

Minutes of the Special Public Board of Education meeting held on October 27, 2010 at the Monroe Township High School.

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

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Lew Kaufman, Board President
Mr. Ken Chiarella
Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich
Mr. John Leary
Mr. Lou Masters
Mr. Ira Tessler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Marvin Braverman, Board Vice President
Mr. Mark Klein
Ms. Kathy Leonard

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE ABSENT

Ms. Patrice Faraone

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

None

STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Reena Dholakia
Mr. Jonathan Kim

STAFF

Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Michael Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Mr. Jeff Gorman, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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 October 22, 2010:

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

DISCUSSION AS RELATED TO THE DISTRICT RECONFIGURATION FOR THE 2011/2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. Hamilton gave a powerpoint presentation as related to the District Reconfiguration for the 2011/2012 School Year. Mr. Gerald Tague, Director of Facilities spoke about asbestos in Applegarth Middle School and Mr. Rich Alderiso, an architect with Design Ideas Group spoke about renovations needed and costs. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached to the official set of minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM – Refer to attached transcript

BOARD ACTION – Refer to attached transcript

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Leary and seconded by Ms. Kolupanowich that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried Unanimously. The public meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL C. GORSKI, CPA
BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

**SPECIAL PUBLIC
BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 27, 2010**

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1 MR. KAUFMAN: So with that, I think
2 that's about it. I'm going to open it up for the
3 public. Please come to the mic, state your name and
4 address for the record, and we have a 3-minute time
5 limit this evening. It's not open mic Board of Ed.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. BUSMAN: Gary Busman, 7 Monarch
8 Road. When you did your reviews, did you do a
9 review of the complete replacement of the school?

10 DR. HAMILTON: We did not formally do
11 that review, but we have a general idea of what it
12 would cost just based on what the going rate is now
13 for a school. Now, what that may not include is
14 demolition, that cost, I don't know if that was part
15 of what we talked about, and you can correct me if
16 I'm wrong, but we're around \$15 million to do a new
17 school. Was that about where we were? About 25 mil
18 to do a new school.

19 MR. KAUFMAN: Twenty-six point
20 eight million.

21 MR. BUSMAN: And the reason I asked that
22 question is if you spend 9 million plus dollars to
23 do the renovations as you propose in phase 2, that
24 may extend the useful life possibly for 15 years.
25 If you replace the entire building for 25 to

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1 \$30 million, you probably have a useful life for
2 40 years. So it would be my thinking that you would
3 get more bang for your dollars, even though it's
4 more money, to try to go ahead and replace the
5 entire school rather than renovate it. Thank you.

6 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you. Anyone else?

7 MS. DAMORE: My name is Lisa Damore, and
8 I live at 3 Fallow Way in Monroe Township, New
9 Jersey. You pointed out a few times that what we
10 are trying to do is put together a plan or you put
11 together a plan so we can do things quickly and
12 within budget in the amount of time that we have to
13 do this in. I don't understand what's the big
14 hurry.

15 DR. HAMILTON: I'm not sure I'm really
16 understanding what your question is. The fact of
17 the matter is, we have -- we're moving our 6th
18 graders out. That was the purpose of building the
19 new high school and making room for our students
20 here. Once we do that, we then have an issue and a
21 particular segment of our community where we are
22 running short on student seats. So in order to make
23 Applegarth more attractive, more cosmetically
24 appealing, and more conducive to (end of tape 1) but
25 we can't continue to belabor it because the fact of

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1 the matter is while we're talking tonight about
2 Applegarth, we have other buildings in our
3 community, in our school, as well, that we have to
4 devote time and attention to, as well.

5 MS. DAMORE: Right, but according to my
6 math, Oak Tree can accommodate all of the students
7 that it has plus a bit of growth, and if you move
8 trailers there, you could even give back the other
9 classrooms, and we would save taxpayers a lot of
10 money instead of keeping another building open with
11 that annual operating cost. We just looked at
12 renovating -- renovation costs at \$9.3 million, and
13 then if we take the annual operating cost of that
14 over how many years to keep the lights on, the heat
15 on, the water running, the plumbing, for 10
16 classrooms, it doesn't seem necessarily maybe the
17 best way to go.

18 DR. HAMILTON: Understood. Thank you.

19 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

20 MR. BELL: Good evening, Jeff Bell, 49
21 Keswick Circle in Monroe. Just a quick question,
22 and I apologize if I'm not up to speed. How does the
23 renovations on Applegarth Middle School affect the
24 transition from this school as the high school to
25 the new high school and now this school becoming the

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1 new middle school? Are they related in any way, or
2 is it just half of the town here and half of the
3 town over there?

4 DR. HAMILTON: They are not related.
5 The 6th graders will be moving, and this will be a
6 6-8 building in September 2011, so what happens to
7 Applegarth in that regard isn't contingent upon the
8 students moving to this building.

9 MR. BELL: Okay.

10 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else? There's a
11 lot of people. Just state your name and address.

12 MS. SKURBE: Hi, I'm Chrissy Skurbe, 8
13 Seminole Court. I have a few questions. One, are
14 you a hundred percent sure that all of the asbestos
15 will be remediated in phase 1 and there is no
16 possible asbestos that would be uncovered during
17 phase 2?

18 DR. HAMILTON: Jerry, you want to
19 respond to that, please.

20 MR. TAGUE: The process would involve
21 the Board would issue an RFP to bring on board a
22 consulting agency, who would then go out and test.
23 My recommendation would be that even though we have
24 some test data available from the 80's that may show
25 that some stuff is not asbestos containing material,

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1 my recommendation would be to test everything and
2 then understand what the full volume is and then
3 address it accordingly.

4 MS. SKURBE: So would that be done
5 during phase 1, or would that be something uncovered
6 in phase 2? So technically, would all of the
7 asbestos not be removed in the building during phase
8 1?

9 MR. TAGUE: The goal would be to
10 accomplish all of it in phase 1.

11 MS. SKURBE: So that testing will all be
12 done for the entire building during phase 1.

13 MR. TAGUE: Exactly.

14 MS. SKURBE: Okay. You mentioned
15 different funding options for phase 2. What are
16 those funding options?

17 DR. HAMILTON: The funding options would
18 be to go out with the referendum for phase 2 or to
19 mix and match items recommended in phase 2
20 contingent upon, as Mr. Kaufman just explained, what
21 things needed to happen in order for the next thing
22 to happen and then looking at what grants and
23 incentives are available to schools. There are some
24 grants out there, for instance, that may remove the
25 cost or significantly reduce the cost of the roofing

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1 system, for instance. There may be grants that
2 would remove or significantly reduce the cost of an
3 HVA system, and those are big ticket items, so those
4 funding options may exist that would reduce that
5 responsibility and would not necessarily have to be
6 incurred by a bond referendum or inclusion in the
7 budget process.

8 MS. SKURBE: Okay. I guess one of my
9 big concerns as a parent is you're moving over 4th
10 and 5th graders next year into trailers when we have
11 a green school across the street that you can easily
12 move those trailers to and probably save money. I
13 know you had said that the cost to move those is
14 almost the cost as doing the phase 1
15 recommendations; however, there are a lot of
16 operating costs that you are going to incur by
17 having Applegarth open next year. You're going to
18 have to have a principal. You're going to have to
19 have a gym teacher, a cafeteria staff, custodial
20 staff, the lighting, the electricity for all of
21 that. There's a lot of operating costs. So why not
22 consider moving the trailers across the street and
23 let us utilize Oak Tree?

24 On top of that, are the contractors that
25 are going to be coming in to do the renovations, are

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1 they going to be fingerprinted? Are there going to
2 be background checks? Are we going to assure our
3 children that they're safe being in a construction
4 zone? That's technically what it's going to be, a
5 construction zone.

6 DR. HAMILTON: I'm going to try to
7 answer them in the order that you presented them,
8 but, yes, contractors -- we, the Board, can request
9 when they award the contract that contractors be
10 fingerprinted and go through the screening just like
11 a bus driver or classroom assistant, et cetera, so
12 that can absolutely happen.

13 Why aren't we recommending that the
14 trailers be moved over, from my perspective, I don't
15 think that's a wise use of resources. I think we
16 have Applegarth. Applegarth is currently a
17 functioning school. It will continue to be a
18 functioning school, and I think the operating under
19 the premise that it is not a safe environment I
20 think sends the wrong message to the community
21 because it is a safe environment. It's a safe
22 environment for the kids that are there now. It's
23 been a safe environment for the last umpteen years
24 and will continue to be a safe environment. We'll
25 make certain that we take the precautions to ensure

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1 the kids continue to be safe there.

2 MS. SKURBE: You said you can suggest or
3 ask for fingerprinting. Will you mandate it?

4 DR. HAMILTON: I'm not entirely sure how
5 much latitude we have on that, but based on the way
6 the RFP is presented, we could, the Board could then
7 exercise, but I can't speak on behalf of the Board,
8 but the Board could make that a part of the required
9 compliance with the RFP.

10 MS. SKURBE: I would ask that the Board
11 does do that for the sake of all of our children,
12 for the safety of our children.

13 MR. KAUFMAN: If we are legally able to
14 do that, we will do that. I know in the past we've
15 done it. We've had construction projects going on
16 even when school has been in session. A lot of the
17 efforts that we're going to try and do as we move
18 forward will be done when students are not in
19 session or class is not in session. The phase 1 is
20 going to happen over the summertime so there will be
21 no students in the building. So wherever we can --
22 I spoke before about a priority list and the
23 dependency list -- wherever we can moving forward,
24 we're going to try and do as much as we possibly
25 can, keeping in mind that we want to have the kids

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1 have the best learning experience in the school that
2 they can. If we can stage things to have them done
3 in the summer, even if it may force us to push the
4 timeline out, if it's going to be a phase or part of
5 the project that's going to make a lot of noise, for
6 example, that's clearly something, or a smell.
7 Roofing, perfect example. We've done many roofing
8 projects in this district over the years. We know
9 that we need a roof over in Applegarth. Not the
10 kind of thing you want to do when kids are around.
11 It's not really the kind of thing you want to do
12 when anyone is around. So those are the kinds of
13 things that we're going to try and schedule for when
14 class is not in session, and we can expand it out
15 over time and take our time to answer a lot of the
16 renovation questions that we want to do for the
17 school moving forward.

