

Minutes of the Public Board of Education Meeting held on December 17, 2008 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  
Mr. Ken Chiarella  
Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich  
Mr. John Leary  
Ms. Kathy Leonard  
Ms. Rita Ostrager  
Mr. Ira Tessler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Ms. Patrice Faraone

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Nidhi Bhatt  
Ms. Melissa Bonamici

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

ATTENDANCE

Mr. Joseph King, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Wayne Holliday, Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
Dr. Veronica Geyer, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel  
Mr. Jeff Gorman, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

ATTORNEY

Mr. Bertram E. Busch, Esq.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - 67

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 December 12, 2008:

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

HOLOCAUST ESSAY CONTEST

Henry Ricklis Holocaust Memorial Committee Member Mr. Jay Ellis Brown introduced fellow committee member Mr. David Rothman. Then, Mr. Rothman announced the winners of the Holocaust Essay Contest and introduced holocaust survivors Harold Lichtenstein, Ronnie Rothchild and Judith Sherman. Winning essays were read by holocaust survivors. Essay winners Kayla Eisenberg, Sarah Nale, Christina Hussain, Evan Higgins, Raveena Suda and Ali Deitche were acknowledged and given a gift card from the Committee. Additionally, Mr. Brown presented the Board of Education with a check in the amount of \$300. Mr. Leary moved and Mr. Tessler seconded a motion that the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and accept a check in the amount of \$300 presented by Mr. Brown from the Henry Ricklis Holocaust Memorial Committee, as a donation to the Monroe Township Board of Education in appreciation for the Board's ongoing support of the Committee and in support of educating students regarding the holocaust.

EXECUTIVE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT DR. PATRICK PIEGARI –  
TOPIC: REVIEW THE CONSOLIDATION AND SHARED SERVICES  
REQUIREMENTS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS AS PER THE NEW  
REGULATIONS - Please refer to Transcript 1.

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Mr. Tessler moved seconded by Ms. Kolopanowich 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):

Personnel - Sick day bank for employee no. 002054,  
Personnel – Discussion of candidates for Principal’s search –  
Applegarth Middle School,  
Negotiations – Monroe Township Board of Education and 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 Unanimously.

Members of the Board of Education convened to closed session at 7:50 p.m.

Public Meeting Reconvened at 8:57 p.m.

PUBLIC FORUM – none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Ms. Ostrager to approve the minutes for the Public Board of Education Meeting held on November 12, 2008. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Tessler to approve the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting held on November 12, 2008. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Tessler to approve the minutes for the Special Public Board of Education Meeting held on November 18, 2008. Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Tessler to approve the minutes for the Closed Session Meeting held on November 18, 2008. Motion Carried.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORT

### ENROLLMENT

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

### HOME INSTRUCTION

FIRE DRILLS – All schools

### LOCK DOWN

Applegarth Middle School  
Mill Lake Elementary School

### PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Kaufman that Personnel Items (A - T) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – All Yeas - Motion Carried Unanimously. 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 Ms. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Kaufman that Board Action items (A – H) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call - All Yeas - Motion Carried Unanimously. 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 RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORT

A motion was made by Ms. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Tessler that Board Action items (A – O) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call - All Yeas - Motion Carried Unanimously. 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.

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Ms. Bhatt spoke about the following events at Woodland Elementary School: the blood drive and the Holiday Shop. Ms. Bonamici spoke about the following events at the High School: National Honor Society clothes & coat drive, French Honor Society food drive, parent-teacher conferences and the Winter Chorus Concert.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Please refer to Transcript #2.

OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS– Please refer to Transcript #2.

PUBLIC FORUM – Please refer to Transcript #2.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Leonard and seconded by Mr. Braverman that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried Unanimously. The public meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

WAYNE HOLLIDAY  
BOARD SECRETARY/  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

# TRANSCRIPT

PUBLIC BOARD OF  
EDUCATION MEETING

DECEMBER 17, 2008

1 (Transcript part 1)

2 MS. ANTELIS: At this time I'm going to  
3 turn it over to the executive county superintendent,  
4 Dr. Patrick Piegari.

5 DR. PIEGARI: By all means, if the  
6 students want to leave, I will not be insulted, I  
7 promise you. I know what your schedules are like  
8 with homework. There's probably term papers that  
9 are due before the recess, too.

10 As the group is leaving, I'm very  
11 fortunate that tonight was the night that I'm coming  
12 to address the Board and the community to experience  
13 such a lovely activity and a recognition of what our  
14 students are doing in a very meaningful way and  
15 making sincere and appropriate connections with the  
16 community that serves the -- and supports the  
17 education of our students so it's -- that's a  
18 pleasure. It was the highlight of my evening.

19 What I have been doing the past 6 months  
20 as a requirement of my new position as executive  
21 county superintendent is going to school districts  
22 that are K-8 districts in the county -- and we only  
23 have three -- and going to their constituent  
24 districts that are K-8 where they send their  
25 students and talking about the new regulations and

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1 the process of collaboration, shared services, and  
2 consolidations, which is required under the new  
3 legislation, and I want to work backwards. March of  
4 2010, I'm required as the county supe to present to  
5 the commissioner a plan that would look at the  
6 consolidation of services and/or school districts  
7 within the county so that there are all K-12  
8 districts, or if there are particular circumstances  
9 that exist, there is an increased emphasis on shared  
10 services and collaborations. After that's submitted  
11 to the commissioner, that report is then reviewed,  
12 and then it goes to the voters in both districts to  
13 support or reject the plan.

14 Now, I'm just going to back up. In  
15 January or thereabouts -- this is not written in the  
16 statute -- it's required that a public hearing take  
17 place in the districts to address the plan and  
18 present it to the community, and that's going to be  
19 around January because I think it's very important  
20 that that plan get input and any viable, meaningful,  
21 substantial change or comment or input should be  
22 incorporated in the report, and then I would have  
23 time in February to make those necessary changes and  
24 then submit it to the commissioner in March.

25 One question that comes to mind that has

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1    been asked, can the commissioner change the plan,  
2    can your boss change what you present. Absolutely.  
3    So the commissioner will review the plan. It will  
4    be reviewed by the financial department. The plan  
5    might require some legislative changes in the law.  
6    So just looking futuristically, the community voting  
7    on this plan would probably be in 2011, depending on  
8    how much legislation is needed, and there probably  
9    will be about 200 plans being presented to the  
10   commissioner in March of 2010. So just in terms of  
11   turnaround, possible legislation, all the data to be  
12   analyzed, it goes to the voters in 2011. If that  
13   were to be approved, it would take at least a year  
14   for a transition to take place, appropriate  
15   preparation, any contract or employee issues or  
16   staffing issues. So we're looking at 2012.

17           So here we are in 2008. I'm required to  
18   have a task force that would help with reviewing  
19   information and data. The regulations also call for  
20   a feasibility study, and there's no money for a  
21   feasibility study so the department is looking to  
22   the Department of Human Resources -- Department of  
23   Human Services, DHS, that has money for shared  
24   services for municipalities to provide funds to  
25   support shared services for school district.

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1           So that -- those discussions are moving  
2 forward. They have not been completed. There  
3 aren't checks being passed on like we saw tonight.  
4 It's obviously going to be a lot bigger than \$300.  
5 These feasibility studies are probably in the range  
6 of between 20 and \$30,000 and take about 4 to  
7 6 months.

