

Minutes of the Public Board of Education meeting held on September 12, 2012 at the Monroe Township High School.

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

## ATTENDANCE

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich, Board President  
Ms. Amy Antelis  
Mr. Lew Kaufman  
Mr. Mark Klein  
Mr. John Leary  
Mr. Lou Masters  
Mr. Ira Tessler

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Ken Chiarella, Vice President  
Mr. Marvin Braverman

### JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Ms. Patrice Faraone

### STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Francesca Speranza

### STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Eneri S. Patel

### STAFF PRESENT

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

### MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – 407

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 September 7, 2012:

At all Schools,  
Home News Tribune,  
Cranbury Press, and

4. Filed with the Clerk of the Municipality.

#### STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

Francesca Esperanza, the new Junior Class Student Board Member spoke about the Senior Parent Meeting , Back to School Night and upcoming school closings.

#### JAMESBURG TUITION UPDATE

Please refer to attached transcript.

#### PUBLIC FORUM

Please refer to attached transcript.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

Dr. Hamilton thanked the entire staff for a smooth school opening even with a new school opening and the additional enrollment. Dr. Hamilton then singled out and thanked Jerry Tague for the exceptional job at Applegarth and to the entire maintenance and custodial crews to ready all buildings for the opening and Michael Gorski for all the behind the scene work that goes into getting the schools ready. Next, Dr. Hamilton stated that the current enrollment is 6,125 and that enrollment when schools closed in June was 5,961. Then, Dr. Hamilton commended the Board for an excellent retreat on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> to establish new goals. Finally, Dr. Hamilton stated that later in the evening the Board will formal adopt the new goals, one of which includes establishing a Strategic Plan that includes six design teams in the following areas: Community Communication, Community Engagement and Business Partnerships, Instruction, Facilities, Technology and The Arts. Dr. Hamilton asked that any members of the community who wish to serve on any of the design teams should sign up on sheets available at the meeting.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Masters that Personnel Items (A - X) be approved by consent roll call. Mr. Klein asked a question related to Item L and Dr. Hamilton explained why a stipend is necessary. Roll Call – 8 – 0. Motion Carried. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate. A copy of the Personnel Section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

BOARD ACTION

A motion was made by Mr. Klein and seconded by Mr. Leary that Board Action items (A – H) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 8 – 0. Motion Carried. A copy of the Board Action Section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Masters and seconded by Ms. Antelis that Board Action item I be approved by consent roll call. Dr. Hamilton clarified that under item 3 it should read for the 2013-2014 budget and Mr. Tessler added that the Board will be reviewing all programs to see where cuts can be made. Roll Call – 6 – 0 with Ms. Faraone and Mr. Kaufman abstaining. Motion Carried. A copy of the Board Action Section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Klein and seconded by Mr. Leary that Board Action item J be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 8 – 0. Motion Carried. A copy of the Board Action Section of the Superintendent's Report is attached to the official set of minutes. (Note: this item was read and approved earlier in the meeting. Refer to transcript for details and supplemental information.)

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

A motion was made by Ms. Antelis and seconded by Mr. Leary that Board Action Items (A – N) be approved by consent roll call. Roll Call – 8 – 0 with Mr. Masters recusing on item I3. Motion Carried. The vote included the Jamesburg Board Member Representative where appropriate. A copy of the Board Action section of the Business Administrator's Report is attached to the official set of minutes.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Kolupanowich stated that starting in October the budget process calendar will start being formulated and that a budget committee is being formed. Ms. Kolupanowich also stated that in 2002 there were 3,392 students and in 2012 this number was over 6,100, an increase of 2,800 students in ten years and that an additional 200 students per year is anticipated for the next five years and so the District needs to start planning where to house these children. To this end Ms. Kolupanowich decided to put together an Ad Hoc Committee for Growth and Facilities including members of the Board, Administration, staff, students, parents and members of adult communities with a purpose to examine growth and come up with a plan on how to handle this growth.

COMMITTEE REPORTSPERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Tessler, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee stated the committee met the day before and the following were discussed: revised job description for the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and in order to save money the committee asked Dr. Hamilton to find ways to split the tasks among other employees or to make the position a part-time one, status update on the Central Office Support Staff negotiations and that the process should be completed soon, presented with a non-affiliate sample contract whereby each non-affiliate will receive a contract with their specific entitlements and benefits listed.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Mr. Kaufman, Chairperson of the Curriculum Committee stated the committee met earlier in the evening and the following were discussed and reviewed: curriculum documents for economics, 3D arts and social studies for grade 6, grade 8 prevention and care of athletic injuries and a discussion of the District's chemical hygiene plan which over the past few years spending has decreased radically from 2009 to 2012. Also, there was a presentation by the Director of Pupil Personnel as related to the screening of kindergarten students. Finally, Mr. Kaufman discussed a program being offered by Comcast which will be open to children currently receiving free/reduced lunch whereby they will pay \$9.95 for internet service which is their cost.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS/TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Masters, Vice Chairperson of the Buildings and Grounds/Transportation Committee stated the committee had met on August 28<sup>th</sup> after a tour of Applegarth School and that the following items were discussed: a county request for a bike path trail connecting the new soccer complex to Thompson Park, bleacher update, Applegarth update, possibly purchasing some of the trailers, a MECA update, Brookside roof project update, and a traffic change at the High School due to possible safety issues.

OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

Mr. Klein stated that two meetings earlier he'd lost a gold bracelet that was given to him by his now deceased wife. He returned the following day and asked the custodian Mark Lupo if anything was found and he said no. However, he stated he was pleasantly surprised by a phone call the Friday before Labor Day from Mr. Lupo that he'd found the bracelet when he was moving furniture. Mr. Klein wanted to thank Mr. Lupo publicly for his honesty and added that he refused to take a reward.

Ms. Antelis stated she was probably the Board member with the most years of service and that she wanted to clarify some statements such as the Board doing free spending. She noted that if a juvenile is locked up in a juvenile detention facility we have to pay the State \$28,000 for each child and that there are many State mandated costs that we have to absorb as a District

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Klein and seconded by Mr. Leary that the members of the Board of Education go into closed session. ducation go into Closed Session, in accordance with Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975(N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

Personnel: Employee No. 003190  
Other: Legal Advice

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

Motion Carried.

Adjourned to Closed Session at 9:27 p.m.

Returned to Public Meeting at 10:11 p.m.

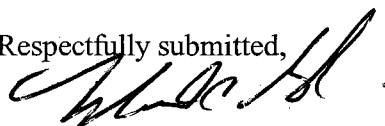
PUBLIC FORUM

Please refer to attached transcript.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Kaufman and seconded by Mr. Tessler that the meeting be adjourned. Motion Carried Unanimously. The public meeting adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MICHAEL C. GORSKI, CPA  
BOARD SECRETARY/BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
Transcript of  
MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2012)  
TAPED proceedings**

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1 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: At this time, we are  
2 going to number 4 on our agenda, the Jamesburg  
3 tuition update. Mr. Gorski will give an update on  
4 where we stand with the Jamesburg district.

5 MR. GORSKI: Good evening. I would like  
6 to start by outlining the history followed by a  
7 current status update and finally future  
8 considerations of the sending/receiving relationship  
9 between the Jamesburg Board of Education and the  
10 Monroe Board of Education. Until 1976, when Monroe  
11 built its own high school, Monroe High School pupils  
12 actually attended Jamesburg High School on a  
13 sending/receiving relationship. In 1976, when  
14 Monroe pulled its students and related tuition  
15 monies from the Jamesburg Board of Ed, Jamesburg  
16 incurred financial difficulties affecting their  
17 abilities to support academic programs and  
18 comprehensive curriculum. On April 4, 1979, the  
19 State Board of Education determined that Jamesburg  
20 High School be closed and that from June 30, 1979,  
21 forward, resident students from grades 9 through 12  
22 are designated tuition pupils for indeterminate  
23 period effective July 1, 1979, at the Monroe  
24 Township High School.

25 Monroe appealed to the state board, and

1 on May 2, 1979, the state board affirmed the closing  
2 of Jamesburg's high school and the sending of their  
3 students in grades 9 to 12 to the Monroe Board of  
4 Education. On June 4, 1979, on an appeal to the  
5 final determinations of the state board on 4-4-79  
6 and 5-2-79, the State Supreme Court heard Monroe's  
7 appeal and determined that the 5-2-79 state board's  
8 determination was affirmed at the State Supreme  
9 Court level.

10 Since 1979, Jamesburg's high school  
11 students have been a welcomed and undifferentiated  
12 addition to Monroe's student body. Jamesburg has  
13 paid tuition to Monroe, including an interest  
14 component sharing bond interest costs since 1979.  
15 These bonds over the years have included the  
16 original 1979 building and construction of the high  
17 school, 1989 auxiliary gym construction, 1994  
18 construction of the Richard P. Marasco Center, the  
19 1997 academic wings for science and math.

20 In 2003, after a revision reducing  
21 \$24 million of project costs to an earlier  
22 referendum to build a new high school on Applegarth  
23 Road, Monroe was successful in passing a new Monroe  
24 Township High School referendum including  
25 \$67,699,000 in bond issuance and a \$15.2 million

1 grant from the state. In 2008, a second referendum  
2 was passed for increased costs due to delays in  
3 construction from a legal challenge led by a group  
4 called Park Savers. Forty-one million nine hundred  
5 thousand dollars in bonds were issued additionally.  
6 Payments on debt for these two referenda began  
7 August 1, '04, and September 1, '08.

8 On December of 2007, and again in  
9 January of 2009, Monroe's administration and board  
10 met with Jamesburg's counterparts to outline  
11 interest costs which will be shared between the  
12 districts as part of the tuition costs. Jamesburg  
13 requested at these meetings that because Jamesburg  
14 was paying for their proportionate share of interest  
15 on the original Monroe Township High School that  
16 they should not have to pay their proportionate  
17 share of interest on the new Monroe Township High  
18 School while it was under construction. Monroe  
19 agreed and began charging interest to Jamesburg on  
20 the new Monroe Township High School when their  
21 students began enrollment in September of 2011.  
22 This is documented in Monroe's minutes.

23 Now I'll give an update. In 2012,  
24 Monroe aggressively refinanced their 2003 series  
25 bonds, saving interest costs over the life of these

1 bonds. Jamesburg's share will be decreased;  
2 however, their enrollment percentage of the high  
3 school enrollment is increasing, which will likely  
4 offset the benefit of this refunding to Jamesburg.

5 The budget law of 2010 created a hard  
6 2 percent tax levy cap. This law eliminated many  
7 cap waivers, such as costs associated with building  
8 a new school that Monroe faced and also a tuition  
9 cap waiver, which used to be part of the law. This  
10 would have allowed Jamesburg to budget for tuition  
11 amounts exceeding the cap, putting tuition outside  
12 of that calculation. That was eliminated. The law  
13 without consideration for pre-existing agreements  
14 like between Monroe and Jamesburg created a hardship  
15 for Jamesburg in their ability to properly budget  
16 for tuition and related interest costs; however, the  
17 districts were able to do so with the assistance of  
18 the county office of the department of education.

19 It's important to note that as of this  
20 date, Jamesburg has always paid their full state  
21 certified actual tuition costs to Monroe in  
22 accordance with law. They are current. They have  
23 never been in arrears.

24 Finally, I'll go over some future  
25 considerations. The previously agreed to tuition in

1 year 13/14 will contain approximately \$600,000 of  
2 high school bond interest, which will be charged by  
3 Monroe and collected from Jamesburg. This is not a  
4 one-time charge but an annual sharing of Monroe's  
5 interest costs for this facility. Mechanically, it  
6 will be very difficult for Jamesburg to budget for  
7 and raise these additional funds under the current  
8 budget law.

9 I have now concluded with my report and  
10 I would like to offer the Board of Education an  
11 opportunity to introduce any action at this time to  
12 deviate from the current agreement sharing bond  
13 interest costs on the new Monroe Township High  
14 School with Jamesburg based upon the percentage of  
15 average daily enrollment.

16 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you,  
17 Mr. Gorski. So the only question that the Board has  
18 tonight, well, is where we stand with the percentage  
19 of the yearly payments from Jamesburg for their  
20 interest portion of the new high school. The Monroe  
21 board has already taken action on and approved an  
22 agreement between the Monroe and Jamesburg Board of  
23 Educations where they would continue or they would  
24 pay Monroe \$600,000 in their interest course for the  
25 new high school yearly for the life of the bonds.

1 So the question is does this board wish to go in  
2 another direction, or do we want to continue to  
3 honor the agreement we entered into last year.

4 Patrice.

5 MS. FARAONE: I'd first like to say on  
6 behalf of the Jamesburg Board of Education, I'd like  
7 to acknowledge Darren Larsen, our past president,  
8 who died suddenly of a heart attack August 22 at the  
9 age of 46. Contrary to comments made by community  
10 members at the Monroe board meeting, it would have  
11 been totally inappropriate to discuss any topic  
12 related to the Jamesburg/Monroe tuition issue that  
13 night as he had literally passed a few hours  
14 earlier. I thank the Board for their sensitivity.  
15 He left behind his wife Corrine, who is employed by  
16 Monroe Township as a bus driver, and five children.  
17 In Darren's short life, he gave of himself, his time  
18 unconditionally. His focus was his children, all  
19 the children, and their well being and their  
20 education. He was motivated and fair minded and was  
21 a sounding board and a voice of reason when many had  
22 become completely unreasonable in this tuition  
23 issue. I thank him for his time and compassion. We  
24 will miss him.

25 Over the 17 years I have served as the

1 Jamesburg rep to Monroe, the rumors have run  
2 rampant. I have tried to stay focused on the main  
3 goal to give Jamesburg children an opportunity for  
4 an excellent education here in Monroe. We've never  
5 owed millions. We have never been asked to leave  
6 because of late payment or nonpayment. We have been  
7 timely and cooperative in all financial dealings.  
8 We have also contributed greatly in the area of  
9 student achievement, such as past valedictorian,  
10 exceptional athletes, musicians, scholars, and just  
11 well rounded students. I want to thank the Monroe  
12 board members and administration that have been here  
13 since I started to navigate through and steer clear  
14 of all the negativity.

15 I want to explain in the simplest of  
16 terms that it is clear to everyone and no one walks  
17 away here tonight once again confused or still  
18 scratching their heads. We have paid tuition to  
19 Monroe since 1979. We also pay specific  
20 transportation costs separate from tuition, which  
21 already has -- which the tuition already has  
22 transportation built into it. We have paid interest  
23 on the debt service to Monroe for 32 years on the  
24 property that is now the Monroe Township middle  
25 school, and we have no claims to it. By law Monroe

1 may or may not charge the interest on this debt  
2 service. We are basically tenants to Monroe. We  
3 pay a rate, which increases every year, for our  
4 children to attend the high school. We don't own  
5 the building. We have no say in what becomes of the  
6 building. But we have helped pay the debt down on  
7 the building. When you rent an apartment or a  
8 storefront, you pay rent, which has building upkeep  
9 and other factors built into it. You don't pay a  
10 fee on top of that because you don't own any part of  
11 that facility. We have helped pay down the high  
12 school for 32 years, and it is now the taxpayer of  
13 Monroe -- Monroe middle school. Monroe now has a  
14 new high school, and we pay a tuition, and we pay  
15 transportation. We are also asking to pay once  
16 again on the interest on the debt service, which  
17 Monroe by law may or may not charge. We don't have  
18 it. The state in its inequities for logical fair  
19 funding has always shorted Jamesburg in its ability  
20 to provide for special education, general education,  
21 and its tuition to Monroe. We, the Board, I,  
22 myself, have contacted assembly people,  
23 commissioners of education, senators, governors,  
24 such as Linda Greenstein, Rush Holt, Chris Christie,  
25 to no avail. While I understand Monroe must do

- 1 what's best for their taxpayers, when does it stop
- 2 becoming -- when does it stop being about the dollar
- 3 and become about fairness and what's morally right
- 4 and most importantly the children of Jamesburg.

5 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you, Patrice.

- 6 Is there anyone else from the Board of Education
- 7 wishing to speak? Mr. Leary.

- 8 MR. LEARY: I support Mr. Gorski's
- 9 proposal that we continue -- I propose that we
- 10 support Mr. Gorski's analysis and recommendation
- 11 that we go forward with this and try and maintain
- 12 some kind of a harmonious relationship, but there is
- 13 a long standing precedent for payment for interest
- 14 during construction and also for the use of
- 15 facilities.

- 16 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. We've
- 17 already had action on this so if we wanted to go in
- 18 another direction, we would need to make a motion,
- 19 so unless somebody makes a motion, we're going to
- 20 continue with honoring the agreement that we entered
- 21 into last year.

- 22 MR. KLEIN: Want to make one point.

- 23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Klein.

- 24 MR. KLEIN: As far as inequity in
- 25 funding, in Jamesburg, we also have inequity in

1 funding. Basically, most of you have read in the  
2 newspaper or saw it on channel 28, we're getting  
3 roughly \$500 per student. I, myself, have contacted  
4 and had letters to the State Supreme Court, New  
5 Jersey Department of Education, Chris Christie.  
6 I've spoken to him not only at town hall meetings  
7 but one on one, to no avail. To be flat out honest  
8 with you, I don't think the state gives a damn about  
9 us. And I'm very happy to see the turnout that we  
10 have here. Perhaps the taxpayer organizations will  
11 get together and start raising hell with Trenton.  
12 So I want to thank everybody for coming. Thank you.

13 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you, Mr. Klein.  
14 Okay. We will be going -- actually, I have  
15 something to -- an item to add on before public  
16 forum that the agenda had already been written up  
17 before this came into effect, so I just want to take  
18 a few moments to go into something.

19 This past Monday, September 10, myself,  
20 Dr. Hamilton, and Mr. Gorski met with Council  
21 President Jerry Tamburro, business administrator  
22 Wayne Hamilton, municipal employee George Lang,  
23 Senator Linda Greenstein, and a representative from  
24 Congressman Wayne DeAngelo's office. The  
25 conversation centered around the recent tax

1 increases in our community and how we can work  
2 together, the Board of Education, the township, the  
3 community, and our elected officials, to get the  
4 state and the Department of Education to fully  
5 understand the uniqueness of Monroe Township and the  
6 unfairness to our citizens to not fully fund the  
7 School Funding Reform Action of 2008.

8 So at this time I'm going to let Dr.  
9 Hamilton go into the meeting that we had Monday and  
10 a resolution that he's going to be reading.

11 DR. HAMILTON: Thank you. This meeting  
12 was an outgrowth of concerns that we've been voicing  
13 for a while now, particularly as it relates to our  
14 quest to get additional founding and get support  
15 behind our efforts to get additional funding, and,  
16 of course, there is criticisms that the argument is  
17 not about additional money but being better stewards  
18 about the money that we do receive, but nonetheless,  
19 I believe if we are unified in our efforts to  
20 recoupe, if you will, money that the district is  
21 entitled to, we would be in a better position.

22 So with that said -- with that said, I  
23 have prepared a resolution that I'd like the Board  
24 to consider, and following this resolution, if the  
25 Board should approve this resolution, we will ask

1 that we enter into a process where we engage our  
2 community members into signing a petition that would  
3 help us follow this quest, and I'll share the  
4 outline of that petition, as well. Joyce, if you  
5 would mind giving me a copy of that when you get a  
6 chance. But the resolution reads as follows. This  
7 is item J on your agenda.