18 MS. SKURBE: How many years are we
19 looking at for this phase 1 and phase 2?

20 MR. KAUFMAN: Well, because we don't
21 have the priority list and the dependency list, I
22 don't know. I think it's going to be our goal to
23 try and do the best we can to absorb a lot of costs
24 either through our general operating budget or
25 through grants. They're coming up all the time. As

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1 you know if you're a homeowner, there's a grant out
2 there today if you replace your windows in your
3 house, you get money back from the government.
4 We're going to look at everything possible we can,
5 and will it make sense if we have to take priority
6 window, which may have been further on down the
7 line, move it up the line to take advantage of a
8 grant, sounds like it would be a good idea because
9 the cost is going to be the same. If we get money
10 back, that's good for us. So we have to take into
11 account not just a priority and the dependencies but
12 any kind of grants that we might be able to have to
13 lessen the burden of the cost to the community.

14 MS. SKURBE: All right. Just lastly,
15 I'd like to say without full-day kindergarten, Oak
16 Tree is not overcrowded and will not be overcrowded
17 for years. I don't see why we would put our 4th and
18 5th graders in a construction zone for the
19 foreseeable future, and it could remain that way
20 forever if you don't have the funding to do phase 2.
21 So we're going to take 4th and 5th graders for the
22 foreseeable future on our side of town and keep them
23 in trailers when they could be across the street in
24 Oak Tree and save taxpayers money.

25 And also, I come to find out the water

12

1 isn't safe to drink out of water fountains at

2 Applegarth, that they're --

3 DR. HAMILTON: That is not true, and Oak

4 Tree is overcrowded. We have --

5 MS. SKURBE: Without full day

6 kindergarten next year, it will not be overcrowded.

7 DR. HAMILTON: It's overcrowded right

8 now.

9 MS. SKURBE: Because 6th graders are

10 there. Sixth graders are being moved out, and that

11 opens up four classrooms.

12 DR. HAMILTON: And that the water at

13 Applegarth -- I really want to go on record. I

14 don't know where that information is coming from,

15 but the water at Applegarth is absolutely safe to

16 drink.

17 MS. SKURBE: I heard the students are

18 told not to drink out of the water fountains.

19 DR. HAMILTON: That doesn't mean it's

20 not safe though. There may be other reasons that --

21 MS. SKURBE: Well, why would they be

22 told not to drink the water?

23 DR. HAMILTON: I'm not sure that they

24 are.

25 MS. SKURBE: All right. Thank you.

13

1 That's all.

2 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

3 MR. MATZ: Dean Matz, 5 Trotter Court.

4 I think that, you know, when it's your child, this
5 matters, and I want to piggyback on a few of the
6 great comments that were just made. I mean, when
7 you -- I don't know how you could say that \$300,000
8 to move isn't a good use of money. I mean, it's
9 \$300,000, and like Chrissy just said, to employ the
10 people that need to be there, a principal, and just
11 before you had said that Applegarth is a viable
12 school. How can it be a viable school when these
13 children are going to be walking outdoors I presume,
14 right, to get from class to class.

15 DR. HAMILTON: They do that right now.

16 MR. MATZ: In Oak Tree? It's inside.

17 DR. HAMILTON: At Applegarth.

18 MR. MATZ: At Applegarth they do? Okay.

19 It's next to a development that's being built, and I
20 think that it should be mandated for these
21 construction workers to be fingerprinted because
22 they're just -- I think the aesthetics of the area
23 lend itself to all kind of things that we don't even
24 want to think of I think with our children.

25 DR. HAMILTON: I don't disagree with

14

1 that.

2 MR. MATZ: Okay, and just lastly is that
3 you said that the goal was to get everything
4 remedied in phase 1 in terms of asbestos. We all
5 know goals aren't always achieved so what happens if
6 it's not remedied in phase 1?

7 DR. HAMILTON: Then we would have to
8 hold those experts that we hire in to certify that
9 it has been remedied accountable.

10 MR. MATZ: But then our children come
11 into the school with asbestos still in the building.
12 So then what?

13 DR. HAMILTON: I can't even begin to
14 speculate on something that I don't anticipate
15 happening or have the breadth of knowledge. That's
16 not my area of expertise, but we would hire experts
17 in who -- Ken Hamilton wouldn't be the person going
18 out doing the asbestos abatement. We would hire
19 experts, and that's what they are charged to do, and
20 if for some reason we tested 3 years, 4 years,
21 5 years from now and found that they missed that,
22 then we would have to hold them accountable, but
23 meanwhile we would have no way of knowing that.
24 There is a test that would be conducted after the
25 abatement was done, and that would confirm or not

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1 that the job was done to satisfaction and to meet
2 the code. This is governed by federal and state
3 guidelines, much more authority than this governing
4 body has.

5 MR. MATZ: And I get it, someone's going
6 to be held accountable, but in the meantime,
7 children are in this building. What happens to
8 them, or wasn't that thought of?

9 DR. HAMILTON: I'm not really sure what
10 kind of answer you want me to give to that.

11 MR. MATZ: Just doesn't seem like a lot
12 of these issues are really thought out.

13 MR. LEARY: May I comment?

14 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

15 MR. LEARY: The State of New Jersey has
16 -- the State of New Jersey has rigorous building
17 codes, and the Department of Environmental
18 Protection in particular, as we well know,
19 scrupulously follows up, and if they find anything
20 wrong, man, they'll raise the red flag so fast it
21 will make your head spin. So if there is a problem,
22 it will be brought to our attention immediately.

23 MR. KAUFMAN: One other comment, too.
24 This hasn't been done before. One thing we know for
25 sure. We know there's asbestos in the tile. We

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1 also know that work was done, a lot of work was done
2 back in the 80's to remove most of the what you
3 would classify the classic asbestos would be piping
4 insulation -- and Jerry could speak to other things
5 when I'm off base -- but most of the asbestos, the
6 high grade asbestos work, was done back in the 80's.
7 It was left for some future Board to take care of
8 the tile situation. Tile situation can stay there.
9 We could even do the renovations without removing
10 the tile, but it's the goal of this Board to remove
11 it wherever it's humanly possible, which means we're
12 going to test things that have been tested many,
13 many times before to make sure it's not there. In
14 the other schools where we've done this work and
15 we've pulled out asbestos, we've done it in the
16 summer, and kids were back in school in September.
17 It's not going to be the situation here, so even
18 after the work is done, and it will be done by the
19 summer, kids are not expected to be back in school
20 at the earliest until the middle of the year, and if
21 it's deemed that we need a little bit longer, then
22 the students can stay in the trailers for the whole
23 year. We have flexibility. We have control over
24 the situation. If things take a little bit longer
25 to remedy and we have to get another set of

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1 engineers to make sure once again that we don't have
2 asbestos in the building, we're going to do whatever
3 we possibly can to get rid of it where we know it to
4 be. You know, we can test things. We can look for
5 it. We can hunt it down. If we find it, it's going
6 to go. The buck is going to stop with this Board to
7 get rid of all the asbestos in the building.

8 To talk to your other point before about
9 the moving of the trailers over to the Oak Tree side
10 of the school, the situation there is we would be
11 spending a lot of money to do two things, moving the
12 same situation that we have at Oak Tree -- I mean at
13 Applegarth to Oak Tree in the sense that the
14 students would be in the trailer, so technically
15 they would have to walk outside to move into the
16 main building just like they would have to do in
17 Applegarth. That's number 1.

18 Number 2, the building is still going to
19 have to be open, you know. Things are going --
20 whether it's going to be -- if the trailers move
21 over and we have to do renovation work over in
22 Applegarth School, the question of utilities and the
23 things that are running in the building, that's
24 going to still have to go on. We can't not have
25 heat and not have light when the building is being

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1 worked on. So those kind of things are going to be
2 a wash. So these are all the permutations that the
3 Board has been considering over all this time about
4 moving all this stuff around and do we want to go to
5 spend money to move the sewer lines over there.

6 The other thing is, too, in
7 conversations with Jerry, if we move the trailers
8 over to the other building, that's going to put a
9 huge burden on Oak Tree's core facilities, the
10 cafeteria and some of the other things, so students
11 are going to have to have lunches at a completely
12 different schedule. They're going to have to have
13 them much earlier than they would have it today. So
14 there's a lot of things that play just besides, you
15 know, just the convenience of moving them across the
16 street.

17 MR. MATZ: I guess just lastly, how will
18 the public be made aware of the testing results?
19 How will we know how that's going?

20 MR. KAUFMAN: The one nice thing about
21 this is this Board of Education is as crystal as it
22 gets. You can come to committee meetings. You can
23 get results. We can have the engineers come here
24 and speak and certify that all the work is done and
25 it's all gone. We'll do whatever it takes to make

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1 everybody feel comfortable that the known asbestos
2 that we have throughout the building is as gone as
3 it can possibly be.

4 Jerry, I'm sorry, do you want to say
5 something real quick?

6 MR. TAGUE: If I can just add regarding
7 the asbestos, the regulations require that clearance
8 be attained, which means testing be done to
9 determine if there is anymore airborne asbestos in
10 there. The current regulations are 0.1 fiber count
11 per CC, and it is the requirement of the Board's
12 consultant and some of the regulatory agencies to
13 test that. If you as a concerned citizen of the
14 state -- you have the resource of OSHA, so if you
15 are concerned that something that is being done on a
16 public project is not meeting a standard, you can
17 contact OSHA and request that they come and
18 intervene, and they will also administer testing.
19 So if the Board does go this route, I would highly
20 recommend that we contact OSHA above and beyond the
21 testing that is being done as kind of a secondary
22 inspection.

23 MR. KAUFMAN: Jerry, just let me just
24 make this point here. Unless anyone is going to
25 disagree, I'm going to recommend that we consider

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1 that so when we do open it up, let's have the OSHA
2 testing just to make absolutely positively sure.

3 MS. DESAY: Hi, Jody DeSay, 14 Seminole
4 Court. I just had a few questions. As I was
5 listening, is it true that phase 1 may actually
6 reveal that there's more asbestos in this school,
7 and could it be too late of a time to get it all
8 done in that phase 1 period?

9 MR. KAUFMAN: Jerry.

10 MR. TAGUE: No. Phase 1 involves
11 primarily floor tiles. We know of no pipe
12 insulation in that area. Lady earlier questioned
13 can we be 100 percent sure that everything will be
14 gone, and the answer is no. I can't tell you that
15 there is a pipe buried under the ground somewhere
16 that we don't know about that may have something in
17 it that could be encountered. We can only go by
18 testing everything that can be -- that we can see.
19 There is the potential that during construction you
20 could open a wall and find an elbow somewhere and
21 have to deal with it at that time. So, no, you can
22 never be a hundred percent sure without being able
23 to see inside every crack and crevice.

24 MS. DESAY: I guess that's just a huge
25 concern because once that opens up and if there are

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1 children there, you know, what happens then, and
2 then you have students populating the building. Do
3 you move the trailers over to Applegarth then -- I
4 mean to Oak Tree then, or do you just keep them
5 there, and removing asbestos, you know, it's just
6 hazardous. So I guess having some kind of plan in
7 place would be a concern of mine.