8           So I have a task force that I work with.  
9 I also work closely with the district. Before I met  
10 with any boards, I met with the administrative team  
11 in the districts, so my business official, myself,  
12 your business official, your superintendent, and the  
13 business official and superintendent of Jamesburg  
14 met, and we discussed issues. We discussed shared  
15 services, and just to have a conversation about the  
16 process and to start the thinking process along the  
17 way.

18           This process becomes challenging because  
19 it has to be grounded in my mind, which the  
20 legislation doesn't say, it has to be grounded with  
21 common sense. It has to be certainly grounded with  
22 the financial reality of all of us in the room so it  
23 can't be a good idea that's going to cost more  
24 money. That's not even going to be a consideration.  
25 It can't compromise the integrity and the quality of

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1 educational services that are currently being  
2 provided, and it also has to to a high degree be  
3 embraced by people who are going to have to vote for  
4 it.

5           Now, I don't want to start with that  
6 first, and I specifically left it last because I  
7 can't -- I wouldn't develop a plan that's going to  
8 be supported and then have everything else fit in to  
9 what makes it work. I have to -- I have to present  
10 the plan at a public hearing; therefore, if I'm in  
11 the audience, one of the first things I'm going to  
12 be thinking about is who developed this plan and  
13 where did this come from. So I'm going to have to  
14 justify in front of the community, and I'm sure that  
15 we're not going to be holding that hearing in this  
16 building. It will be in your auditorium because of  
17 the number of people that will be there. I have to  
18 talk in terms of the credibility of the people that  
19 are involved and the elements that I mentioned in  
20 terms that are integral parts and the foundation of  
21 what's being presented.

22           I am also now in the process of seeing  
23 my range of authority in terms of how far I can go  
24 and how close I can stop. The legislation talks  
25 about the consolidation of districts, but the

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1 legislation also talks about consolidation of  
2 services. It also talks about -- and I underline  
3 this term, and I read it again tonight -- right in  
4 the beginning of the legislation and the  
5 regulations, it talks about where practical so in my  
6 mind, where practical means that it has to have a  
7 common sense approach and it has to be meaningful  
8 and fit the criteria that I mentioned.

9           So I'm in the process right now along  
10 with meeting with boards, and that's coming to a  
11 close, trying to find the parameters so before I  
12 begin I know how far I can go and what's practical  
13 in terms of taking what's practical and having it  
14 fit for Monroe and Jamesburg. I'm also doing this  
15 in two other arenas with four other districts, and  
16 it's certainly not a cookie cutter because it has to  
17 be unique to the two districts in what's meaningful  
18 and what's purposeful and what's going to actually  
19 work and enhance the criteria that I mentioned.

20           As I move forward with this, it's very  
21 challenging because I'm looking at taking something  
22 that has a legislative and a political momentum and  
23 putting it in an educational setting that's in the  
24 best interests of our students, and that certainly  
25 creates a big challenge. I'm also am required to do

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1 this within that time frame so there's no opting out  
2 clause with regard to this process taking place.  
3 I'm working with my colleagues as we meet with the  
4 commissioner. We have another meeting on Monday  
5 with the commissioner and the attorney general's  
6 office because as you read regulations and as you  
7 read legislation, there's always that fine line of  
8 interpreting and making sure the interpretation and  
9 the guidelines fall within the frame of reality.  
10 The last thing I want to do is to begin spinning and  
11 creating and working with the task force and  
12 developing plans and then find out that not going to  
13 fit within the guidelines of the regulations.

14 Another reason why I'm here tonight is  
15 to have you understand the person driving the bus,  
16 and if you have ever taken a trip on a tour bus, the  
17 first thing you do -- and I've done this recently on  
18 a ski trip -- is you meet the bus driver. That  
19 person has their life in your hands, and you want to  
20 get to know them, how they look, how they act, what  
21 their attitudes are, are they concerned about your  
22 safety and well-being. So a part of my reason for  
23 being here is that I'm concerned about your safety  
24 and well-being and the healthy state of your  
25 district and the importance of the relationship that

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1 currently exists with Jamesburg and Monroe. It's a  
2 healthy one. It's a positive one. Currently,  
3 you're sharing and doing services for  
4 transportation. You're doing services for  
5 professional development. You're doing services for  
6 cafeteria services, and there's a healthy collegial  
7 atmosphere and dialogue and mutual support, and I  
8 certainly support that, want that to continue, and  
9 would love to see that further enhanced for the  
10 benefit of both districts, and that's kind of a  
11 bottom line because if we can both benefit by a new  
12 relationship that's going to enhance what we're  
13 doing at no more cost to the taxpayer, that would  
14 certainly be a win/win.

15 So as I move forward with this, I will  
16 keep your vested interest in mind and keep the  
17 criteria that I mentioned to you as the driving  
18 force behind what we do, keeping the process  
19 legitimate, not letting any interference occur with  
20 the process, and the bottom line is that the public  
21 hearing, giving the public a chance to express their  
22 concerns about the plan and why it's in and how it's  
23 going to benefit me as a resident and benefit my son  
24 or daughter as a student in either/or district.

25 Let me stop at this point and take

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1 questions or comments from the Board members.

2 MS. ANTELIS: Miss Leonard.

3 MS. LEONARD: You had mentioned a task  
4 force. Has it been formed? What are its membership  
5 like?

6 DR. PIEGARI: The final regulations have  
7 not outlined the task force. Options for the task  
8 force is to use my round table, which would  
9 represent a superintendent from every school  
10 district in the county. Another option is to have a  
11 representative from each district in the county. I  
12 also have to report and have a representative from  
13 the LEED Group to provide a quarterly report on the  
14 status of what the task force is doing. The task  
15 force is advisory. Obviously this cannot be done in  
16 a vacuum. The ideal situation is to have a  
17 feasibility study, to have data collected, and then  
18 have a task force review data and look at what's  
19 practical and what false into those guidelines that  
20 I outlined. I'm definitely going to be having  
21 individuals from both districts involved in the  
22 process from presenting data if there is not a  
23 feasibility study to reviewing data to make sure  
24 that it's current and applicable and also talking  
25 about the pros and the cons of suggestions that are

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1 being brought forth. There can be consultants that  
2 can make a proposal, but unless you're in that  
3 situation, you might not understand that it can't  
4 work and that reason on why it can't work or why it  
5 would create a limitation one would not know from  
6 the outside looking in. So it's very important to  
7 have inside people begin to brainstorm and address  
8 issues that are being put forth in the study, and  
9 that will take place before the plan is finalized  
10 and presented to the community on or about  
11 January 2010.

12 MS. LEONARD: Thank you.

13 MS. ANTELIS: Miss Ostrager.

14 MS. OSTRAGER: This goes to the voters.

15 If it passes, assume we go forward with the whole  
16 plan. If it doesn't pass, do the regulations call  
17 for reworking it and going forward or saying this  
18 isn't going to happen? I mean, where --

19 DR. PIEGARI: That's a good question.

20 That question does come up. The regulations do not  
21 address what happens if it fails. Obviously, if it  
22 does not support it, that plan is rejected. The  
23 next step would occur probably with future  
24 legislation or looking at the commissioner asking me  
25 to look at alternatives that would again enhance the

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1 spirit of the law, which would be further  
2 efficiencies, further ways to look at  
3 consolidations, further ways to share services, and  
4 possibly not merge the districts because then that  
5 would not require a vote. So that's a possible  
6 alternative. If something doesn't get supported, I  
7 see two alternatives: 1, legislation that would  
8 move that further along to make that happen in a  
9 different way, or the commissioner saying move it  
10 along in an efficiency way to have more  
11 collaborations and shared services. Those are the  
12 only two avenues. Either more legislation comes  
13 through that could possibly take away the vote of  
14 the communities, or in some way talk about other  
15 methods to support K-12 consolidations, but again,  
16 as we look at 2011, we're going to have a possible  
17 new governor, and with a new governor, a possibility  
18 of a new commissioner. We may not. It may be the  
19 same governor and the same commissioner, but a lot  
20 could happen after November '09, and then in  
21 November '10, 2010, you have your legislators that  
22 are up for reelection so that's another avenue in  
23 terms of legislators that may or may not support  
24 legislation that has previously taken place in '07.  
25 So we've seen changes in current legislation or

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1 modifications, and that could possibly happen in  
2 2010 with a new legislation, a new group of  
3 legislators if that were to be the case.