8 "It is recommended that the Board of  
9 Education approve the following resolution:

10 "WHEREAS the Monroe Township Board of  
11 Education attests that the state has failed to fully  
12 fund the School Funding Reform Act of 2008; and

13 "WHEREAS the state's failure to fully  
14 fund the School Funding Reform Act has resulted in a  
15 decrease in state aid to Monroe Township; and

16 "WHEREAS this decrease has placed the  
17 Monroe Township School District at a disadvantage;  
18 and

19 "WHEREAS the Monroe Township School  
20 District has pursued all reasonable avenues to  
21 reverse this pattern; and

22 "WHEREAS the Board in collaboration with  
23 the superintendent of schools and the Monroe  
24 Township municipal government believes the concerted  
25 effort between these two bodies may generate better

1 results; and

2 "WHEREAS if the state fully funded the  
3 School Funding Reform Act and did not defer  
4 payments, Monroe would have received an additional  
5 \$6,902,041; and

6 "WHEREAS if the state continues to fail  
7 to fund the formula, it could severely stress the  
8 property tax reliant model to a point where  
9 taxpayers would no longer be able to support the  
10 high quality education and supplemental services  
11 currently provided to Monroe students; and

12 "WHEREAS if the state had fully funded  
13 its obligation to Monroe Township residents in the  
14 2012/2013 school year, the Monroe Township school  
15 budget would have resulted in a slight school tax  
16 decrease.

17 "NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the  
18 Monroe Township Board of Education put the State  
19 Department of Education on notice through the  
20 distribution of a communitywide petition that the  
21 citizens of Monroe have demanded action by the State  
22 Department of Education to fully fund the formula in  
23 order to offset the impact of the school budget on  
24 the local taxpayers."

25 MS. ANTELIS: So moved.

1 MR. TESSLER: Second.

2 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Miss Antelis,

3 Mr. Tessler. Any comments or questions by members

4 of the Board? Mr. Leary.

5 MR. LEARY: I really think this should

6 be directed to the governor at the legislature.

7 They're the people who control the money. The State

8 Department of Education is an executive body, and

9 they just implement what the governor tells them to

10 do and what the legislature directs.

11 DR. HAMILTON: We have on the petition,

12 Mr. Leary, it is, in fact, directed to Senators

13 Greenstein, Benson, and Assemblyman DeAngelo.

14 MR. LEARY: I think we should talk about

15 the Senator Sweeney and other leadership and go to

16 Christopher Christie and put them on notice that the

17 people in this township are really, really up in

18 arms.

19 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We could add that to

20 the petition and send it to them.

21 MR. LEARY: Okay. Thank you.

22 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes. Mr. Klein.

23 MR. KLEIN: We had the opportunity last

24 year when Mr. Sciarra, who is the head of the Newark

25 Law Center -- he's the one who brought the original

1 Abbott versus Burke for the Abbott decision for --  
2 wound up leading to 60 percent of total state funds  
3 for education going to now 31 school districts.  
4 After Gov. Christie made his huge cuts to us, very  
5 little in proportion to the inner city schools, the  
6 31 school districts, the Supreme Court appointed a  
7 judge in Newark to hear complaints from  
8 superintendents that these cuts affected the quality  
9 of education of their students. I asked why we  
10 weren't there, and what I found out was because  
11 we're over adequacy, which is a bunch of garbage, we  
12 could not participate, so therefore, we had no say  
13 in the matter, and the Supreme Court, who have  
14 screwed the suburban communities on two decisions  
15 that they made, voted to -- only rolled back the  
16 cuts for the inner city, not to the suburban  
17 communities. So again, Monroe is shot. So that's  
18 something that, you know, whatever you try to do,  
19 your hands are tied. So I just wanted to bring that  
20 up to the people that are here.

21 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from the  
22 Board? I think it should be noted, too, that there  
23 have been times when the State Board of Education  
24 when they pay -- who pays us, the state or the  
25 township?

1 MR. GORSKI: Both, township and we

2 receive state aid.

3 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: And the state has

4 eliminated their payments to us on occasion where

5 they'll take a million and a half dollars out of our

6 budget and then we have to eliminate a million and a

7 half dollars that have gone to the kids. So we have

8 worked within our budgets to the best of our ability

9 in the past when the state not only takes away our

10 money yearly but they'll take away an individual

11 payment.

12 So if there's no more comments or

13 questions from the Board, we'll have a roll call on

14 supporting this resolution.

15 MR. GORSKI: Miss Antelis.

16 MS. ANTELIS: Yes.

17 MR. GORSKI: Miss Faraone.

18 MS. FARAONE: Yes.

19 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Kaufman.

20 MR. KAUFMAN: Yes.

21 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Klein.

22 MR. KLEIN: Yes.

23 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Leary.

24 MR. LEARY: Provided the modifications I

25 suggested are incorporated, yes.

1 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Masters.

2 MR. MASTERS: Yes.

3 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Tessler.

4 MR. TESSLER: Yes.

5 MR. GORSKI: Mrs. Kolupanowich.

6 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes.

7 MR. GORSKI: Madam Board President,

8 motion unanimously passes.

9 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Okay. Thank you.

10 DR. HAMILTON: Madam Board President,

11 the petition, just for the record, reads as follows,

12 and I'll ask Joyce -- Mrs. Sweeney if she would

13 begin. For those who are interested in signing our

14 petition, we have copies available, but the petition

15 reads as follows: "Dear Senators Greenstein,

16 Benson, and Assemblyman DeAngelo,

17 "The Monroe Township Middlesex County

18 Board of Education unanimously passed this

19 resolution. In partnership with its community, we

20 submit this petition demanding that the legislators

21 put forth all reasonable effort and resources to

22 demand that the New Jersey State Department of

23 Education fully fund the school funding formula. As

24 evidenced by these signatures, we are a community

25 that believes that the state must fulfill its

1 obligation to the children of Monroe."

2 And enclosed therein is the resolution

3 previously read for the record.

4 MR. KLEIN: May I say something, please.

5 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Klein.

6 MR. KLEIN: Sending it to the senator,  
7 Linda Greenstein, Wayne DeAngelo, Dan Benson, you're  
8 knocking your head against the wall. Where it  
9 should go, New Jersey Department of Education and  
10 Chris Christie.

11 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I think that's what  
12 Mr. Leary suggested.

13 MR. KLEIN: But we should show that on  
14 it.

15 DR. HAMILTON: We will make that as --

16 MR. KLEIN: They're signing tonight so  
17 it's going to be stated on that tonight.

18 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We'll do it in a  
19 cover letter to the governor and --

20 MR. KLEIN: Excellent. Thank you.

21

22

23

24

25

1 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Okay. At this time,  
2 we are going to I believe it's number 5 on the  
3 agenda, public forum, and I've noticed a very large  
4 crowd here this evening, and I believe that many of  
5 you are here to speak to the Board. We've always  
6 encouraged our community to attend our meetings and  
7 have -- and have welcomed comments and questions  
8 from all our members of the public. As you know --  
9 can we please have it a little quieter. As you  
10 know, our meetings are taped so that many of the  
11 community have an opportunity to watch us, including  
12 our students, and I'm asking this evening as we move  
13 through the public forum that we all treat each  
14 other with the same respect and politeness that we  
15 would like others to treat us, and that includes our  
16 board members, and I'm asking them to refrain from  
17 making any comments unless they're called upon.

18 Usually, our first public forum is  
19 limited to comments or questions addressing the  
20 agenda. I am suspending that for this evening so  
21 that you all have an opportunity to speak to  
22 whatever you would wish to. Seeing so many of you,  
23 we will adhere to the 3-minute rule and limit our  
24 first public forum to 1 hour. There is a second  
25 public forum at the end of the meeting. I am

1 requesting that all your comments and questions be  
2 asked during your 3-minute time limit, and answers,  
3 if needed, will follow after the 3 minutes.

4 At this time, anyone from the public  
5 wishing to speak, please come up to the microphone  
6 and state your name and address for the record:

7 MR. PREZIOSO: Anthony Prezioso, 8  
8 Equestrian Way. I have a few questions about the  
9 Jamesburg tuition. How much does it cost to send  
10 one of our students in Monroe to the high school?

11 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Do you want to ask  
12 all your questions at the same time and then we'll  
13 answer you, because it will go quicker.

14 MR. PREZIOSO: Excuse me?

15 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: If ask all your  
16 questions at one time.

17 MR. PREZIOSO: Okay. And how much does  
18 it cost -- how much are the Jamesburg students  
19 paying to go to the high school as a cost  
20 comparison?

21 MR. GORSKI: The high school tuition  
22 cost that was budgeted in the 2012/2013 budget was  
23 approximately \$15,350.

24 MR. PREZIOSO: That's for the Monroe  
25 student.

1 MR. GORSKI: That's the high school  
2 tuition cost, which is also assessed to Jamesburg  
3 students on sending/receiving relationship.

4 MR. PREZIOSO: They pay \$15,000 per  
5 student to go to the high school?

6 MR. GORSKI: Yes, in the budget, they  
7 pay that on installments every month.

8 MR. PREZIOSO: So it's not costing the  
9 taxpayers anything to have a Jamesburg student come  
10 over to the high school.

11 MR. GORSKI: It is not costing the  
12 Monroe taxpayers anything to have Jamesburg students  
13 attend the Monroe Township High School, that's  
14 correct.

15 MR. PREZIOSO: Another question. About  
16 the iPads, how many were lost, stolen, or damaged  
17 during the return?

18 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. -- Dr. Gorman, do  
19 you have an answer to that, or should we get back?

20 DR. GORMAN: I don't have the numbers at  
21 my fingertips.

22 MR. PREZIOSO: Well, I mean, if it's a  
23 couple of hundred, then the bill on the insurance is  
24 going to cost a couple of thousand. So I'm sure you  
25 know how many were stolen or lost, don't you?

1 DR. GORMAN: I think we filed -- and I  
2 don't have an update from Mr. Goodall or  
3 Mr. Washington, but I think there were eight police  
4 reports in total filed under that piece out of over  
5 2,000, so that went through the process that we had  
6 set forward in policy and procedure.

7 MR. PREZIOSO: But before you sold them  
8 in the auction, you had to repair them, didn't you?  
9 Is that how it worked?

10 DR. GORMAN: We didn't have to. We  
11 chose to put out the most enticing bid for them to  
12 get the most dollars.

13 MR. PREZIOSO: As is?

14 DR. GORMAN: As is when it went to bid,  
15 yes.

16 MR. PREZIOSO: Okay, so we didn't have  
17 to hand in any to get fixed by the insurance  
18 company.

19 DR. GORMAN: There is no insurance  
20 company that we're dealing with for the iPads.

21 MR. PREZIOSO: Okay, so they just sold  
22 them as is, is that -- that's the answer?

23 DR. GORMAN: There were damages and  
24 repairs, as we have articulated in other board  
25 meetings to you.

1 MR. PREZIOSO: What did that cost?

2 That's what I was curious to find out. What did  
3 that cost?

4 DR. GORMAN: I don't have the numbers at  
5 hand for this meeting, but we have reviewed this in  
6 both curriculum public meetings and in Board of  
7 Education meetings, specifically at the end of June,  
8 as the Board considered the refresh that it took for  
9 this year.

10 MR. PREZIOSO: Okay. Thank you.

11 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Okay.

12 MR. ROCHE: Robert Roche, 18 Yorkfield  
13 Boulevard. I have one statement and a couple  
14 questions. One, I hope if you based on these  
15 petitions the Board, the school board receives  
16 additional funding from the state, that money should  
17 be used to offset what taxpayers pay, not to  
18 increase the budget.

19 The question is that for the interest  
20 aspect of it. What is the total interest that we  
21 paid on the bonding for 2011/12, which was the first  
22 year we were in the high school here?

23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: The interest for the  
24 high school?

25 MR. ROCHE: The bonding for the -- the

1 debt for the high school that Jamesburg is  
2 responsible for a portion of it.

3 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Roche, we went over  
4 those numbers in my office last week.

5 MR. ROCHE: I think the number you gave  
6 me was \$4,813,818.

7 MR. GORSKI: That sounds correct.

8 MR. ROCHE: Okay, and what is the  
9 percent of students from Jamesburg that make up the  
10 high school? That figure you gave me was  
11 20 percent.

12 MR. GORSKI: It's approximately  
13 20 percent. It's based on actual average daily  
14 enrollment that's calculated at the end of the  
15 school year, and obviously, the percentage of  
16 Jamesburg's ADE and the total average daily  
17 enrollment would be multiplied by the interest cost  
18 to determine their share.

19 MR. ROCHE: So based on what was  
20 indicated earlier, Jamesburg is paying \$600,000  
21 thereabouts in interest.

22 MR. GORSKI: That's an approximate  
23 number, that's correct.

24 MR. ROCHE: And 20 percent of that  
25 4.8 million is \$962,764. Why are they paying

1 \$300,000 less than we're paying?

2 MR. GORSKI: Mr. Roche, they will not be

3 paying anything less than their exact calculated ADE

4 as a percentage of the total enrollment. I can

5 assure you that. That will be the calculation.

6 It's an approximate \$600,000 number that we're using

7 because we don't know the actual ADE yet.

8 MR. ROCHE: Now, the tuition -- they

9 have incurred interest expense for the 2011/2012

10 year; is that correct?

11 MR. GORSKI: They have incurred interest

12 costs in that year, that's correct; however, the

13 interest costs are not a component of the Department

14 of Education budget software, and as such, they are

15 calculated manually with the previously mentioned

16 ADE calculation when you adjust the actual costs,

17 which are certified by the State of New Jersey.

18 MR. ROCHE: Has that been done yet?

19 MR. GORSKI: For the year ended June 30,

20 2012, it has not. We have not completed our

21 comprehensive annual financial report where our

22 auditors have audited those figures, and we wait for

23 that to prepare the report.

24 MR. ROCHE: So then in other words, it's

25 an estimate. That's why it's being paid not until

1 2013/2014, because you don't have the figures for  
2 this year's budget; is that correct?

3 MR. GORSKI: Jamesburg has not been  
4 assessed that interest charge yet. It will be a  
5 component in the 13/14 budget, which is the next one  
6 that we're working on. That's the law for the  
7 A41/A42 calculation and how it flows to subsequent  
8 years.

9 MR. ROCHE: So the 600,000 is just a  
10 projection; it's not the actual figure that will  
11 eventually be charged.

12 MR. GORSKI: Yes, sir, that's how we've  
13 always disseminated that number as an estimate.

14 MR. ROCHE: Thank you.

15 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from the  
16 public?

17 MR. SALINGER: Mike Salinger, 12  
18 Cabernet Court. My question is since it seems like  
19 we've lost a lot of money, we're going to lose a lot  
20 of money, wouldn't it be in our favor if we hire an  
21 attorney. It can't cost as much money as what we've  
22 lost.

23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Gorski.

24 MR. GORSKI: Sir, I respectfully take  
25 exception to the comment that we have lost money or

1 we are going to lose money.

2 MR. SALINGER: We have not received

3 money, the proper amount.

4 MR. GORSKI: We have never lost money.

5 As I mentioned before very clearly, Jamesburg has

6 always paid their --

7 MR. SALINGER: I'm not talking about

8 Jamesburg, sir.

9 MR. GORSKI: -- actual certified cost.

10 MR. SALINGER: I'm not talking about

11 Jamesburg. I'm talking about the amount we've

12 gotten back for each student.

13 MR. GORSKI: State aid?

14 MR. SALINGER: State aid. Why don't we

15 get an attorney?

16 MR. GORSKI: We have consulted with

17 board attorney and also representatives from the New

18 Jersey Educational Law Center, and we are following

19 their directive in action to get our fair share of

20 state aid.

21 MR. SALINGER: Does that mean we have a

22 lawsuit going?

23 MR. GORSKI: We could, that's correct.

24 A lawsuit would involve a consortium of other

25 districts, as well, and we are following their

1 guidance in that matter.

2 MR. SALINGER: Thank you.

3 MR. GELFARB: Good evening, and thank

4 you for this moment. My name is Joel Gelfarb. I

5 live at 106 Gascony Avenue in Monroe. I was at the

6 Board council meeting last week. I'd like to ask

7 you the same questions I asked them.

8 Number 1, to come out and say your

9 language you're using that we strongly urge, we very

10 strongly urge, you can say whatever you want, it

11 seems that everybody on this board committee here

12 on, the council that we spoke to last week, their

13 minds are made up. We have -- I represent a lot of

14 people out here that are senior citizens, a lot of

15 people that are on fixed income. I made a statement

16 last week saying when I moved in here in October of

17 '09, I was supposed to pay \$5,400 a year in tax.

18 The company, my company who I sold my business to

19 went bankrupt on me less than a year after I sold.

20 I lost 10 years of payments. I'm now facing \$11,000

21 in tax next year. Where do you think you're getting

22 your increase, out of my rear end. It ain't there.

23 It's not out of a lot of people here.

24 Monroe's senior citizens can't take hits

25 after getting hit with \$2,000 in tax increases for a

1 lot of things, for mistakes with this iPad that we  
2 sold an 80 percent loss. I would have been happy to  
3 pay you and buy some iPads for my six grandchildren  
4 and give you 80 percent of the value. Why weren't  
5 we made knowledgeable that this is going on? A lot  
6 of people here have a lot of grandchildren that  
7 would have been happy to purchase it, but this is  
8 things that we don't normally hear from you, but you  
9 guys have rattled our walls severely, and we are  
10 coming back at you severely. We are going to try  
11 and get people on this committee immediately because  
12 we don't understand how your budget of \$88 million  
13 ain't enough. I'm sorry, but that's a lot. Thank  
14 you.

15 MR. SILVERMAN: Manny Silverman, 8C  
16 Ingram Drive. I'm just going to add to the previous  
17 gentleman because he had most of my stuff that I was  
18 going to talk about. All I know is that I had  
19 32 years with New York -- 31 years with New York  
20 City Fire Department. My wife had 32 years with New  
21 York State income tax, and when they didn't have the  
22 money to pay them, it was one of two things,  
23 either -- and they -- and I'm going back to like  
24 1973 to '75. They were laying off firemen and cops  
25 because they couldn't afford them, but what happened

1 was is they stopped the layoffs when they added a  
2 phrase that should be very, very popular to this  
3 school board with what the gentleman just gave us,  
4 which is a wage freeze. Until the state, you know,  
5 does right by Monroe Township, why can't we get a  
6 freeze? Why -- I understand -- tell me if I'm wrong  
7 -- that we just got -- they just got 2 percent  
8 raises for the next 4 years. Why if there's no  
9 money here? I want to hear an answer.

10 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I'll let Mr. Gorski  
11 answer the question regarding salaries.

12 MR. GORSKI: Sir, that's a very valid  
13 point, and I would just like to give you a little  
14 information about what the Board and some of our  
15 collective bargaining units have offered over the  
16 last few years. Number 1, in 2010, where we  
17 received the loss of \$4.4 million in state aid,  
18 administration took a salary freeze voluntarily that  
19 year. In addition to that, the Principals and  
20 Supervisors Association took a 6-month salary freeze  
21 voluntarily. And one of biggest units that we have  
22 is our Monroe Township Education Association, the  
23 teachers and bus drivers, and the 3-year contract  
24 that was just negotiated with the Board has salary  
25 increases of 2, 2, and 2.25 percent increases in

1 salary, but when you look at the overall  
2 compensation and the give-backs in health insurance,  
3 the Board of Education is netting actual savings  
4 over those 3-year contracts. Zero percent impact on  
5 the budget.

