a tax rate that is  
18 acceptable and also to balance this budget.

19 The high school is projected to be  
20 completed in the spring of 2011, and we will be  
21 moving in during the spring and during the summer  
22 for the children to arrive for the opening in  
23 September of 2011; therefore, by 2011, to answer  
24 your question directly, I will have very little  
25 funds to invest, and therefore that interest will be

72

1 diminished.

2 MS. ARMINIO: And what -- do you project  
3 like will that be halved by next year? Will it be  
4 2 years from now a third?

5 MR. HOLLIDAY: I can tell you that as of  
6 December 31, 2008, we had approximately a million 4  
7 in so that was halfway through the fiscal year.  
8 (Inaudible) continued to go down so I'm hoping, and  
9 I can't predict, I'd say if I could I wouldn't be  
10 sitting here -- yes, I would really -- but I would  
11 project that it would be in approximately the area  
12 of \$2 million come June 30, 2008.

13 MS. ARMINIO: So what will happen to the  
14 budget without this?

15 MR. HOLLIDAY: Well, not to the budget,  
16 but to the debt service.

17 MS. ARMINIO: So -- well, what it means  
18 -- well, it will have an impact on the future  
19 budgets, will it not, not this budget, it will have  
20 an impact on future budgets where we may have to  
21 just by -- if we lost -- let me rephrase the  
22 question. At what point do you think we will have  
23 depleted this fund, 2 years from now, 3?

24 MR. HOLLIDAY: I believe that probably  
25 in the fall of 2011, the last payments will be made

73

1 to the contractors, and therefore I will not be able  
2 to continue to invest that money, and therefore  
3 there will be no interest earnings to offset taxes.

4 MS. ARMINIO: Right. So for every  
5 million dollars that we don't have to offset taxes,  
6 what does that -- what does that cost as a tax  
7 increase?

8 MR. HOLLIDAY: Well, if you'll indulge  
9 me, instead of using a figure for a million dollars,  
10 I prefer to use another figure.

11 MS. ARMINIO: Fine.

12 MR. HOLLIDAY: A penny is \$749,000.

13 MS. ARMINIO: Seven hundred forty-nine  
14 thousand, so every reduction of 749,000 is an  
15 increase of a penny.

16 MR. HOLLIDAY: That would be correct.

17 MS. ARMINIO: Can I speak to other  
18 items, or we're just talking to the budget?  
19 Everybody --

20 MRS. ANTELIS: Well, we prefer to speak  
21 to the budget.

22 MS. ARMINIO: But everybody else spoke  
23 on other things so I'd like to do the same.

24 MRS. ANTELIS: Your 3 minutes is almost  
25 up, but go ahead.

74

1 MS. ARMINIO: Okay. Well, I would like  
2 it indulged beyond 3 minutes, also, since other  
3 speakers have had more than 3 minutes.

4 I'd like to also ask about the Board  
5 approved minutes on the web site. They're only up  
6 until January 21 of '09. Are they -- when will the  
7 -- when will they be approved?

8 MR. HOLLIDAY: The February meetings  
9 will be approved tonight and be posted hopefully  
10 tomorrow or Monday.

11 MS. ARMINIO: So they'll go up right  
12 away?

13 MR. HOLLIDAY: Of course, yes.

14 MS. ARMINIO: Okay. Thanks. And also,  
15 Mr. -- Madam President, if I may follow up on the  
16 debris and garbage that was littering the area  
17 immediately around the construction site. Can I  
18 have an update on that?

19 MR. HOLLIDAY: I believe it was at the  
20 February 25 meeting that you had mentioned that, and  
21 as I indicated, at 8:03 a.m. on the following  
22 morning I would speak to Mr. Tague, which I did do,  
23 the contractors as well as our own team did remove  
24 rubbish. I personally inspected, and it did come,  
25 as we speculated, from the foam that insulated the

75

1 HVAC units that are going -- unit ventilators that  
2 are going up on the roof. I'm not aware of -- I'm  
3 there every day at the site. I saw a clean site  
4 today.

5 MS. ARMINIO: Okay, well, on the  
6 opposite side of the street there's about three of  
7 the big foam -- the blue foams in the ditch on the  
8 other side of the street.

9 MR. HOLLIDAY: On Perrineville or  
10 Schoolhouse?

11 MS. ARMINIO: On Schoolhouse Road.

12 MR. HOLLIDAY: Oh, we'll take care of  
13 that Tom.

14 MS. ARMINIO: Okay.

15 MR. HOLLIDAY: Thank you.

16 MS. ARMINIO: And again, I'd like to  
17 make a comment about the committee meetings that are  
18 open to the public. I have attended committee  
19 meetings, and when I have attended them, I've asked  
20 for the agenda for those meetings, and I was refused  
21 the agenda. The discussions and deliberations that  
22 were spoken -- were sort of very vague, and really  
23 the public -- as a member of the public, I did not  
24 think I got the full understanding of what the  
25 discussions were about. So I think the Open Public

76

1 Meetings Act speaks to that, and I would like to  
2 just say that it says the legislature finds and  
3 declares that the right of the public to be present  
4 at all meetings of public bodies and witness -- and  
5 to witness in full detail all the phases of the  
6 deliberation, policy formulation, and decision  
7 making of public bodies is vital the enhancement and  
8 proper functioning of the democratic process, that  
9 secrecy in public affairs undermines the faith of  
10 public in government and public effectiveness in  
11 fulfilling its role in the democratic society.

12 So I would just like that if things can  
13 be a little bit more transparent. I know there are  
14 Board members that think they're being very  
15 transparent, but when information is withheld, and I  
16 would also like to speak to --

17 MRS. ANTELIS: Well, you know what, I  
18 think that you've had about as much time as --

19 MS. ARMINIO: As you want to give me.  
20 Thank you very much.

21 MRS. FARAONE: Miss Antelis. Patrice.  
22 Can I just make a comment?

23 MRS. ANTELIS: Sure.

24 MS. FARAONE: I know in my committee,  
25 curriculum -- and, Michelle, I'm not -- I know

77

1 you've been coming. I haven't seen you recently --  
2 but when Mr. Gorman came on, I think the first  
3 meeting was a 2-hour meeting -- and Mr. Mele is in  
4 the audience, and he's at several of our meetings,  
5 and I can tell you that there's never any secrecy.  
6 It's quite involved and extensive, and usually we  
7 have many of the supervisors there, and there's a  
8 great deal of information given out. So I'm not  
9 sure when was the last time you were able to attend  
10 one, but I assure you that hasn't been the case as  
11 far as I've been the committee chair.

12 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Tom Nothstein, 15  
13 Nathaniel Street. Just another quick question on  
14 the budget. Do we anticipate any other Fund 30  
15 transfers in the future from the high school, or is  
16 that too early to tell?