4 MS. ANTELIS: Mr. Kaufman.

5 MR. KAUFMAN: Since it's clear that it  
6 hasn't been decided that it doesn't pass what  
7 direction we go.

8 DR. PIEGARI: No, never been discussed.

9 MR. KAUFMAN: Can it also be said that  
10 defining what isn't passed hasn't been decided  
11 either if the sending district votes for it and the  
12 receiving district votes against it?

13 DR. PIEGARI: Doesn't fly. It needs  
14 both. That has been defined fortunately. It needs  
15 both, and that I'm pleased with.

16 MR. KAUFMAN: Right.

17 DR. PIEGARI: I'm not necessarily  
18 pleased with all of the legislation, and I know  
19 Board members are not. Superintendents are not.  
20 The amount of oversight and involvement that I have  
21 in school districts now is more than what board  
22 members and school administrators would like, and I  
23 could certainly understand that, and the reason  
24 being very simply is that the voters voted this  
25 board to make those decisions, not me, but again,

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1 that was a legislative move where the executive  
2 county supe has that authority and power, but as a  
3 resident and having kids in schools and vote for  
4 board members, I'm voting my confidence in people  
5 that live in my town, who I hold accountable and  
6 responsible for the operation of the school  
7 district, like all of you, and some people feel that  
8 having the role of the executive county supe to do  
9 that is not appropriate, and I'll leave it be at  
10 that.

11 MS. ANTELIS: Miss Ostrager.

12 MS. OSTRAGER: Obviously, the theory  
13 behind all this is if you consolidate you'll save --  
14 you have operating efficiencies and save money, but  
15 any change when you -- the process of implementing  
16 the change costs money. You mentioned the  
17 feasibility study, which there was no funding  
18 available for that.

19 DR. PIEGARI: At this time.

20 MS. OSTRAGER: At this time, and of  
21 course more funding's coming down the road because  
22 we have lots of money coming in from the state. Has  
23 anyone even discussed where the funding would come  
24 from if two districts were to decide to consolidate  
25 because obviously even if there would be long-term

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1 savings possibly, the transition, itself, would cost  
2 money. You know, you would have contracts maybe you  
3 would have to buy out, buildings that may not be  
4 designed properly. I mean, there are a number of  
5 things that --

6 DR. PIEGARI: That's a good question.

7 The plan would have to address that either with a  
8 phase in or changes in the current legislation so it  
9 would not have a negative effect on the financial  
10 operation of either town. That was one of the  
11 highest priorities, obviously. A good idea that's  
12 going to cost more money right now is not a good  
13 idea, and I wouldn't even consider that because if I  
14 had to -- if I -- if something were to be developed  
15 and it was going to have a financial impact, the  
16 recommendation would have a legislative impact that  
17 would balance the formula or balance the financial  
18 impact of what would take place. Otherwise, it  
19 would not be a good plan.

20 MS. ANTELIS: Anyone else?

21 DR. PIEGARI: Anybody want to do this  
22 for me? I'm going to try to keep a sense of humor,  
23 not that it's something funny, but that it's very  
24 stressful for people even to be around the table  
25 discussing someone -- this task force. I'm

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1 discussing people's jobs. I'm discussing the  
2 structure of someone else's house and how far do I  
3 go, and so having a reasonableness of it, where  
4 practical, common sense, that also has to -- that  
5 has to permeate the air, no personal agendas.  
6 Otherwise, I know as I did work with my graduate  
7 studies, I had one professor that drilled into me --  
8 I would have nightmares about it -- a contamination  
9 of data and is the data contaminated, so when I do  
10 would my study it would be did you contaminate the  
11 data, and I would have to justify all the variables  
12 and how I did it and was it done consistent, was it  
13 fair, and was there anything that could have  
14 contaminated your results. So I can assure you that  
15 that's a computer chip that's buried in my head that  
16 I dealt with for 3 years with my committee that you  
17 can't have data that's in any way compromised or  
18 contaminated because it takes away the whole  
19 integrity of the study, and that I would assure you  
20 will not happen.

21 MS. ANTELIS: Mr. Leary.

22 MR. LEARY: Just a question.

23 (Inaudible) how are your equals in other counties,  
24 particularly in Bergen County, which has 73  
25 municipalities and all kinds of K-8. I would assume

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1 they're going absolutely berserk.

2 DR. PIEGARI: Overwhelmed. They --  
3 being realistic, that would be extremely, extremely  
4 difficult. In fact, my colleague in Bergen County I  
5 feel for. He's doing 34 monitoring visits. I'm  
6 doing 9, and tomorrow I'll be in Bergen County  
7 helping him out. I think a place like Bergen, a  
8 place like Bergen is going to need a lot of help, a  
9 lot of help and maybe priorities in terms of not  
10 being able to do all of them within that time frame  
11 but doing the ones that are the most likely to  
12 support the process, the ones that are in strongest  
13 need, and the ones that are having difficulty  
14 providing services and education because of their  
15 size or because of their budget.

16 MR. LEARY: Enough said.

17 DR. PIEGARI: I do look forward to  
18 working with you. I love coming to Monroe and  
19 working with your administrators so that's a plus,  
20 and I assure you that I will be working with the  
21 task force and taking this very, very seriously and  
22 working in your best interests. That's paramount as  
23 I move forward.

24 MR. LEARY: Good.

25 DR. PIEGARI: That's it.

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1 MS. ANTELIS: Thank you, Dr. Piegari,  
2 for that presentation.

3 DR. PIEGARI: Thank you very much.

4 MS. ANTELIS: Thank you. At this time,  
5 we'll be moving to item number 6 on the agenda. Mr.  
6 Tessler.

7 (Transcript part 2)

8 MS. ANTELIS: Seeing none, we will move  
9 on to the Board President's report. I had received  
10 a letter from Coach Bob Turco, and he had sent it  
11 out to other members of the Board in regards to Ryan  
12 Walp, a very courageous young man who passed away  
13 just recently, and I'm going to ask Coach Turco to  
14 come up and talk about the letter that he sent to  
15 the Board.

16 MR. TURCO: Bob Turco. I actually live  
17 in Monroe, 1 White Tail Lane, Monroe, New Jersey,  
18 and I'm the head basketball coach here. I'm going  
19 to read off this paper, and -- I'm going to try to  
20 read off this paper. I was a lot better at his  
21 eulogy. All right. First of all, I want to have  
22 everybody forgive me for choking up here for a  
23 minute and give me a few breaks. I'm going to need  
24 some, I'm sure, but -- and I want to apologize for  
25 my appearance. I've been sick a few days, probably

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1 have walking pneumonia, but because of Ryan Walp, I  
2 have not missed work or a practice because you can  
3 never, ever tell yourself you're so sick.