8 My children aren't even in the school
9 yet, and my daughter will go to Oak Tree. To me
10 this is an opportunity for her to go to a beautiful
11 school, a wonderful school. This district has
12 worked very hard to become a blue ribbon school. I
13 know for a fact that house -- people that are
14 shopping around for homes are going to be looking at
15 these types of things. So to send a child to a
16 beautiful green school and then send them to, you
17 know, a not so wonderful school is going to have a
18 huge effect in my opinion. It would be if I was
19 looking for a house right now.

20 My other question is I've heard that
21 Applegarth, because it's an older school, is held to
22 different standards. Is that true?

23 DR. HAMILTON: Yes.

24 MS. DESAY: Okay, so does that include a
25 lot of the renovations that would be hazardous to

22

1 our children, asbestos being the one thing?

2 DR. HAMILTON: No, the asbestos standard
3 doesn't change. That's a constant.

4 MS. DESAY: Okay, and I know -- oh.

5 MR. LEARY: There's a concept called
6 grandfathering.

7 MS. DESAY: Sure.

8 MR. LEARY: Now, if you in any way,
9 shape, or form penetrate the surrounding area of
10 let's say the 1936 building --

11 MS. DESAY: Right.

12 MR. LEARY: -- now you have to go to the
13 standards of 2011.

14 MS. DESAY: Okay. That wasn't clear. I
15 thought once you start renovating now, you're at the
16 standard of -- okay. I did not know that. Thank
17 you.

18 MR. LEARY: One of the first things a
19 contractor has to do is build a barrier around the
20 thing and define what is the limit.

21 MS. DESAY: Okay. Okay.

22 FROM THE FLOOR: Does that include the
23 ADA?

24 MR. LEARY: Everything.

25 FROM THE FLOOR: So you have to do the

23

1 ADA approvals.

2 MS. DESAY: Okay. The last thing I want
3 to say is just the -- I understand what you're
4 saying about building operations. You're going to
5 have that already. But here you have children that
6 have already created a very strong bond with the
7 school. You're going to move them now to a trailer
8 and a cafeteria in a foreign environment. I don't
9 know how that transition's going to be. It's a huge
10 transition to go from a middle school to high
11 school, from a what do you call it, a grammar school
12 to a middle school, but to go to a kind of
13 incomplete environment at a 4th, 5th grade level,
14 it's already a transition for them. So I would just
15 urge the Board to really consider that.

16 And the last thing I would want to say
17 is if you can't use that building -- if you need to
18 use the building right now, if you need to occupy
19 it, can you use it for administrators. I mean, it
20 just seems like, okay, let's not populate the
21 students. The administrators can sometimes work
22 from home. Sometimes they're not even in the
23 building. I know, Dr. Hamilton, you're not in the
24 building often, you're usually at schools. So it's
25 just a thought.

24

1 Thank you, Board, for listening.

2 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

3 MR. SLATER: Hi, Douglas Slater, 17

4 Nottingham Court. Using the term safe environment,

5 then saying the need for phase 1 or phase 2, seems

6 to me to be an oxymoron. Either we're safe or we

7 need to have things done. I worked in a school

8 where we did asbestos abatement and where the school

9 was kept open. Every single staff member in the

10 school filed a letter with the Board of Education

11 saying God forbid there's any medical problems that

12 are associated with the work being done during the

13 asbestos abatement that we'd hold the Board of

14 Education responsible. I really do not feel it

15 makes any sense whatsoever to have any students in

16 the school where work is being done, whether it's

17 obviously phase 1. It's not, but phase 2 because

18 you can open up an entire can of worms in order to

19 be addressed.

20 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you. Anyone else?

21 MR. POYE: Doug Poye, 4 Tamarack Road.

22 Dr. Hamilton mentioned and I was happy to see that

23 the question of full-day kindergarten would be a

24 separate question in terms of the referendum, and

25 you also indicated that the community could either

25

1 -- they could actually approve or disapprove of the
2 general budget as well as the second question, but
3 it's not clear what happens, and I don't think it
4 would, but I'd still like to know what happens if
5 the general budget is defeated but the second
6 question is approved.

7 DR. HAMILTON: If the second -- in that
8 scenario, the second question, whatever is in that
9 second question would then be implemented.

10 MR. POYE: Okay. Thank you. Also, the
11 slide indicates that the number of standard
12 classrooms in the Applegarth School would be 10, and
13 that's for grades 4 and 5. Let us assume that all
14 of the renovations of phase 2 are at some point down
15 the road completed. Then how many classrooms,
16 standard classrooms are available at Applegarth.

17 DR. HAMILTON: The 10 classrooms that
18 are referenced in the slide includes the two double
19 wide trailers that -- the new two double wide
20 trailers, so it doesn't include that. There are in
21 the old, the 1936 wing, there are six classrooms on
22 the second floor; the 1960 wing, 10; so that would
23 be 16. How many are there? Eight on the first, on
24 the 1960, and then the rear of the building would be
25 media center -- there are a few classrooms back

26

1 there, but media center. That's where the cafeteria
2 -- right now it's the wood shop room and the art
3 room, but that would be converted to the cafeteria,
4 and the gymnasium.

5 MR. POYE: So standard classrooms would
6 be what number?

7 DR. HAMILTON: Fourteen.

8 MR. POYE: Oh, a total of 14.

9 DR. HAMILTON: Yes.

10 MR. POYE: Okay. All right. Thank you.

11 DR. HAMILTON: Oh, yes, that doesn't --
12 Mr. Poye, that doesn't include small class
13 instructions for special needs students, speech, and
14 language.

15 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you. Anyone else?

16 MS. DAMORE: Lisa Damore, 3 Fallow Way.
17 Just sort of a point of information. We have
18 tolerated, if you will, the students walking from
19 the trailers into Applegarth School. My son is
20 there now. And we were also told at some point in
21 time back about 4 or 5 years ago that to sort of
22 just tolerate it, if you will, while the new high
23 school, the new configuration is done between
24 redistricting everyone and moving everyone to where
25 they're going to be. So we sort of tolerated it,

27

1 and here we are again, and guess what, the trailers
2 aren't going away like we were told they are going
3 away, and for a short-term, okay, I understand why.
4 We have a lease, we have a contract, but in reality,
5 again, I will reiterate that there is plenty of room
6 in Oak Tree to keep the students that we have there
7 in Oak Tree, and if we do for some reason that's
8 completely unclear to me based on the expense that
9 it would cost annually to operate that school, close
10 it and do it quickly or build a new school, which is
11 the best idea ever, because we, year after year, I
12 should say every few years, seem to address the sort
13 of problem of the day, and it would be lovely, and
14 maybe it's just not, you know, something that I've
15 ever looked into enough, but to see what is the
16 master plan because there never seems to be the
17 master plan of if A, then B, and if not B, then C,
18 and if not C, then here's D and E, because we
19 constantly keep going back to something that we told
20 was not going to happen, and I just feel that we
21 need to raise our level, not necessarily yours
22 because you weren't here for some of that, but raise
23 the integrity level that not only that we have with
24 the parents but have with everyone in this community
25 because we keep sort of switching our story, from

28

1 just my observations. So --

2 DR. HAMILTON: Let me comment on that,
3 Miss Damore, if I may. We do have a 5-year
4 facilities plan that we are required to -- that the
5 Board is required to submit to the State Department
6 of Education, and it's a well thought out plan, but
7 there are some things that happen. When you develop
8 a 5-year plan, you develop that plan based on
9 information that you know at that time, and things
10 happen. Funding laws change. Bonds and budgets
11 don't get passed, and as I mentioned earlier,
12 sometimes that 5-year plan gets deviated from
13 because there isn't the money, there isn't the
14 support of that initiative. This Board can make a
15 5-year plan right now that seems perfect based on
16 the information that's available today, but 3 or
17 4 years from now, that plan would probably have to
18 be modified and morphed based on circumstances. In
19 fact, even when we look at what it would cost to
20 build a new school today, 5 years from now that cost
21 could be very, very differently. It could be more,
22 it could be less, depending on the economy and the
23 need for work.

24 MS. DAMORE: You could not need it at
25 all, either.

29

1 DR. HAMILTON: Or you could not need it
2 at all.

3 MS. DAMORE: So I do think that we
4 should consider some way to enclose those walkways,
5 1, for safety, but 2, you know, it's cold, it's wet,
6 it's rainy, it's icy. You don't even like walking
7 to your car. I know I don't. I park in the garage
8 for that very reason. So, you know, it's just
9 something to keep in mind. And also, there isn't a
10 playground and, you know, outside equipment. That
11 has to be considered. And it's just like any other
12 project. You might say it's \$9.3 million the way
13 you know it, as you said today, and that's phase 1
14 and phase 2. So, you know, just assuming if you
15 have to double it a little bit more, you know,
16 double that to complete 3 and 4 or 3, 4, and 5, that
17 could be, you know, 20 million more -- come up to
18 about \$20 million, correct, and so we need to just
19 consider what we're doing before we start messing
20 with the piece parts again. We don't need it, as
21 I've said multiple times, and if we do decide to
22 utilize or continue to utilize Applegarth for 10,
23 only 10 classrooms, then we would definitely need to
24 close in those side walls as well as, you know, deal
25 with a way for the kids to have some outdoor

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1 activities.

2 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

3 MR. BARBUTO: Mike Barbuto, 2 Kenneth

4 Court. I have some background with ACM material,

5 and I was just listening to the phase 1 and phase 2,

6 and I guess my major concern is that if during --

7 there are some of the materials in phase 2 that can

8 quite possibly contain ACM materials, and if they're

9 seen like during the phase 1 when they ask someone

10 to come in to look at all the asbestos in the school

11 and all of a sudden that you have panels inside the

12 heating unit or the roofing shingles that are

13 friable asbestos, will those projects be considered

14 to pushed up into phase 1 so there's not a double

15 removal of asbestos?

16 DR. HAMILTON: I think the Board's

17 objective is to reinspect, retest everything, every

18 material out there and in one fell swoop remove

19 everything that is known, but as I indicated before,

20 you know, there could be during construction you

21 could expose something that's unknown. That

22 potential always exists.

23 MR. BARBUTO: Like for example the

24 roofing shingles or the heating unit, itself. In

25 the 70's, you know, asbestos was a great insulator.

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1 DR. HAMILTON: Yes.

2 MR. BARBUTO: -- and a lot of stuff is
3 from the 70's, so if you find that there -- you
4 know, there are the ACM's inside the roofing
5 shingles and the heating unit, will those projects
6 be pushed to phase 1, or will they be left alone
7 because when it's not disturbed, it's not going to
8 be, you know, safety hazard, but then eventually
9 it's going to have to remove, so will there be a
10 double cost to removal, or can they all be pushed up
11 to phase 1.