17 MR. HOLLIDAY: Tom, don't jinx me. The  
18 high school is supposed to be done one-third  
19 completion this April. It will be done. To date,  
20 zero change orders. I anticipate that in the  
21 formulation of the budget for 2012 and 2013 that I  
22 will be able to present that same transfer other  
23 than it will be from Fund 34 and Fund 36 because  
24 each has to be demarcated.

25 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Okay, excellent, that

78

1 could be potentially good news.

2 MR. HOLLIDAY: And I hope you didn't  
3 jinx me.

4 MR. NOTHSTEIN: Thanks.

5 MS. GARAVANTE: Janet Garavante, 10  
6 Jillian Court, Monroe. I've been a resident of  
7 Monroe for 25 years. I've had two of my older  
8 children have gone through the high school. Both of  
9 them played on the track team. My oldest daughter  
10 after receiving her master's came back to teach in  
11 Monroe. That's the kind of community that we have  
12 been involved in. I now have two children in the  
13 high school, and both of them play many sports. I  
14 have a daughter in 11th grade who plays lacrosse. I  
15 have a son in tenth grade who plays lacrosse. That  
16 is a sport that has grown in Monroe, and even though  
17 they've only been playing for 2 years, colleges are  
18 already looking at my daughter. She's a junior. So  
19 the program is working, and to cut out that program  
20 would really devastate a lot of children, not just  
21 my children. Thank you.

22 MRS. ANTELIS: Anyone else from the  
23 public wish to speak?

24 MR. RAGUCCI: I have two things and I'll  
25 be done. Carmine Ragucci, 121 Hoffman Road.

79

1 Pertaining to the debris that was mentioned, I'm a  
2 union electrician, and I know the guys over in that  
3 job. Matter of fact, I spoke to the shop steward at  
4 a union meeting, and for our debris that comes in  
5 they say the fixture boxes or whatever, I know for a  
6 fact that we throw it away ourselves because we  
7 don't want any laborers doing our work, so I know  
8 any type of paper or whatever, I know the  
9 electricians on that job take care of it, but if I  
10 recollect when we had that wind storm or whatever,  
11 we were very fortunate that the new mats that were  
12 purchased for pole vault -- I don't know why we  
13 needed a second runway, but anyway, the new mats  
14 literally blew from the area over to the fence, and  
15 that, you know, those are pretty heavy. So I can  
16 imagine whatever debris was on that roof that is  
17 going on, whether it's done by the steel workers or  
18 the tin knockers, you know, definitely had to come  
19 off that roof. Besides the pole vault mats that are  
20 brand new, even the high jump pits went close to the  
21 fence. Now, we're talking about some distance, you  
22 know. It's not right over. It flew right across.  
23 So that was like an act of God. But as far as the  
24 electrical debris, I can state a hundred percent  
25 that it was picked up.

80

1 All right. Now for one of the reasons I  
2 handed out this letter from my bride, Joyce, who  
3 also lives at 121 --

4 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Ragucci, you know  
5 what, I don't think that this is the time right now  
6 to bring it up.

7 MR. RAGUCCI: Next time?

8 MS. ANTELIS: Perhaps.

9 MR. RAGUCCI: Okay. No problem.

10 MRS. ANTELIS: Anyone else from the  
11 public? Seeing no one, I'm going to turn it over to  
12 Mr. Holliday to read the budget resolution.

13 MR. HOLLIDAY: I'll read the budget  
14 resolution for 2009/2010 into the record: "It is  
15 recommended that members of the Board of Education  
16 approve the following amounts in resolution for the  
17 2009/10 budget. Be it resolved by the Monroe  
18 Township Board of Education that the 2009/10 general  
19 fund budget be adopted in the amount of \$89,313,201,  
20 and the general fund local tax levy in the amount of  
21 \$74,392,326, and special revenue fund in the amount  
22 of \$821,136, and a debt service budget in the amount  
23 of \$10,293,639, and a debt service local tax levy in  
24 the amount of \$5,303,802. Whereby the 2009/2010  
25 budget totaled \$100,427,976, and whereas the Monroe

81

1 Township Board of Education has been notified of  
2 state aid amounts, and whereas such state aid  
3 amounts are for 2009/10, the categorical special  
4 education aid is \$2,226,642; and for 2009/10, the  
5 categorical security aid is \$398,375; and for  
6 2009/10, the categorical transportation aid is  
7 \$2,043,966; and for 2009/10, the debt service aid is  
8 \$802,530; and whereas school district bylaw number  
9 0147, policy number 3440, policy number 440 and  
10 N.J.A.C. 6A:23B-B.1(b) provides that the Board of  
11 Education shall establish in the annual school  
12 budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be  
13 allotted for such travel and expense reimbursements  
14 for the 2009/10 school year; and now therefore be it  
15 resolved that the Monroe Township Board of Education  
16 hereby establishes the school district travel  
17 maximum for the 2009/10 school year at the sum of  
18 \$170,346; and be it further resolved that the school  
19 business administrator shall track and record these  
20 costs to ensure that the maximum amount is not  
21 exceeded; and now therefore let it be resolved that  
22 the Superintendent of Schools and the Business  
23 Administrator/Board Secretary filed the required  
24 documents with the executive county superintendent  
25 of schools."

82

1 Thank you, Madam Board President.

2 MR. BRAVERMAN: So moved.

3 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Braverman and Mr.  
4 Leary.

5 MR. HOLLIDAY: So noted, Mr. Braverman  
6 and Mr. Leary for the record.

7 MRS. ANTELIS: Questions or comments by  
8 Board members? Mr. Kaufman.

9 MR. KAUFMAN: I know I'm going to be  
10 very brief because it's late and some of us want to  
11 get home sometime tonight. I know a lot of people  
12 have been talking about numbers. Numbers have been  
13 flying around all over the place. If you've been  
14 reading or looking at the newspapers lately,  
15 everyone in this room for our lifetime and possibly  
16 for our children's lifetime are going to be paying  
17 for this enormous economic problem that we're all  
18 facing right now. (Inaudible) money, billions going  
19 who knows where. I know I don't know where it's  
20 going to go.

21 The bottom line is if your home in  
22 Monroe Township is assessed, not marketed, but  
23 assessed at around \$400,000, then this dollar that I  
24 hold in my hand is twice as much money as what this  
25 budget will mean to you per day. That's 42 cents a

83

1 day is what the impact is for this budget. So I  
2 know for me anyway, if I'm spending money, I want to  
3 know where my money is going. I can walk into a  
4 school and look at the kids, look at our athletic  
5 programs, see the things, walk up to it and touch  
6 it. All the other money we're spending for the  
7 stuff going on at the fed and the state level, who  
8 knows where it's going. I know I don't have any  
9 clue, but we're all in the same boat together there,  
10 but here in this district, that's where your money's  
11 going. You want to know where it's going, come up  
12 to it, and touch it.

13 MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you. Miss  
14 Ostrager.

15 MS. OSTRAGER: First of all, a couple  
16 meetings ago I asked Mr. Holliday when we would be  
17 able to get the budget by e-mail, and he told me it  
18 would take him about a year, and I want to  
19 compliment Mr. Holliday for being able to send us a  
20 substantial amount of that budget by e-mail this  
21 week, a year ahead of schedule.