4 For those of you who don't know about  
5 Ryan, or even for you who do, let me just say a few  
6 quick things. Ryan spent the last 3 years fighting  
7 for his life, or that's what I thought he was doing  
8 anyway. What he was really doing was fighting to  
9 help everyone he came in contact with. He never  
10 once complained about cancer or even asked why him.  
11 He just kept trying to make everybody understand  
12 that we should never take anything for granted.  
13 Since 2005, when he was first diagnosed up until his  
14 last breath he displayed courage, class, and  
15 unbelievable commitment to succeed. He continued to  
16 take honor classes here at Monroe and participated  
17 in varsity basketball through several surgeries,  
18 chemotherapy, and numerous setbacks. That is a  
19 tremendous feat in itself, but being successful and  
20 competitive, well, that's just plain inspirational.  
21 Ryan's courage, work ethic, commitment to succeed,  
22 an inspiration to teachers, students, teammates,  
23 coaches, and the community is what the foundation of  
24 Monroe student athletes should build upon. He has  
25 changed my life. Yes, he has. He has changed my

1 life as well as everybody else who was lucky enough  
2 to cross his path during his brief but meaningful  
3 life.

4 There is a saying that heroes are  
5 remembered but legends live forever, and naming the  
6 gymnasium after Ryan will be a tremendous step in  
7 making sure Ryan is and will always be a legend. I  
8 want to thank you from Monroe basketball.

9 MS. ANTELIS: Thank you, Coach Turco.

10 MR. TURCO: And I just want to thank the  
11 entire Board of Education and the central  
12 administration in honoring Ryan Walp. Thank you.

13 MS. ANTELIS: Thank you. At this time I  
14 would like to talk a little bit about naming the gym  
15 here in the high school where Ryan played after him.  
16 We were approached also by the booster club, who  
17 would like to donate a score board to us with his  
18 name on it. So at this time I would like to have  
19 someone from the Board make a motion to name the  
20 current gymnasium the new Ryan Walp gymnasium.

21 MR. BRAVERMAN: So moved.

22 MS. ANTELIS: Do we have a second?

23 MR. LEARY: Second.

24 MS. ANTELIS: Do we have questions or  
25 comments?

21

1 MR. HOLLIDAY: Who was the second,  
2 please?

3 MS. ANTELIS: Mr. Leary.

4 MR. HOLLIDAY: So noted.

5 MS. ANTELIS: Any questions or comments?

6 All in favor? Opposed? The motion carries. It's a  
7 tribute. Coach, thank you so much for bringing this  
8 to us. You're right, Ryan is an inspiration to us  
9 all, as you are, too. Thank you. We look forward  
10 -- and that concludes my report. Any other Board of  
11 Education business? Marv.

12 MR. BRAVERMAN: Yeah, I think we ought  
13 to do something about conforming the time for Board  
14 meetings. I mean, it's kind of silly for the public  
15 to come at 7 o'clock and then we go right into a  
16 caucus and we don't know when we're coming out and  
17 so forth. Sometimes I think the caucuses should be  
18 after the meeting or during the meeting if we  
19 absolutely need them, but we ought to have a time to  
20 start, and the public ought to know that we're here  
21 and we're going to have the meeting and bring it to  
22 conclusion.

23 MS. ANTELIS: So would you -- would the  
24 Board like to see us start at 7 and then do our  
25 closed session after the meeting? Mr. Leary.

1           MR. LEARY: Remember where our problem  
2 started, Mr. Paff. We best run this by Mr. Paff and  
3 have our attorney decide what is the appropriate  
4 time to do these things.

5           MS. ANTELIS: Mr. Busch.

6           MR. BUSCH: What Mr. Leary is talking  
7 about, there's an activist who sues boards and towns  
8 all up and down the state, and he wins some and he  
9 loses some, but we used to have our closed sessions  
10 at the end of the public session, but often what  
11 would happen, you wouldn't know what would be  
12 discussed in closed session until the night of the  
13 meeting, and that was eliminated by the court saying  
14 you can't do that. You can do it if you can  
15 identify the meeting before what you're going to go  
16 into closed session for, but that became very  
17 difficult, and Wayne is shaking his head no, we  
18 couldn't do it, but for many years in Wayne's early  
19 days here until about 3 years ago --

20           MS. ANTELIS: Mr. Tessler.

21           MR. TESSLER: I thought pretty --  
22 sometimes is the exception, but I thought we tried  
23 to have closed session in the beginning and tried to  
24 come back as best we could at 8 o'clock and start  
25 our regular public meeting.

23

1 MS. ANTELIS: Most times. Miss

2 Ostrager.

3 MR. TESSLER: I know sometimes there are

4 exceptions. That will be predictable.

5 MS. OSTRAGER: But the problem is is

6 depending on what's on the agenda, and the Board

7 needs to be able to discuss some of these items

8 until we've resolved whatever issues we've had, and

9 you can't predict which issues are going to take a

10 long time or not. I don't see why we couldn't make

11 the closed session resolution the last item prior to

12 adjournment; therefore, you would get the bulk of

13 the meeting that the public would be interested in

14 at a time that the public could predict. You would

15 go in a closed session. The meeting would not be

16 adjourned. We would go in, we would come out. If

17 there was something necessary in that closed session

18 that we have to vote on in public, we're still in

19 the meeting, we're still in the public meeting, we

20 could still resolve that, but that would allow the

21 public to be able to come here at a predictable

22 time. We would still be able to meet all the Open

23 Public Meetings Act requirements, and we would have

24 the liberty to discuss these closed session items

25 without having the concern about the public being --

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1 waiting for an hour, an hour and a half, 2 hours,  
2 and we would be able to discuss these items as long  
3 as we need to without being inconsiderate of them.

4 MS. ANTELIS: Mr. Chiarella.

5 MR. CHIARELLA: I agree. I don't think  
6 it's fair to the public to have to wait for us, and  
7 I think that if we come back for a short period  
8 after closed session, if we put it at the end,  
9 whoever wants to stay to hear whatever the outcome  
10 was can, but the bulk of the reason why the people  
11 are here to begin with, that the public is here to  
12 begin with, can be addressed, and they can leave if  
13 they want to. If they want to remain, they can, and  
14 then we can discuss what went on in public session.  
15 So I agree that's the right thing.

16 MS. ANTELIS: Mr. Busch, did you want to  
17 --

18 MR. BUSCH: Yeah. Wayne Holliday, as  
19 Business Administrator/Board Secretary needs to  
20 know, for example, tonight what we're going to be  
21 meeting in closed session on before the next  
22 meeting, correct, Wayne? Do you do it that way? Or  
23 when do you need to know at the last possible time?

24 MR. HOLLIDAY: This is Wayne Holliday  
25 speaking. The agenda is published on Monday, and it

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1 is given to the Board on Monday. It's published the  
2 following morning on our web site with the closed  
3 session agenda items on it, and, therefore, the way  
4 I'm perceiving it, Counselor, is that this Board of  
5 Education would be in essence moving the closed  
6 session resolution with those items as published  
7 towards the end of the meeting and then coming out  
8 of the closed session and proceeding with the public  
9 meeting with any members of the public that still  
10 would want to remain.

11 MR. BUSCH: Okay. That we could do.

12 MS. ANTELIS: Is that something that the  
13 Board is interested in doing?

14 MR. BRAVERMAN: I think that's  
15 reasonable.

16 MR. TESSLER: What's reasonable?

17 MS. ANTELIS: Everybody in agreement?

18 Okay. Then that's what we'll do.

19 MR. HOLLIDAY: Thank you. Wayne  
20 speaking again. Then just for clarification  
21 purposes then, I will be moving the closed session  
22 agenda item on the agenda to the latter part of the  
23 agenda when it's published then.