12 DR. HAMILTON: Roofing is separate from
13 building material. Currently, we do not know that
14 there is asbestos in the heating units. We do know
15 that it is in the science labs in the fume hoods,
16 the same type of situation you're talking about, the
17 transite panels. We do not know of any
18 transite panels in the unit, but again, that would
19 be found out during the testing. Roofing is a
20 separate issue, though. Roofing does not have to be
21 handled as an asbestos remediation. It is an EPA
22 standard that applies to that, but it does not
23 involve building encapsulation and so on and so
24 forth. So when the roofing is done, it would not
25 involve an asbestos remediation.

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1 MR. KAHN: Alan Kahn, 11 Crenshaw Court.

2 In looking at your available classrooms in the other
3 buildings, it looks like there is 17 classrooms open
4 in the buildings, and Applegarth has 14 classrooms.
5 So even if you do not use Applegarth at all, you've
6 still got excess classrooms, and that's with all of
7 your special rooms in use.

8 With the cost now of opening a high
9 school, moving a middle school, this does not seem
10 like a time to either keep Applegarth open with all
11 the added costs of administration of the building
12 and add a new program of full day kindergarten
13 without analyzing after everything is in place all
14 your other programs, nonmandated programs, as was
15 brought out at the last meeting, before you start a
16 new program. I think there's a lot to consider
17 before you go ahead with this massive -- you're
18 talking 9 to \$10 million costs before overruns, and
19 as you know, things never cost as little as you
20 start out thinking. Sit back, take it easy. The
21 taxpayers of Monroe will appreciate your doing less
22 rather than more. Thank you.

23 DR. HAMILTON: I want to just respond to
24 those open classrooms, those open classrooms you
25 refer to. We could utilize all those classrooms if

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1 we redistrict. Part of how this morphed into where
2 we are was a significant pushback from the community
3 to resisting redistricting, meaning that some
4 students would have to change home schools, some
5 students could be very well living across the street
6 from one peer and end up in another school. So
7 that's how this plan came into existence.

8 MR. KAHN: Once you build and with the
9 schools that you've built, yes, students move. I've
10 been in many districts over the years, and as
11 they've grown and schools are built, children
12 shuffle a little bit, but that's no reason not to be
13 prudent in how you spend the taxpayers' money.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. KAUFMAN: I'd just also like to make
16 a comment. Alan, you're absolutely right. When you
17 start a big capital project, sometimes things don't
18 go as originally planned. Sometimes the amount of
19 money you expect to spend changes.

20 We've had two very significant projects
21 in Monroe Township, the creation of Oak Tree School
22 and the almost 400,000-square-foot high school
23 that's getting built across the street. Just so
24 that everybody knows, both of those projects went on
25 ahead of schedule and under budget. That's under

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1 budget, which is, again, something that we like to
2 pride ourself and to make sure that when we are
3 looking at these things, we are looking at the fact
4 that this money is coming out of everybody's pocket.
5 So when we try and do these projects, we make sure
6 we have all of our pencils sharpened to make sure
7 the things that we're looking to try and do are
8 things that we're looking to do to renovate our
9 district.

10 MR. LEARY: Mr. Kaufman, just to
11 quantify that, the referendum was for Oak Tree was
12 \$26.8 million. The job came in at 26.1 million, and
13 we have returned those funds to the taxpayers.

14 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

15 MR. LEBOW: Scott Lebow, 34 Harvestview
16 Drive. Going back to a question about Oak Tree
17 being overcrowded, I think what is there, 800 plus
18 students in Oak Tree.

19 DR. HAMILTON: Yes, sir.

20 MR. LEBOW: You're taking out the 6th
21 grade?

22 DR. HAMILTON: Yes, sir.

23 MR. LEBOW: And you're going to still
24 say that it would be overcrowded having 700 students
25 in there.

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1 DR. HAMILTON: The capacity of Oak Tree,
2 Jerry, what is that specs on the building?

3 MR. LEBOW: I'll take your word for
4 that, but you have 800 in there now in a
5 state-of-the-art school. You're going to take 200
6 of them out of there and put them into trailers
7 instead, and I think, Mr. Kaufman, you had said
8 about stress on the lunch, but there's less students
9 this year -- next year than there would be this
10 year. Why would that stress the lunches?

11 MR. KAUFMAN: Well, because if we don't
12 have a permanent solution in place, right, because
13 if we're talking about moving the trailers across
14 the street, then as the -- that side of town starts
15 to build, and that's really what we're going to see
16 the most growth in this town, you know, the school
17 is going -- it's at or over capacity now even with
18 pulling the kids out. We're getting back to the
19 numbers that we would like to be. We would like to
20 have it at the 600 grade because that's what the
21 school was designed to be, and my point is if we
22 have a functioning school across the street that's
23 going to be able to accommodate our needs, we
24 shouldn't have to have an overcrowded situation
25 directly across the street.

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1 MR. LEBOW: But is it really a
2 functioning school? It's trailers. Functioning
3 school where --

4 MR. KAUFMAN: Functioning school --

5 MR. LEBOW: -- where they stay inside
6 all day.

7 MR. KAUFMAN: A functioning school to me
8 is defined as a building and subcomponents that make
9 it run. There's classrooms there. There's trailers
10 there. We have many buildings in our district that
11 have trailers. This building we're standing in has
12 trailers. Kids go from class to class in and out of
13 the building every day. Applegarth, if I'm not
14 mistaken, Jeff, was one of the first schools in the
15 district to get trailers. Just tell you a little
16 story. When I first saw the trailers, myself
17 personally when my son was going there, I walked
18 through the trailers the very first time. My
19 problem was they looked great, and our being on the
20 Board, I wanted to get them in, but I wanted to get
21 them out as quick as possible to have a permanent
22 solution in my district because it costs us money.
23 Every year we have to spend this year after year.
24 The best way we're going to be able to save money
25 over a long period of time is to have a final

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1 building in place with taking out all the trailers
2 from all the buildings. So the ultimate goal is not
3 to try and package everybody into one building but,
4 you know, develop the sister school relationship
5 that we have in the other two-thirds of the town.

6 MR. LEBOW: But you can renovate
7 Applegarth School while utilizing Oak Tree instead
8 of using trailers for those students.

9 MR. KAUFMAN: The only problem with that
10 is we would then take the numbers that we're talking
11 about here, which are very, very large numbers, and
12 move them way up to the front of the line. We have
13 to get them done very, very quickly. If we stage
14 the changes -- again, these are renovations. These
15 are not repairs we're talking about here. We're
16 talking about getting the school to a better place.
17 There are kids that are going to class tomorrow in
18 that school. There are kids have been going to that
19 school for a lot of years, for the 1960's version,
20 70's, 80's version. It's still a functioning
21 school.

22 MR. LEBOW: I'm not disputing any of
23 that. All I am saying is that you said it was
24 overcrowded, and I'll take your word for it that it
25 is, but you can have less students in a fully

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1 functioning, basically brand new school, and you're
2 going to put them across the street in trailers.
3 That's all.

4 MR. KAUFMAN: Thanks. Anyone else?

5 MR. SLATER: Hi, Douglas Slater again,
6 17 Nottingham Court. Perception sometimes is
7 reality to folks, and if this community feels that
8 there is not fiscal integrity on the part of the
9 Board by implementing additional expenses, which are
10 may or may not be necessary, whether it's full-day
11 kindergarten or running the school like Applegarth
12 with 8 or 10 classes in it, this is going to lead to
13 a lot of pressure on a lot of people to fail and not
14 pass budgets and at the same time maybe even to vote
15 against the current administration or the current
16 Board of Education. I think you have to be
17 realistic about it, and I voted for every single
18 budget and, you know, that since I've been a
19 resident of New Jersey, so I'm not that person, but
20 I'm just saying there are a lot of people out there
21 who look at the situation, who look at money and
22 saying is this money well spent, is this money spent
23 appropriately, and if they feel that the Board and
24 the current administration does not have the fiscal
25 integrity and the needs of both the students and the

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1 community at heart, then you're going to lead to a
2 lot more budgets in the future that are going to go
3 down and a big change in both the way the Board is
4 set up right now, the people on the Board, and the
5 administration. So I think you really have to think
6 about that very, very carefully before you implement
7 major changes in funding.

8 MS. ANTELIS: Amy Antelis, 1049 Morning
9 Glory Drive in Monroe. I'd like to address some of
10 the Oak Tree people. I live in Monroe Manor. I
11 don't know if you're familiar with it. There are
12 four more condominium buildings going up. There's
13 also a whole new section of houses going up, and
14 they're only putting them up as they build them.
15 You're going to have such an influx of kids coming
16 in. When I first moved in about 3 years ago, I
17 would look out my window and not really see, maybe
18 one, two. It is inundated with children, and there
19 are more coming. Those buildings are being --
20 they're already started, and four of them are going
21 up. There's about 25 to 30 units in each building.
22 You're going to have a huge influx of children, and
23 I know that we've discussed, the Board has discussed
24 this in the past, so to think that Oak Tree isn't
25 going to be overcrowded, especially in the next year

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1 or 2, take a look and see what's going on at Monroe

2 Manor. Thank you.

3 MR. KAUFMAN: Thanks, Amy. One of the

4 things that the Board likes to try and think we kind

5 of want to try and do well. Especially in this case

6 we want to try and be proactive. As Douglas brought

7 out a little bit earlier, one of the things we want

8 to make sure is we're going to be as fiscally

9 prudent as we possibly can, and to that end I speak

10 to two things. By doing the developmental work at

11 Applegarth School over a period of time, we're going

12 to limit the exposure of children to the renovations

13 that we're looking to try and do yet at the same

14 time try and limit the amount of money that we're

15 going to have to go backs to taxpayers by going

16 after grants and anything else that we can possibly

17 do to lessen that cost. When we're talking about

18 full-day K, we have a lot of people in this district

19 that want to have us support full-day K, but to

20 Douglas' point, it its very expensive. It's not a

21 cheap program. So I think the best position that we

22 can do, as was brought out at the state of the

23 school address when a gentleman came up and says --

24 said do we as a community member have a voice in

25 this, and we said, well, it's really pretty much of

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1 a Board decision whether or not we're going to go
2 forward with this. I personally believe one of the
3 best things that we can do is say to the community
4 we understand its educational importance to the
5 district, and it's a fabulous thing. It is now up
6 to Monroe Township to decide if this is the time and
7 the place to have it. Other communities had
8 full-day K. They scaled back to half-day K. We
9 have to decide as a community if we would like to
10 have it. So being fiscally prudent, we are putting
11 it back in the hands of the community members to
12 say, Monroe Township, if you want full-day K,
13 support full-day K, because that's pretty much the
14 best way to go in my opinion.