22 MR. HOLLIDAY: Thank you very much.

23 MS. OSTRAGER: Through my e-mail, which  
24 accomplished one thing, we did get a real discussion  
25 about this budget, one item where I did get a lot of

84

1 response both today and through e-mail beforehand is  
2 in regard with the lacrosse, and as the first  
3 speaker who came talking about that topic said, it  
4 seemed to him that it was a matter of education. I  
5 would say I would agree, and I would say that the  
6 education that I got from parents where this meant a  
7 lot to them, especially when you look at the amount  
8 that you're talking about in the budget, I would  
9 agree, and I would -- and I want to thank the people  
10 who both e-mailed me and spoke, providing me with  
11 that education, because I believe it's important to  
12 be able to get that kind of feedback.

13           Regarding the more substantial issues  
14 that I have on the budget, I want to start with some  
15 questions. Mr. Holliday, the budget this year,  
16 we're talking about 100.3 million dollars, correct?

17           MR. HOLLIDAY: Approximately, yes.

18           MS. OSTRAGER: Yes. How much of an  
19 increase is that from last years budget? In  
20 rounding off to the nearest hundred thousand?

21           MR. HOLLIDAY: The increase is in  
22 percentage.

23           MS. OSTRAGER: In dollars, please.

24           MR. HOLLIDAY: Well, 3.48 percent, and  
25 in dollars slightly under \$3 million.

85

1 MS. OSTRAGER: Okay, so we're talking  
2 about slightly over \$3 million. Now, also to  
3 clarify another thing that's been brought up, all  
4 financial documents related to this budget is public  
5 information, correct?

6 MR. HOLLIDAY: If that question was  
7 directed to me. All questions traditionally go  
8 through the President of the Board of Education so  
9 -- thank you. That is correct.

10 MS. OSTRAGER: Okay. Now, when you look  
11 at the budget, and you go item by item, my  
12 background is in financial analysis, and part of  
13 financial analysis is rearranging the numbers and  
14 saying if I look at it this way, what's happening  
15 with the numbers. If I rearrange the numbers and I  
16 look at salaries, after adjusting for increases and  
17 decreases in employment, if I'm looking at what we  
18 would call in the business world same source sale,  
19 same school cost, okay, across the Board -- we're  
20 not talking about union negotiations, we're talking  
21 about budget here. We're not talking about people  
22 in the MTEA or any other union. If we go from the  
23 top to the bottom, from the superintendent down to  
24 the custodians and the bus drivers and everyone else  
25 I see a straight up 4 percent increase that we're

86

1 budgeting, not negotiating, budgeting for salaries;  
2 is that correct?

3 MR. HOLLIDAY: Your statement is  
4 correct.

5 MS. OSTRAGER: And at 4 percent increase  
6 in salaries is about \$2 million rounding off to the  
7 nearest hundred thousand; is that correct?

8 MR. HOLLIDAY: That is approximately  
9 correct.

10 MS. OSTRAGER: Okay. Another area as an  
11 employer who employs close to 800 people, I look at  
12 employment costs slightly different than employees  
13 often look at employment costs. I look at the total  
14 cost of maintaining that employee, which these days  
15 we hear all through the news is not just salaries  
16 but salaries and benefits. The increase in the  
17 benefits, again adjusting for changes in the number  
18 of employees, because we do need to increase  
19 employees. I never argued with that. Okay, we  
20 increased students we need more teachers, and we  
21 need more other support staff -- is about \$2.4  
22 million in the budget. We're just talking about  
23 budget, correct?

24 MR. HOLLIDAY: The information that you  
25 stated is correct.

87

1 MS. OSTRAGER: Okay, so when we add that  
2 together, our increase in employment cost is \$4.4  
3 million.

4 MR. HOLLIDAY: That is correct.

5 MS. OSTRAGER: Which is a million  
6 dollars more than the total increase in the budget.

7 MR. HOLLIDAY: That's correct.

8 MS. OSTRAGER: Okay, so when I look at  
9 this budget, you're asking me as a Board member to  
10 ask the taxpayers to approve a budget that we say is  
11 all about the kids where we are going to increase  
12 employment costs just for existing employees,  
13 increases in raises and increases in benefits,  
14 that's \$4.4 million. We could have \$3.4 million  
15 increase in the total budget. That means you're  
16 losing a million dollars in other things that are  
17 going into classrooms, libraries, extracurricular  
18 activities. I don't see -- other than the lacrosse,  
19 which people have explained, and I support something  
20 for the kids, I don't see an increase in the arts.  
21 I don't see an increase in library. I don't see an  
22 increase in academic programs, okay. I don't see an  
23 increase in any of that. You're asking us in this  
24 economic times or what this Board is going to vote  
25 on is to ask the taxpayers to accept a \$3.4 million

88

1 increase in their taxes and at the same time a \$1  
2 million decrease in the money that's being spent on  
3 all of those other programs; is that correct? Do  
4 you disagree with that analysis?

5 MR. HOLLIDAY: Yes, I do.

6 MS. OSTRAGER: Okay.

7 MR. HOLLIDAY: As mentioned before at  
8 the last Board meeting, for the 08/09 budget, we had  
9 the opening of the Oak Tree Elementary School and  
10 that there were many one-time startup costs as  
11 related to that elementary school. There --  
12 especially in the area of general supplies, text  
13 books, libraries you had mentioned. Those same  
14 costs do not incur in the 9/10 budget. You wouldn't  
15 expect them to occur, and that's why if you are  
16 alluding to the fact that it's decreasing, it's not.  
17 It's just not of the same magnitude when you open a  
18 brand new school.

19 DR. HAMILTON: Additionally, there are  
20 programs that have been mentioned that have been  
21 added to this budget. You mentioned a concern about  
22 not seeing programs that directly impact children  
23 when there are substantial increases in this  
24 proposed budget that have a direct impact on  
25 teaching and learning and therefore impact students,

89

1 specifically the AVID program, the High School  
2 Consortium, curriculum writing, curriculum  
3 expansion, testing formative assessments that inform  
4 instruction and help identify youngsters who may  
5 need additional supports early on, expanding special  
6 ed services for youngsters who need them. There are  
7 additional staff that are being allocated in this  
8 budget, which also impacts students. So it is not  
9 accurate, completely accurate that there are no  
10 additional costs in this budget that directly impact  
11 student and student learning and student outcomes.

12 MS. OSTRAGER: I guess it's a matter of  
13 interpretation of how we see the programs, and  
14 that's a legitimate -- I can see where you can look  
15 at it a different way. Another way to look at  
16 things, because we do try and look at things a lot  
17 of different ways, as a number of people have  
18 alluded to, these are probably the worst economic  
19 times anybody in this room has ever lived through.  
20 Most people, whether they're earning salaries,  
21 they're earning hourly, or they're dependent on  
22 investment income, are earning less today than they  
23 did a year ago unless you are earning salary from  
24 some tax supported institution such as a state  
25 employee, a school district employee, a federal

90

1 employee. If you look at other districts in this  
2 area, you can see that many of them are being  
3 sensitive to that and you can see East Brunswick, no  
4 increase in state aid, no increase in their taxes.