24 MS. OSTRAGER: But say specifically the  
25 last item prior to adjournment.

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1 MR. HOLLIDAY: That's correct, unless we  
2 have a special something, but it will be -- that's  
3 exactly correct. It will be stated on the agenda  
4 prior to the announcement of the next meeting and  
5 the formal motion for adjournment.

6 MR. LEARY: Wayne, just to --

7 MS. ANTELIS: Mr. Leary.

8 MR. LEARY: -- be very specific about  
9 this, on our agenda today, item 6 would go after  
10 item 15.

11 MR. HOLLIDAY: That is absolutely  
12 correct.

13 MR. LEARY: Okay. Fine. Let's do it.

14 MR. HOLLIDAY: The only thing that I  
15 would have to ask counsel to look at is once we came  
16 out of public, once we came out of closed session,  
17 would we then have to have another public forum  
18 because there's the possibility that we would be  
19 taking action on an item.

20 MR. BUSCH: Yes.

21 MR. KAUFMAN: We'd have to do it before  
22 the public, the last public session.

23 MR. HOLLIDAY: So, therefore, the closed  
24 session resolution will come after item in this  
25 particular case 14 and then proceeded by public

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1 forum. That's why I wanted to provide that  
2 clarification.

3 MS. ANTELIS: Mr. Braverman.

4 MR. BRAVERMAN: Okay, the only thing we  
5 have to settle on now is at the reorganization  
6 meeting we said our meetings would start at  
7 8 o'clock. Now, if --

8 MR. BUSCH: No, we didn't, not this  
9 year.

10 MS. ANTELIS: I think we said 7 o'clock  
11 for this year.

12 MR. BRAVERMAN: We said 7 o'clock?  
13 Okay. Are we going to meet at 7 o'clock? Then the  
14 public will know that we're starting our meetings at  
15 7 o'clock.

16 MS. ANTELIS: Miss Ostrager.

17 MS. OSTRAGER: If we were to move the  
18 closed session resolution for tonight's meeting as  
19 using the example which makes it clear for everyone,  
20 between items 14 and 15, then that would really make  
21 it very difficult for anyone who wants to address  
22 the Board. So if we moved it to after item 15 and  
23 if we need to we could have a third public forum  
24 because, I mean, how long could it possibly -- but  
25 that would still give the public time to address us

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1 without requiring them to wait until who knows how  
2 long.

3 MS. ANTELIS: Either that or what we  
4 could do is the first public forum just open it up  
5 to any questions. Doesn't have to be items on the  
6 agenda.

7 MS. OSTRAGER: That would be great.

8 MS. ANTELIS: We could do that, and that  
9 way we're not -- and certainly, should we have a  
10 closed session item that we come out and the public  
11 is always welcome to stay.

12 MS. OSTRAGER: That's a very good idea.

13 MS. ANTELIS: Okay. The only question I  
14 have, Counselor, is should we be in the middle of  
15 the agenda and there might be something that we have  
16 to go into closed session, how do we address that?

17 MR. BUSCH: We just -- well, if we  
18 didn't publish it, we would have a problem. That's  
19 the problem.

20 MR. HOLLIDAY: Obviously, I'm not an  
21 attorney. I believe that from reading Roberts and  
22 other notes, I believe that any Board of Education  
23 member at any time during the meeting can go ahead  
24 and make a motion to go into closed -- to go into  
25 closed session, state the reason why. As long as

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1 it's in conformity with closed session items and  
2 seconded and approved by the Board, that Board of  
3 Education can go into closed session at any time.

4 MR. LEARY: Right.

5 MS. ANTELIS: Any other discussion item?  
6 Any other Board of Education business? Seeing none,  
7 we will open it back up to the public. Anyone  
8 wishing to speak, please stand, state your name and  
9 address for the record.

10 MR. PREZIOSO: My name is Anthony  
11 Prezioso. I live at 8 Equestrian Way.

12 Any, are the negotiations open with the  
13 teachers union yet?

14 MS. ANTELIS: No.

15 MR. PREZIOSO: Okay. Is the Board  
16 committed to the program for the summer school for  
17 the kids with the special needs children?

18 MS. ANTELIS: If you turn around, you  
19 see the gentleman in the red sweater there, he's our  
20 next superintendent, and it will be discussed, but I  
21 think this Board made a commitment to that program  
22 at the June meeting when Dr. Ferrie was here.

23 MR. PREZIOSO: Okay. Thank you.

24 MS. ANTELIS: Please state your name and  
25 address.

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1 MS. BERNSTEIN: My name is Esther  
2 Bernstein Schatz, and I live at 6 Greenwich Court in  
3 Monroe Township. I'm also employed at the  
4 Applegarth School as a speech therapist, and I'd  
5 just like to know where you are in your decision  
6 process as far as finding a principal for us.

7 MS. ANTELIS: We have not made a  
8 decision yet.

9 Anyone else from the public? Yes, sir.  
10 Please state your name and address for the record.

11 MR. KRISHNA: My name is Talluru  
12 Krishna. I live at 10 Venezia Drive. My kid is in  
13 7th grade. He is at Applegarth Middle School.

14 I want to ask similar thing what you  
15 discuss about the public forum. The way I see why  
16 so many parents don't present in the public forum  
17 because of the length of the session. I could have  
18 spent my time with my kid, go to the -- or whatever  
19 it is. If we have a 2-hour session or whatever it  
20 is, it gives a strong disincentive to the parents to  
21 attend. In lieu of that, probably should conduct an  
22 abbreviated session exclusively for the public,  
23 whatever the concerns there is. I think probably  
24 should address them, and then the public can  
25 adjourn, or if someone wants to stay long and they

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1 could do that. Probably that would -- that would  
2 probably will facilitate large number of parents to  
3 attend the school -- the Board meetings and probably  
4 contribute to the community in a much larger way.  
5 Right now we have hardly -- we have more school  
6 members and Board members than parents. That  
7 probably would change. If the public doesn't  
8 participate, then what input are we going to get  
9 from the public?

10 MS. ANTELIS: I really don't know what  
11 you're specifically asking me. I don't know if you  
12 heard the discussion, but what we plan on doing is  
13 we're going to change it so that we will go through  
14 the agenda, and then at the end of the agenda, we  
15 will meet in closed session and then come back out.  
16 This way --

17 MR. KRISHNA: What will we do --  
18 basically, my suggestion is 7 to 7:30 or 8 to 10,  
19 whatever it is, exclusively public discussions,  
20 whatever the public wants to --

21 MS. ANTELIS: Well, there are certain  
22 discussions that we cannot have in public.

23 MR. KRISHNA: No, no, no, no, only the  
24 school board, whatever the issues which you can  
25 discuss with the public, those issues probably

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1 whether it be a 15-minute session, a 20-minute  
2 session, whatever it is, only the public, they will  
3 put forward whatever they want to do, and then they  
4 can adjourn. Probably --

5 MS. ANTELIS: That's what I had just  
6 suggested, that normally our first public forum is  
7 items on the agenda. We're not going to do that  
8 anymore. Anyone can stand up and speak to any item  
9 they like.