15 FROM THE FLOOR: Point of information.

16 If you do have a ref --

17 MR. KAUFMAN: You have to come up and
18 identify yourself.

19 FROM THE FLOOR: If you do have a
20 referendum, will it include the potential cost of
21 the additional half day of kindergarten?

22 MR. KAUFMAN: It's the full kindergarten
23 package. It's the cost of everything.

24 FROM THE FLOOR: It will, in fact, show
25 what it will cost?

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1 MR. KAUFMAN: Oh, yeah.

2 FROM THE FLOOR: Thank you.

3 DR. HAMILTON: And just closing comments

4 if I may, Lew. I just feel obligated to respond to

5 a couple of things that Vince said this evening

6 relative to the issue of fiscal integrity. My

7 responsibilities as the superintendent of the school

8 are multifaceted. It includes fiscal integrity, but

9 it also includes educational integrity. It also

10 includes a responsibility to this community. I

11 would be negligent in my responsibilities if I did

12 not have a forward thinking mind relative to the

13 growth that this community is going to experience.

14 In fact, I would suspect that if we were not having

15 this conversation, 5 years from now someone would

16 come to the mic and say, well, Dr. Kenneth Hamilton,

17 didn't you know back in 2011 that they were building

18 in Monroe Manor. Why would you wait until now to

19 make recommendations that would address the future

20 needs of this district. I titled this presentation

21 Forward Thinking 2011 And Beyond because my

22 responsibilities aren't just about the kids that are

23 in Monroe. It's about the kids that are yet to be

24 born that will be placed in Monroe. So this plan

25 isn't just about today, it's about the future, and I

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1 see that as my responsibility, and part of that
2 responsibility means that as we expand our program
3 and become this blue ribbon district that I believe
4 we are capable of doing, we have to also understand
5 that with that comes a commitment to excellence and
6 it comes a commitment to anticipate the growth that
7 we have. I would not be responsible if I did not
8 have that as part of my vision and my recommendation
9 to this Board.

10 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you.

11 MR. LEARY: Mr. Kaufman.

12 MR. KAUFMAN: Mr. Leary.

13 MR. LEARY: Pressing fiscal integrity.
14 QSAC is periodic examination of the operations of
15 school districts. We were examined by State
16 Department of Education employees. We got
17 100 percent on our fiscal operations. They didn't
18 find anything to get us on. So I would be cautious
19 in throwing the word fiscal integrity around unless
20 you got something to back it up.

21 MR. KAUFMAN: One thing also I'd like to
22 comment on because there's lot of people tonight. A
23 very exciting thing is going to happen in November.
24 We're going to have our audit, which unlike a lot of
25 major corporations, we have to -- what's the word

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1 I'm looking for -- we have to justify every penny we
2 spend in this district. We can't spend one penny
3 more. Governments can. Private companies can.
4 Boards of education, not just us, it's all of them.
5 Boards of education can't. So I would like to
6 welcome and invite everyone to come to the audit
7 review. It's a fabulous evening. Jerry
8 Stankiewicz is a very good speaker. He will come in
9 and present all of the numbers, and everybody can
10 ask all the kinds of questions they'd like on what
11 the audit process is. He's a very good person to
12 talk to.

13 Anyone else?

14 MS. SKURBE: Hi, Chrissy Skurbe again, 8
15 Seminole Court. I just -- one last comment that I
16 have. Back in 2002, when all of the talks were
17 going on about the new high school and building it,
18 there were promises made to taxpayers. There were
19 handouts given out that specifically said that
20 Applegarth School would be closed for 18 months once
21 the new high school opened for renovations. I find
22 -- I just want to know why that is not being
23 honored.

24 MR. KAUFMAN: To my knowledge, that's
25 never -- if you have handouts of this, I would love

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1 to see it. It's never been discussed.

2 MS. SKURBE: Well, that (end of tape 2)

3 MR. KAUFMAN: -- the Board level and
4 things that happen not at the Board level. If you
5 have evidence, if you could bring it to the Board,
6 we can address it, but to my knowledge, I was there.
7 Mr. Leary, this might have been a little bit before
8 your time. Miss Kolupanowich, I know you were.
9 None of that -- and you have three Board members
10 that were there at that time -- it was never
11 discussed to close Applegarth School.

12 MS. SKURBE: It always was discussed.

13 MR. KAUFMAN: Ever.

14 MS. SKURBE: Yes, it was. It was always
15 discussed.

16 MR. LEARY: Produce the evidence.

17 MS. SKURBE: Okay. All right. I will.
18 That's fine. And one other thing. You say that
19 Applegarth is, you know, perfectly viable school
20 right now. Does it meet the ADA requirements right
21 now?

22 MR. KAUFMAN: Jerry.

23 MS. SKURBE: And will it next year when
24 it's open for 4th and 5th graders?

25 MR. KAUFMAN: That would be part of

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1 phase 2 or phase 3 or phase 4.

2 MS. SKURBE: So the requirements for
3 handicapped children are not currently met and will
4 not be met until phase 2 if phase 2 is completed if
5 there is money for that.

6 MR. KAUFMAN: Correct.

7 MS. SKURBE: So handicapped children,
8 the requirements for handicapped children will not
9 be met. Thank you.

10 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

11 MR. HERMAN: Hi, Perry Herman from
12 Miriam Court. I guess my concern is throwing good
13 money after bad, and you had mentioned -- my
14 question is what's the status of the other 4th and
15 5th grade schools, and are they going to need work
16 in the future, and if so, would the budget for that
17 in combination with the Applegarth, would it total
18 what would cost for a new school combining everybody
19 for 4th and 5th grade school for all of the
20 township.

21 DR. HAMILTON: I don't anticipate the
22 other facilities needing the kind of work that
23 Applegarth needs, frankly. Based on the information
24 I know and what's available to me today, I don't
25 anticipate that being a challenge that our other

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1 schools will face.

2 MR. HERMAN: Once you upgrade Applegarth
3 and you put this money into it, is it something that
4 it -- would it be long lasting, and is the school
5 going to be able to take us through the future?

6 DR. HAMILTON: I absolutely believe it
7 will, sir.

8 MR. KAUFMAN: One other point I want to
9 talk about because it's been brought up before about
10 putting another centralized school layer in the
11 district, if it was a 4th or 5th or whatever that
12 school layer would be. The issue with that is
13 transportation, and whenever we do something in this
14 district, a lot of things have to talk about
15 transportation. There's 5,000 kids that are moved
16 from their home to the schools twice a day, not
17 including any of the extracurricular activities that
18 go on. What would have to happen is if we did
19 decide to do something like that, a fourth tier
20 would have to be added to the district. What that
21 would mean is either we have to have our high
22 schoolers come in much earlier, which they already
23 get to school by I think 7ish, or we would have a
24 much later run in the afternoon, and typically what
25 we do is we do it in reverse order, so the older

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1 kids, who are more self-sufficient, get out earlier,
2 and the younger kids get out later, so there's time
3 to get everything done. That would mean our
4 youngest kids would have the latest run of the day,
5 which means that you could have kindergartners
6 coming home at like 5 o'clock. So that's why again
7 we're trying to keep the sister school relationship
8 together because there's a lot of things that tie
9 together to keep everything working.

10 Anyone else?

11 MS. DAMORE: Lisa Damore, 3 Fallow Way.

12 You know, another possibility is just to move that
13 preK class over to Applegarth School, and then
14 you're only moving one class, we free up the four
15 6th grade classes. So we have those four classes
16 plus the one preK class. That's five classes. We
17 really have no other need at Applegarth. You don't
18 need to have a cafeteria. They don't eat lunch
19 there. They are bused directly to the door. There
20 are supervisors that walk them in and out. So you
21 don't have that trailer issue of switching classes
22 or switching to go into the main building for lunch
23 or gym because they don't attend those classes. So
24 that would definitely give us plenty of room at Oak
25 Tree, more than enough, actually, and that would

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1 allow us also to give back all the specialties, as
2 well.

3 DR. HAMILTON: That sounds good in
4 theory, but preschool would not -- the building
5 isn't coded for preschool students. There is a
6 different standard that applies to preschool
7 students altogether, and we would have to make
8 application to the state to change the usage of that
9 building relative to using it as an early childhood
10 education because of preK.

11 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

12 MS. MARCUS: Jennifer Marcus, 24
13 Carnation Road and building a new home within the
14 community. My question kind of piggybacks onto the
15 woman who talked about the influx of children from
16 Monroe Manor. Do we have the actual numbers of what
17 Oak Tree will open with in the fall based on the
18 projected what's being built in Monroe Manor for
19 2011, 2012, 2013, because I know it opened at a much
20 higher number this year than was projected to have
21 been opened last year. Do we have those numbers?
22 Do we have an idea?

23 DR. HAMILTON: We do. I don't have them
24 with me. Jerry, do you have those numbers?

25 MS. MARCUS: Because we're saying a lot

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1 of kids are coming in, and believe me, I know, I see
2 it. I just want to know what are those actual
3 numbers if we do take the 6th graders out of Oak
4 Tree. What are our numbers going to look like when
5 all the people have closed on their homes and condos
6 and moved in for fall 2012? What is that going to
7 look like?

8 DR. HAMILTON: We do have those numbers.
9 One of those slides kind of speaks to that based on
10 what we know now. Obviously, there's an unknown
11 because we don't know what could happen, but just
12 based on some of our demographic studies, we have
13 some indication of what Oak Tree will look like.

14 MS. MARCUS: I'm just wondering if we
15 prolong this and take more time to --

16 DR. HAMILTON: Looking -- I'm sorry.
17 Let me just answer that.

18 MS. MARCUS: Go ahead.

19 DR. HAMILTON: Looks like there would be
20 about 770 kids.

21 MS. MARCUS: Seven seventy in the fall
22 with taking out the 6th graders and leaving the 4th
23 and 5th graders in place.

24 DR. HAMILTON: That is correct.

25 MS. MARCUS: Okay, and then we have

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1 numbers for the following year, what that would look
2 like, also.

3 DR. HAMILTON: Yes, but I don't have
4 those with me tonight.

5 MS. MARCUS: Okay, so we're still
6 looking at more students being there in the fall
7 with 6th grade taken out than --

8 FROM THE FLOOR: When you say that 770,
9 which side is that on?

10 DR. HAMILTON: That's on the slide that
11 says Oak Tree -- the slide that shows Oak Tree --

12 FROM THE FLOOR: I don't -- I see Oak
13 Tree. Oak Tree Applegarth without FDK and with FDK.
14 I know where the numbers add up to 770. If you add
15 together 4th and 5th and put that back in the mix.