5 MR. HOLLIDAY: Incorrect statement.  
6 South Brunswick did you say? East Brunswick, okay.

7 MS. OSTRAGER: South River, same  
8 situation. Okay, when you look at Spotswood, it's a  
9 little bit different situation because they've  
10 gotten a little bit more, but they've adjusted.  
11 They said, no, we've planned for a zero tax  
12 increase. When we got an increase in state aid, add  
13 a little bit of the program, but we would have been  
14 able to keep it level anyway because it was a  
15 sensitivity to the financial situation of the  
16 taxpayers.

17 Over the past 10 years, because many  
18 people talked about what was going on 10 years ago,  
19 over the past 10 years, our taxes have increased at  
20 an average of 4 percent per year, so the average  
21 homeowner who has done nothing to their home, that's  
22 been in their house for 10 years, is seeing that  
23 compounds are paying 50 percent more in real estate  
24 tax, in school tax this year in this budget than  
25 they did 10 years ago. You have to contrast to that

91

1 the CPI, those same people that are seeing a  
2 50 percent increase in their real estate taxes over  
3 the same 10 years, have seen their salaries increase  
4 on average only 2 percent per year, so their salary  
5 is only 20 some percent higher than it was 10 years  
6 ago, but their real estate taxes are 50 percent  
7 higher.

8 When we think about for the kids, these  
9 kids also live in homes, and many of these homes are  
10 saying they're having a very hard time staying here.  
11 You see foreclosures coming in. We do know that  
12 this is a financially difficult time. We can talk  
13 about we don't know what's going on in the federal  
14 government, the idiots in the federal government  
15 don't know how to cut taxes, they're just spending  
16 more money. We can talk about the idiots in the  
17 state government if we want to, don't they get it  
18 that we just can't keep spending this money.

19 We are the people. Those of us sitting  
20 on this side of the table that's responsible for  
21 looking at not how that pie is cut up, because you  
22 are correct, Mr. Holliday, that we can't control how  
23 we slice up that pie, but we can control the size of  
24 that pie, and in this time I would argue that we  
25 need to try and keep that pie from growing and to

92

1 have that pie growing by this \$3.4 million at this  
2 particular point in time, especially when that's  
3 coming from something that we do have the ability to  
4 do something about, I would ask members of this  
5 Board to think about that.

6 MRS. ANTELIS: Anyone else from the  
7 Board? Mr. Tessler.

8 MR. TESSLER: You know, I don't  
9 subscribe to all the doom and gloom that's going on  
10 around the country. I know times are bad, but if  
11 7 percent of the people are unemployed, you know  
12 what that means? That means 93 percent of the  
13 people are working.

14 (End of tape 3)

15 They're actually doing very well in  
16 these times. Last year in 2008, I had one of the  
17 best years I ever had. 2009 is looking pretty good,  
18 too. So you know, I just don't -- again, I don't  
19 subscribe to all the doom and gloom, and I -- some  
20 people can just say to yourself that I'm not going  
21 to participate in the recession. You make with your  
22 life what you put out with it, what you provide for  
23 your family, and if you want to choose to wait for  
24 the government to bail you out, I think you can wait  
25 a long time. I'm not choosing that. I'm choosing

93

1 to go provide for my family the best I can. Thank  
2 you.

3 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Leary.

4 MR. LEARY: There was mention of going  
5 back 10 years, and if you look at the history book  
6 and let's look at the record. Before 1998, Monroe  
7 Township grew 1 to 3 percent, and then the tsunami  
8 hit, and we have been growing at the fastest rates  
9 in the state. For several years we have had the  
10 highest number of building permits in the entire  
11 state. We have been having on average over that  
12 10-year span 300 plus students coming here. So if  
13 you want to start making comparison, you got to  
14 normalize it and understand what's happening with  
15 the growth process.

16 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Kaufman.

17 MR. KAUFMAN: (Inaudible) thanks. You  
18 know, you talk about the budget and the things that  
19 make up a budget and the things that go into a  
20 budget, and you hear a lot, you know, recently about  
21 how a lot of the big pieces of this budget are  
22 resolving around staff and benefits and stuff like  
23 that. Well, point of fact is pretty basic as far as  
24 I'm concerned. It matters that we have good text  
25 books. It matters that we have good facilities. It

94

1 matters that we have good athletic programs. But  
2 that doesn't mean anything if the delivery of  
3 education is not working, and that only happens  
4 through teachers. It's the teachers -- we could  
5 move forward as a district with a lot of things  
6 taken out, and, you know, if the community decides  
7 that we shouldn't have these things because we have  
8 to run leaner and meaner, that's a community thing,  
9 and we'd have to work through that as a group. No  
10 one here is going to sit back in the bubble and say  
11 you're in, you're out, you're in, you're out.

12         The bottom line is the delivery of  
13 instruction is paramount. That's where the buck  
14 stops. That's the end of the line. We have to  
15 ensure that the delivery of instruction to every  
16 child at every grade level in every class all the  
17 time is the best that it can be. That's our job,  
18 with your help, of course. So our job is to make  
19 sure that we are competitive, we develop staff the  
20 best that we possibly can by doing our own staff  
21 development, and hopefully we'll be able to even  
22 market that stuff to other districts and train other  
23 teachers and have them learn the benefits of the  
24 styles that we have, and there's a hundred different  
25 things that we can do to do things like shared

95

1 services and all these other things.

2 The bottom line is this budget is sound.

3 It's practical. It's audited left and right by him

4 and his buddies. We do the best that we possibly

5 can to get a dollar one out of every dollar we take

6 in. So as far as I'm concerned, it's a sound

7 budget, and we all know it's tough times. It's

8 very, very difficult, but the staff members here are

9 paramount, and we need to make sure that this

10 district will move forward and provide for our kids,

11 for our residents, also, because if you ever tried

12 to rent this hall right here on a weekend, you're

13 pretty much done. It's pretty much reserved well in

14 advance. So if you're, you know, not part of the

15 school community and you want to know what do you

16 get for your dollar, well, come to an adult

17 education program or take a drive by this school any

18 given night, and you'll think that school is in

19 session because the parking lot is full. This

20 building is running basically 7 days a week, 365

21 days a year, and soon we're going to have another

22 one like this, again, to service the community.

23 That's where your money's going.

24 MRS. ANTELIS: Mrs. Ostrager.

25 MS. OSTRAGER: Miss Faraone has --

96

1 MS. FARAONE: I just want to say I  
2 challenge anyone to question Wayne's ability to  
3 squeeze a penny to death. I have lost the ability  
4 to have my bottled water at a meeting. He's taken  
5 that right away.