10 MR. KRISHNA: That would be a very, very  
11 effective way to attract the public.

12 And one more thing I want to raise is  
13 I'm not sure -- I do apologize if this is not  
14 appropriate forum or whatever it is -- and regarding  
15 the principal for the Applegarth Middle School, I  
16 have interacted with the interim principal, Mrs.  
17 Chanley, and I found her to be very energetic and  
18 outgoing and accessible to the parents, and as a  
19 parent, I would want someone (inaudible) to be the  
20 principal, and I would strongly urge the school  
21 board to consider her for the position of the  
22 principal.

23 MS. ANTELIS: Thank you very much.

24 MR. KRISHNA: As I said, if this is not  
25 the appropriate forum, I do apologize.

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1 MS. ANTELIS: Thank you.

2 MR. KRISHNA: Thank you very much.

3 MS. ANTELIS: Anyone else from the  
4 public wish to speak? State your name and address  
5 for the record.

6 MS. SKINNER: My name is Lisa Skinner, 9  
7 Bridal Court, Monroe Township.

8 MS. ANTELIS: Can you say it again,  
9 please?

10 MS. SKINNER: Lisa Skinner, 9 Bridal  
11 Court, Monroe Township. I would just like to know  
12 why it is taking this long. We have Miss Chanley  
13 right here. She is excellent. I volunteer in the  
14 schools. I see her. She is awesome. She is great.  
15 She's great with the kids. I just -- it's December  
16 and here we are. What is the problem. Can you give  
17 us the reason?

18 MS. ANTELIS: We really can't talk about  
19 personnel. We just have not made a decision as of  
20 this date.

21 MS. SKINNER: I'm a parent with a child  
22 in the school. I need a decision. We have someone  
23 right here who's ready to go, and she's in the  
24 building with 804 kids by herself. You didn't even  
25 give her any kind of assistant principal. This is

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1 ridiculous.

2 MS. ANTELIS: Thank you.

3 MS. ARMINIO: Michelle Arminio, 9

4 Nathaniel Street. Just as -- with the Board's

5 indulgence and the public's indulgence, I'd just

6 like to give a public announcement and inform the

7 public that on December 29, the planning board and

8 the Township Council are going to be discussing an

9 affordable housing plan for the COAH regula -- you

10 may be aware, but I don't know if anybody else on

11 the Board is or the public, and I would encourage

12 the parents in this community go to either or both

13 of those meetings because the COAH regulations -- I

14 just came from the Affordable Housing Commission,

15 and there is in excess of a thousand affordable

16 housing units that are required through this called

17 round 3 of the state requiring Monroe to build in

18 the town. So if you want more information about it

19 and we can all maybe in the future discuss with the

20 Board of Education the impact it will have on the

21 schools, but it's December 29. There's a planning

22 board meeting and followed by the council meeting,

23 and they will actually be voting on that plan. That

24 plan is due in the state December 31 so I would

25 encourage everyone to come to see what that plan is

1 all about. Thank you.

2 MS. ANTELIS: Thank you.

3 MS. SALVADORE: Anna Salvadore, 3

4 Talmadge Drive. I'm also the PTO president of

5 Applegarth Middle School. I understand that a

6 decision was supposed to be made last month, and we

7 had a lot on the agenda with the new superintendent,

8 and now a decision hasn't been made at this meeting.

9 Are there any plans in place to give her an interim

10 assistant principal at this point? This woman is

11 running a building with over 800 students by

12 herself. I mean, what if she gets sick? What's in

13 place?

14 MR. KING: There will be a plan to make

15 sure that Miss Chanley has enough help.

16 MS. SALVADORE: And when is this

17 decision supposed to be reached?

18 MS. ANTELIS: We will make a decision.

19 MS. SALVADORE: I mean, I actually sat

20 on the committee to interview the principals, and I

21 personally find it an insult that a decision hasn't

22 been made. You know, you have principals on the

23 committee, Applegarth teachers on the committee, and

24 you asked for our opinion. We came to a unanimous

25 decision on the opinion. We sent four qualified

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1 candidates. We didn't send anyone that we thought  
2 weren't good candidates, and still no decision, and  
3 I'm just not sure why. I feel it's an insult to us  
4 as a committee having been asked to do this, and  
5 still no decision's been made.

6 MS. ANTELIS: Thank you. Anyone else  
7 from the public wish to speak? See no one, the next  
8 scheduled public Board of Education meeting is  
9 Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 7 p.m., here at the  
10 high school. Can I have a motion to adjourn?

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8. SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORT – DECEMBER 17, 2008

**I. Enrollment**

	<u>11/30/08</u>	<u>10/31/08</u>	Increase+ <u>Decrease-</u>	<u>11/30/07</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Applegarth School	804	802	+2	770	+34
Barclay Brook School	516	515	+1	714	-198
Brookside School	692	694	-2	965	-273
Mill Lake School	662	660	+2	669	-7
Oak Tree	667	663	+4	0	+667
Woodland School	509	506	+3	486	+23
Monroe High School	<u>1564</u>	<u>1564</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1528</u>	<u>+36</u>
<b>Total Elementary &amp; Secondary</b>	<b>5414</b>	<b>5404</b>	<b>+10</b>	<b>5132</b>	<b>+282</b>

**I. Enrollment (continued)**

SCHOOL	MONROE			JAMESBURG		
	Sept. 2008	Oct. 2008	Difference	Sept. 2008	Oct. 2008	Difference
Academy Learning Center	13	13				
Bridge Academy	2	2				
Bright Beginnings	1	1				
Center School	3	3				
CPC Lower	1	1				
CPC Upper	3	4	+1	2	2	
East Mountain	1	1				
Eden	2	2				
Harbor School	2	2				
KIVA	1	1				
New Roads Parlin	5	5		1	1	
Kidspace	1	1				
Mercer Elementary	2	2				
Mercer Cty Jr./Sr.	1	1				
Mercer Cty Reg. Day	2	2				
Midland	4	4		1	1	
Millstone WW/Plainsboro	1	1				
New Brunswick				1	1	
Palisades Learning Center					1	+1
Princeton Child Dev Instit	1	1				
Piscataway Reg. Day	1	1				
Raritan Valley Academy				1	1	
Rugby	1	1				
Schoth School	1	1				
Spotswood High School				1	1	
UMDNJ	1	1		1	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>+1</b>

**II. Home Instruction**

<b>Student Number</b>	<b>Rea.</b>	<b>Gr.</b>	<b>Teachers</b>	<b>Sch.</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Hours Per/wk</b>
1.	Med	11	Drust, Goulding	HS	9-4-08		4
2.	Med	K	Valendo	ML	9-4-08		4
3.							
4.	Med	9	Hommer, Butler, Gonzalez, Olszewski	HS	9-9-08		10
5.	CST	12	Valendo, Fletcher	OD	9-9-08		10
6.	504	K	Kravit	ML	9-9-08		5
7.	504	6	Previtera	OT	9-9-08		5
8.	SUS	9	Lynch, Wall, Quindes	HS	10-23-08		10
9.	Med	8	Weiner, Firestine, Chang	A	10-6-08		10
10.	Sus	9	Lynch, Wall, Quindes, Drust	HS	10-23-08	10-31-08	10
11.	Med	11	UMDNJ	OD	10-25-08		10

**III. Fire Drills**

Applegarth School -----November 11 and 17, 2008  
 Barclay Brook School-----November 3 and 13, 2008  
 Brookside School -----November 12 and 20, 2008  
 Mill Lake School -----November 20 and 24, 2008  
 Oak Tree School -----November 12 and 24, 2008  
 Woodland School -----November 18 and 24, 2008  
 Monroe High School -----November 18 and 24, 2008