16 DR. HAMILTON: Right.

17 FROM THE FLOOR: It's still not 770.
18 It's like --

19 DR. HAMILTON: My slide I'm looking at
20 says 772. That's with half-day kindergarten, preK
21 through 5, and Oak Tree.

22 MS. MARCUS: I guess my final question
23 would be do we have the room to keep these kids
24 there. I know I just merged in a 3rd grade so to
25 merge her out and put her in, you know, 4th grade

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1 across the street its just mind blowing. But
2 anyway, do we have the room, do we have the capacity
3 to leave our 4th and 5th graders at Oak Tree based
4 on the numbers that we have this year and taking the
5 6th graders out, is it doable?

6 DR. HAMILTON: Yes. It could -- it
7 could be accomplished with some strain on the
8 facility and larger class sizes.

9 MS. MARCUS: Thank you.

10 DR. HAMILTON: It could be accomplished.

11 FROM THE FLOOR: It would be less than
12 this year right now.

13 DR. HAMILTON: I'm not going to --

14 MS. MARCUS: That was basically my
15 question. Are we looking at similar numbers for
16 next fall than we're looking at right now with the
17 way everything is right now but taking 6th grade
18 out? Are we looking at similar numbers for the next
19 year, 2 years.

20 DR. HAMILTON: Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. MARCUS: Thank you.

22 MR. RIBACK: Hi, good evening, Steve
23 Riback, 23 Riviera Drive. Have a question about the
24 all-day kindergarten. Considering our financial
25 situation and trying to be sensitive to it, instead

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1 of putting a full-day program on the ballot for the
2 whole district, would it be a good idea to put a
3 pilot program, the cost of a pilot program on there
4 and ask the residents to vote on a pilot program
5 that we could see the benefit or not of the program
6 and then consider, you know, a full action on the
7 all-day kindergarten at a later date.

8 DR. HAMILTON: We haven't looked at a
9 pilot program, and we've conducted several studies
10 and looked at data that's available to us by local
11 and national programs looking at the benefits of
12 kindergarten, which is how the recommendation came
13 forward to begin with.

14 MR. KAUFMAN: And I don't think there's
15 anybody -- if we were to do a pilot let's say in one
16 building, I'm sure that the benefits are fabulous.
17 I think we already know the answer to the benefit.
18 That's already been answered. So if we did the
19 pilot, we would probably already get the same
20 results we know. The more time kids spend in
21 school, the better. If it's a full-day
22 kindergarten, then their experience is going to be
23 better, the curriculum is going to be better. I
24 think that answer is definitely yes. So now we're
25 talking about are we at a place now to implement it

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1 district wide because I don't think we can
2 effectively just put it in one part of our district
3 and not the other. That wouldn't be fair.

4 MR. RIBACK: Well, the reason my asking
5 is because I think it would give the residents, who
6 may not be aware of the benefits or not of a
7 full-day kindergarten an opportunity to see how it
8 functions in this district or how it functioned in a
9 particular school at certainly a much lower cost
10 than if we went full steam ahead. Thank you.

11 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

12 MS. THANAWALA: Hamidah Thanawala, 11
13 Eldorado Way. I understand from your slide that by
14 August you're going to remove all the asbestos from
15 Applegarth School; is that right?

16 DR. HAMILTON: Yes.

17 MS. THANAWALA: Okay, and then help me
18 understand the process. You are then going to get
19 this checked by all, tested by all the various,
20 OSHA, et cetera. They will test it and they will
21 say, yeah, you're got all the asbestos out.

22 DR. HAMILTON: Yes.

23 MS. THANAWALA: And then the kids are
24 going to be coming in in September.

25 MR. KAUFMAN: No.

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1 DR. HAMILTON: No. The kids will be in
2 the trailers out -- the newest trailers that were
3 added to the inventory, the trailer inventory, they
4 would come and be placed in those trailers in
5 September. They still wouldn't occupy the building
6 in September of 2011.

7 MS. THANAWALA: Okay. So say that the
8 Applegarth building actually failed these tests.
9 Would the children in the trailers be safe with the
10 building failing the tests?

11 DR. HAMILTON: I'm not sure about the
12 scope of that study, how that works. Jerry, can you
13 respond to that.

14 MS. THANAWALA: That is a very important
15 study. It has to have been done.

16 DR. HAMILTON: Maybe he can answer that.

17 MR. TAGUE: Just to clarify a point, the
18 students would be in the trailers in September, but
19 they would be coming in the building, remember, for
20 PE and lunch, so they would be coming in September.
21 So if did not have the clearances, you would not be
22 able to utilize the building for those other areas.

23 MS. THANAWALA: So then that goes on to
24 my next question, which is really a risk management
25 question. Hopefully you have done some risk

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1 management studies as well on your end to cover
2 yourselves. Let's assume that you didn't pass the
3 test, right, because that could happen. In that
4 case, what is plan B? I haven't heard plan B. I've
5 heard Dr. Hamilton say that you're going to hold the
6 experts accountable. That can't be your plan B. So
7 is there a plan B?

8 DR. HAMILTON: If we were to have an
9 issue in the building and we were not -- just like
10 if something came up and we couldn't open the high
11 school, for example, then, yes, we would have to
12 come up with an alternative plan. That plan would
13 have a ripple effect on moving kids over here and et
14 cetera. If that was to happen, perhaps there would
15 be -- we would then of course have to come up with
16 another way to house those students. That would
17 probably then look at a redistricting plan, even
18 though it may just be temporarily, but if that was
19 to happen, we would have to look at a redistricting
20 plan.

21 MS. THANAWALA: Would it not be a good
22 idea to think about all of this now and let the
23 taxpayers know what you plan to do if something like
24 this happens rather than try and do it at the 11th
25 hour.

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1 DR. HAMILTON: Well, it wouldn't be at
2 the 11th hour. If we knew that that was going to be
3 something, certainly, we can't anticipate all these
4 probabilities or even possibilities, but as in any
5 situation where you're doing logistical planning,
6 you would certainly have to look at what the
7 available options are at that time, and if we were
8 told for whatever reason that we were not able to
9 utilize Applegarth or if something happened and we
10 couldn't utilize Oak Tree, we would then have to
11 come up with a redistricting plan that would move
12 those students out of that school.

13 MS. THANAWALA: But, Dr. Hamilton, can
14 we see that plan, because, again, let's assume this
15 is -- it's not like -- this is not something that is
16 minor. This is major. If you do not pass the test,
17 then all of this work that you've done is going to
18 go down the drain. So why don't we just actually
19 have a plan B and talk about it and see if that's a
20 viable plan.

21 DR. HAMILTON: We have a redistricting
22 plan that the community, members of the community
23 dismissed, and that redistricting plan would mean
24 that we would not be able to disperse all the
25 trailers from our inventory, and those students

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1 would then be dispersed throughout the district.
2 Now, is that an absolute plan that's assigned to
3 individual kids and individual addresses? We
4 haven't gone to that kind of specificity with the
5 plan, but we do know that in a situation where we're
6 not able to utilize one of our buildings or portions
7 of some of our buildings, we would have to retain
8 those trailers.

9 MS. THANAWALA: So would it be possible
10 maybe in the next meeting or whenever for you to
11 come up with a slide that says --

12 DR. HAMILTON: If that is --

13 MS. THANAWALA: -- if it fails, then
14 this is what's going to happen to Oak Tree and this
15 is how all your -- all our kids are going to be
16 affected.

17 DR. HAMILTON: If that was a directive
18 from the Board, I would absolutely do that.

19 MR. KAUFMAN: One of the things you also
20 need to be aware of, too, is that this is not new to
21 the Monroe Township Board of Education, not just the
22 asbestos removal project, but the fact that we've
23 done this before at Barclay Brook, which is the
24 sister school to Applegarth. They were built around
25 the same time, they had the same type of issues.

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1 When we did the renovation work at Barclay Brook,
2 the same type of things were done then as we're
3 doing now so it's not an unknown to us that as was
4 brought up a little bit earlier about the type of
5 heating systems that were in play at the time and
6 these types of things. We have an idea. Now, was
7 it tested yet, as Jerry mentioned? No, but we have
8 prior experience in that when you talk about risk
9 management, so we've done this before at other
10 schools and had the schools ready for kids that
11 following September, and in this case, even knowing
12 that whether or not we pass or fail, come September,
13 the students will still be occupying the trailers
14 which is on the completely other side of the
15 building, just coming into the building for either
16 cafeteria or for PE. So where the work is getting
17 done is a completely separate wing of the entire
18 structure. So I have my confidence in Jerry. He's
19 been our facilities director through every major
20 project that we've had. We have all the right
21 people on the project. We're testing this nine ways
22 from Sunday. So we know -- I feel that this Board
23 is doing above and beyond its due diligence with
24 respect to remediating the asbestos. At the end of
25 the day, given the type of work that we're trying to

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1 do here, as was brought out earlier, didn't even
2 really need to pull the tiles out. We could kind of
3 just like let it go and forget about it. I don't
4 think this Board is in that position. I think this
5 Board wants to answer that call, step up, and get
6 rid of it once and for all. So that's what we're
7 looking to try and do.

8 MS. THANAWALA: So here's my final
9 question. So now that we've determined from the
10 previous questions that Oak Tree, even with the new
11 influx of all the kids that are going to come in in
12 2007 and the outflux of 6th grade, is sufficient and
13 can be made sufficient for 2011/2012 school year,
14 why don't we just let all the kids be in Oak Tree
15 for 2011/2012, take care of the asbestos, and then
16 do whatever you want to do in 2012/2013 school year.

17 DR. HAMILTON: Because that's not --
18 that's not my recommendation as the superintendent.

19 MS. THANAWALA: I'm sorry. I didn't get
20 the answer.

21 DR. HAMILTON: That's not my
22 recommendation as the superintendent.

23 MS. THANAWALA: I would like to know why
24 then. Why is that not the recommendation?

25 DR. HAMILTON: Because I don't -- I

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1 don't believe that that is the best plan for the
2 district.

3 MS. THANAWALA: All right, so give us
4 reasons why, okay. I mean, I --

5 DR. HAMILTON: That's what the
6 presentation was about tonight.

7 MS. THANAWALA: Dr. Hamilton, I think
8 it's the best plan. You think it's not. I give my
9 reasons. Can you give your reasons. I gave you my
10 reasons.

11 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you.

12 MS. THANAWALA: Oh, there's no answer to
13 this question then?

14 DR. HAMILTON: That's what my entire
15 presentation was about.

16 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

17 MS. DAMORE: Lisa Damore, 3 Fallow Way.
18 Can you share with me what the growth rate in the
19 district was last year or the year before, the
20 growth percentage.