6 MR. SILVERMAN: Then why is our taxes  
7 going up? According to the Town Council, it's all  
8 on you guys. It's not them. Because they can't do  
9 anything. They keep telling us when we come to  
10 them, go to you. Here we are.

11 MR. GORSKI: Taxes is a little more  
12 complicated then just the one component being  
13 salaries, and I'll be happy -- excuse me. I'll be  
14 happy to go over a couple of those factors right  
15 now. The ratable base shares the tax levy. For the  
16 last 2 years, we have a decrease in the ratable base  
17 by 71 million and 78 million respectively. What  
18 that has caused in the 2012 budget year alone is an  
19 automatic 5.27 cent increase in the tax rate without  
20 any consideration for appropriations. In other  
21 words, if we didn't raise appropriations \$1, there  
22 would have been a 5.27 cent tax increase  
23 automatically. What the Board of Education has  
24 tried to do to offset that was to allocate about  
25 \$230,000 of additional state aid award and applied

- 1 \$2 million of unspent bond referendum money against
- 2 the debt service levy.

3           And as Dr. Hamilton mentioned before,

4 another significant factor in the tax rate is state

5 aid. If the state was to fund their model, called

6 the state funding formula, Monroe district alone --

7 and this is right off of our state aid award

8 sheet -- would receive an additional 6.9 million

9 dollars of state aid. That's not money that would

10 be automatically spent. In most cases, that would

11 be returned to the taxpayers off the levy and would

12 resulted in a school tax decrease in the year

13 instead of an 8.7 cent increase.

14           MR. SILVERMAN: Doesn't work. It

15 doesn't work because we -- I read, and it was sort

16 of confirmed, and we were talking about it before,

17 like Old Bridge, people -- they're getting 44 point

18 something million dollars. We're getting 2 million

19 or something. It's a joke. So if you keep talking

20 about 6 million where I'm talking about 44 million,

21 you're 38 million in arrears before you open your

22 mouth. What are we talking about?

23           The point is that we get off our rear

24 ends and we make waves. That's the only way you get

25 money in this world.

1 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I think Mr. Klein has  
2 been asking for that for 3 years, and outside of the  
3 Board of Education and a few handful of parents,  
4 it's been very hard to get that backing that we need  
5 to get the fair share from the state, which is why  
6 we're asked to have the petition done so that you  
7 can support us in that endeavor.

8 MR. SILVERMAN: Well, hopefully, now  
9 you'll get some backing from yourselves, the  
10 teachers, the Town Council, and every -- and  
11 everybody else has to form this whole coalition.  
12 You just can't say, well, Mark Klein is going to go  
13 up in front of Gov. Christie and say give us our  
14 money. Not happening.

15 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We understand that.

16 MR. SILVERMAN: It seems you don't or  
17 you haven't until now. You really haven't.

18 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We have been --

19 MR. GELFARB: I have been raised -- my  
20 property has gone down -- my property has gone down  
21 in value 55 percent, but my tax hikes have been,  
22 with the exception of 1 year when we went with the  
23 lawyers, have been 15 and 20 percent. You've banged  
24 us for taxes like we're ATM machines. Enough  
25 already.

1 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes.

2 (End of tape 1)

3 MR. PETO: Hi, my name is Mike Peto. I

4 live at 33 Brandon Avenue. I have three kids in the

5 school system, and to be transparent, I own an iPad,

6 and I like it. Okay. So here to talk tonight about

7 a situation that was brought to my attention about a

8 complaint that was raised about one of our coaches

9 here at the high school, Pat Geroni, and I would

10 like to address that for my 3 minutes tonight and

11 show you that there are plenty of parents out there

12 as well as players all dressed in purple that are

13 here to support Coach Geroni. You know, my father

14 coached in Middlesex County for 30 years. I coached

15 in Middlesex County and Somerset County. He was an

16 athletic director at Old Bridge High School. He had

17 three state championships at Old Bridge High School.

18 He become a superintendent of athletics in another

19 school system, and the one thing I've always learned

20 is the parents are going to complain. You can be a

21 great baseball coach. You can have championships.

22 Somewhere along the line, somebody is going to be

23 unhappy, okay, and I'm sure a lot of unhappy people

24 here right now with Joe Girardi of the Yankees, but

25 there's no coach that can ever be perfect, okay, and

1 I'm one of them. I am far from perfect, and I know  
2 even the parents that I coach have complaints. But  
3 I would urge the Board that if we could that coach  
4 complaints should go to the athletic director, Greg  
5 Beyer, okay, because there's never one coach that's  
6 ever perfect, okay, and for what I heard about Pat  
7 Geroni, whether it was playing time or some other  
8 accusations, I've seen Pat Geroni volunteer with our  
9 coaches in the town. I've seen him work with these  
10 kids right here, and many of these kids right here  
11 have been coached by Pat Geroni, and several of them  
12 just came back from the Babe Ruth World Series in  
13 Seattle where they took third place in the country.  
14 Pat Geroni had something to do about that.

15 What I would ask that we allow Pat to do  
16 his job, to get what he has to get done, and if  
17 we're going to use this time to talk about baseball  
18 in a board meeting, I'd like it to be about how we  
19 can improve our fields and make them look like the  
20 football fields, lacrosse fields, and field hockey  
21 fields because our baseball fields in this town  
22 stink. Thank you.

23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you for your  
24 comments.

25 MR. GIBBONS: How do you do, ma'am,

1 Richard Gibbons, 418 Schoolhouse Road. It seems  
2 like everybody who's come before this board in the  
3 past has always requested for you guys to spend more  
4 money for one reason or another. Well, I'm not here  
5 to request that. And next year's budget I'm asking  
6 you to spend significantly less. I've had to do it  
7 in my own business in the last 5 years losing money  
8 and still maintain my business. It looks like from  
9 what's been said here tonight you're not going to  
10 get this money back from the state even though I  
11 wish you would. So that's basically -- I'm going to  
12 coin that as a request tonight that in the next  
13 year's budget, find a way to spend less,  
14 significantly less. Thank you.

15 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.

16 MR. FLYNN: Good evening, my name is  
17 Patrick Flynn. I live at 9 Crooked Stick Place. I  
18 need your help in understanding something. I'm like  
19 a lot of people here. I've been in the township for  
20 6 years. I haven't been very proactive at going to  
21 town meetings or to the Board of Education meetings.  
22 So I think after the large tax increase, most of  
23 these people are out here probably for the first  
24 time like myself. I need some help. What is the  
25 average teacher/child ratio in the school room?

1 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Do you have that  
2 information, Dr. Hamilton?

3 DR. HAMILTON: It varies from grade  
4 level to grade level. The high school would be very  
5 difficult to give you that number because of AP  
6 level courses where the enrollment is small, and PE  
7 and health classes where the enrollment is very  
8 large. At the elementary level, we're generally  
9 about a 1-to-23, this year about 1-to-24. At the  
10 middle school level, that number is slightly higher.  
11 That number is probably closer to 31 to 30.

12 MR. FLYNN: All right. What's the  
13 average teacher salary? Just general.

14 DR. HAMILTON: Average teacher salary is  
15 probably around 60,000.

16 MR. FLYNN: Sixty thousand. Okay. It's  
17 not as high as Chicago then.

18 DR. HAMILTON: Well, we have many  
19 teachers who make their careers here in our  
20 district, and so a lot of teachers are at the top of  
21 their guide. We are seeing -- starting to see a  
22 roll-over now where many of our teachers are  
23 beginning to retire, and most are being replaced by  
24 beginning level teachers.

25 MR. FLYNN: The percentage of the budget

1 that goes for administrative costs, I'd like to know  
2 that number.

3 MR. GORSKI: I had that number presented  
4 when we had our preliminary budget hearing, and I  
5 don't have that committed to memory. I'd be happy  
6 to provide it to you if you want to give me a call.

7 MR. FLYNN: Is it 10 percent, 20  
8 percent, 30 percent? I mean, just a general  
9 average.

10 DR. HAMILTON: We generally don't like  
11 to because what happens is we give general numbers  
12 and then they get printed in the paper and people  
13 say that's what you said so we like to be as  
14 accurate as possible.

15 MR. FLYNN: Okay. I'll get your  
16 telephone number --

17 MR. GORSKI: I welcome you to give me a  
18 call, and I'll be very happy to provide that  
19 information to you tomorrow. I'm in the office in  
20 the afternoon after a meeting at the county office.

21 MR. FLYNN: Okay. I heard a story about  
22 the iPads -- I don't know if this is true -- but  
23 that the Board had \$2 million to spend that could  
24 have been returned to the taxpayers to lower tax  
25 rates. In a haste like most government agencies,

1 they wanted to spend the money, not return it. They  
2 spent it on iPads. They got all the iPads and they  
3 found out didn't work. They had to return them.  
4 Apple hit them hard. Out of \$2 million I understand  
5 you only got 400,000 back. If that's correct, you  
6 just flushed down the toilet \$1,600,000 of taxpayer  
7 dollars. If this story is correct, I'd like to  
8 understand what the Board is going to do to repay  
9 the taxpayers \$1.6 million.

10 MR. GORMAN: Mr. Flynn, the story is not  
11 true. So let me start and explain the process that  
12 we took.

13 MR. FLYNN: Help us understand.

14 MR. GORMAN: When we built a new high  
15 school, there were funds allocated for technology.  
16 It was one of the last things that we had looked at  
17 because technology today is very different than it  
18 was 5 years, 10 years, 2 years ago. So through much  
19 research, consultation with companies, corporations,  
20 educational firms, visitation to schools, we decided  
21 that the best technology at this time for our  
22 students was a 1-to-1 learning environments with  
23 this iPad learning tool. That was a decision. We  
24 could have made a difference decision, and we could  
25 have put laptop carts, desktops, and other

1 technologies and spent the same money for that.  
2 What historically what has happened is that that  
3 technology outdates itself very quickly and is worth  
4 nothing in a very short amount of time; therefore,  
5 in subsequent budgets, we then have to reallocate  
6 expenditures for new technology. This technology is  
7 a little bit different. The financial plan from the  
8 onset of the purchase of the iPads was to enter into  
9 a lease so we would not necessarily -- or a  
10 lease/purchase option. What happened is the --

11 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Excuse me. Mr.

12 -- Dr. Gorman has the floor.

13 DR. GORMAN: The initial year due to the  
14 bond referendum we had to purchase. We were not  
15 allowed to lease for the high school. So the next  
16 plan was to refresh the iPads into a lease. We  
17 chose to refresh this year because financially  
18 responsibly in 2 years we were told by several  
19 sources that the iPads would depreciate to even a  
20 more minimal piece and we would never get to the  
21 financial plan that was proposed to the Board  
22 2 years ago. So now we are happy to say that we did  
23 recoupe \$470,000 for this first batch and applied it  
24 to the first year of a new lease. Subsequently,  
25 there is no impact this year in the budget at all on

1 taxes because iPads were not budgeted in there. So  
2 that is a rumor that has been brought to me  
3 sometimes that the taxes are going up in the  
4 community because of the iPads. So that is one  
5 rumor that I would like to tell you is not true. So  
6 this year we have paid the first part of that 3-year  
7 lease. The budget is -- the Board of Education is  
8 then committed expenditures in next year's budget  
9 and subsequent budgets to sustain the other payments  
10 on this financing plan. This is very -- this is  
11 different than the old model, which I explained  
12 where we used to buy technology and then we found  
13 out in 5 years that it was outdated and it didn't  
14 work, and if you look at some of the laptops even in  
15 this room, they're incredibly different than what  
16 the technology is. The technology is changing  
17 instantly.

18 In addition -- and I appreciate you  
19 letting me articulate this plan. In addition, there  
20 is a lot of thought that this technology could  
21 possibly eventually become an asset for the district  
22 financially in addition to being the best  
23 educational practice to make our kids competitive  
24 with the best going to colleges. So I'm taking the  
25 educational component out of it, which we are

1 passionate about that we believe this is the best  
2 educational path for kids, all right, and we could  
3 go into that as far as what the learning tool can  
4 do. We could have bought laptops. We could have  
5 bought other tools. But this environment ini a  
6 1-to-1 where every kid can have it 24/7 and do  
7 things that are really indescribable in a lot of  
8 ways 10 years ago or 20 years when I went to school,  
9 but that's another topic for another conversation  
10 educationally.

11 Financially already in the first year,  
12 we've started to see a couple things, and the  
13 initiative was always a long-term initiative to  
14 measure the effects both academically and possibly  
15 financially, also. Last year we saved over \$13,000  
16 in paper from copies from the use and that we  
17 believe is a direct impact of the iPad. This year  
18 we are offering a course in ILS development to our  
19 students. We are developing policy right now that  
20 if a student under our domain while they're in  
21 school develops an app, which is -- if you don't  
22 know, apps are what happens on the smart phones.  
23 They -- there's mills of apps created every day, and  
24 kids and people can down load it for 99 cents, a  
25 dollar, whatever it is. If kid develops an app

1 while going to school here, they would enter into a  
2 contract with Monroe and Monroe could either reap  
3 some commodities in the future for it or half, but  
4 we are developing policy for that piece.

5 In addition, the textbook industry has  
6 drastically changed and is transforming every day.  
7 The newest technology that works for the iPads is  
8 called iAuthor and iUniversity, where kids and  
9 teachers may create their own content. That was one  
10 of the -- that was one of the first visional  
11 highlights is that kids would create their content,  
12 which in the long term could, could supplement or  
13 reduce other supplies and materials because when  
14 kids create and share, it's much more meaningful  
15 than just acquiring or being told what content is.

16 Those are just some of the possible  
17 financial ramifications that we're looking at that  
18 could generate revenue to us, but the -- what I  
19 believe are two of the best things is that, number  
20 1, we're always going to have the best, the newest  
21 technologies for our kids as they compete in a very  
22 global society so the iPad has the ability to  
23 communicate with a classroom in China right now or  
24 India instantly. Those are the types of academic  
25 advantages we want for our kids to be competitive

1 with all students in the United States.

2 The other thing --

3 MR. FLYNN: I understand all that.

4 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Can we have it a

5 little bit more quiet in here, please, so that we

6 can hear the speakers.

7 MR. FLYNN: You spent over \$700,000 to

8 refresh and a leasing program. What was the initial

9 outlay expense on the iPads?

10 DR. GORMAN: I think the iPads cost

11 about 1.1, the first batch.

12 MR. FLYNN: One point one million.

13 DR. GORMAN: Correct.

14 MR. FLYNN: Plus the \$700,000.

15 DR. GORMAN: No, no, excuse me, what

16 700,000?

17 MR. FLYNN: I'm sorry?

18 DR. GORMAN: What 700,000 are you

19 referring to?

20 MR. FLYNN: You said you were leasing

21 it, you budgeted 700,000 --

22 DR. GORMAN: No.

23 MR. FLYNN: -- you have budgets for the

24 next 2 years.

25 DR. GORMAN: Excuse me. The first year

1 we bought for 1.1. This year we refreshed or sold  
2 the batch. That in next year's budget, following  
3 budgets, there will be -- the Board is committed to  
4 expenditures for technology, and so -- because they  
5 believe that that is an important piece to kids'  
6 learning, and that will be where the funding comes  
7 from in the general budget, which is a commitment by  
8 the Board of Education to support 21st-century  
9 learning, so if that either pushes other pieces out  
10 or we have to reallocate how we budget, then that is  
11 something that we are internally developing our new  
12 budget forward as we progress through the years to  
13 come.

14 MR. FLYNN: Okay, so we're to spend  
15 about 1 million 8 on iPads for the high school.

16 DR. GORMAN: No, that's not correct.

17 MR. FLYNN: You said you refreshed it  
18 and you spent 1.1 million.

19 DR. GORMAN: If you would like to  
20 continue other conversation with me, I'd love to sit  
21 down with you. I've explained it and articulated it  
22 the best I could at this point. I'm not -- it's not  
23 about me against you. My job predominantly is to  
24 give the best tools for kids to learn. So I really  
25 do appreciate your comment, but I don't -- that's

1 not what I'm driven by.

2 MR. FLYNN: Okay. I think the people

3 get the message.

4 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Excuse me.

5 MR. FLYNN: We're blaming the state -- I

6 got one more point I want to make. We're blaming

7 the state, and everyone blames the state. What part

8 of financial responsibility don't we in Monroe

9 understand? The state is going broke. The country

10 is going broke. We have a \$16 trillion deficit.

11 Our GDP is only \$15 billion. We are going broke.

12 What is the plan for this committee, okay, to work

13 without state aid? Do you have a backup plan?

14 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Well, your time is up

15 so we appreciate your comments. I'll take it.

16 MR. FLYNN: I mean, we have to have a

17 backup plan because we -- you're not going to get

18 any money from the state.

19 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We have been working

20 without state aid for the past how many years, so we

21 look through the budget. We have made our cuts.

22 And I think one of the points that has been not

23 talked about tonight, in the last 10 years, our

24 student population has grown 2,800 students. We

25 still have to educate those students. We have to

1 find a place for them to sit in a classroom. We  
2 have to find a desk for them, a chair for them, a  
3 course for them. We have to put them in a  
4 classroom. We have to find a teacher. These things  
5 are all part of our budget, is educating the people  
6 coming into this district.

7 MR. FLYNN: Well, I think if you asked  
8 the seniors of this community --

9 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I'm sorry, but we  
10 have to --

11 MR. FLYNN: If you asked the seniors of  
12 this community how their budgets are going, the rise  
13 in taxes --

14 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you very much  
15 for your comments.

16 MR. FLYNN: -- and the cuts that they  
17 have to accept, okay, a lot of them went without  
18 Social Security increases for a couple of years. I  
19 mean, there's got to be some type of physical  
20 responsibility here. You need to understand that  
21 you can't get more dollars --

22 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. I  
23 appreciate your comments.

24 MS. INFUSO: Hi, good evening. My name  
25 is Susan Infuso. I live at 4 Dayna Drive. I just

1 want to say that I have an older daughter, Erica,  
2 who graduated from Monroe 6 years ago. She got a  
3 wonderful education here. I have a freshman in the  
4 high school and a sophomore in the high school, and  
5 they, too, are getting a wonderful education, but I  
6 do hear a lot of complaints about the iPads, and I  
7 think that if everybody was made aware of what your  
8 goals were, what did you foresee as the usage for  
9 the iPads, because I have to say my son was the  
10 first class to get it last year, and at the time  
11 with all the meetings, they said they would be able  
12 to download text books, which was not the case at  
13 all. Basically, it was used as an assignment  
14 planner. He put his assignments in. It was very  
15 rarely used for anything else. Now my daughter is a  
16 freshman this year. She has it, and she was given  
17 text books for every single one of her classes,  
18 which I have brought with me. My husband has them  
19 over there. There are five of them. They weigh  
20 over 40 pounds. She schleps them back and forth to  
21 school every single day in her book bag along with  
22 the iPad, and again, I checked the iPad -- and  
23 listen, I'm a realist. I'm a teacher. I'm all for  
24 21st-century learning if it's used properly. I  
25 think that if everybody here is aware of the plans

1 when you went into this initiative. What were your  
2 goals for using the iPads in the classroom?

3 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Dr. Gorman, do you  
4 wish to respond?