**Lock Down**

Applegarth-----October 22, 2008  
 Mill Lake School-----November 12, 2008

## IV. Personnel

- A. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of **Ms. Virginia Gonzalez**, Spanish teacher and Head Winter Track Girls Coach at the High School, effective January 9, 2009.
- B. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation, due to retirement, of **Ms. Patricia Jones**, Bus Driver in Transportation, retroactive to November 1, 2008.
- C. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation, due to retirement, of **Mr. Anthony Moscato**, Bus Driver in the Transportation Department, effective January 30, 2009.
- D. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of **Ms. Cheryl Whinna**, Girl's Basketball Coach at Applegarth School, effective December 5, 2008.
- E. It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Mr. Anthony Fusco**, custodian at Oak Tree, retroactive November 6, 2008 through November 14, 2008. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Mr. Fusco may have available.
- F. It is recommended that the Board approve a change of date in the maternity leave of absence of **Ms. Judi Wernersbach**, Special Education teacher at Oak Tree, retroactive to December 10, 2008 through May 1, 2009. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Wernersbach is entitled to utilize.
- G. It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Ms. Lorraine Ongaro**, Special Education teacher at the High School, effective December 15, 2008 through January 20, 2009. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Ongaro may have available.
- H. It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Ms. Judy Leonard**, Technology teacher at Brookside, retroactive to November 19, 2008 through December 19, 2008. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Leonard may have available.
- I. It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Mr. George Packard**, Physical Education teacher at the High School, retroactive to December 4, 2008 through December 19, 2008. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Mr. Packard may have available.

- J.** It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Ms. Corrine Larsen**, Bus Driver in the Transportation Department, retroactive to December 1, 2008 through December 14, 2008. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Larsen may have available.
- K.** It is recommended that the Board approve an extended medical leave of absence to **Ms. Linda Hartman**, Accounts Payable Clerk in the Business Office, retroactive to November 19, 2008 through November 26, 2008. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Hartman may have available.
- L.** It is recommended that the Board approve an extended medical leave of absence to **Ms. Kathy Pietz**, Bus Driver in the Transportation Department, retroactive to November 26, 2008 through December 19, 2008. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Pietz may have available.
- M.** It is recommended that the Board approve an extended medical leave of absence to **Ms. Maryse Naman**, Social Worker for the District, effective January 5, 2009 through January 30, 2009. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Naman is entitled to utilize.
- N.** It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Ms. Suzanne Lohman**, driver in the Transportation Department, retroactive to November 10, 2008 through December 8, 2008. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except for any sick days Ms. Lohman may have available.
- O.** It is recommended that the Board approve a return to work of **Ms. Deborah Preston**, Bus Driver in the Transportation Department, retroactive to November 10, 2008.
- P.** It is recommended that the Board approve a return to work of **Ms. Eleonora Lagrace**, Custodian for District, effective January 5, 2009.
- Q.** It is recommended that the Board approve **Ms. Maria Naumik**, as the Director of Adult Education at a stipend of \$4,828 paid quarterly for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

**R.** It is recommended that the Board approve the following certificated personnel at the following steps and guides:

<b>Employee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Teacher's Salary Guide</b>	<b>Account No.</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Reason for hire</b>
Kathleen Capelli	Kindergarten teacher	Oak Tree	Step 1 BA \$44,000 prorated	11 110 100 101	12/4/08- 6/30/09	Leave replacement
Patricia Van Gorden	Special Education teacher	Applegarth	Step 11MA 117%	11 213 100 101	11/13/08- 4/30/09	Extra session for leave replacement
Danielle Kutcher	Teacher of Technology	Woodland	Step 9 MA (80%) \$50,756.	11 120 100 101	1/5/09- 6/30/09	Modification of contract (reduction)
Kevin Higgins	Vice Principal	Barclay Brook		11-000-240-103	12/15/08- 6/30/09	Change in start date
Adrienne Previtera	ICS/Resource	Oak Tree School		11-213-100-101	9/17/08- 6/30/09	Correction in start date
Betty Fertik	Teacher of Technology	Woodland	Step 4 MA (20%) \$9,481	11-120-100-101	1/5/09- 6/30/09	Replacement of reduced position
Denise DiMeola	Teacher of the Handicapped	MTHS	Step 1 BA \$44,000 pro rated	11-213-100-101	11/17/08- 3/13/09	Leave replacement
Ruthann Papenastor	MTHS	Spanish	Step 5 BA \$44,855 pro rated	11-140-100-101	1/12/09- 6/30/09	Replacement position
Kathryn Kane	Oak Tree	ICS	Long term sub \$150/day pending cert.	11-213-100-101	12/10/08- 5/4/09	Leave replacement
Dawn Graziano	After School Basic Skills Teacher	Brookside	Hourly Supplemental \$49.85 two days per week	11-230-100-101	2008-2009 school year	Ongoing position

Sharon Palazzo	After School Basic Skills Teacher	Oak Tree	Hourly Supplemental \$49.85 two days per week	11-230-100-101	2008-2009 school year	New position
Karen O’Connell	After School Basic Skills Teacher	Oak Tree	Hourly Supplemental \$49.85 two days per week	11-230-100-101	2008-2009 school year	New position
Lisa Quinn	After School Basic Skills Sub. Teacher	Oak Tree	Hourly Supplemental \$49.85	11-230-100-101	2008-2009 school year	Substitute position
Adrienne Previtera	After School Basic Skills Sub. Teacher	Oak Tree	Hourly Supplemental \$49.85	11-230-100-101	2008-2009 school year	Substitute position
Mary Mancini	After School Basic Skills Sub. Teacher	Oak Tree	Hourly Supplemental \$49.85	11-230-100-101	2008-2009 school year	Substitute position
Bernadette Chin	After School Basic Skills Substitute Teacher	Oak Tree	Hourly Supplemental \$49.85	11-230-100-101	2008-2009 school year	Substitute position
Chip Booher	Math Club	Applegarth School	Stipend \$706	11-401-100-100	Fall 2008 clubs	Stipend position
Rachel Zarodnansky	Head Girls Winter Track	MTHS	Step 1 \$7,805	11-402-100-100	2008-2009 school year	Stipend position
Michelle McCorkle	Athletic Trainer	MTHS	Winter \$9,865 Spring \$9,865	11-402-100-101	Winter/ Spring 2008-2009	Stipend position
Samantha Grimaldi	Volunteer Bowling Coach	MTHS	Volunteer		2008-2009 school year	Volunteer
William Jacoutot	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	MTHS	Volunteer		2008-2009 school year	Volunteer

Daniel Lee	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	MTHS	Volunteer		2008-2009 school year	Volunteer
Steven MacKenzie	Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach	MTHS	Volunteer		2008-2009 School year	Volunteer
Leigh Vogtman	Girls Basketball Coach	Applegarth	Step 3 \$4,069	11-402-100-100	2008-2009 School year	Stipend

S. 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
Irene Stankiewicz	Custodian	Brookside School	Boiler License adjustment \$750.00	11-000-262-100	Retroactive 9/27/08-6/30/08	adjustment
Pamela Becker	Resource Para  Supervisory	Barclay Brook	Step 1 Para guide 2.5 hours/day special ed \$11.48 hr + \$1.00 and 1.0/day para \$11.48/hr = 3.5 hours total	11-213-100-106  11-190-100-106	11/17/08-6/30/08	New position
Leslie Bagley	Personal Paraprofessional Special Ed.	Applegarth	Step 1 Para guide \$11.48+1.00= \$12.48 6.5/hrs	11-213-100-106	1/5/09-6/30/09	New position