21 DR. HAMILTON: We had about 154 kids
22 more from 2008 to 2009, 2009-2010, and we're about
23 the same number this year according to our ASSA
24 report.

25 MS. DAMORE: So that 150 kids against

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1 how many did we have existing? I'm trying to know
2 percentagewise.

3 DR. HAMILTON: I don't have that data in
4 front of me, and I don't want to give you wrong
5 numbers.

6 MS. DAMORE: Okay.

7 MR. KAUFMAN: Mr. Leary.

8 MR. LEARY: This school district has
9 been in a tsunami process. Up to 1998, we grew
10 between 1 and 3 percent per year. Starting at 1998,
11 we started growing at 10 percent per year, and we
12 went that way until about 2006, and then economic
13 conditions, the bottom fell out of the economic
14 market. I hope and pray it will return, and we'll
15 probably be up there again at those kinds of rates,
16 and we have to plan for growth, particularly what
17 Amy was talking about.

18 MS. DAMORE: Okay. As we plan for that
19 growth, though, it doesn't have to be with students
20 in that Applegarth building because currently right
21 now with page 4, slide 1, we would have about 22 to
22 23 children per classroom, and that's as you have
23 the slide laid out there. If we did not move the
24 4th and 5th graders over to Applegarth, we'd end up
25 with about 22 to 23 children per classroom. I have

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1 a breakdown of every classroom right now from Oak
2 Tree, and except for the 2nd graders, which I know
3 that that is a separate issue being worked on,
4 really that number is lower than almost all of the
5 other classes, especially the 2nd grade. So then if
6 we add a 10 percent growth rate for next year, and,
7 you know, clearly the economy is not having this big
8 turnaround.

9 Amy, I understand that you live in
10 Monroe Manor, and I've lived in my home, which is
11 not far from Monroe Manor, for the last 11 years,
12 and the three condo buildings that have stood there
13 partially built or with pipes in the ground coming
14 up from the cement, those were there 3 years ago,
15 also. So there may be some growth that's going to
16 happen there, but other than there, it's not like
17 people are buying houses. There's for sale signs
18 all over, and nobody's -- nobody's, you know,
19 chomping at the bit so quickly, so but even assuming
20 if we had a 10 percent growth rate, which as John
21 Leary just said, we have not had since 2006,
22 clearly, Oak Tree can handle the amount of students
23 with leaving the 4th and 5th graders out of
24 Applegarth. Do whatever you want to do there, and
25 then let's assess the situation so parents are more

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1 comfortable with the conditions that their students
2 will be educated in and that the teachers don't have
3 any risks, as well as the students, to their health,
4 to their quality of, you know, job experience, and
5 all those other headaches that we really don't need
6 to distract the education process.

7 MR. MATZ: Dean Matz, 5 Trotter. What
8 goes on at Applegarth, it turns into a disaster. I
9 know that won't happen because that never does, but
10 in the event it does, is a viable option to relocate
11 them a hundred yards across the street to Oak Tree?
12 Is that an option as maybe a plan B?

13 DR. HAMILTON: Say that again.

14 MR. MATZ: In the event that the study
15 comes back or the school, itself, at Applegarth is
16 just a complete disaster, it's not safe for anybody
17 to be around the school, and it's like you have to
18 do something with those children, is it plan, is a
19 viable plan to relocate them across the street to
20 Oak Tree?

21 DR. HAMILTON: That could certainly be
22 an option that's among some options to consider.

23 MR. MATZ: So if it's an option after a
24 disaster, why can't it be an option right now?

25 MR. KAUFMAN: Because there is no

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1 disaster.

2 DR. HAMILTON: Because we're not in that
3 situation, sir.

4 MR. MATZ: But there is room to
5 accommodate those children. Just one other
6 question. Is Applegarth going to have a playground
7 like it has at Oak Tree right now?

8 DR. HAMILTON: There isn't a playground
9 in the plan for Applegarth right now, but that's
10 certainly something that we can take to the
11 Buildings and Grounds Committee to consider.

12 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else?

13 MS. TRINKL: I think it's unrealistic to
14 say --

15 MR. KAUFMAN: Name and address.

16 MS. TRINKL: My name is Anna. I live in
17 Monroe. Anna Trinkl, 7 Kendall Court. I think it's
18 unrealistic to stay that you are solving anything by
19 putting the kids in Applegarth because really the
20 issue here is that Monroe is growing. Okay, who is
21 giving this permission to just keep growing and
22 growing and growing? Really, I think it's just
23 going to move the problem, like Lisa said. It's
24 going to move the problem because really it's just
25 today, okay, we have this people. Tomorrow we're

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1 going to have more, and you say that they're going
2 to keep building. Then the problem here is not even
3 about us, about the education system. Really the
4 problem is who gave the permission, who's the
5 institution, who is the people who keep saying that
6 Monroe can keep growing without having the structure
7 to have for those kids who are going to live in
8 those houses, those apartments. That's my problem.
9 That's my question because I don't think it's going
10 to solve anything that my kid is going to go in
11 Applegarth next year, two of my kids, no playground.
12 They have to have the complete education and all
13 that, but really they're not going to have it
14 because they can't be inside the building. They
15 can't have lab. They can't have playground. They
16 can't have -- okay, it's just 200 kids. For me are
17 my two kids. Really I don't have any response. I
18 think that I have the answer.

19 DR. HAMILTON: I'll give you a response.
20 Unfortunately, Anna, we're a service organization.
21 You know, the township is going to grow. People --

22 MS. TRINKL: Then you are limited.

23 DR. HAMILTON: People are allowed to
24 take out building permits. They're allowed to build
25 condos.

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1 MS. TRINKL: Exactly. Then the thing is
2 working backwards.

3 DR. HAMILTON: That argument, that issue
4 is not for this --

5 MS. TRINKL: But I wanted people to
6 hear. They have to fight somewhere else. Then they
7 have to fight somewhere else. Then stop this.
8 Infrastructure is not for so many houses.

9 DR. HAMILTON: I would just say that I
10 agree with you. I'm just saying that this venue
11 unfortunately for you is not the venue. The
12 venue for you is across the street.

13 MS. TRINKL: No, I understand, but I
14 wanted to open, and the people can fight this fight.
15 We're going to be the same next year, we're going to
16 be in the same position the other year because even
17 already now the high school is not enough for the
18 people that is already in the town.

19 MR. KAUFMAN: Mr. Leary.

20 MR. LEARY: Okay, this is an issue that
21 needs to be addressed in the legislature, and the
22 rules and the laws and statutes of the State of New
23 Jersey give the builder tremendous discretion. If
24 he gets a piece of land that is zoned for
25 residential occupancy and he goes through all the

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1 proper procedures, he has the right to build,
2 particularly if he's got enough money to make it,
3 and maybe he spreads a little money around to some
4 people, but the thing is in this state, the Board of
5 Education has no say in these matters. You go to
6 our next door neighbor in Pennsylvania, the Board of
7 Education does have a say in those types of
8 decisions.

9 MS. TRINKL: Then we have to fight a
10 different fight. We're going to be in this position
11 all the time.

12 MR. LEARY: It's not -- we don't have
13 any dog in the fight.

14 MS. GREGORY: Esther Gregory, 2 Kelly
15 Court. In the newspapers everybody will clearly see
16 all the new houses that are being built states blue
17 ribbons schools, so who is supporting who. If
18 you're bringing in new homes -- I bought a 1980
19 something house. There needs to be renovations to
20 it. I bought that for a reason. There's history
21 within Monroe. I came from New York, from Somerset
22 County to Monroe Township because of the school
23 system. So with a new house, the new building
24 codes, who is coming up with blue ribbon schools.
25 You're promoting blue ribbon schools with the new

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1 houses, so that all has to work together. You need
2 to know who's building how many houses. That comes
3 hand in hand, not -- you work with the building
4 codes, don't you?

5 MR. KAUFMAN: No.

6 MS. GREGORY: It needs to work together.
7 It should work together. You're building how many
8 houses. How many people do you have in this
9 community. It doesn't support it. I'm sorry if
10 it's the wrong meeting.

11 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else? Alan, come
12 on. Name and address again.

13 MR. KAHN: Just a quickie. Alan Kahn,
14 11 Crenshaw. It sounds like this side of the mic
15 most people don't want Applegarth open, forget the
16 \$10 million expenditure, but if in your infinite
17 wisdom you do decide to go ahead, why the heck are
18 you taking what you're saying now is a completely
19 safe building with nonfriable asbestos. Once it's
20 down there, there's no problem. You are creating a
21 problem by attempting to remove it. Most schools
22 that I have worked with that have had asbestos way
23 back when covered it. Once it's encapsulated, you
24 don't have a problem. You just go ahead from there,
25 but close the building.

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1 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you, Alan. Anyone
2 else?

3 MR. RIBACK: Steve Riback, 23 Riviera.
4 I'd just like to address the point that I think Anna
5 brought up because the fight really isn't with the
6 Board of Education. It's with the legislature, and
7 I'm sure you're aware in certain states they have
8 impact fees where if a builder plans a community,
9 they have a formula that will show how many students
10 will come from that community, and that builder has
11 to pay money directly to the Board of Education to
12 cover the costs of educating those students. That's
13 a fight that I think is very worth fighting, and if
14 you're really interested in doing something, that's
15 where you have to go. You have to hit your
16 legislators. It's not the Board of Education.

17 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else? Thank you.

18 MS. DAMORE: Lisa Damore, 3 Fallow Way.
19 It is my understanding, and please correct me if I'm
20 wrong, we might not have access to this information
21 through the building code department in Monroe
22 Township, New Jersey, and whether it's a legal issue
23 to not have access to it or turn our head the other
24 way and let's not ask all the right questions and
25 turn over every rock that we can possibly turn over

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1 to try to find that information, I don't really
2 know; however, what I understand to be is that we
3 have a Board of Education policy in Monroe, and
4 again, correct me if I'm wrong, that says that if
5 you have a contract on a home but yet do not live in
6 Monroe yet, that you are allowed to attend our
7 schools until, you know, your contract comes through
8 to completion. Is that correct or incorrect?

9 DR. HAMILTON: It's incorrect. It's
10 actually the reverse. If you have a contract on a
11 home and you live -- you're already in Monroe and
12 that contract, let's say it's, what it is April I
13 think it is in the policy, and you're going to be
14 moving to another community and your child has
15 already been in school, you can continue your
16 education for the balance of the school year, but
17 you can't --

18 MS. DAMORE: But you have to already be
19 in Monroe so you'd be in that number.

20 DR. HAMILTON: Exactly.

21 MS. DAMORE: The number of students
22 already.

23 DR. HAMILTON: Yes.

24 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else? Anna, it's a
25 Board question, right?