5 MS. INFUSO: I mean, I think it's a  
6 valid question if you have, you know, valid answers,  
7 I think it will put everybody's minds to rest.

8 DR. GORMAN: So the technologies are  
9 changing quickly. Sixteen hundred of our students,  
10 Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, are receiving a new  
11 technology called an iBook. An iBook is different  
12 than electronic textbook or a paper textbook because  
13 it interacts with you. Kids can take notes on it.  
14 They can form study grids. There are interactive  
15 videos and supports. It's a very different way of  
16 doing business, and it's a very new technology.  
17 There's also things called e-books, which are  
18 basically just scanning a book in and putting it in,  
19 and there's also PDF files and subscriptions. The  
20 iBooks we are entering into a research project, an  
21 independent research project to see the educational  
22 benefits of kids being engaged in student academic  
23 achievement for that. Our goals have always been --  
24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Could we please have  
25 a little quiet so that we can listen to Dr. Gorman.

1 DR. GORMAN: Our goals have always been  
2 and remain student achievement, critical thinking  
3 skills, creation of content, sharing content through  
4 wikis, 24/7 environment. Here's -- this was always  
5 a long journey, and the start of it was back into  
6 the spending of the opening of the high school, so  
7 by the time we actually received them, it was a  
8 couple days before the first day of school, and we  
9 did not have time -- and we've talked about this --  
10 to prep our staff, our students. So the first  
11 6 months were an exploration period, and we clearly  
12 told people that. Now as we move into year 2,  
13 back-to-school night from principal, you will hear  
14 clearly -- clear observable indicators that all  
15 students should be using this for a number of  
16 things, and I know the crowd doesn't want me to go  
17 on, but there are lots of educational values.

18 MS. INFUSO: I understand that, but they  
19 came home last week with a supply list that they  
20 needed binders for every single one of their subject  
21 areas or notebooks and folders when if the iPad has  
22 the capacity for them to do their note taking and  
23 homework and everything there, why do they still  
24 need to have the old fashioned binders and notebooks  
25 and carry the textbook?

1 DR. GORMAN: So, Susan, a couple things  
2 that I want to really generally tell you. One of  
3 the -- couple of things that moving forward we are  
4 going to do. We need -- we are in the plans of a  
5 new strategic plan looking at technology and  
6 creating educational technology committee. We tried  
7 to showcase it as much as we could last year. I  
8 will personally tell you that despite that, we have  
9 to better show and demonstrate. We used the kids at  
10 several board meetings. I wanted to bring them  
11 here, but we had a feeling that it might not be the  
12 right environment for it. They've been out in our  
13 community. They're working with several -- they've  
14 gone to Rossmoor in presentations, community of --  
15 League of Women Voters I met with today. We will do  
16 everything we can to set up during the year ways to  
17 communicate to you how it's being used --

18 MS. INFUSO: That's fine.

19 DR. GORMAN: -- for service, for  
20 creation, for all kinds of awesome things that the  
21 kids are doing.

22 MS. INFUSO: That's fine.

23 DR. HAMILTON: If I may, let me just  
24 jump in one second, ma'am. We have been -- this  
25 iPad initiative is a huge initiative, as you can

1    imagine, and we have had several conversations,  
2    meetings, public meetings about our status report on  
3    the iPads. Ultimately, we're in the process of  
4    developing expectations for teachers, expectations  
5    for students, consistent with the national standards  
6    for the use and implementation of technology. So  
7    some of the experiences that we had last year, yes,  
8    in some classes the iPads were underutilized, you're  
9    absolutely right, but we learned from that that we  
10   have to provide more professional development for  
11   our teachers, and that's a part of the district  
12   professional development plan. We also know that we  
13   have to provide more training to our students so  
14   that they have better understanding about the use  
15   and care of that equipment. So we do have those  
16   plans in place.

17       MS. INFUSO: Okay, and I appreciate  
18   that, but I think that before you spend all this  
19   money, shouldn't there have been a pilot program and  
20   followed -- follow a group of students over a course  
21   of 2 to 3 years to see if there's any advantage to  
22   using this technology in the classroom before you  
23   spend, you know, the money that everybody is in an  
24   uproar about, and I think that's -- I think -- I  
25   have to say my taxes are very high. At least I feel

1 I benefit. I still have two students, you know,  
2 utilizing the school and the facilities, but there  
3 are many people here who don't. So that money is  
4 really a big chunk and when it's not being used  
5 properly.

6 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. I will  
7 say that Dr. Gorman and administrative team did  
8 spend about a year doing a lot of research on the  
9 iPads. Excuse me. Also, we have had many  
10 demonstrations during our curriculum meetings from  
11 staff and students who have been using -- utilizing  
12 the iPads last year. Our committee meetings are  
13 always open to the public so if you've like to have  
14 an opportunity to come to a curriculum meeting when  
15 we're doing an iPad demonstration, because there are  
16 some kids that are -- and some staff, most of them,  
17 who are doing amazing things with our iPads. We've  
18 seen them.

19 MS. INFUSO: Thank you for your time.

20 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.

21 MR. POLAND: Hi, my name is Nancy  
22 Poland, and I reside at 8 Mitchell Drive. First of  
23 all, I would like to thank the Board and  
24 administration for their efforts on behalf of our  
25 children. I am here this evening with other parents

1 of children who play baseball on the various  
2 recreation and school teams in our communities.  
3 Over the past 5 months or more, there have been  
4 accusations made against our coaching staff at the  
5 high school level. We are here this evening to let  
6 the Board and administration know that Patrick  
7 Geroni and his coaching staff have our full support.  
8 The accusations that have been made are  
9 unsubstantiated, without documentation, false, and  
10 without merit. In addition, they are based solely  
11 on hearsay and opinions. We are asking the Board to  
12 dismiss the accusations and show support for our  
13 coaching staff. Thank you for your time.

14 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.

15 MR. LERMAN: Good evening, my name is  
16 Charlie Lerman. I live at 11 Doral Drive. The  
17 iPads, I'm really confused in that you spent what,  
18 \$1.1 million and didn't have a clue how to use them,  
19 and now what I hear, you're going to develop a  
20 committee to look into how better use these iPads.  
21 I don't want you to comment. With all due respect,  
22 we've heard enough. With all due respect now. But  
23 that's my feeling that -- and I'm -- this is the  
24 first I've heard from a resident who had children in  
25 the school complaining about the function of the

1 iPad, which is amazing.

2 Secondly, are you aware of the recent  
3 study made by New Jersey Monthly in which they chose  
4 the top 100 high schools in the state, and I looked  
5 very closely, and Monroe Township was not included  
6 in the top 100. Now, in Middlesex County, in  
7 Middlesex County, Metuchen was 19, Highland Park was  
8 67, and J. P. Stevens was 80, and I looked -- and my  
9 eye sight maybe is not good. I had a magnifying  
10 glass for small print, and I didn't find Monroe  
11 Township, which is also very disturbing.

12 We -- you had a meeting at the Marasco  
13 regarding the budget sometime ago, and at that  
14 meeting, Dr. Hamilton, you said that -- and prompted  
15 by the residents, that the salaries, that the  
16 salaries for educators will be frozen -- not frozen,  
17 but put on the table as a possibility that they will  
18 be frozen, and it appears that you said that to  
19 placate the residents that were there because that  
20 never happened. Not only that --

21 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yes, it did. The  
22 administrative salaries were frozen.

23 MR. LERMAN: Teachers, teacher salaries?

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Not the teachers.

25 MR. LERMAN: That's what I'm saying,

1 educators. I'm saying educators.

2 DR. HAMILTON: Sir, that's a negotiable  
3 item. The Board does not have the authority to  
4 impose --

5 MR. LERMAN: But you negotiated another  
6 contract in which you gave 2 percent raise.

7 DR. HAMILTON: You cannot unilaterally  
8 freeze salaries on collective bargaining units.  
9 That defeats the purpose of having a bargaining  
10 unit.

11 MR. LERMAN: But you had a -- why could  
12 you say no to the 2 percent increase, considering  
13 that the entire country and the state is finding a  
14 problem in supplying you money and you're saying,  
15 well, to the educators 2 percent is okay. It is  
16 really is not okay. Any increase at this time --

17 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: As Mr. Gorski stated  
18 in his comments a little while ago, the 2 percent  
19 raise that we gave them was offset by the givebacks  
20 that they gave back to us in health care where it  
21 did not --

22 MR. LERMAN: With all due respect, the  
23 givebacks -- you're talking about medical insurance?

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Health insurance  
25 and --

1 MR. LERMAN: Health insurance. Now what  
2 I heard maybe not recently but maybe at that meeting  
3 was that the educators were paying 1.1 percent of  
4 their gross salary towards medical, which comes out  
5 to be on a \$50,000 income \$750. I know that before  
6 I went on Medicare, my wife and myself were paying  
7 \$1,200 a month. So we're talking about giving back.  
8 Now how much does the educators pay towards their  
9 medical insurance, what percentage of their income?

10 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I'll let Mr. Gorski  
11 handle this.

12 MR. GORSKI: Sir, the law stated  
13 originally that it was 1.5 percent of salaries for  
14 school district personnel. The law then changed  
15 under chapter 78 to begin a phase-in period of up to  
16 35 percent of the actual health benefit cost that  
17 some of our staff are paying right now. So that  
18 information you just presented is a bit outdated.  
19 It's quite steeper than that.

20 MR. LERMAN: How much is it now?

21 MR. GORSKI: The average staff employee  
22 is paying about \$900 at least.

23 MR. LERMAN: A year.

24 MR. GORSKI: On their health benefit.

25 MR. LERMAN: A year.

1 MR. GORSKI: A year.

2 MR. LERMAN: A year.

3 MR. GORSKI: Yes.

4 MR. LERMAN: In the real world, in the  
5 real world -- there is a real world outside, outside  
6 the --

7 MR. GORSKI: But that's a phase-in  
8 that's right now that we're in the second year of a  
9 phase-in.

10 MR. LERMAN: Lastly, what I'd like to  
11 say is that you see many residents here. It's  
12 unusually huge, unusually huge amount of residents  
13 here listening to this --

14 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I'm sorry, but your  
15 time is up, and we have other people that would like  
16 to make a comment.

17 MR. LERMAN: We expect you to go over  
18 every line item going forward and reduce as much as  
19 you can, and do not placate us with increasing the  
20 budget and knowing that the budget's going to be  
21 defeated and then you put \$1.5 million in the budget  
22 that you know is not going to -- you don't really  
23 care about so you give it back to the residents and  
24 you say that's good. We expect you to go over every  
25 line item and reduce it. We do not want any

1 increases in taxes going forward.

2 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you for your

3 comments.

4 MR. CASTELLUCCIO: Good evening, my name

5 is Joe Castelluccio. I'm at 20 Ashley Court in

6 Monroe.

7 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Excuse me, before we

8 start, I just want the public to know that there's

9 15 minutes left in our first public forum so at that

10 time we're going to go into the rest of the agenda.

11 MR. CASTELLUCCIO: Your announcement

12 doesn't cut into my 3 minutes, though, right?

13 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: No, it doesn't.

14 MR. CASTELLUCCIO: About 3 or 4 weeks

15 ago, when I went to my mailbox and saw my tax bill,

16 obviously I was not happy with it. Spoke to a

17 couple of my neighbors, and as a result we wound up

18 finding that there were about 50 to 60 people that

19 had the same problem and didn't like what they saw.

20 Hence, we created an organization, and I want to

21 make it very clear to the parents that are in this

22 room, and I'll read our mission statement. We're

23 not anti education. As a matter of fact, I wish

24 every dollar that you got from our taxes went for

25 education. We're against waste. We're against

1 uncontrolled spending, and that's what we're  
2 against. We are a nonprofit nonpartisan group of  
3 citizens in Monroe Township. We're dedicated to  
4 restoring fiscal responsibility back into  
5 government. We need an adult in the room. Our  
6 government has lost its way. We need to focus those  
7 in office on balancing budgets by reducing spending  
8 and eliminating waste. We will only support those  
9 in office and those running for office that  
10 understand that austerity is first and foremost.  
11 Simply stated, you can only spend what you can  
12 afford. We have watched elected officials use  
13 taxpayers as if they were an ATM machine. This time  
14 is overdue to stop this insanity and the time is  
15 now. Insanity, as you know, we use it as what's the  
16 definition of insanity, it's doing the same thing  
17 over and over again the same way and expecting  
18 different results. I hear everyone here and I heard  
19 it on the council talk about how it's Trenton's  
20 fault and how it's Christie's fault. It's always  
21 somebody else's fault, but you said before, which is  
22 very true, you've been here for 10 years. You say  
23 how long have we been doing this, for 10 years,  
24 15 years. You know going in, you know going in to  
25 your jobs that you're going to meet resistance from

1 people in Trenton, and you know what these laws are,  
2 and you know how is to wiggle and waggle.

3 We talked about iPads today. As a  
4 matter of fact, I'll give you my spin on iPads if I  
5 have the time. But the point is that spending is  
6 the problem, not revenues. We can talk about  
7 revenues all day, but it's spending. What we have  
8 going on here is unsustainable. We have a \$16  
9 trillion deficit in this country. There are cities  
10 that are actually going bankrupt. States are having  
11 problems and they're borrowing money. This is a  
12 broken system, and we need to fix it.

13 When you have a budget in your own home,  
14 what do you do. You have to spend it on mortgage or  
15 rent. You have to spend it on food and utilities.  
16 All the rest is a want. Those are needs. We have a  
17 problem here with boards that say wants -- your  
18 clock is running fast -- that wants are a problem.

19 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We give everybody the  
20 same 3 minutes.

21 MR. CASTELLUCCIO: Wants are a problem,  
22 and we have to understand one thing, that when we go  
23 to the mall and we want to buy something we need and  
24 there are 10 items on sale and we decide to buy  
25 those 10 items, we can't go home and tell our wife

1     how much we saved that day. We didn't save money,  
2     we spent more, and we have to do that here.

3             MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you very much  
4     for your comments.

5             MR. CASTELLUCCIO: Every time you get an  
6     opportunity to save money, you spend it, and you  
7     have to stop the expect.

8             MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.

9             MR. CASTELLUCCIO: You're very welcome.  
10    What I want you to do is shoot for every dollar you  
11    spend, you cut \$2. The system's broken. When you  
12    have something broken in your home, you get a  
13    repairman, and if that repairman doesn't fix what's  
14    broken, you get a new repairman. The elections are  
15    coming.

16            MR. KRZYKOWSKI: Jerry Krzyzkowski at 3  
17    Glen Eagles Way. That's a hard act to follow. Let  
18    me say that first of all I want to thank Mr. Gorski.  
19    He's been really helpful to me in trying to  
20    understand these issues concerning funding and with  
21    some telephone conversations and some e-mails. He's  
22    really made it a lot more understandable to me.  
23    Thank you publicly.

24            MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Gorski is the  
25    best.

1 MR. KRZYKOWSKI: Now, that being said,  
2 my opinion -- and shame on us -- is that we've  
3 allowed this whole funding debate to fog the real  
4 issue of spending and spending priorities by this  
5 Board. Shame on us. It's not, as the gentleman  
6 before me said, a funding problem. It's also a  
7 spending problem. I'm one of these people that  
8 believe if you didn't spend it, funding would be a  
9 heck of a lot less of an issue.

10 Now, let me ask you. You mentioned last  
11 meeting that this Board was going into a meeting on  
12 a Saturday about the setting goals and objectives.  
13 How many of those goals and objectives talked to the  
14 economic issues of running this school system? How  
15 do we create more value for our educational dollar?  
16 How does that happen?

17 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We had -- which we  
18 will be adopting tonight under Dr. Hamilton's report  
19 -- three school goals. Two of them have to do with  
20 finances. So Dr. Hamilton will give that report  
21 under his Superintendent's report.

22 MR. KRZYKOWSKI: You know, I look at  
23 this budget, and, you know, a lot of times when we  
24 talk about spending and spending cuts, it gets down  
25 it's going to hurt the children. Now, depending on

1    how you slice and dice this budget, and these  
2    numbers are certainly open to some discussion and  
3    debate, but there's probably \$40 million that have  
4    nothing to do directly with children. It's  
5    maintenance, it's transportation, it's custodial  
6    services, it's administration, a whole lot of  
7    things, fringe benefits that have nothing to do with  
8    kids, zero. That's where I think we've got to zero  
9    in and start looking in areas that have no direct  
10   impact on the children, and that's to me what hasn't  
11   happened in the past because the debate always gets  
12   back to every dollar you want to cut, it's going to  
13   hurt the students. Looking at this number, that's  
14   not what these numbers in this budget tell me.

15            Now, this is a very people intensive  
16   budget so let me ask you a question. Is it possible  
17   -- a lot of this is wrapped up in union contracts --  
18   to get a bound copy of the union contracts that this  
19   Board deals with with its unions up in the library  
20   so some of us can go through these contracts and try  
21   to understand better where some of these costs are  
22   and what some of the issues maybe in these  
23   contracts.

24            MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We have union  
25   contracts. If you would OPRA it from the business

1 office, you will be able to get a copy of the union  
2 contract.

3 MR. KRZYKOWSKI: I don't want a copy.  
4 I'd like to have just a copy put in the library so  
5 everybody can look at them, one bound copy in the  
6 reference section of the library that's there for  
7 everybody who wants to come read them and understand  
8 what goes on with the union. Is that possible?

9 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: It's a public  
10 document. I believe we can do that. We'll check  
11 that out and make sure.

12 MR. KRZYKOWSKI: One other quick  
13 question. It was my understanding that this Board  
14 elected out of the state funded health plans; is  
15 that true? Do we participate in the health -- the  
16 state sponsored health insurance program?

17 MR. GORSKI: We've never elected out of  
18 the state health benefits plan. We've always had  
19 private insurance, which I negotiate each year very  
20 competitively. Last year, our percentage increase  
21 in the health benefits was about 7 percent on  
22 average.

23 MR. KRZYKOWSKI: If we participated in  
24 the state sponsored program, would we save money?

25 MR. GORSKI: No. The answer to that is

1 no.

2 MR. KRZYKOWSKI: So it's actually  
3 cheaper for us to do what we're doing on our own.

4 MR. GORSKI: Yes. In fact, we just --  
5 the union was just kind enough to enter into a  
6 sidebar agreement with the Monroe Township Board of  
7 Education to waive a very costly HMO insurance plan  
8 and adopt two cheaper alternatives. So the union in  
9 concert with the Board is doing everything we can to  
10 save money.

11 MR. KRZYKOWSKI: Thank you.

12 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Okay. At this time  
13 we have time for two more people, and then we will  
14 have to save everybody else for the second public  
15 forum. So the next two people.

16 MS. SKURBE: Hi, Chrissy Skurbe, 8  
17 Seminole Court. I just wanted to say I've been  
18 coming to Board of Education meetings now for the  
19 past 3 years or so, and I've sat on Dr. Hamilton's  
20 budget steering committee meeting this past year.  
21 As a parent of two children in Monroe schools and  
22 the head of the PTA for the Oak Tree and Applegarth  
23 School, I can say that the money in the budget is  
24 not fluff. It is what is necessary to educate the  
25 more than 6,000 students in Monroe Township. And

1 the Board has made several cuts over the last  
2 several years. For as long as my children have been  
3 in Monroe schools, the budget has been defeated  
4 every year, and they've had to make cuts. Some of  
5 the cuts in the past couple of years have been  
6 after-school busing, busing for arts programs such  
7 as band and chorus, world language teachers in the  
8 elementary schools, the strings program, busing for  
9 field trips for elementary students. Assistant  
10 principals are now shared among schools. The  
11 science program in the elementary school was delayed  
12 4 years due to budget cuts. Library assistants were  
13 cut. Full-time paraprofessional positions are now  
14 made half-time to save on benefits and pensions, and  
15 there's been reduction in secretarial positions  
16 throughout the district.