6 MRS. ANTELIS: Miss Ostrager.

7 MS. OSTRAGER: I'm not arguing that the  
8 staff isn't excellent. What I'm asking is when you  
9 add together both what we were budgeting in salary  
10 increases and what we're budgeting in benefits  
11 increases, we're budgeting an 8 percent increase in  
12 compensation for same -- not accounting for the  
13 change in the number of employees. Do you really  
14 think that it's necessary to increase our  
15 compensation package by 8 percent in order to have  
16 our teachers continue to do the work that they're  
17 doing?

18 And to Mr. Leary, my -- I would like to  
19 point out that of the explosive growth we've had in  
20 Monroe over this past 10 years, half of it has been  
21 in communities where they can't add to our student  
22 population, yet they are adding significantly to our  
23 tax base. I know that some of the older  
24 communities, the taxes on those houses are not that  
25 high, but in many of these new communities, the

97

1 taxes are extraordinary high. Some of these newer  
2 communities, one house is paying as much taxes as  
3 one student in our schools, and yet they produce no  
4 students. So when I looked at the increase in the  
5 taxes, I didn't look at the increase in the budget  
6 because that would -- that would have been  
7 misleading and not accounted for the increase in the  
8 enrollment. I looked at the increase in the taxes  
9 for an individual. I looked at the increase in the  
10 rate. What we talked about is the average impact on  
11 an average household and looked at that year by year  
12 and compared it over the last 10 years, and I also  
13 checked back with certain people who have been  
14 speaking to me and looked at their individual taxes  
15 and what has happened in that over the 10 years, and  
16 consistently what I've seen is a 4 percent on  
17 average increase in the taxes for an individual,  
18 translating into a 50 percent increase over those  
19 10 years when you compound it in their taxes. Their  
20 incomes are only going up between 20 and 30 percent  
21 and 30 percent only if they've gotten a promotion.

22 MRS. ANTELIS: Anyone else from the  
23 Board? Miss Kolupanowich.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: (Inaudible )very  
25 simple and short. If I asked everyone of our Board

98

1 members about this budget, there'll be pieces in  
2 this budget that they like. There'll be pieces in  
3 this budget that they don't like. If I asked  
4 everyone of you, you all have your priorities in  
5 this budget, whether it be through academics,  
6 whether it be through athletics, whether it be  
7 through special education or talented and gifted.  
8 There are pieces of this budget that are really  
9 important to every single one of us, but we have to  
10 vote on this budget as a whole, and we sit here  
11 through the whole year and pick -- not pick, but we  
12 go through what we feel is important to get the best  
13 buck -- bang for our buck, and I want to stay in a  
14 community where I value our teachers, where I -- not  
15 just our teachers, but we get our kids safely home  
16 back and forth to school through transportation.  
17 You go in any of our schools, and they're safe and  
18 secure and they're beautiful looking because of the  
19 custodial staff. That's the community I want to  
20 stay in, and that's the budget I'm going to support.

21 MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you. Mrs.  
22 Ostrager.

23 MS. OSTRAGER: Miss Kolupanowich, you're  
24 correct in that what we need to decide -- everybody  
25 has a different opinion on what's important. What I

99

1 would argue is that the process that we employ to  
2 get to that decision we need to look at. I have sat  
3 in some of the Buildings, Grounds, Finance, and  
4 Transportation Committee meetings that John -- Mr.  
5 Leary has chaired, and I would commend him on how he  
6 does look at specific line items and whether or not  
7 we are getting the value that we want on that  
8 particular line item, whether or not we could do it  
9 in a more cost effective way. Some of these  
10 meetings do go on for hours, and there is a lot of  
11 detail and a lot of discussion on that particular  
12 line item.

13 What I would argue is that we haven't  
14 done and that we really haven't done until today is  
15 then once we bring that information, decide which  
16 one of those items we should actually have  
17 altogether. We have to -- a budget is about choices  
18 and about values, as you pointed out, Miss  
19 Kolupanowich, and I think that the problem we have  
20 is we've never looked at the whole budget until the  
21 very end of the process.

22 To try and illustrate that, let's say I  
23 decide I want to go on a vacation, and I look at  
24 going to Europe, and I look at going on a cruise,  
25 and I look at going to Mexico, and I compare all of

100

1 those, and I decide that the best deal I can get on  
2 my vacation for my vacation dollar is going to  
3 Mexico. I would argue that the way we look at line  
4 items is like that. We look very carefully at where  
5 can we get the best deal, how can we price this out,  
6 what value we get. We do that, and we do that in  
7 the committee meetings. What we don't do is then  
8 look at our whole budget and say can I afford this  
9 vacation at all. When I look at the whole thing,  
10 yes, maybe going to Mexico is a real bargain  
11 compared to going to Europe, but maybe when I look  
12 at my whole situation and I look at, oh, my husband  
13 lost his job or my daughter needs braces or my son  
14 needs a new car or whatever and I look at my entire  
15 budget, maybe when I look at my entire budget, I can  
16 say something that I very, very much want and  
17 something that I know is a very good deal, maybe I  
18 just can't have it in that budget at all, and I  
19 would -- what I'm asking this Board to do -- and  
20 it's the 11th hour now, and you guys can all  
21 celebrate at the end because this is the last time I  
22 situate at this side of the table so you don't have  
23 to endure me again, but, yes, go ahead, you can --  
24 yeah, I'm fine -- is that in the future we would  
25 think about the whole picture earlier on when you

101

1 still have time to decide whether or not some of  
2 these programs, which may be a very good deal, some  
3 of these things we want that may be a really good  
4 deal, whether or not we can really afford that at  
5 that point in time, and what are we giving up in  
6 order to do this. We get a finished product, okay.

7 So my question is in order to be able to  
8 budget for this 4 percent increase in salaries and a  
9 greater than that increase in benefits, you had to  
10 give up something, and we've never really discussed  
11 what those possibilities are or could have been that  
12 we gave up, and I hope that in the future the Board  
13 might be able to structure their whole budgeting  
14 process so that they can do that. Thank you.

15 MRS. ANTELIS: Any other Board members?  
16 Mr. Braverman, I'd just like to make a statement if  
17 you don't mind, and then we'll go on. I'd like to  
18 just make a brief statement, and then we'll go on  
19 and take the vote. Well, you called the questions.

20 MR. BRAVERMAN: (Inaudible) I think  
21 everything has been said. I understand what you're  
22 saying, but at the same time, education is recession  
23 proof, and we have kids. You're not getting rid of  
24 the kids. We do the best we can, and when things  
25 are really good, I don't hear anybody on the Board

102

1 of Education saying, hey, things are real good,  
2 let's give them a really good raise. I never hear  
3 that. So it's just the way it is, and budgeting for  
4 schools is unique. It's just a little different,  
5 and we have to work with it.