Judi Bartocci	Paraprofessional	Mill Lake	\$70. Professional Development between 1-3 credits	11-190-100-106	2008-2009 school year	stipend
Virginia Ullrich	Paraprofessional	Applegarth	\$70. Professional Development between 1-3 credits	11-190-100-106	2008-2009 school year	stipend
Al Pulsinelli	Set Design Drama Production #2	MTHS	Stipend \$1, 283	11-401-100-100	2008-2009 school year	stipend
Roseann Bennett	Bus Driver	Transportation	From 6.0/hrs to 8.0/hrs day	11-000-270-162	12/1/08- 6/30/09	Addition of mid day route
Julie Magid	Bus Driver	Transportation	From 6.0/hrs to 7.5/hrs day	11-000-270-162	12/1/08- 6/30/09	Addition of mid day route
Karen Hellriegel	Bus Driver	Transportation	From 6.0/hrs to 6.5/hrs day	11-000-270-162	12/1/08- 6/30/09	Extra time needed at end of run
Sharon Gray	Bus Driver	Transportation	6.0 hours/day Step 1 Driver's guide \$19.96/hr	11-000-270-162	12/1/08- 6/30/09	Replacement position
Joyce Sweeney	Secretary to Business Administrator	Board Office	\$2,886	11-000-251-100	Retroactive 7/1/08- 6/30/09	Increase for attending Board of Education meetings

- T. It is recommended that the Board approve the following substitutes for the 2008-2009 school year:

**Certificated**

Dana DeCongelio	Substitute Teacher
Gail DeMarco	Substitute Teacher
Carol Haring	Substitute Teacher
Virginia Ullrich	Substitute Teacher
Melinda Malavasi	Substitute Teacher
Sandi Korn	Substitute Teacher

**Non Certificated**

Anthony Moscato	Substitute Bus Driver
Vanda Cucinello	Substitute Paraprofessional
Susan Dorio	Substitute Paraprofessional
Millie Grimaldi	Substitute Paraprofessional
Linda Jung-McGrath	Substitute Paraprofessional
AnnMarie Popper	Substitute Paraprofessional
Devyani Purohit	Substitute Paraprofessional
Melissas Ramos	Substitute Paraprofessional
Lillian Tomasulo	Substitute Paraprofessional
Justin Lupo	Volunteer Wrestling Coach

**V. Board Action**

- A. It is recommended that the Board approve the submission of the Five-Year Preschool Program Plan.
- B. It is recommended that the Board approve a workshop facilitated by Dr. James Ball on Autism Behavioral Strategies and Interventions on January 14, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost of the workshop is \$1,250.
- C. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of requests for Field Trips.
- D. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of Student Teacher placements.
- E. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of requests for Staff Professional Development.
- F. Attached is the Report of Pupil Suspensions for the Month of November 2008.

- G. **2008-2009 Violence/Substance Abuse/Estimated Violence/Vandalism Costs** previously reported for the period 7/1/08 through 12/15/08: .....\$0

<u>Date</u> <u>District</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Incident</u>	<u>Cost to</u>
12/4/08	Barclay Brook	Possession of weapon	n/a

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

Student No.	School	Dates of Attendance	Cost
77593	CPC High Point	10/13/08	\$342.70 per diem
82564	Nuview Academy	12/10/08	\$239.00 per diem

MONROE TOWNSHIP  
Board of Education

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORT FOR DECEMBER 17, 2008

BOARD ACTION

A. BILL LIST

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$7,837,478.97 for October 2008 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.

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

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$2,532,809.33 for October 2008 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 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (BOND SERIES 2006)

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$463,825.49 for October 2008 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 HIGH SCHOOL (BOND SERIES 2008)

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$317,761.32 for October 2008 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. 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 October 2008, 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 N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, Be It Further Resolved that the Board Secretary certifies that the October 2008 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).

#### F. RE-APPOINTING QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION maintaining the current District bid threshold and re-appointing the Qualified Purchasing Agent, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq.

WHEREAS, the recent changes to the Public School Contracts Law gave boards of education the ability to increase their bid threshold up to \$29,000; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3a, permits an increase in the bid threshold if a Qualified Purchasing Agent is appointed as well as granted the authorization to negotiate and award such contracts below the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq. establishes the criteria for qualifying as a Qualified Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Holliday possesses the designation of Qualified Purchasing Agent as issued by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:34-5 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Board of Education desires to maintain the bid threshold as provided in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the governing body of the Monroe Township Board of Education, in the County of Middlesex, in the State of New Jersey hereby maintains its bid threshold to \$29,000 (twenty nine thousand dollars); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby re-appoints Wayne Holliday as the Qualified Purchasing Agent to exercise the duties of a purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2b, with specific relevance to the authority, responsibility, and accountability of the purchasing activity of the Board of Education.

#### G. TRANSFER #4

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Transfer #4 as presented for fiscal year 2008/09. A copy is attached hereto.

#### H. HIGH SCHOOL ROOFING PROJECT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the submission of the High School roofing project (SP # 3290-005-08-1000) to the State of New Jersey, Department of Education, Office of School Facilities for review as an "Other Capital Project". Furthermore, the Board of Education authorizes the amendment of the District's approved Long Range Facilities Plan.

I. APPLEGARTH MIDDLE SCHOOL TEMPORARY CLASSROOM UNITS

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the submission of the (8) eight classroom 9,075 square foot trailer (SP# 3290-020-09-1000) as TEMPORARY SPACE at the Applegarth Middle School to the State of New Jersey, Department of Education, Office of School Facilities for review as an “Other Capital Project”. Furthermore, the Board of Education authorizes the amendment of the District’s approved Long Range Facilities Plan.

J. PUPIL TRANSPORTATION – PARENTAL CONTRACT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve a revised parental contract for student transportation. Please refer to the attached analysis for supplemental information.

K. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CONTEST GRANT AWARD

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the grant entitled: Middlesex County Environmental Awareness Contest/ “Go Green Project” as submitted by Oak Tree Elementary School teacher Ms. Melissa DelRocco. It is further recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and accept a check in the amount of \$434.00 as related to this grant. Please refer to the attached documents for supplemental information.

L. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS CONTEST GRANT AWARD

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the grant entitled: Middlesex County Environmental Awareness Contest/ “Recycling Enhancement Project” as submitted by Oak Tree Elementary School teacher Ms. Cynthia Hills. It is further recommended that members of the Board of Education acknowledge receipt of and accept a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 as related to this grant. Please refer to the attached documents for supplemental information.

M. ADOPTION AGREEMENT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education accept and approve the enclosed document entitled: “Adoption Agreement for the 403(b) Plan Document for Public Education Organization”.

N. PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION – SPORTS SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education authorize Wayne Holliday, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Qualified Purchasing Agent to procure sports supplies and equipment from Leisure Sporting Goods under State Contract #A89613.

O. SCHOOL PHYSICIAN

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:40-1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.3 and Policy 0153 and other policies adopted by the Monroe Township Board of Education provide that the Board of Education shall appoint a physician, who shall be currently licensed by the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners in medicine or osteopathy whose training and scope of practice includes child and adolescent health and development.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Monroe Township Board of Education that it hereby appoints Rex Zapanta, M.D., as School Physician for the Monroe Township Board of Education, effective July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, subject to the terms and conditions of the Contract annexed hereto.

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

WAYNE HOLLIDAY  
Prepared by  
BOARD ACTION

DECEMBER 17, 2008  
Meeting Date