17 The real issue in Monroe is the dramatic  
18 increase in the students, and that is a result of  
19 the constant approval of residential communities by  
20 our planning board. Eight years ago, you drove up  
21 and down Applegarth Road, there were no communities,  
22 there were no houses. The community has grown by  
23 leaps and bounds. We have -- we have no room this  
24 year. We had to open up Applegarth School to deal  
25 with the overflow of Oak Tree. Last month the

1 planning board approved more residential  
2 communities, which is going to crowd our schools  
3 even more. We have no money to build another  
4 school. We have no room for the school. We have no  
5 room for the children to educate them. We can't  
6 ignore -- we can't ignore the problem of the  
7 increase in the community. We have to educate our  
8 children. The problem here is, you know, the taxes  
9 went up, yes. It is not a result of the school  
10 budget. That is not what happened this past year.  
11 Ten percent of your -- excuse me.

12 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Excuse me, we will be  
13 as respectful to her as we were to the rest of the  
14 public.

15 MS. SKURBE: If I could ask, how much  
16 did the budget increase, and how much did that  
17 affect our taxes?

18 MR. GORSKI: School district budget,  
19 which is on a split year with the municipality, and  
20 that's an important concept to understand. Half of  
21 the tax impact this year is carried over from the  
22 school budget last year so efficiencies are lagging  
23 to get into it, but the school budget went up on the  
24 tax levy 3.6 percent this year. That's an increase  
25 of about \$145 for the average assessed home. That

1 is a very minority part of the overall tax increase  
2 that you're facing. The majority impact comes from  
3 the municipal side this year, and it was affected  
4 dramatically by three components. Number 1, lack of  
5 state aid funding to the municipality was cut again.  
6 Number 2, the significant decrease in ratables due  
7 to the economy. And number 3, most significantly  
8 was the successful appeals of one-third of the  
9 residential properties in Monroe requiring rebate  
10 checks to be issued from the municipality to  
11 homeowners, thus increasing the tax rate.

12 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Okay, Chrissy, you  
13 have 30 seconds more.

14 MS. SKURBE: I just want to end by  
15 saying I moved to Monroe Township because of the up  
16 and coming school system. We've had students  
17 graduate from Monroe Township High School. They've  
18 been accepted into Princeton University and other  
19 Ivy Leagues. If you look at the scores, the test  
20 scores in the elementary level, Oak Tree School  
21 Woodland School were recognized in the paper by  
22 their overproficiency levels. Our schools are  
23 thriving, and we do need to continue to have them  
24 funded, and if it's -- it's through the taxes,  
25 that's a state issue. The state mandates that the

1 schools are funded through the taxes. I beg this  
2 Board not to cut our programs. We need that. Our  
3 children need that. The children over there sitting  
4 there dressed in purple deserve a proper education,  
5 not to have it cut. Thank you.

6 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you. We'll  
7 have one more person, and then we'll hold everybody  
8 else to the next public forum.

9 MR. PURSWANI: Hi, my name is Raj  
10 Purswani. I live in 6 Witchell Drive, and I work in  
11 technology. I have a question. Most people here,  
12 they are here for their tax increase, and I think  
13 most people here in the public, they agree that the  
14 problem is not funding or revenue, the problem is  
15 spending. So in the real world outside this, we,  
16 before coming up with solutions, like you guys said,  
17 you know, getting more funding from the state and  
18 stuff like that, in the real world we first define  
19 the problem so in the opinion of the public, the  
20 problem definition is spending, irresponsible  
21 spending, fiscal irresponsibility. In your opinion,  
22 what I have heard so far, you know, a lot of  
23 deflection towards Trenton and, you know, other  
24 sources. What is the problem definition?

25 DR. HAMILTON: Part of our challenge in

1 our district really has to do with the growing  
2 student enrollment, as Mrs. Skurbe just indicated,  
3 and as a result, unlike a budgeted home, we have to  
4 have teachers who stand in front of those kids every  
5 day. We have to transport them. So while one could  
6 argue that there's a percentage of the budget that  
7 doesn't impact kids, everything we do in the  
8 district impacts kids. Everybody has a job that  
9 they do that directly impacts instruction, safety,  
10 and making sure that our staff and students have the  
11 best services that we can provide for them. So we  
12 have to make certain that we have room, heat. (End  
13 of tape 2) important to keep in mind that even  
14 though you recognized an increase, there have been  
15 considerable constraints placed on this budget,  
16 including renovations to Applegarth to accommodate  
17 student increases. We've also refunded bonds that  
18 saved the district millions of dollars. We've also  
19 within the -- within that budget made accommodations  
20 to staff. So it's not just about opening  
21 Applegarth. We also had to staff that building. So  
22 all of that was done within the confines of the  
23 general operating budget. We've also included a new  
24 roof on Brookside School. All these things were  
25 part of the general fund budget that we made happen

1 without going out and asking for additional funds.

2 And there are -- everything that we do in this

3 district is directly related to student instruction

4 and safety.

5 MR. PURSWANI: Why -- the lady before

6 me, she just mentioned there, you know, the number

7 of students have increased. Why don't we consider

8 the corresponding increasing number of housing units

9 who are paying additional taxes for the additional

10 students? Why are we speaking only half the truth?

11 Where is the other half? What about the additional

12 revenue you're getting for the additional students?

13 DR. HAMILTON: First of all, our

14 revenue, our revenue is based on a count that goes

15 in on October 15 so students that come in after that

16 time are a part of the current budget. You don't

17 reap that, if you will, until the following year.

18 That's number 1. And number 2, the state does not

19 adequately fund -- and I hear what people are

20 saying. It's about being a better steward over the

21 existing of the funds that we do have, but there are

22 many things that happen in our educational system

23 that we have no control over, and those things have

24 to be absorbed in our budget. We have -- I'm not

25 going to get into all the intricacies for the

1 budget. This isn't the forum for that, but the fact  
2 of the matter is while your taxes are going up, our  
3 demographics are changing as well in this community.  
4 Our geography is changing in this community. And we  
5 have an obligation to provide for those services.  
6 One of the goals that the budget -- the Board is  
7 adopting is really adopting a budget philosophy. We  
8 have two different sets of marching orders. We have  
9 constituents who are here this evening who are  
10 saying our taxes are going up and we want you to cut  
11 the budget, and we have a group of parents who  
12 represent the 6,100 kids in our district who are  
13 saying to us we want the best education our kids can  
14 get. We want the services, and we want those things  
15 that provide our children the opportunities and the  
16 advantage that will get them into those schools,  
17 those competitive colleges, and those scholarships.  
18 So we have an impossible balance to create, and the  
19 philosophy is essential.

20 And lastly, I do want to make a  
21 correction on a comment that was made. Monroe  
22 Township Public Schools was in the top 10 schools in  
23 the Middlesex County as recognized in the New Jersey  
24 school -- New Jersey magazine, so that information  
25 is misleading and false. We are in the top 10 in

1 Middlesex County, Inside Jersey.

2 MR. PURSWANI: So there was a comment

3 about one --

4 DR. HAMILTON: Inside Jersey, thank you,

5 that's correct.

6 MR. PURSWANI: There was a comment about

7 one-third of the people appealing for tax decrease.

8 Do you foresee a scenario where the other two-third

9 of the people appeal because the property values

10 have gone down and their tax should go down

11 theoretically. So what do you plan to do in that

12 case if everybody appeals?

13 DR. HAMILTON: We don't have any control

14 over appeals or what happens in that process.

15 MR. PURSWANI: Well, you do over the

16 spending.

17 DR. HAMILTON: We have nothing to do

18 with your tax appeals with the municipality. That

19 is not the role of this Board. We're not even a

20 part of that discussion. So I couldn't even begin

21 to answer that question with an intelligent

22 response.

23 MR. PURSWANI: Okay. One question about

24 the iPads. How much did each iPad cost us?

25 DR. HAMILTON: Five thirty-seven? Five

1 thirty-seven initially.

2 MR. PURSWANI: No, not the initial  
3 value. After paying the bonds and interests for  
4 30 years, how much will it cost us?

5 DR. HAMILTON: I don't know that number.

6 MR. PURSWANI: What do you think,  
7 \$2,000.

8 DR. HAMILTON: I'm not going to guess,  
9 sir. I'm not going to just give you a number off  
10 the top of my head. If you're asking a question,  
11 I'm going to give you the best answer I can, and the  
12 best answer I can give you for that number, I can't  
13 tell you what the iPads will cost us over 30 years.

14 MR. PURSWANI: When can we get that  
15 number?

16 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Gorski has the  
17 answer to that question.

18 MR. GORSKI: You know, that specific  
19 answer would take a little bit of research, but I  
20 can quantify that by saying that the iPads are going  
21 to last anywhere from 3, 4 years. That's their  
22 expected useful life. And the bond financing that  
23 supported these iPads was up to 28-year period.  
24 There's individual bonds sold throughout that whole  
25 year so you can match those 3- or 4-year periods

1 with specific bond funding over the 3 or 4 years.  
2 That's according to our bond counselor at McCarter  
3 English. So you're not financing these iPads over  
4 28 years. There's specific bond maturities matched  
5 with these 3- to 4-year useful life.

6 MR. PURSWANI: You would have done that  
7 calculation beforehand, right, before getting the  
8 bond and buying the iPads?

9 MR. GORSKI: Could I have anticipated  
10 that question beforehand?

11 MR. PURSWANI: No, the cost, not the  
12 question.

13 MR. GORSKI: The cost of the iPads?

14 MR. PURSWANI: Yeah, total cost, total  
15 cost of ownership. Total cost of ownership is the  
16 price you pay initially and at the end of the term  
17 what you pay throughout. That's called as a TCO,  
18 total cost of ownership.

19 MR. GORSKI: Okay, the initial iPad  
20 purchase was \$538 for 2,000 units or \$1,076,000 just  
21 for the units. That was the initial purchase. We  
22 then sold at public bid those 2,000 units for a  
23 total of \$415,000, plus Dr. Gorman negotiated a  
24 \$70,000 rebate from the warranty. So the actual  
25 cost -- and I refer to the word budget cost instead

1 of loss -- is \$591,000 for the initial year of iPad

2 initiative for this district.

3 MR. PURSWANI: Why did we sell the

4 iPads?

5 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I'm sorry, but your

6 time is up. You want to answer that? No? I'm

7 sorry, your time is up, and since we've gone way

8 over our hour public forum, I'm going to close

9 public forum, which I stated at the beginning of the

10 meeting. If you'd like to make more comments, we

11 will be glad to listen to you at the end of the

12 Board meeting. There is another public forum. I'm

13 sorry. There was no -- public forum is closed.

14 Public forum is closed. Comments, questions, it's

15 over. At this time, Mr. Gorski has a -- then I'll.

16 MR. GORSKI: Ladies and gentlemen, I

17 just like to make one profound point for everybody

18 to understand about the budget. Dr. Hamilton has

19 stated that every year our district is growing by --

20 beg your pardon -- please.

21 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: No, I'm sorry. I'm

22 sorry. You're out of order. I'm sorry I cannot let

23 her speak.

24 MR. GORSKI: Please. The point I was

25 making is that the district is growing 250 students

1 additionally every year. At an average of \$15,000  
2 per student, that's costing the Monroe Township  
3 Board of Education \$3,750,000 just to educate the  
4 enrollment growth every year. Last year our overall  
5 budget grew \$3,182,000. So we're absorbing these  
6 additional student costs and making aggregate cuts  
7 to the budget. If I haven't properly explained that  
8 because of the disruption, please give me a call  
9 because that's an important point to know.

10 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I know Mr. Klein  
11 would like to make a comment, and then we'll go on.

12 MR. KLEIN: Before everybody leaves,  
13 please, I think you'll be interested in this. First  
14 of all, the way Jersey funds their schools is  
15 archaic. There's very, very few states that fund  
16 the schools via property taxes. Now I'm going to  
17 read my statement. As I mentioned a number of  
18 months ago, when we tried to make cuts and parents  
19 were against it, I said that some states allow all  
20 handicapped, disabled residents, and residents over  
21 65 to pay no school tax. I disagree with that.  
22 Some states give a 50 percent cut to these groups.  
23 As I looked into this, I understand that there is a  
24 bill in the state senate and the state assembly  
25 giving true tax relief for residents over 65, though

1 I would add handicapped and disabled to it.

2 According to the bills, residents over 65 would

3 receive a 50 percent discount in school taxes, but

4 it's been in the files for years, and I tried to

5 look it up and I can't find it, but we'll definitely

6 check it out. Now, by doing this, yes, it would

7 raise the taxes of families much higher, but it then

8 would force the state to change the way education is

9 paid for. It should be by lottery, income, and

10 sales taxes, and not property taxes. In the state

11 constitution -- I paraphrase -- the state is

12 responsible for providing a free public education to

13 all residents of New Jersey between the ages of 5

14 and 18. It then states that the state legislature

15 is responsible for setting aside funds to pay for

16 free public education for its residents. In Monroe

17 Township, our residents are paying roughly

18 95 percent of the total cost of education. That is

19 not a free education, and it is definitely a

20 violation of the state constitution. And those of

21 you that get involved with these tax groups, start

22 to write letters. Now you write your letters to

23 your senators and your assembly people and the

24 governor. You want those bills brought up,

25 discussed and passed, and if it is not a bill that

1 has prolonged through the series of years, then  
2 somebody, one of our elected officials has to  
3 sponsor it and get it back up. That's the only way  
4 you can do it and force the state to change the way  
5 they fund the schools and not property taxes and not  
6 on the backs of people 65 and over.

7 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you, Mr. Klein.  
8 Mr. Leary.

9 MR. LEARY: I want to make a statement  
10 because I have been the chairman of the finance  
11 committee for over 7 years. Now, in that -- as has  
12 been stated, you go and you take a look at the  
13 latest CAFRA. On page 136 it shows that in that  
14 10-year interval we had a 120 percent increase in  
15 the general fund. That sounds wild. Reality is we  
16 had a gigantic increase, 2,800 students. When you  
17 go on the per student basis, it is 36 percent. Now,  
18 that sounds -- you know, but then you talk about  
19 what is the consumer price index, and that is what  
20 -- we are a people intensive process, and it turns  
21 out the cost per student per -- the consumer price  
22 index is 4 percent. We live in New Jersey. We're  
23 getting hammered every way you can think of by state  
24 mandates. We are doing a superb job, not a rotten  
25 job, and put that in your pipe and smoke it.

1 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you, Mr. Leary.

2 Excuse me. Excuse me. You're out of line. Excuse

3 me. He's a -- excuse me. You're out of order.

4 Excuse me. I'm sorry. I'm not -- the public

5 forum -- the public forum is over. I'm asking you

6 to please take your seat. He is a Board member.

7 Excuse me. At this time, we're going to go to the

8 Superintendent's report with Dr. Hamilton.

9 (End of section 1)

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1 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: At this time the  
2 Board will reconvene into public session, and we go  
3 to our public forum. Again, anyone from the public  
4 wishing to speak, please come to our microphone and  
5 state your name and address for the record and we  
6 will still adhere to our 3-minute rule. Sorry that  
7 you had to wait so long.

8 MS. CASHMAN: My name is Lex. I'm a  
9 senior. I go to Monroe. I'm a student athlete.  
10 I'm taking a full course load of AP classes. I  
11 participate in Mock Trial, National Honor Society,  
12 French Honor Society, Youth in Government, Model  
13 U.N., the Conference on National Affairs, and I'm  
14 sure I can come up with a bunch of other things.  
15 I've been a 3-year varsity athlete. I left my house  
16 at 7 o'clock this morning. I haven't eaten since my  
17 10:30 lunch, and I've been waiting for you for an  
18 hour and 25 minutes. I'm bored and I'm ignored.  
19 You cannot ignore your student body when they come  
20 to you. I understand that you have rules that you  
21 have to adhere to and procedures that you have to  
22 follow. I had come home from an away game at South  
23 Plainfield, pretty long drive, two games. It was a  
24 double header, varsity and then JV. And I wanted to  
25 just bring up a few points about busing and the

1 troubles that we're having with that as athletes, as  
2 students, and iPads from a student's perspective,  
3 and I was rudely shut down and ignored, and I  
4 believe that I was mentioned as a disturbance. As a  
5 student, I feel that the Board of Ed does not care  
6 about our student body and what we have to say.  
7 I'll leave my point that I have initially wanted to  
8 make for later because there's not really anybody  
9 left to hear me. I appreciate it. I will be back.  
10 Maybe. Because I have two jobs that I have to work,  
11 too. And I'll make my points then. Have a nice  
12 night.

13 MR. BRIGANTE: Folks, this young  
14 lady waited --

15 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Could you please give  
16 your name and address.

17 MR. BRIGANTE: I'm sorry. My name is  
18 Jerry Brigante. I'm from the Renaissance of Monroe.  
19 That young lady, I have to give her a hand. I think  
20 that you all disrespected her. You could have given  
21 her 2 minutes of your time, and there's always rules  
22 that can be broken, okay, and you could have broken  
23 that rule for that young lady, and I totally  
24 disagree with all of you for not doing that.

25 Now, I just like to bring up a point. I

1 am a senior, okay, and from my recommendation, okay,  
2 40 percent of the Monroe Township is 55 percent  
3 adult communities. What would you people do if we  
4 did not exist? Who would pay all these taxes?  
5 Right now we are actually paying 60 percent of our  
6 taxes go towards the Board of Education. We do not  
7 have children. If we did, boy, oh, boy, are we  
8 lucky to have a young kid going to school at the age  
9 of 70 or something like that, but 60 percent of our  
10 taxes are going to the Board of Education. Why is  
11 that? We don't mind supporting the Board of  
12 Education but not at 60 percent. Have a heart.  
13 Like Mr. Klein said, we should -- 50 percent of our  
14 taxes should not -- should only be paid, not a  
15 hundred, 60 percent of what we're doing. I think  
16 it's a crime. We are being raised constantly. We  
17 are on fixed income. And I'm going to tell you  
18 something, that if we get raised again, many people  
19 will lose their homes because they cannot afford it.  
20 They will move out of Monroe, and that will be a  
21 disaster.