6 MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you, Mr. Braverman.  
7 I would just like to say that I support this budget.  
8 I see things in here for our staff and especially  
9 for our children, educational programs and athletic  
10 programs, and while I would certainly never put down  
11 another district, I've read in the paper also where  
12 they're freezing salaries. It's a temporary fix.  
13 That's -- the next year they're going to pay those  
14 salaries. What we've done here -- and it is  
15 regrettable -- is we have cut staff. We have cut  
16 administrative staff. We've taken that step of  
17 salaries that we will not pay in the future. So I  
18 think that this Board is doing the right thing, and  
19 we are looking towards the future, and our kids do  
20 come first. And with that, let's have a roll call,  
21 Mr. Holliday.

22 MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Leary.

23 MR. LEARY: Yes.

24 MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Tessler.

25 MR. TESSLER: Yes.

103

- 1 MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Kaufman.
- 2 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.
- 3 MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Faraone.
- 4 MS. FARAONE: Yes.
- 5 MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Braverman.
- 6 MR. BRAVERMAN: Yes.
- 7 MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Ostrager.
- 8 MS. OSTRAGER: No.
- 9 MR. HOLLIDAY: Mr. Chiarella.
- 10 MR. CHIARELLA: Yes.
- 11 MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Kolupanowich.
- 12 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes.
- 13 MR. HOLLIDAY: Miss Antelis.
- 14 MRS. ANTELIS: Yes.
- 15 MR. HOLLIDAY: Madam Board President,
- 16 the motion is passed.
- 17 MRS. ANTELIS: Thank you, Mr. Holliday.
- 18 (Transcript part 2)
- 19 MRS. ANTELIS: At this time we will open
- 20 the meeting back up and have the public forum.
- 21 Anyone wishing to speak on any item, please stand
- 22 and state your name and address for the record.
- 23 MS. ARMINIO: Michelle Arminio, 9
- 24 Nathaniel Street. Was there a reduction in the
- 25 special needs budget from last year to this year?

104

1 MR. HOLLIDAY: No, there was not.

2 MS. ARMINIO: Okay, but that the -- the  
3 special summer program was eliminated; is that  
4 correct?

5 MR. HOLLIDAY: No, that's not correct.

6 MS. ARMINIO: Okay. Can someone speak  
7 to what went on -- so is that program going to be  
8 reinstated and happen this summer, as well, for  
9 the -- I don't know if it was just autistic or  
10 special needs kids? There was a program that was  
11 extended for the summer.

12 MR. HOLLIDAY: I'm going to speak only  
13 to the extent of my expertise in the area in terms  
14 of what is in the budget, and I will let either Dr.  
15 Hamilton and Mr. Gorman address the specifics.

16 In terms of the budget, in terms of the  
17 summer enrichment program is still in place, as well  
18 as the extended -- as well as the extended school  
19 year for those children in special ed are both in  
20 the budget.

21 DR. HAMILTON: And the program is  
22 currently planned -- the same program that ran last  
23 year is what is currently in the budget to run for  
24 this summer.

25 MS. ARMINIO: With the increase that was

105

1 asked for and given to the parents?

2 DR. HAMILTON: The 4 hours, not the  
3 6 hours, but the 4 hours.

4 MS. ARMINIO: Okay. And how will the  
5 negotiations go with the employees? How will that  
6 proceed? Can you just describe how the -- what the  
7 procedure is for negotiations for -- with your --

8 DR. HAMILTON: The both sides will  
9 present proposals, and negotiations will begin based  
10 on those two proposals.

11 MS. ARMINIO: And is there a negotiation  
12 committee from the Board?

13 DR. HAMILTON: Yes.

14 MS. ARMINIO: And will we be able to  
15 know who those committee members are?

16 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Braverman, Miss  
17 Kolupanowich, and Mr. Leary.

18 MS. ARMINIO: Okay, because one of the  
19 things that I noticed tonight was there were a lot  
20 of Board members actually endorsing the teachers,  
21 which would lead me to believe that they were sort  
22 of negotiating this evening, saying that they were  
23 all in full support of the teachers, which sound to  
24 me like tipping our hand from the negotiation  
25 perspective.

106

1 MS. ANTELIS: That's your opinion.

2 MS. ARMINIO: I beg your pardon?

3 MRS. ANTELIS: I said that's your  
4 opinion. You're entitled to it.

5 MS. ARMINIO: Well, did -- were there  
6 several Board members tonight endorsing the teachers  
7 and the budget at the same time?

8 MRS. ANTELIS: It sounded to me like  
9 they were telling the teachers they appreciate the  
10 job that they do in the district.

11 MS. ARMINIO: Okay. Well, again, it  
12 seemed to me that that would sort of hamper any  
13 negotiations, along with the fact that we've already  
14 budgeted in the, you know, almost the maximum amount  
15 of increase. Now, I don't have a problem with  
16 teachers being well paid. I think it's a good  
17 thing, and I think it's important for our children.  
18 What I have a problem with is some of the people who  
19 spoke tonight, while they were -- I'm sure one of  
20 the paramount importance was for the children, there  
21 are a lot of people with self-interest in supporting  
22 this budget, and there are a few -- there are a few  
23 people on the Board who have direct families that  
24 are employees in the town.

25 MRS. ANTELIS: And they are not allowed

107

1 to participate in the negotiations at all.

2 MS. ARMINIO: Okay. Well, you voted for  
3 the budget so obviously that was -- well, it's -- if  
4 you vote for the budget before the negotiation and  
5 the money is there, the unions absolutely know that  
6 the money is available. So I think in some ways --  
7 and then with the endorsements of some of the  
8 members on the Board, I think it actually does tip  
9 your hand. I negotiate for a living, as well, and I  
10 know that there are some things -- for all the  
11 things you keep from the public, to start endorsing  
12 the budgets in front of teachers and teachers  
13 unions, I think that sort of doesn't help our  
14 position. Thank you.

15 MRS. ANTELIS: Anyone else from the  
16 public wish to speak?

17 MR. RAGUCCI: Carmine Ragucci, 121  
18 Hoffman Road. Just what was just spoke about  
19 teachers. First of all, I said in the past in front  
20 of this Board and previous boards, I truly believe  
21 that all teachers are underpaid. No matter what  
22 district they're in across the board of the United  
23 States of America, I believe they're underpaid.  
24 Now, in saying that, I'm going against what I just  
25 said. As I said, I'm a union electrician, and I

108

1 know from our negotiations when we have the  
2 contractor going against the local, which will be  
3 Local 456 IBW, the contractor naturally sees the  
4 work that's performed, just as the teacher -- just  
5 as you see the teachers perform their work with  
6 their students, and naturally, coming here, I don't  
7 think you were endorsing the teachers. I think you  
8 were praising the teachers for their work. That's  
9 my opinion. Now, the contractor knows the work  
10 which is being done right across the street here and  
11 knows the men and women that are doing the  
12 electrical work are doing a good job. Otherwise,  
13 they would lay them off, period. In saying that,  
14 they know the type of work we do. Like he just  
15 said, they might be built in your 4 percent, which  
16 it is, but being that the times are bad, we got like  
17 the last contract was like a zero zero dollar  
18 increase. We ask for 3 percent naturally, but, you  
19 know, we got zero zero dollars, and it is tough  
20 times out there. You should be grateful you're  
21 doing very well in your business with the computer  
22 because, like Mr. Holliday said, with the State of  
23 New Jersey, there's no money. I am unemployed.  
24 I've been unemployed since Thanksgiving, and I just  
25 -- my unemployment check's zero. They stopped.