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1 MS. TRINKL: No, it's a comment. Now
2 that we're not going to change anything, everybody
3 knows that it's not going to change next year, it's
4 not going to change if they go in Applegarth or
5 anything, then I want my kids in Oak Tree because
6 there's plenty of room. Next year is going to be
7 another problem and next year's going to be another
8 problem, like Lisa said. Then now that we have a
9 safe school across the street that is Oak Tree, I
10 want my kids to be there until they repair, they
11 have a construction site, they have people there
12 that is not documented or whatever, I don't know
13 what the issue is about, but I want my kids to have
14 playground, my kids have all the facility, not to
15 say that my kids are going to be in part of the
16 school in a trailer. I don't have anything against
17 a trailer. My issue is they're going to be in a
18 construction site. My issue is there will be issues
19 going inside and outside the building, and I want my
20 kids to have the best because I'm paying like
21 everybody else, and then it's not going to solve
22 anything if Applegarth is closed or not because we
23 know that next year we're going to be saying the
24 same thing. We're going to have more people because
25 they're going to keep building, and then I just want

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1 my kids to have the best school experience with all
2 everything that they need. Thank you.

3 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you. Anyone else?

4 Seeing no one, I'm going to close the public forum.

5 Next we have an item, we have option number 7, which
6 is Board action. Do we have any motions on the
7 floor? Mr. Tessler.

8 MR. TESSLER: In order to support the
9 districtwide reconfiguration plan, it's recommended
10 that the members of Monroe Township Board of
11 Education approve the renaming of the existing
12 Applegarth Middle School to Applegarth Elementary
13 School effective fiscal year 2011/2012.

14 MR. KAUFMAN: Do I have a second?

15 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Second.

16 MR. KAUFMAN: Miss Kolupanowich.

17 Discussion? Roll call.

18 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Leary.

19 MR. LEARY: Yes.

20 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Tessler.

21 MR. TESSLER: Yes.

22 MR. GORSKI: Miss Faraone. Miss

23 Leonard. Mr. Braverman. Mr. Chiarella.

24 MR. CHIARELLA: Yes.

25 MR. GORSKI: Miss Kolupanowich.

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1 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes.

2 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Klein. Mr. Masters.

3 MR. MASTERS: Yes.

4 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Kaufman.

5 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

6 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Board President, motion
7 passes.

8 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you. Miss
9 Kolupanowich.

10 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: In order to support
11 the districtwide reconfiguration plan, it is
12 recommended that the members of the Board of --
13 Monroe Township Board of Education authorize the
14 implementation of districtwide full-day kindergarten
15 as part of the 2011/2012 school budget pending
16 county approval and subject to voter approval as a
17 second question.

18 MR. KAUFMAN: Do I have a second?

19 MR. LEARY: Second.

20 MR. KAUFMAN: Mr. Leary. Discussion.

21 MR. MASTERS: Yes. On the slide it
22 looks like this is linked to keeping Applegarth
23 open. Is that true?

24 DR. HAMILTON: The recommendation for
25 full-day K, no.

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- 1 MR. MASTERS: Okay, thank you.
- 2 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else? Roll call.
- 3 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Leary.
- 4 MR. LEARY: Yes.
- 5 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Tessler.
- 6 MR. TESSLER: Yes.
- 7 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Chiarella.
- 8 MR. CHIARELLA: Yes.
- 9 MR. GORSKI: Miss Kolupanowich.
- 10 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes.
- 11 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Masters.
- 12 MR. MASTERS: Yes.
- 13 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Kaufman.
- 14 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.
- 15 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Board President, motion
- 16 passes.
- 17 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you. Anything else?
- 18 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I have another one.
- 19 In order to support the districtwide reconfiguration
- 20 plan, it is recommended that the members of the
- 21 Monroe Township Board of Education authorize the
- 22 districtwide grade level reconfiguration as follows
- 23 for the 2011/2012 school year: Barclay Brook
- 24 Elementary School, preK to grade 2; Brookside
- 25 Elementary School, grades 3 through 5; Mill Lake

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1 Elementary School, preK to grade 2; Woodland
2 Elementary, grades 3 through 5; Oak Tree Elementary
3 School, preK to grade 3; Applegarth Elementary
4 School, grades 4 and 5; the Monroe Township Middle
5 School, grades 6, 7, 8.

6 MR. KAUFMAN: Second?

7 MR. LEARY: Second.

8 MR. KAUFMAN: Mr. Leary. Discussion.

9 Mr. Chiarella.

10 MR. CHIARELLA: I believe that the
11 better, safer, and more fiscally responsible path
12 for our district is to close Applegarth for asbestos
13 remediation and upgrades and allow the people of
14 Monroe to vote on phase 2. For many of the reasons
15 we've heard tonight, I will be voting no to housing
16 our students at Applegarth until the people have
17 spoken on the \$9.3 million worth of upgrades and
18 until those upgrades are complete. Thank you.

19 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else? Anyone else?

20 MR. TESSLER: Just a couple of
21 points. There was some mention tonight about water
22 in Applegarth, and I have two children who went
23 through Applegarth. I have a junior in high school
24 and a current 8th grader. Back in the day before
25 Dr. Hamilton was around or Dr. Ferrie was around, we

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1 did a city sewer and water service upgrade in
2 Applegarth, and during that time before that was
3 done, yes, the water was drinkable, it was well
4 water, but the kids brought in bottled water, and
5 now the water is fine, and my daughter drinks it
6 every day.

7 Couple other things. There was some
8 mention about building a new school and tearing down
9 Applegarth. In a perfect world that would be my
10 opinion the best solution, but reality sets in, we
11 don't live in a perfect world, and the odds of
12 passing a \$30 million bond referendum in this town
13 is probably slim to none.

14 Couple things about I guess the
15 trailers. Mentioning about housing the kids outside
16 in the trailers, my kids have been going to school
17 in trailers for years, although it's not optimal.
18 They're pretty nice, and the 4th and 5th grade don't
19 switch classes so it will be housed in that facility
20 during the day except for going in for PE and going
21 into the cafeteria for lunch. Brookside, my
22 children also attended Brookside. They don't use a
23 playground there. They've been playing in the front
24 parking lot for years, and Barclay Brook, as well.
25 Although again not optimal, there is some playground

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1 equipment donated there, but they're not used.

2 Just that's it. Just wanted some
3 comments.

4 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else. Kathy.

5 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I just want to state
6 a couple of comments. When we passed the 2003
7 referendum, the ad hoc committee recommended to the
8 Board that the referendum would include building a
9 new high school, turning the existing high school
10 into a middle school, and having the sister school
11 concept with Mill Lake and Woodland, Barclay Brook
12 and Brookside, and Oak Tree and Applegarth. At that
13 time, we had talked of coming up -- I know Dr.
14 Ferrie when he was here -- we had talked about
15 coming up with a plan to renovate Applegarth in
16 stages, and we started that plan maybe 3 and a half
17 years ago when we put Applegarth on -- it was on
18 septic and well water, and we put it -- we tied it
19 up to city water and sewer, and at that time it cost
20 us \$250,000 plus all the fees that we needed to do
21 that. We, the Board at that time, would have never
22 expended half -- a quarter of a million dollars if
23 we had any plans of closing that school. We would
24 have just left it the way it was and then closed the
25 school. So we had all intentions at that time to

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1 keep the school open, renovate it in stages, and
2 have it ready for our students in a safe and secure
3 way by doing things that we can do while the
4 students were not in class at the time, basically
5 over summers and vacations.

6 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you, Kathy. And to
7 Doug's point about being fiscally responsible, one
8 of the nice points about that particular project was
9 we combined that effort with a builder that was
10 looking to put some construction in that area that
11 really lessened the cost of the project by donating
12 a lot of money towards that. You know, they would
13 get something out of it, we would get something out
14 of it. So it was something we always wanted to do
15 and the timing was right so we took advantage of the
16 opportunity and to move forward with water and sewer
17 in the building, as well.

18 Anyone else?

19 MR. MASTERS: I know I promised I
20 wasn't going to say anything. I'll keep it to a
21 minute. Just to agree with one of my fellow Board
22 members to explain why I'm going to vote the way I'm
23 going to vote tonight. I think it would be in light
24 of what I've heard and the information I have looked
25 at and analyzed, I'd be negligent not to I guess

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1 listen to the public, and I do agree with Mr.
2 Chiarella that we should keep this open to a vote,
3 maybe have the public talk about it a little more
4 and have more of a say. So I just want everybody to
5 know I probably will -- not probably, I will be
6 voting no to keep Applegarth open tonight.

7 MR. KAUFMAN: Anyone else? Mr. Leary.

8 MR. LEARY: I see paralysis by analysis
9 coming at us; therefore, I'm going to say yes.

10 MR. KAUFMAN: Mr. Gorski, roll call.

11 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Leary.

12 MR. LEARY: Yes.

13 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Tessler.

14 MR. TESSLER: Yes.

15 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Chiarella.

16 MR. CHIARELLA: No.

17 MR. GORSKI: Mrs. Kolupanowich.

18 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes.

19 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Masters.

20 MR. MASTERS: No.

21 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Kaufman.

22 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

23 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Board President, the
24 motion passes.

25 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you. Anyone else?

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1 MR. TESSLER: In order to support the
2 districtwide reconfiguration plan, it is recommended
3 that the members of the Monroe Township Board of
4 Education establish phase 1 renovations to
5 Applegarth Elementary School as a 2011/2012 budget
6 priority as recommended by the superintendent.

7 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Second.

8 MR. KAUFMAN: Second. Discussion.

9 A BOARD MEMBER: This is phase 1.

10 MR. KAUFMAN: Phase 1, that's it.

11 A BOARD MEMBER: What was the amount?

12 MR. KAUFMAN: Three hundred fifty-two
13 thousand.

14 A BOARD MEMBER: Phase 1 was the
15 asbestos remediation and testing over the summer.

16 MR. KAUFMAN: And OSHA. Anyone else?
17 Discussion? Roll call.

18 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Leary.

19 MR. LEARY: Yes.

20 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Tessler.

21 MR. TESSLER: Yes.

22 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Chiarella.

23 MR. CHIARELLA: Yes.

24 MR. GORSKI: Mrs. Kolupanowich.

25 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes.

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1 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Masters.

2 MR. MASTERS: Yes.

3 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Kaufman.

4 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

5 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Board President, the

6 motion passes.

7 MR. KAUFMAN: Thank you. Anyone else

8 Board action? Seeing no one, the next public Board

9 of Education meeting will be on November 17 at

10 7 p.m. at the Monroe Township High School. Do I

11 have a motion to adjourn?

12 MR. LEARY: Motion to adjourn.

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