22 We need people -- communities are still  
23 being built here. We still have 55 adult  
24 communities being built, and people are moving in,  
25 and when they move in and all of a sudden they took

1 a look at their taxes, it's unbelievable. They're  
2 better off staying at Staten Island where they had a  
3 big home and paying \$5,000 for 4,500 square feet of  
4 living space. Come on, folks. Let's think about  
5 this here. Look at the seniors. We support the  
6 Board of Education, but we can't support everything.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. COHN: Good evening, Howard Cohn, 82  
9 Country Club Drive in Monroe Township. It's been a  
10 real eye opener for me tonight. I've never been to  
11 a Board of Education meeting in my life. I've never  
12 been to a town council meeting in my life, and shame  
13 on me. So tonight was a learning experience, and  
14 the learning experience was very interesting. I  
15 listened to you, the Board. I listened to the  
16 public comments. And everybody has a valid point.  
17 But I come away from this thinking about one thing.  
18 It appears to me that there's only one way to make a  
19 point, either with you or the county freeholders or  
20 the state government or the federal government, and  
21 that's based on numbers. Apparently, the more  
22 people that you have that are going to sign a  
23 petition, the more attention you're going to get.  
24 So I ask you this question in all sincerity, and  
25 it's a problem throughout the State of New Jersey,

1 but I'd just like to know what the Board may be  
2 thinking, could be thinking, or would be thinking.  
3 Have you considered as a Board to get together with  
4 the other school districts either in Middlesex  
5 County or in Central New Jersey or in the State of  
6 New Jersey to consolidate in order to accommodate,  
7 in order to cut costs, because apparently the only  
8 thing that's going to make some type of impact is  
9 we, the voters, significantly banding together to  
10 get rid of all the rascals. The laws I hear are  
11 archaic, and I understand that, and I understand  
12 that there are laws that you have to comply with,  
13 and I sympathize with you, but I'm a taxpayer. I  
14 like living in New Jersey. I don't want to be  
15 forced out of New Jersey, as I honestly believe some  
16 people will be forced out because of the high costs.  
17 So I just ask you this question. Have you thought  
18 about and/or have you considered consolidating with  
19 other school districts?

20 MS. ANTELIS: Yes, twice, and we did a  
21 feasibility study, and it would have cost the Monroe  
22 Township taxpayers an additional \$400 a year, and so  
23 we decided not to do it.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you, Amy.

25 MR. BERKIN: Hi, my name is Harvey

1 Berkin. I'm a 71-year old techy. What I don't  
2 understand is the iPads. The technology that I know  
3 and I'm aware of is that the life of our computers  
4 and laptops is usually about 4 years, and after that  
5 you can give them to kids for free and buy new ones.  
6 Right now, laptops are going for about say 3, \$400 a  
7 hit, and iPads are going for about 800, the new  
8 ones, a hit. Why didn't we consider and maybe you  
9 did consider buying laptops because with the laptops  
10 you're able to insert additional memory in there at  
11 minimum cost. You're able to do more than what you  
12 can do in an iPad. That's the first thing.

13 The second thing is what have you looked  
14 into -- there are corporations out there that scan  
15 books. You can go to our neighborhood library and  
16 buy -- and get any e-book you want and read it on  
17 your Kindle and your laptop and your iPad. Now, all  
18 we have to do is go to these organizations and have  
19 our textbooks scanned in, and then we reduce the  
20 weight that somebody said before, 40 pounds of  
21 carrying, because all that technology would be in  
22 our computers, whether they be a laptop or an iPad.  
23 Have you considered that?

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Dr. Gorman, do you  
25 wish to respond?

1 DR. GORMAN: Yes, we've actually  
2 considered all of that. The technology that we're  
3 looking at is not a scanned in textbook. That  
4 industry is changing to an interactive industry. So  
5 what kids are doing now is very different with the  
6 books that they've done in the past. We, the Board,  
7 contemplated the laptop one to one versus the iPad  
8 one to one. These laptops still cost significantly  
9 more than iPads for the capacity of what we want our  
10 students to be able to do with them. Laptops for  
11 for taking notes and doing those things are -- may  
12 have been a -- or internet research may have been a  
13 past vision for one-to-one learning, but the iPads'  
14 educational capacity so I could bring you the wave  
15 of iPads educationally is beyond on the rise, and  
16 learning value associated with them are hopefully  
17 being studied and actualized, and that was the  
18 foundation. So this is a learning education forum.  
19 This -- the iPad is a learning tool for kids to use,  
20 and I don't have the ability to articulate that to  
21 you in this forum right here, but if you'd like us  
22 to -- I would love for you to come see our kids,  
23 meet with me, and I can really show you what it is,  
24 and we started doing that last year every month.

25 MR. BERKIN: I signed up for the tech

1     thing so hopefully I can help you.

2             DR. GORMAN: That's great.

3             MR. BERKIN: But what I don't understand

4     going back, why don't you scan the books because

5     presently from a debugging, a software brand new

6     thing to interact with your letters that it sees

7     that all those things you can write notes on there

8     and things like that, it will take 2, 3 years. In

9     the interim, you can scan your books, all your

10    books, save a lot of money, now.

11            A BOARD MEMBER: I'm a big techy, too,

12    and correct me if I'm wrong, if we -- if you have a

13    book and you scan it, it's copyrighted. It's

14    illegal, just like --

15            MR. BERKIN: I'm not saying it's not

16    illegal. I'm saying to go and --

17            A BOARD MEMBER: Well, we can't break

18    the law.

19            MR. BERKIN: I want to do legal things.

20            A BOARD MEMBER: It's illegal to take

21    our own textbooks that we purchased and scan them,

22    just like it's -- everybody does it -- used to take

23    a record and copy it to a tape way back when. I'm

24    dating myself. That's illegal, too. You know, just

25    because you can do it, we have to abide by the law.

1 We can't take our existing textbooks and scan them

2 in.

3 MR. BERKIN: Oh, absolutely. You would

4 have to go --

5 A BOARD MEMBER: We'd have to purchase

6 them.

7 MR. BERKIN: Absolutely. You'd have to

8 purchase it. You'd have to go to publishing

9 companies. The publishing companies are doing that

10 now, and it behooves them to do it. So have we

11 looked into it? I'm just saying it's a cost cutting

12 method.

13 DR. GORMAN: So I've been in constant

14 dialogue with high-up executives of Pearson, Apple

15 Education, McGraw Hill, Glenco. If you go to the

16 iTunes store, these iBooks are now the beginning of

17 the revolution towards interactive textbooks, and if

18 you just -- as soon as we're done, I can show it to

19 you to help me really get you to understand the

20 differences between that and a PDF, which you're

21 referring to, which we've looked at e-books and

22 subscription going on site, but the iBook is really

23 what the major textbook companies are now moving

24 towards, and that's -- I have a research team flying

25 in tomorrow from Boston to help us conduct possible

1 research in this district on that technology.

2 MR. BERKIN: Is this new software, or is  
3 it -- has it been used in the field, or is this  
4 brand new stuff that you're going to have all sorts  
5 of bugs with? I'm telling you.

6 DR. GORMAN: So constantly revised. We  
7 have been interacting with the math so we're  
8 starting with mathematics, Algebra, Geometry,  
9 Algebra 2, and it will continue to evolve. So this  
10 is the beauty of it compared to an all textbook so  
11 next year, right, old textbook, right, 10 years  
12 later still using the same textbook. Next year if  
13 they update it, we just get an e-mail that says  
14 delete your old one, update, bring up your new one.  
15 So that's -- so even through the changes, we will  
16 instantly have the most current knowledge for our  
17 students.

18 MR. BERKIN: I understand that. My  
19 question is it in use presently.

20 DR. GORMAN: Yes, it is, and I have the  
21 books on my iPad so I can show you right after.

22 MR. BERKIN: Thank you.

23 A BOARD MEMBER: I have some good  
24 friends of mine. They live in West Deptford, New  
25 Jersey. They give laptops like this to every child

1 starting in fourth grade. They do not have books on  
2 this so the children are required to carry this in a  
3 big satchel with all the their textbooks. The nice  
4 thing about the iPad, it's probably the same cost or  
5 even less than those laptops, and imagine my -- I  
6 can't imagine my 9-year-old kid carrying this with a  
7 big satchel every day. We don't give them that  
8 early; we do in the high school. One thing about  
9 the iPad, it's light, it's a tablet, it's easy to  
10 carry, and it fits in a book bag very nicely, and it  
11 has all the educational approvals.

12 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I'm going to let  
13 Mr. Leary just make a quick comment, Mr. Leary.

14 MR. LEARY: Quick comment. You're  
15 talking about the conversion from paper to  
16 electronic memory. Associated with that are  
17 licensing procedures in order to provide the  
18 protection of proprietary information and right to  
19 use fees for the number of times you're multiplying  
20 it, and so it has to be carefully orchestrated.  
21 There are significant financial requirements  
22 associated with those rights to use fees, and they  
23 need to be thoroughly looked at, and I know  
24 Mr. Gorman and his team will be doing that, but it's  
25 not, you know, just grab a book and then copy it and

1 then run away. It's not. It has to be done in a  
2 legal manner, and it has to be done with careful  
3 thought.

4 MR. GELFARB: Thank you for letting me  
5 address the committee a second time.

6 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Name and address,  
7 please.

8 MR. GELFARB: Joel Gelfarb, 106 Gascony  
9 Avenue here in Monroe. I'd like to thank Lew and  
10 I'd like to thank Amy for their closing remarks  
11 before we broke because they brought it down to a  
12 low common denominator. Amy was just saying to me,  
13 which I'm not dumb and naive, says we didn't talk  
14 about what electric costs, we didn't talk about what  
15 heating costs, and, yes that's right. You guys  
16 should have said that starting off because you have  
17 people out here who heard (inaudible) incorporated  
18 saying that you guys take 60 cents on the dollar,  
19 and you guys have \$88 million, and he don't know  
20 what you're doing with your money. So why don't you  
21 go back to him. Don't come to us. Don't give us a  
22 hard time. We are on, most of the people, fixed  
23 income. You tell me you're the president, madam.  
24 How does a person who gets a \$2,700 Social Security  
25 check who's paying \$324 a month HOA fees live and

1 then go baby-sit for the children because the mother  
2 or the husband is working two jobs and they can't  
3 afford daycare. That is something you have to  
4 ponder when you ask us for more money. I'm not a  
5 pauper. I'm not saying I'm a pauper. But another  
6 facet of what I have, I don't know what any of you  
7 have done prior to your job here. I grew up in  
8 Brownsville, Brooklyn, where if you didn't know how  
9 to fight, you had your you know what kicked daily,  
10 but I learned street smarts. I'm a college  
11 graduate, but street smarts is very important, too,  
12 and don't undersell it. I started my own business  
13 in 1975, become a multimillion dollars business. I  
14 partnered with Barnes & Noble. I partnered with  
15 Mary Kay Cosmetics, and I partnered with  
16 1-800-Flowers. I owned a wholesale floral supply  
17 business. I got these people buying from me. They  
18 all said to me how do you write invoices. Don't you  
19 have a computer? I said, no, it scares the hell out  
20 of me, but I have good pens from the bank, and they  
21 said we want you to have a computer. I knew nothing  
22 of it. I was scared of it. I'm good with the  
23 electric switch on the wall. That's my extent of  
24 electric. I went out and contacted computer  
25 companies, which in 1980 this was, they were talking

1 15, \$20,000 for a unit for an office, no second  
2 station, no third station, one station, and they'll  
3 bankroll it for you and you'll pay this and you'll  
4 pay that. I studied from so many computer companies  
5 that came down to me until I exhausted everybody who  
6 was available. Number 1, I got it down to 11,000.  
7 I got a superior system. I got two stations, and I  
8 got 3 days a week support for 2 months. I had to  
9 ask the guy to leave after 5 weeks because my  
10 four-member office staff knew how to operate that  
11 computer. I didn't. They did, and that's all  
12 that's important.

13 I don't know here from you group of  
14 people, did you do your research for these iPads.  
15 Did you hunt out the best source? Did you try to  
16 get the best deal? I don't think so. I don't see  
17 anybody here hungry. I am hungry. I'm 66 years  
18 old, and I'm still hungry. I fight to get the best  
19 deal for my development for my landscaping services,  
20 for my irrigation services, pond services, and snow  
21 removal, and I fight over \$50. I don't think  
22 anybody here fights, and I think you should consider  
23 it.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.

25 MR. BUONO: My name is Mike Buono, 38

1 Crenshaw. It was nice, the dog and pony show we  
2 went through with facts and figures, but the bottom  
3 line is why we all came here tonight is it's -- you  
4 have problems, but that's why you were elected to  
5 the Board, because you said you could take care of  
6 this. Now, the whole deal that we're looking for is  
7 to cut spending.

8 Now, I have a few things which are very  
9 confusing to me. In the first place, you said you  
10 gave the teachers a 2 percent raise, mere pittance,  
11 and then a 2 percent and then a 2 and a half  
12 percent, so 6 and a half percent over 3 years.  
13 There's at least 12 percent of the population that's  
14 out of work, and they'd be happy to work for the  
15 money they made last year, okay, but we're giving  
16 out more money, and we got \$700 back but gave them  
17 \$3,000 in increases.

18 The next thing that when Trenton says I  
19 want you to cut your budget 15 percent, it doesn't  
20 mean raise the taxes 15 percent. That's not cutting  
21 your budget. That's staying par.

22 The other thing that I'm a little  
23 concerned with with Trenton, many years ago when  
24 they decided to put the Mafia out of business and  
25 get rid of the numbers game, they decided we're

1 going to get into the numbers game, but how are we  
2 going to do it legally so it's legit. So they said  
3 let's come up with the Lotto. Yeah, but how are we  
4 going to do that and make it legit. Let's say it's  
5 for schools. We're going to take this dollar and  
6 we're going to give it to the schools. Now it's  
7 legit. We're not making any money, which we all  
8 know is a lie. Now, you look at some of the Mega  
9 jackpots and the Power Ball jackpots. It's a  
10 hundred million here and 90 million there. Where is  
11 that money? Why are we seeing that from the  
12 government?

13 Now, the thing that I want you all to  
14 tell me I'm wrong about is I am under the  
15 understanding that first of all we get these iPods  
16 for every kid in the building, which is wonderful,  
17 and then they still carry 40 pounds of books, which  
18 is stupid. Now, what is the iPod used for, to  
19 write, typing stuff. If I have no idea I'm totally  
20 electronic illiterate. I just about get my computer  
21 on and go to e-mail. So you want to teach the kids  
22 in today's school how to use this equipment, God  
23 bless you. Why not buy 30, have a class, part of  
24 their curriculum, bring them into the class in their  
25 computer class and show them how to use the iPod,

1 and don't hand it out to 2,000 kids.

2 Here's the thing that I want you to tell

3 me I'm wrong on. From what I heard, every kid gets

4 an iPod. Beautiful. Now it costs them \$50

5 insurance in case they lose the iPod. If that's my

6 kid, the day he came home, he lost that iPod, I got

7 a \$50 iPod, cost me 50 for an \$800 iPod. Are we

8 crazy? Are we telling them you give me \$50 and you

9 can keep the iPod? This is madness. Is anybody

10 thinking? If you tell them you lose the iPod, you

11 pay for it, that's a different story, after we gave

12 it to them, which we shouldn't have gave it to them

13 in the first place, but to give them a second one

14 for \$50? This is madness. So I want you to explain

15 this insurance policy because I was an insurance

16 underwriter for 40 years. There's no way in the

17 world I would agree to this policy. You give me 50,

18 I give you an \$800 product. Go.

19 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Dr. Gorman.

20 MR. BUONO: Somebody go.

21 DR. GORMAN: I'll give this a shot, not

22 with all of it, but definitely the fee. The fee is

23 not an insurance policy. It's a protection plan so

24 we can continue to repair and do whatever we need to

25 maintain the highest quality for the iPads.

1 MR. BUONO: But is it true if they lose

2 it they get a new one?

3 DR. GORMAN: Just let me finish.

4 MR. BUONO: Go ahead.

5 DR. GORMAN: One of the things with the

6 iPad is it has a basically a built-in tracking

7 device in it so if this thing is in Washington right

8 now, I can go on my computer and know that it's in

9 Washington. So we have had conversations with the

10 police company -- department to come in here and

11 partner with them in case vandalism, loss, theft

12 occurs. If it breaks, okay, if it breaks, if it

13 cracks --

14 MR. BUONO: That can't be disconnected,

15 the tracking device?

16 DR. GORMAN: It can.

17 MR. BUONO: End of conversation.

18 DR. GORMAN: You're not going to -- if

19 you want to just.

20 MR. BUONO: If it can be, then there's

21 no other -- don't tell me it's in Washington because

22 if I'm smart enough, I disconnect it, it could be

23 next door.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Your 3 minutes is

25 over.

1 MR. BUONO: I'm gone? That's it?

2 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.

3 A BOARD MEMBER: Let me give a quick  
4 shot, okay? This happened to me at work. My boss a  
5 few months ago has an iPad. Has nothing to do with  
6 Monroe schools. This is an example. He left his  
7 iPad on the plane. It's a wi-fi iPad. And he said  
8 to me he's got personal business information on it  
9 so I went on my computer in the office. I locked  
10 it. Of course, I messed up. I locked the wrong  
11 code. I wrote down the wrong password. As soon as  
12 that iPad got in touch with any wi-fi or somebody  
13 tried to use it, that iPad was useless. He actually  
14 found it, brought it back to the office. It was no  
15 way even Apple could do anything with it. The iPad  
16 is totally useless. Luckily I remembered the  
17 code and got --

18 MR. BUONO: Let's go back to square one.

19 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you, for your  
20 comments.

21 MR. BUONO: As long as it can be,  
22 there's no other conversation because anybody can --

23 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Mr. Tessler.

24 MR. TESSLER: So if somebody does that,  
25 it's rendered useless.

1           MR. MELDEN: My name is Morley Melden.  
2    I live in Greenbriar across the road, and a couple  
3    years ago I suggested to this Board that they  
4    consider suing the state about their contribution to  
5    our funds, and I'm glad to say that there's some  
6    progress going on looking into the legal aspect, and  
7    I helped bring in one of the attorneys that knows  
8    the most about the history of the state, even though  
9    it's a very rugged, terrible history. So you can't  
10   blame it on the present governor. This is a long  
11   history.

12           In any event, I want to bring up another  
13   angle that is very important that hasn't been  
14   mentioned yet. We -- tonight there was some very --  
15   it was a very interesting meeting I found because  
16   even though a lot of people are complaining about  
17   their taxes, it's clear that they don't understand  
18   the whole basis of what's happened to them in  
19   Monroe, and I don't want to go into that except  
20   that's a subject that ought to be explained to  
21   people because it's very serious, and it's things  
22   that we have to do something about, but the purpose  
23   that I have is to bring up the subject of publicity  
24   because we have a terrible story, which is a great  
25   news story, and I can just see a huge poster that

1 shows what Monroe gets from the State of New Jersey  
2 and what Old Bridge and what some of these other  
3 communities around get, and there isn't anybody that  
4 could defend that before anybody that's got any  
5 sense. So what we need to do is find a way to  
6 emphasize that, to get Marcia Kramer from channel 2  
7 news out here to do a story on television because  
8 that's how most people in this country get their  
9 news. Surprisingly, but that's -- they don't read.  
10 They watch television, sound bites.

11       Anyway, there's a lot that we can do.  
12 I've already made contacts with one of the groups,  
13 and we're going to try merging it, and I've come up  
14 with a title because there's something about this  
15 title to me that ought to be considered. Citizens  
16 For Fair Funding of New Jersey Schools. Now, there  
17 are a lot of things about that. First of all, the  
18 word citizens. Citizens vote, and believe me,  
19 seniors vote. Second thing, there's an  
20 alliteration, which I love, for fair funding. Okay.  
21 Now, New Jersey Schools, now, that doesn't mean it's  
22 just Monroe. In other words, this could be  
23 expanded. So all this is flexible. So what we need  
24 to do is start getting -- and we must have had 300  
25 or more people here tonight, okay. Everyone of them

1 would be happy to join this organization because  
2 what they do is they get a card that says you're a  
3 lifetime member, and you get this one-page sheet  
4 also that tells you, you know, what the situation is  
5 between these different school fundings. Okay. One  
6 more minute. And anyway, the hundred -- a hundred  
7 people, each one goes out, gets 10 more members,  
8 that's a thousand. Each one of those gets 10 more  
9 members, that's 10,000, and then you got beginnings  
10 of some real numbers, and I'm telling you there  
11 isn't a governor in the world that can stand the  
12 kind of publicity we can get, and I know it can be  
13 done because we've done this elsewhere. So let's do  
14 it.