109

1 Governor Corzine. There's no money. How they going  
2 to give you my unemployment check if there's no  
3 money in the state. And I'm trying to feed my  
4 family, too, by the way. That's enough of that.

5 Oh, one more thing about you used that  
6 word surreal. I love that word surreal because back  
7 in the days I was teaching, I was just at a banquet  
8 last Thursday on Staten Island for track and field  
9 coaches and everything, and I used to be coaching,  
10 and I was president of the league there. Real  
11 quick, surreal. When I was teaching in 1975, I had  
12 to do a curriculum. I made a curriculum up about  
13 geography because my students didn't know where Iraq  
14 was or Afghanistan was, but relating back there in  
15 world history, so I had developed this geography  
16 program, and I instituted and my principal said  
17 that's a good idea. I had to get the books, et  
18 cetera, et cetera, but I used that terminology in my  
19 curriculum, surreal, and they go, Ragu, people now  
20 think that's surreal. You used that back in 1975.  
21 But I love that word. Now that's it for me I think.  
22 Me. Got to talk about my bride first. Wait, wait,  
23 wait.

24 One more thing about Mr. Gorman's  
25 statement about -- about global. Global thing, you

110

1 know people keep forgetting I was a history teacher,  
2 about George Washington's farewell address, you  
3 know. We forget about that, about the global stuff,  
4 you know. We have to depend upon Americans being  
5 America. You know, I'm getting tired of comparing  
6 our education system with the Japanese where they go  
7 to school more than 180 days or the Europeans, who  
8 go to school more than 180 days. Sure, if our  
9 teachers had more than 180 days, I'm sure our  
10 students would be just as competitive as the world.

11 That's enough for Carmine Ragucci now.

12 MRS. ANTELIS: Okay. Thank you. Anyone  
13 else from the public wish to speak?

14 MR. RAGUCCI: My bride asked me to read  
15 this letter to the Board. Boy, now we got a regular  
16 meeting here there's a few people here. I'm going  
17 to tell my bride there's a lot more people here  
18 before, but I had to -- you told me to wait until  
19 this time to speak, but anyway, put my cheaters on  
20 because I'm getting old. To Dr. Hamilton, central  
21 administration, and Board of Education members, I  
22 decided to put into a few words my concern over the  
23 present policy in regard of ranking the high school  
24 senior class.

25 MRS. ANTELIS: Mr. Ragucci, we all have

111

1 a copy of the letter, and I believe that Dr. --

2 MR. RAGUCCI: I want this on record,  
3 though.

4 MRS. ANTELIS: Well, you know what, why  
5 don't you give it to Mr. Holliday. Mr. Holliday can  
6 put it on the record. It is getting late, and we  
7 all have the letter. We all understand, and Dr.  
8 Hamilton is more than happy to meet with you in  
9 regard to this.

10 MR. RAGUCCI: I know he will. You got  
11 the copy?

12 DR. HAMILTON: I do, I do.

13 MR. RAGUCCI: That's enough --

14 MRS. ANTELIS: Anyone else from the  
15 public wish to speak? Seeing no one, the next  
16 scheduled public Board of Education meeting is  
17 Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 7 p.m., here at the high  
18 school. Can we have a motion to adjourn?

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SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS – APRIL 2, 2009**I. Personnel**

- A. It is recommended that the Board approve a maternity leave of absence to **Ms. Jennifer Campbell**, Language Arts teacher at Applegarth School, effective May 26, 2009 through June 30, 2010. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Campbell is entitled to utilize.
- B. It is recommended that the Board approve a correction in the maternity leave of absence to **Ms. Danielle Kennedy**, Physical Education teacher at the High School, effective May 1, 2009 through January 2010 (beginning of second semester). It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Kennedy is entitled to utilize.
- C. It is recommended that the Board approve a maternity leave of absence to **Ms. Dawn Marie Kappus**, Reading Specialist at Oak Tree School, effective September 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Kappus is entitled to utilize.
- D. It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Ms. Agnes Babino**, Secretary in the Superintendent’s Office, effective March 24, 2009 through April 3, 2009. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except to the extent of any sick days Ms. Babino may have available.
- E. It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Ms. Reeshemah Zielinski**, secretary for Adult Education, effective March 30, 2009 through April 3, 2009. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except to the extent of any sick days Ms. Zielinski may have available.
- F. It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Ms. Corrine Larsen**, bus driver in the Transportation Department, effective February 24, 2009 through April 13, 2009. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except to the extent of any sick days Ms. Larsen may have available.
- G. It is recommended that the Board approve a return to work of **Ms. Michele Virelles**, Special Education teacher at Brookside School, effective April 20, 2009. Ms. Virelles was previously scheduled to return September 1, 2009.
- H. It is recommended that the Board approve the following certificated personnel at the following steps and guides:

Employee	Position	School	Teacher's Salary Guide	Account No.	Dates	Reason for hire
Ray Ruiz	Assistant Basketball Coach	Applegarth School	Step 3 \$6259	11-402-100-100-000-098	2008-2009 School Year	Assistant Basketball Coach
Alisa Forman	School Psychologist	Oak Tree	Step 8 MA+30 120% minus 20 days \$64,630.80 prorated	11-000-219-104-000-093	3/26/09-5/29/09	Leave replacement
Dori Helfgott-Daus	Special Education teacher	Mill Lake	Long term sub \$150/day	11-213-100-101-000-093	3/23/09-4/14/09	Leave replacement
Tilly Kahle	Long Term substitute	Oak Tree	\$150/day	11-120-100-101-000-060	Retroactive to 2/17/09-4/3/09	Leave replacement

- I. It is recommended that the Board approve the following non-certificated personnel at the following steps and guides:

Employee	Position	School	Salary	Account No.	Dates	Reason for Hire
Anthony Fusco	Custodian	Oak Tree	Boiler stipend \$750	11-000-262-100-000-060	1/24/09-6/30/09	Salary adjustment boiler license stipend
Michael O'Leary	Bus Driver	Transportation	From 6 hrs/day to 6.5 hrs/day	11-000-270-160-000-096	4/1/09-6/30/09	Extra time needed to do run

- J. It is recommended that the Board approve a modification of the following contracts, due to teaching an additional class per day for a leave of absence effective April 15, 2009 through June 30, 2009 (account no. 11-140-100-101-000-070):

John Allen	from 100% to 117%
Rosemarie Armstrong	from 100% to 117%
Natasha Carannante	from 100% to 117%
Jovanna Quindes	from 100% to 117%
Trudy Marmorek	from 100% to 117%