15 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.

16 DR. HAMILTON: Mr. Melden, there is a  
17 group --

18 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: We're going to finish  
19 our public forum. Then you can speak.

20 DR. HAMILTON: Mr. Melden, there is a  
21 group that we have been talking to called Save Our  
22 Schools, and that's exactly what their purpose and  
23 mission is, so it may behoove us to encourage our  
24 citizens to be a part of that group, as well.

25 MR. POYE: Good evening, it's Doug Poye,

1 4 Tamarack Road. I've asked that something be  
2 distributed to each of you, and I'm going to  
3 reference that in just a minute, but I do have a  
4 question. The referendum money that we have when we  
5 built the high school, I know there were essentially  
6 two big referendums to get the total amount that we  
7 needed. Are we still paying bills out of that  
8 money?

9 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I'll let Mr. Gorski  
10 answer that.

11 MR. GORSKI: The answer to that is yes.  
12 Recently, for example, the Board of Education  
13 authorized a change order to renovate one of the  
14 classrooms in this building into an autistic room,  
15 and the purpose of that was to bring back in  
16 district autistic pupils instead of paying higher  
17 out-of-district costs. That's estimated to save a  
18 hundred thousand dollars a year once it gets up to  
19 speed.

20 MR. POYE: Okay, and how long do we have  
21 access to those funds for expenditures?

22 MR. GORSKI: Five years after the sale  
23 of the bonds. So it was recommendation of the  
24 finance committee -- there was approximately  
25 \$7 million that were surplus between the two bond

1   referenda, \$3 million of which we're still waiting  
2   from the state grant that I mentioned before. So  
3   \$2 million was used to offset the debt service levy  
4   in 12/13, and it will be recommended to use at least  
5   that much next year to offset the levy and then wrap  
6   it up the later year.

7           MR. POYE: The point of my questioning  
8   is the fact that we seem to have rushed into the  
9   iPad initiative, and we did take a loss. It's clear  
10   to me that we took a loss in terms of what we paid  
11   for it and then what we got back for it, and now we  
12   have indebted the township to the tune of about  
13   \$500,000 for the next 2 years after this one because  
14   this year we've covered it from those other funds  
15   that you explained. Why could we not have waited  
16   before we rushed into it and done a little bit more  
17   research or maybe done a pilot program, things of  
18   that nature, and I don't really expect you to answer  
19   that question, but if we had time to spend those  
20   funds, I don't know why we had to spend them so  
21   quickly and then have this what I consider was a  
22   very bad publicity for the Board of Education, and  
23   I'm not yet convinced that all of our teaching staff  
24   is on board because you're still talking about  
25   training. I just think it could have been

1 implemented quite differently along a different  
2 timeline and maybe we wouldn't have lost any money.

3 Now I'll turn to this other point, and I  
4 brought this tonight to the Board meeting because  
5 I've had a lot of people contact me either in person  
6 when they see me because they know I'm very, very  
7 interested in education, or they have sent me  
8 e-mails, and they -- and one of the earlier speakers  
9 tonight was lamenting the fact that Monroe did not  
10 make the top 100 high schools. Do I need to stop?

11 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Yeah, we are, because  
12 Mike took some of his time.

13 MR. POYE: Okay. So I did some research  
14 from the New Jersey Monthly, the September issue,  
15 and I wanted to point this out, and I'm sorry that  
16 so much of the audience has left because they have  
17 left with the bad news, and I really think there is  
18 some very good news. Our students have done really  
19 quite well, and so has our staff, because our  
20 students don't function without the staff there to  
21 teach them, and so I will point it out to this Board  
22 and to anyone who may hear this, that when you look  
23 at the top 100 that New Jersey Monthly identified,  
24 if you look at the variable of combined SAT scores,  
25 Monroe scored higher than 20 of the high schools in

1 the top 100. That is significant in my opinion. If  
2 you look at the percent of students that scored 3 or  
3 higher on the AP exams, Monroe scored higher than 36  
4 of the top 100 high schools. If you look at the  
5 number of students scoring advanced proficiency in  
6 the state's language arts assessment, Monroe scored  
7 higher than 21 of the top 100 high schools. If you  
8 look at the percent scoring advanced proficiency in  
9 mathematics, Monroe scored higher than 19 of the top  
10 100. And if you look at the percent of 9th grade  
11 students who graduated within 4 years, Monroe scored  
12 higher than 47 of the top 100 high schools. So the  
13 public might wonder, well, why is it that Monroe  
14 didn't make the top 100, and it's because there were  
15 other variables that the New Jersey Monthly uses,  
16 and one of those is class size, and on class size,  
17 Monroe scores abysmally low because we have such a  
18 very high class size. We have a lot of students on  
19 the average in our classes, and that was a very big  
20 factor with them.

21 So I wanted to point that out, and I'm  
22 not going to go into these other statistics. You  
23 have it there. But I also compared Monroe to the  
24 socioeconomic high schools in the district. I  
25 wanted to see how they fared there, and I think they

1      fared quite well, and you have those statistics

2      before you.

3           I also wanted to see how we fared in

4      terms of Middlesex County. There are 22 high

5      schools in Middlesex County, and we fared very well

6      in terms of Middlesex County. So I'm not saying

7      that there's not room for improvement. I definitely

8      believe we can make a better school. We can build a

9      better school. I don't believe it has to cost more

10     money, and what I heard the public saying tonight is

11     the perception among the public is that you want us

12     to have a Cadillac, and we could only afford a

13     Chevrolet. Thank you.

14           MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you.

15           A BOARD MEMBER: Mr. Poye, are you

16     interested in returning to the workforce?

17           MR. POYE: I just have an interest in

18     education, and I don't mind really spending sometime

19     doing some statistical research because I believe

20     it's the data that we have to look at. Thank you.

21           MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from the

22     public?

23           MR. ROCHE: President Obama is there, I

24     guess. Rob Roche, 18 Yorkfield Boulevard, Monroe.

25     Two questions I have. One is about a year ago I

1 requested that the Board, after we had some  
2 discussion with the Board, that they have the public  
3 forum before the closed session, and I was told that  
4 you have to have a closed forum after the closed  
5 session, and but there was no restrictions on having  
6 three public forums. Now, I noticed in looking a  
7 couple months ago at Jamesburg's agenda item, they  
8 had their public forum before their closed (end of  
9 tape 4) I think you should have a closed session --  
10 an open session before the closed session so that  
11 the people didn't have to wait around for an hour or  
12 so. I think that's fairness, fairness to the  
13 public.

14 Second question is that I know that --  
15 my recollection is that there was \$9 million left  
16 over from the construction cost from the bonding, 7  
17 million of which was going to be used for taxpayer  
18 relief, and as Mr. Gorski said, I know the taxpayer  
19 portion of the debt was reduced by 2 million this  
20 year, but Dr. Gorman had indicated that -- and other  
21 2 million has been said many, many, many times that  
22 the iPads cost \$2 million and we sold them for 4  
23 million and we lost 1.6. Now Dr. Gorman is saying  
24 that the iPads cost 1.1 million. So if that is  
25 factually correct, what happened to the other

1 \$900,000 of the budget money, the bonding money that  
2 was used allegedly used for the iPads?

3 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I believe that we  
4 spent \$2 million of that bond referenda money for  
5 technology, \$1.1 million for the iPads. The rest of  
6 it went for different technology pieces of the -- in  
7 the high school. Do you have --

8 MR. GORSKI: There was a resolution that  
9 the Board passed. It was 2.4, \$2.3 million in  
10 total. The iPads were about 1.3 million, as Dr.  
11 Gorman mentioned earlier, and the difference was  
12 made up of some laptop computers for specific  
13 autoCAD programs that couldn't be run on the Apple  
14 devices, and there was also servers and some other  
15 technology that was implemented throughout the  
16 school, monitors and things like that.

17 MR. ROCHE: You indicated that during  
18 the meeting last year as I recall that you had a  
19 legal opinion that the iPads could be purchased  
20 under the technology. Does the legal opinion  
21 include these other items that you purchased?

22 MR. GORSKI: Yes.

23 MR. ROCHE: Thank you.

24 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Anyone else from the  
25 public? Mr. Homoki, nice to see you.

1 MR. HOMOKI: Joe Homoki, 61 Hoffman  
2 Road. A year ago I was here and I spoke about  
3 Monroe trying to get into the top 100, and I think  
4 you said, Doctor, that your goal is to be under 100,  
5 and unfortunately we didn't make it, and I'm very  
6 disappointed in that. Even though we add all those  
7 good views, I'm surprised that we didn't make it. I  
8 don't understand just one thing can disqualify us.  
9 But I think tonight was the perfect storm. You had  
10 a large concerned audience. You had issues of  
11 iPads, taxes, state aid, petition. And I just like  
12 to mention that Mark Klein, who's been preaching for  
13 the last 3 years the same thing over and over again,  
14 and every Board member here could repeat what Mark  
15 has said over and over again, and I think finally  
16 Mark is coming to fruition because we have a  
17 petition. Maybe something will get going.

18 My personal opinion is that our two  
19 assembly people and the senator have not done enough  
20 for our district. They have not done enough. I  
21 don't know if you know or not, but how much per  
22 pupil is Hamilton Township getting? Does anybody  
23 know? Maybe --

24 A BOARD MEMBER: Four thousand.

25 MR. HOMOKI: Four thousand per?

1           A BOARD MEMBER: Yes.

2           MR. HOMOKI: Okay. But anyway, I don't  
3 think they have done enough, and I think maybe with  
4 the petition that's presented to them and to others,  
5 maybe something will get going. So I really think  
6 that Mark deserves a lot of credit even though he  
7 bored a lot of people because of the same thing over  
8 and over and over again. Even I can make the  
9 speech, Mark.

10          Just a couple of observations. The  
11 plaque. It took you 3 years to make a decision on a  
12 plaque. That's unbelievable. And my experience has  
13 been over the last 12, 14, 15, years, it was never a  
14 committee issue. It was always automatic. The  
15 architect automatically put the thing up. You never  
16 even talked about it. It was just up. That's the  
17 way it used to go, and I think that's the way it  
18 should go, so I think you made the right decision on  
19 that.

20          The other thing is the state aid is  
21 established, and I think you have to live within  
22 those means. It's not going to change. It's not  
23 going to change. Let me tell you, aside from the  
24 two assembly people and the senator, the others  
25 really don't care about Monroe Township. They don't

1 care about the problems you have over here. They  
2 could care less. They only care about their own  
3 district. They push for their own districts.

4 One more remark about iPads. The only  
5 thing that I would have done differently is not to  
6 go wholesale. It doesn't make any sense. In  
7 education, what we do is -- since I was an  
8 educator -- you always run a small group, control  
9 group, and then you assess, evaluate how it worked  
10 out. Then you go big time. That would save you a  
11 lot of headaches, a lot of money, and a lot of  
12 aggravation that you had here tonight. So that's  
13 just a recommendation in future if you do anything  
14 brand new, so dramatic, try a control group first,  
15 and if it works, go big time. If it doesn't work,  
16 abandon it, you don't lose too much.

17 That's about it. And it's nice to be on  
18 the other side instead of being on that side. Have  
19 a good night.

20 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Homoki. After public forum.

22 MR. BERKIN: Hi, I'm back again, Harvey  
23 Berkin, 112 Gascony Avenue. Again, techy question.  
24 I just overheard that you're using autoCAD. Did you  
25 consider using SolidWorks? SolidWorks is one of the

1 primary 3D soft wears that's being used in college  
2 and in the industries. AutoCAD is an archaic thing  
3 that I used way back like 40 years ago, but it's  
4 been trying to catch up on technology standpoint  
5 from a 3D, which the children need now using  
6 surfacing and all sorts of things electrical,  
7 mechanical, piping, is the way to go or consider,  
8 and there can be used on laptops, not iPads. Just  
9 something to throw out.

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

12 MR. LEARY: Now may I talk?

13 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: I didn't close the  
14 public forum yet. Seeing no one, I close the public  
15 forum, and, Mr. Leary, I will let you speak.

16 MR. LEARY: Approximately the year 2007,  
17 we had the Libertarian Party come and wage a lawsuit  
18 against us, and we had the misfortune of going  
19 before Judge Alexander Wang in New Brunswick, and he  
20 is the gavone who came up with the rule that we have  
21 to live by. It's a court order. So we have nothing  
22 to do with it. Everybody else can be sensible. We  
23 were sensible before, but the Libertarian Party came  
24 in, and they gave us the shaft.

25 Secondly, Doug is right on, but the

1     thing is, take a look at the Inside Jersey Magazine

2     that was what, 10 days ago or so, Dr. Hamilton.

3             DR. HAMILTON: Yes, sir.

4             MR. LEARY: And it went and looked at

5     the schools on a county-by-county basis, and

6     remember, Middlesex County is the second biggest

7     county in the state. Only Bergen is bigger. We

8     have surpassed Essex. And we come in -- and there

9     are only eight comprehensive schools that they look

10    at. The other two are specialized schools that are

11    magnet schools. They are for engineering and for

12    health science. But of the eight schools, the

13    comprehensive schools, we are right in their

14    cluster, and we have done remarkable, and Doug is

15    absolutely right, and I want to compliment him on

16    that.

17             But the -- again, I will go back to my

18    prior statement. This Board has worked very hard,

19    and when you look at things on a per student basis

20    and fold in the consumer price index increases, we

21    have done a remarkable job, particularly in light of

22    things that Amy was talking about, all these

23    mandates that are coming crashing in on our head on

24    a per student basis with consumer price index

25    factored in over the last 10 years, 4 percent

1 increase, and when you factor in all of the  
2 mandates, we've done a superb job. End of  
3 statement.

4 MS. KOLUPANOWICH: Thank you, Mr. Leary.

5 Okay. Seeing that we have closed public forum, our  
6 next scheduled public Board of Education meeting is  
7 Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 7 o'clock p.m. at the  
8 high school. A motion to adjourn.

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1 BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2 TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
3 COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX  
4 STATE OF NEW JERSEY

5  
6 In the Matter of: )  
7 MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2012) CERTIFICATE  
8 -----  
9

10 I, DEBORAH A. MASTERTON, a Certified Court  
11 Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New  
12 Jersey, certify that the foregoing is a true and  
13 accurate transcript of the TAPED proceedings in the  
14 above entitled matter at the time and place  
15 aforesaid.

16  
17 DATE: November 2, 2012  
18  
19  
20

21 License No. XI001655  
22  
23  
24  
25

**MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**423 Buckelew Avenue**

**Monroe Township, New Jersey 08831**

**(732) 521-1500**

**Fax (732) 521-1628**

**MICHAEL C. GORSKI**

**Business Administrator/**

**Board Secretary**

**Vision Statement**

“The Monroe Township Board of Education commits itself to all children by preparing them to reach their full potential and to function in a global society through a preeminent education.”

**Mission Statement**

“The Monroe Public Schools, in collaboration with the members of the community, shall ensure that all children receive an exemplary education by well trained, committed staff in a safe and orderly environment.”

**AGENDA**

PUBLIC MEETING WEDNESDAY,

SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

7:00 P.M. HIGH

SCHOOL

**(PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS DURING THE MEETING)**

**(Recording Board Meetings)\*\***

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Kathy Kolupanowich, Board President

Mr. Ken Chiarella, Board Vice President

Ms. Amy Antelis

Mr. Marvin I. Braverman

Mr. Lew Kaufman  
Mr. Mark Klein  
Mr. John Leary  
Mr. Louis C. Masters  
Mr. Ira Tessler

JAMESBURG BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Patrice Faraone

3. STATEMENT (BOARD PRESIDENT)

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 August 11, 2012:

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

4. JAMESBURG TUITION UPDATE

5. PUBLIC FORUM \*

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. It is recommended that the Board rescind the contract of **Ms. Dominique LaCava**, teacher of Kindergarten Self Contained leave replacement at Barclay Brook, effective August 22, 2012.
- B. It is recommended that the Board rescind the contract of **Ms. Sarah Roman**, teacher of Language Arts leave replacement at the High School, effective August 24, 2012.
- C. It is recommended that the Board rescind the contract of **Ms. Allison McGrath**, teacher of Special Education leave replacement at MTMS, effective September 2, 2012.
- D. It is recommended that the Board approve the resignation, due to retirement, of **Ms. Cynthia Cook**, Basic Skills teacher at Mill Lake School, effective February 1, 2013.