- K. It is recommended that the Board approve the following appointments to be added to our 2008-2009 list of approved substitutes:

**Certificated Staff**

Denise DiMeola	Substitute Teacher
Norman Feinstein	Substitute Teacher
Andrew Rodriguez	Substitute Teacher
Dori Helfgott-Daus	Substitute Teacher

**Non-certificated Staff**

Donna Cianchetta  
Jessica Lobo  
Ryan Doll

Substitute Paraprofessional  
Substitute Paraprofessional  
Substitute Computer Tech

**II. Board Action**

- A. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of requests for Field Trips.
- B. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of Student Teacher placements.
- C. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of requests for Staff Professional Development.
- D. It is recommended that the Board approve the abolishment of the following Policies and Regulations:

**Bylaw**  
147

Board Member Travel Expenses

**Policies**  
3440  
4440

Travel Expenses for Certificated Staff  
Travel Expenses for Support Staff

**Regulations**  
3440  
4440

Travel Expenses for Certificated Staff  
Travel Expenses for Support Staff

- E. It is recommended that the Board approve the revisions of the following Policies:

**Bylaw**  
142.1  
164

Nepotism  
Conduct of Board Meeting

**Policies**  
1220  
1620  
6423

Employment of Chief Administrator  
Administrative Employment Contracts  
Expenditures for Non-Employee Activities, Meals  
and refreshments

- F. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Policy and Regulation for adoption:

**Policy**

6471 School District Travel

**Regulation**

6471 District Travel

- G. It is recommended that the Board approve the following Policy and Regulation for a second and final reading:

**Policy**

2460.16 Special Education – Instructional Material to Blind or Print Disabled Pupils

- H. **2008-2009 Violence/Substance Abuse/Estimated Violence/Vandalism Costs** previously reported for the period 7/1/08 through 3/31/09: .....\$0

<u>Date</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Incident</u>	<u>Cost to District</u>
3/18/09	Woodland	Vandalism/Damage To property	\$2300
3/17/09	MTHS	Suspected Use/not confirmed	
3/19/09	MTHS	Suspected Use/not confirmed	
3/25/09	MTHS	Suspected Use/not confirmed	

- I. It is recommended that the Board approve a revision to the 2008-2009 school calendar pending no requirement by administration to close the district due to inclement weather or some other emergency. Therefore, school will be closed for the remaining built in snow make up day on Friday, May 22, 2009.

- J. It is recommended that the Board approve the following students to attend out of district programs:

Student No.	School	Dates of Attendance	Cost
85157	Mercer Regional Day	3/2/09	229.36 per diem
78899	Kiva High School	3/25/09	\$1,700 per month for ten months

**MONROE TOWNSHIP  
Board of Education**

**BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS – APRIL 2, 2009**

**BOARD ACTION**

**A. ADOPTION OF THE 2009/10 ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET**

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the following amounts and resolution for the 2009/10 Budget:

Be It Resolved, by the Monroe Township Board of Education that the 2009/10 General Fund Budget be adopted in the amount of \$89,313,201. and a General Fund Local Tax Levy in the amount of \$74,392,326. and a Special Revenue Fund in the amount of \$821,136. and a Debt Service Budget in the amount of \$10,293,639. and a Debt Service Local Tax Levy in the amount of \$5,303,802. Whereby, the 2009/10 Budget totals \$100,427,976.; and

Whereas, the Monroe Township Board of Education has been notified of state aid amounts; and

Whereas, such state aid amounts are:

For 2009/10 the Categorical Special Education Aid is \$2,226,642.; and

For 2009/10 the Categorical Security Aid is \$398,375.; and

For 2009/10 the Categorical Transportation Aid is \$2,043,966.; and

For 2009/10 the Debt Service Aid is \$802,530.; and

Whereas, school district Bylaw #0147, Policy #3440, Policy #4440 and NJAC 6A:23B-1.2(b) provides that the board of education shall establish in the annual school budget a maximum expenditure amount that may be allotted for such travel and expense reimbursement for 2009/10 school year; and

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Monroe Township Board of Education hereby establishes the school district travel maximum for the 2009/10 school year at the sum of \$170,346.; and

Be It Further Resolved that the School Business Administrator shall track and record these costs to insure that the maximum amount is not exceeded; and

Now Therefore Let It Be Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary file the required documents with the Executive County Superintendent of Schools.

**B. BILL LIST**

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$8,642,799.60 for February 2009 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance/Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

**C. BILL LIST – NEW HIGH SCHOOL (BOND SERIES 2004)**

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$5,253,607.93 for February 2009 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance/Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

**D. BILL LIST – NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BOND SERIES 2006)**

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$7,201.07 for February 2009 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance/Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

**E. BILL LIST – NEW HIGH SCHOOL (BOND SERIES 2008)**

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$2,355,611.00 for February 2009 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance/Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

**F. SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL & CASH REPORT**

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2-11(c)4, Be It Resolved that the Board of Education hereby certifies that it is in receipt of the Financial Reports for February 2009, which indicates that no major accounts or funds have been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the fiscal year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b). In accordance with 6A:23-2.11(c), Be It Further Resolved that the Board Secretary certifies that the February 2009 Secretary's Report indicates that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

**G. TRANSFER #7**

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Transfer #7 as presented for fiscal year 2008/09. A copy is attached hereto.

**H. AGREEMENT WITH JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT**

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the attached agreement between Jersey Central Power & Light and the Monroe Township Board of Education entitled: "Agreement for Installation of Electric Distribution Facilities Utilizing a "Minimum Charge Contract Demand" to Enable the Minimum Up-Front Customer Contribution".

**I. ALLIANCE FOR COMPETITIVE ENERGY SERVICES (ACES)**

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the attached "Agreement" between the Monroe Township Board of Education and South Jersey Energy as related to Electric Generation Service Purchase and Sales.

**J. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT**

EXEMPT SERVICES – Awarded without competitive bidding as provided for under the provisions of the Public Schools Contract Law:

1. It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Ms. Ann Holmes of The Eden Family of Services, Outreach, and Support Services to provide an augmentative evaluation and report for the fee of \$500.00.

**K. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS (PERS)**

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge the receipt of the attached Public Employees Retirement System Annual Employer Appropriation Invoice. Based upon additional review of Chapter 19 of the Public Laws of 2009, it is further recommended that the Board of Education authorize the payment of the full amount of \$633,768.00, with no deferrals.

**L. CONTRACT – NATIONAL SAFETY COMPLIANCE, INC.**

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the attached contract between National Safety Compliance, Inc. and the Monroe Township Board of Education for the purpose of compliance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations ("FMCSR") regarding driver substance abuse/alcohol misuse testing.

**M. GRANT APPLICATION**

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the submission of the attached grant application for the 2009 Safety Grant Program through the New Jersey School Boards Association Insurance Group's ERIC North Subfund.

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

WAYNE HOLLIDAY  
Prepared by

April 2, 2009  
Date