- E. It is recommended that the Board accept the resignation of **Ms. Sara Cox**, as the Italian Honor Society Advisor (50%) effective September 1, 2012.
- F. It is recommended that the Board approve a medical leave of absence to **Ms. Terri Gross**, teacher of grade 2 at Oak Tree School, effective September 4, 2012 through October 5, 2012 in accordance with Article 17, Paragraph B.2 in the collective negotiations agreement between the Monroe Township Board of Education and the Monroe Township Education Association covering the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except to the extent of any sick days to which Ms. Gross may be entitled.
- G. It is recommended that the Board approve a maternity leave of absence to **Ms. Sinead Kelly**, teacher of Spanish at the High School, effective October 8, 2012 through April 1, 2013 in accordance with Article 17, Paragraph B.1 in the collective negotiations agreement between the Monroe Township Board of Education and the Monroe Township Education Association covering the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except to the extent of any sick days to which Ms. Kelly may be entitled.
- H. It is recommended that the Board approve an extended maternity leave of absence to **Ms. Jennifer Murad**, teacher of grade 5 at Brookside School, effective January 7, 2013 through April 25, 2013 in accordance with Article 17, Paragraph B.1 in the collective negotiations agreement between the Monroe Township Board of Education and the Monroe Township Education Association covering the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014. It is further recommended that this leave shall be without pay except to the extent of any sick days to which Ms. Murad may be entitled.
- I. It is recommended that the Board approve an unpaid intermittent leave of absence under FMLA to **Ms. Sharon Rusnak**, teacher of Special Education at the Middle School, effective September 13, 2012 through June 30, 2013.
- J. It is recommended that the Board approve the following personnel for salary guide changes retroactive to September 1, 2012 due to step advancement:

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Kimberly Lowden    | Step 5 BA+15  |
| Jennifer Hyer      | Step 1 BA+15  |
| Samantha McCloud   | Step 8A BA+15 |
| David Rattner      | Step 7 BA+15  |
| Christopher Thumm  | Step 6 BA+15  |
| Crystal Graney     | Step 2 BA+15  |
| Marisa Leston      | Step 5 MA     |
| Meryn Kies         | Step 3 MA     |
| Kathleen Dougherty | Step 2 BA+15  |
| Natalie Burd       | Step 5 MA+30  |

- K.** It is recommended that the Board approve **Ms. Irene Baratta**, School Psychologist at the High School, to work additional days for the completion of IEP and Meetings at the hourly supplemental rate \$53.87.
- L.** It is recommended that the Board approve the following personnel for the school goals committee at for the 2012-2013 school year at an annual stipend of \$286:

**Woodland School**

Tricia Rutherford  
Victoria Trent  
Susan Green-Nowachek  
Kristen Hummel  
Olimpia Ciccarella

**Mill Lake School**

Meryn Kies  
Sandy Cormey  
Jennifer Murray  
Carole Murphy  
Melissa Fletcher

- M.** It is recommended that the Board approve the following teachers for After School Detention at the High School for the 2012-2013 school year, 1 teacher for 1 hour 45 minutes per day, day on a rotational basis for 180 days at the hourly non-instructional rate (\$44.85) account no. 11-140-100-101-000-070:

Kenneth Chanley  
Denise DiMeola  
Renee Hardt  
Courtney Pepe  
Jovanna Quindes  
Christopher Thumm  
Scott Wall

- N.** It is recommended that the Board approve the following personnel at the High School for After School Cafeteria Supervision for 2 hours per day (second session 4:15-6:15), two teachers per day on a rotational basis for 180 days at the hourly non-instructional supplemental rate (\$44.85) for the 2012-2013 school year, account no. 11-140-100-101-000-070:

Michelle Ballard  
 Laura Granett  
 Deborah Stapenski  
 Matthew Hardt  
 Lorraine Ongaro  
 Christine Duane  
 Michael Wall  
 Sherry Holmes  
 Courtney Pepe

- O.** It is recommended that the Board approve the correction of the following coaching positions at the High School for the 2012-2013 school year:

|                 |                      |        |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------|
| Michael Collins | Head Volleyball 50%  | Step 3 |
| Julia Bulkley   | Head Volleyball 50%  | Step 3 |
| Michael Collins | Asst. Volleyball 50% | Step 3 |
| Julia Bulkley   | Asst. Volleyball 50% | Step 3 |

- P.** It is recommended that the Board approve an increase in the hours of the following bus drivers for the 2012-2013 school year:

| <u>DRIVER</u>           | <u>Current Hours</u> | <u>Increased to</u> | <u>Rationale</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Maria Cristina Salvador | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Julie Magid             | 6                    | 7.5                 | Midday route     |
| Carol Buhl              | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Nina Greene             | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Patricia Kortlang       | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Corrine Larsen          | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Robert Learn            | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Suzanne Lohman          | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Regina Martyka          | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Linda Modzelewski       | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Maureen Prusakowski     | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Georgette Salvatoriello | 6                    | 8                   | Midday route     |
| Christine Tuminello     | 6                    | 6.5                 | Early HS route   |
| Kathleen Pietz          | 6                    | 6.5                 | Early HS route   |

- Q.** It is recommended that the Board approve the following personnel for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Orientation for two hours at the non-instruction rate of \$44.85 per hour on August 29, 2012:

Adele Hughes  
Dina Dale  
Elisa Bifulco

- R.** It is recommended that the board approve the following personnel for advisory positions at MTMS for the 2012-2013 school year:

|                     |                  |         |
|---------------------|------------------|---------|
| Costume Coordinator | Michelle Murphy  | \$800   |
| Backstage Assistant | Nicole DiLorenzo | \$1,200 |

- S.** It is recommended that the Board approve the following chaperones for the MTMS school dances for two hours at the non-instructional rate \$44.85 on the following dates:

**Grade 6 – October 12, 2012**

Juliane LeBron  
Pam Smith  
Katy Elias  
Nancy Markwell  
Mike Joffe

**Grade 7 – October 19, 2012**

Jessica Consiglio  
Erin Muschla Berry  
Debbie Stoller  
Nancy Markwell  
Chris Sidler

**Grade 8 – October 26, 2012**

Angela Best  
Mike Cappel  
Linda Magee  
Nancy Markwell  
Lindsay Ostroski

- T.** It is recommended that the Board approve the following teachers for CMAC at the High School for the 2012-2013 school year, 2 teachers one hour per day on a rotational basis for 180 days at the hourly instructional rate \$53.87 account no. 11-140-100-101-000-070:

Katelyn Goodman  
Myra Dabkowski

- U. It is recommended that the Board approve the following personnel as teachers /substitute teachers and paraprofessionals/substitute paraprofessionals for the After School Basic Skills Program (pending enrollment):

**Oak Tree BSI Teachers**

Amandalee Bryant  
John Gleason Ben  
Howroyd Amanda  
Koekemoer Katerine  
Luberecki Amanda  
Thaiss

**Oak Tree Teachers/Substitute BSI Teachers**

Melissa Bordeiri  
Denise Cassilli  
Judy Leonard  
Ashlee Torres  
Stephanie Chin  
Maggie Fidura  
Jennifer Mordes  
Diane Ostroski

**Woodland BSI Teachers/Substitute Teachers**

Michelle Ballard  
Olimpia Ciccarella  
Deborah DeBoer  
Jennifer DeLellis  
Christine Duane  
Andrea Forlenza  
Matt Gorham  
Lisa Guiral Lisa  
Labenski Janine  
Levitt Abbe  
Lustgarden  
Audrey Mahler  
Natalie Michael  
Nicholas Reinhold  
Tricia Rutherford  
Erika Sommerhalter  
Sarah Spilken  
Trisha Steines  
Maura Towne  
Victoria Trent  
Scott Wall

**Woodland BSI Paraprofessional/Substitute Paraprofessionals:**

Wendy Cerbie

Mary Lowndes

Renee Zappone

**Brookside BSI Teachers/Substitute Teachers**

Pauline Amabile

Theresa Anthony

Michelle Ballard

Kristen Brown

Kimberly Burroughs

Danielle Coccuzza

Victoria DeCarlo

Angel Decker

Carol DeVito

Christine Duane

Sarah Levine

Abbe Lustgarden

Diana Mazurek

Jessica McDermott

Jaclynn Merlette

Beth Nagle

Allison North

Courtney Pepe

Nanci Quarino

Ann Ratcliffe

Gina Robinson

**Brookside BSI Paraprofessional:**

Karen Chu

**Brookside Substitute paraprofessional:**

Fran Wilden

V. It is recommended that the Board approve the following non-certificated personnel at the following steps on guide:

| Employee       | School         | Position                       | Salary Guide                          | Account No.                | Dates                    | Reason for hire  |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Susan Lederman | Applegarth     | Secretary                      | Step 1<br>(10month<br>guide) \$37,012 | 11-000-240-<br>105-000-080 | 9/1/12-<br>6/30/13       | New position     |
| Joseph Muszel  | Central Office | Free/Reduced Lunch Coordinator | \$4,687 stipend                       | 11-000-251-<br>100-000-095 | 2012-2013<br>school year | Stipend position |

|                    |                |                             |                                           |                                                  |                                                 |                                              |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Marissa Jendras    | Oak Tree       | Personal Para               | Step 1 Spec. Ed. \$13.50 hr. for 3.75 hrs | 11-213-100-106-000-093                           | 9/5/12-12/21/12                                 | New position                                 |
| Tami Goldstein     | Oak Tree       | Personal Para               | Step 1 Spec. Ed. \$13.50 hr. for 3.75 hrs | 11-213-100-106-000-093                           | 9/5/12-12/21/12                                 | New position                                 |
| Laurie Rubin       | Brookside      | Resource Para               | Step 8 Spec. Ed. 6.75/hrs                 | 11-213-100-106-000-093                           | 9/4/12-6/30/13                                  | Change in hours                              |
| Lisa Dancyger      | Oak Tree       | Paraprofessional            | Step 1 Reg. Ed 3.0/hr Step 1 Spec. 75/hrs | 11-190-100-106-000-060<br>11-213-100-101-000-093 | 9/4/12-6/30/13                                  | Change in hours                              |
| Maria Alongi       | MECA           | Teacher Assistant           | \$11.50/hr for 3.75 hrs day               | 64-990-320-100-105-098                           | 9/4/12-6/30/13 pending criminal history         | MECA position                                |
| Kara Mauceri       | MECA           | Teacher Assistant           | \$11.50/hr for 3.75 hrs day               | 64-990-320-100-105-098                           | 9/4/12-6/30/13 pending criminal history         | MECA position                                |
| Kerry Esposito     | MECA           | Teacher Assistant           | \$11.50/hr for 3.75 hrs day               | 64-990-320-100-105-098                           | 9/4/12-6/30/13 pending criminal history         | MECA position                                |
| Lisa Cannata       | Applegarth     | Lunch Para                  | Step 1 Reg. \$12.50/hr for 2.0 hours      | 11-000-240-105-000-080                           | 9/13/12-6/30/13 pending receipt of fingerprints | New position                                 |
| Sandra Watkins     | HS             | Custodian                   | Step 1 \$19.50+ second shift 8/hrs        | 11-000-262-100-000-070                           | 10/22/12-6/30/13                                | Retirement replacement Transferred from MECA |
| Jacqueline Ray     | Transportation | Bus Driver                  | Step 10 \$24.54/hr 6.0/hrs day            | 11-000-270-160-000-096                           | 9/1/12-6/30/13                                  | Renewal                                      |
| Diane Arcaro       | Woodland       | Paraprofessional – Resource | Step 8 Spec. Ed.                          | 11-213-100-106-000-093                           | 9/1/12-6/30/13                                  | Transfer from Brookside                      |
| Jennifer Patricolo | Applegarth     | Paraprofessional            | Step 1 Reg. \$12.50/hr for 2.5 hours/day  | 11-000-240-105-000-080                           | 9/10/12-6/30/13                                 | Change in start date                         |

|                   |               |                                |                                              |                            |                     |                         |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Suzanna Fortunato | Barclay Brook | Paraprofessional               | Step 3 Reg.<br>\$12.50/hr for<br>3.5 hrs.    | 11-000-240-<br>105-000-010 | 9/10/12-<br>6/30/13 | Increase in<br>hours    |
| Dina Avitto       | Mill Lake     | Paraprofessional<br>-Cafeteria | Step 1 Reg.<br>Ed. 2.5 hrs day<br>\$12.50/hr | 11-000-240-<br>105-000-080 | 9/10/12-<br>6/30/13 | Change in<br>start date |

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

| <b>Employee</b>   | <b>School</b> | <b>Position</b>                             | <b>Salary Guide</b>                           | <b>Account No.</b>         | <b>Dates</b>                                                       | <b>Reason for hire</b>      |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ryan Parker       | HS            | Biology                                     | Step 2 BA+15<br>\$48,734+1750                 | 11-130-100-<br>101-000-070 | 11/12/12-<br>6/30/13                                               | Replacement<br>position     |
| Karen Bieri       | MTMS          | Teacher of<br>Family<br>Consumer<br>Science | Step 5 MA+30<br>\$49,434+\$4350               | 11-130-100-<br>101-000-080 | 9/11/12-<br>6/30/13                                                | Replacement<br>position     |
| Desiree Farra     | HS            | Teacher of<br>Family<br>Consumer<br>Science | Step 1 BA<br>\$48,579                         | 11-130-100-<br>101-000-070 | 9/1/12-<br>6/30/13<br>pending<br>receipt of<br>criminal<br>history | Replacement<br>position     |
| Kristen Scalcione | MTMS          | Teacher of the<br>Handicapped               | Step 1 BA<br>\$48,579 pro<br>rated            | 11-204-100-<br>101-000-093 | 9/13/12-<br>12/21/12<br>Pending<br>criminal<br>history             | Leave<br>replacement        |
| Chelsea Walford   | Barclay Brook | Special Ed<br>Kindergarten                  | Step 1 BA<br>\$48,579 pro<br>rated            | 11-204-100-<br>101-000-093 | 9/4/12-<br>1/18/13                                                 | Leave<br>replacement        |
| Jamie Neues       | HS            | Teacher of<br>Language Arts                 | Step 1 BA<br>\$48,579 pro<br>rated            | 11-130-100-<br>101-000-070 | 9/18/12-<br>11/5/12 pro<br>rated                                   | Leave<br>replacement        |
| Patricia Regan    | Brookside     | Media Specialist                            | 6BA+15 40%<br><br>6BA+15 100%<br>eff. 9/24/12 | 11-000-222-<br>100-000-098 | 9/4/12-<br>9/23/13<br><br>9/24/12-<br>6/30/13                      | Modification<br>in contract |
| Jessica Paparelli | Mill Lake     | Teacher of grade<br>1                       | Step 1 MA<br>\$48,579+3450                    | 11-120-100-<br>101-000-040 | 9/4/12-<br>1/18/13                                                 | Correction<br>on guide to   |

|                      |            |                             |                                                            |                                                                              |                       |                                                |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
|                      |            |                             | pro rated                                                  |                                                                              |                       | reflect master's degree                        |
| Marie Lucille Strano | HS         | Art                         | Step 3 BA+15<br>\$48,934+\$1750<br>pro rated               | 11-130-100-101-000-070                                                       | 9/4/12-11/19/12       | Correction on guide                            |
| Matthew Cano         | MTMS       | Social Studies              | Step 1 MA<br>\$48,579<br>+\$3450 pro rated                 | 11-130-100-101-000-080                                                       | 9/4/12-11/4/12        | Correction on guide to reflect master's degree |
| Jennifer Coccia      | HS         | Chemistry                   | Step 2 MA<br>\$48,734+3450                                 | 11-130-100-101-000-070                                                       | 9/4/12-6/30/13        | Correction on guide to reflect master's degree |
| Melissa Galazin      | AS/BS/WL   | Accelerated math            | Step 3 MA<br>100%<br>\$48,934<br>+\$3450                   | 11-120-100-101-000-080,<br>11-120-100-101-000-050,<br>11-120-100-101-000-030 | 9/1/12-6/30/13        | Modification in contract                       |
| Abbe Fleming         | Woodland   | Student Council             | \$1335                                                     | 11-120-100-101-000-030                                                       | 2012-2013 school year | Stipend position                               |
| Victoria Trent       | Woodland   | Zero period                 | \$53.87 hourly supplemental                                | 11-120-100-101-000-030                                                       | 9/5/12-6/24/13        | Ongoing                                        |
| Bethanne Augsbach    | Woodland   | IAQ Coordinator             | Up to 10 hours per month at non-instructional rate \$44.85 | 11-120-100-101-000-030                                                       | 9/5/12-6/24/13        | Ongoing                                        |
| Danielle Drust       | MTHS       | Science Coordinator         | \$7582 base adjustment                                     | 11-130-100-101-000-070                                                       | 9/13/12-6/30/13       | Replacement position                           |
| Ania Shanholtzer     | Applegarth | Student Council             | \$1335 stipend                                             | 11-120-100-101-000-080,                                                      | 9/1/12-6/30/13        | Advisor position                               |
| Victoria DeCarlo     | Brookside  | Substitute After School TAG | \$77.56 session                                            | 11-120-100-101-000-050                                                       | 9/1/12-6/30/13        | Substitute                                     |
| Natalie Burd         | MTMS       | Wilson Program              | 117% contract – zero period                                | 11-213-100-101-000-093                                                       | 9/1/12-6/30/13        | Existing program                               |
| Judy Firestine       | MTMS       | Decoding Program            | 117% contract – zero period                                | 11-213-100-101-000-093                                                       | 9/1/12-6/30/13        | Existing program                               |
| Michelle Ballard     | HS         | Special Education           | 117% contract – additional                                 | 11-213-100-101-000-093                                                       | 9/1/12-6/30/13        | Increased enrollment                           |

|                   |      |                     |                                         |                        |                                  |                                      |
|-------------------|------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                   |      |                     | section                                 |                        |                                  |                                      |
| Matthew Hardt     | HS   | Special Education   | 117% contract – additional section      | 11-213-100-101-000-093 | 9/1/12-pending return of teacher | Leave replacement additional section |
| Christine Duane   | HS   | Special Education   | 117% contract – additional section      | 11-213-100-101-000-093 | 9/1/12-pending return of teacher | Leave replacement additional section |
| Katerina Profaci  | HS   | Special Education   | 117% contract – additional section      | 11-213-100-101-000-093 | 9/1/12-pending return of teacher | Leave replacement additional section |
| Nicholas Puleio   | HS   | Special Education   | 117% contract – additional section      | 11-213-100-101-000-093 | 9/1/12-pending return of teacher | Leave replacement additional section |
| Deborah DeBoer    | HS   | Special Education   | 117% contract – additional section      | 11-213-100-101-000-093 | 9/1/12-pending return of teacher | Leave replacement additional section |
| Christine Viskoki | MTMS | AVID elective class | 117% contract – additional AVID section | FUND20                 | 9/5/12-6/30/13                   | Additional section                   |
| Cybele Posner     | MTMS | AVID elective class | 117% contract – additional AVID section | FUND20                 | 9/5/12-6/30/13                   | Additional section                   |
| Linda Magee       | MTMS | AVID elective class | 117% contract – additional AVID section | FUND20                 | 9/5/12-6/30/13                   | Additional section                   |
| Sherri Fatovic    | MTMS | AVID elective class | 117% contract – additional AVID section | FUND20                 | 9/5/12-6/30/13                   | Additional section                   |

|               |    |                                     |              |                         |                       |                   |
|---------------|----|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Mark Wetzel   | HS | Ice Hockey Coach                    | Volunteer    | 11-402-100-1000-000-098 | 2012-2013 school year | Volunteer coach   |
| Marisa Milas  | HS | Italian Honor Society Advisor (50%) | \$1721 (50%) | 11-401-100-1000-000-098 | 2012-2013 school year | Advisor           |
| Tina Lambiase | HS | Coaches Club                        | Volunteer    | 11-401-100-1000-000-098 | 2012-2013 school year | Advisor-volunteer |

- X. It is recommended that the Board approve the following substitutes for the 2012-2013 school year:

Certificated

Michael Elgawly  
Meredith Werbler  
Steve Rowack  
Anju Bhasin

Substitute Teacher  
Substitute Teacher  
Substitute Teacher  
Substitute Teacher

Non-Certificated

Lori Walenty  
Andrew Pereira  
Ryan Kroon  
Christina Primavera  
Stephanie Straglinos

Paraprofessional  
Computer Technician  
Computer Technician  
Avid Tutor  
Avid Tutor

## II. Board Action

### A. Residency Contract

In accordance with Policy #5111 regarding residency contracts, it is recommended that the Board approve the enrollment of the children noted on the attached Residency Contract whose family is under contract for future residency in Monroe Township.

- B. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of requests for Staff Professional Development.
- C. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of requests for Field Trips.
- D. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached list of Student Teachers for the 2012-2013 school year.
- E. It is recommended that the Board approve the attached Side Bar Agreement between the Monroe Township Board of Education and the Monroe Township Education Association.

- F. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the suspension with pay of employee no. 003190, retroactively, upon the commencement of the work day on September 5, 2012 pending further action of the Board. The Superintendent and the Business Administrator/Board Secretary are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary steps to implement this action of the Board of Education.
- G. It is recommended that the Board of Education: (1) approve the previously submitted Separation Agreement and General Release between the Monroe Township Board of Education and employee no. 002679 (2) appoint employee no. 002679 as a school bus driver in the Monroe Township School District, effective, retroactively, for the period from July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012; (3) approve an unpaid leave of absence for employee no. 002679, effective, retroactively, for the period from September 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012; and (4) accept employee no. 002679 resignation, effective at the close of business on December 31, 2012. The Board President, the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and Board counsel are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary steps to implement the aforesaid Separation Agreement and General Release.
- H. It is recommended that the Board approve the following curriculum for the 2012-2013 school year:
- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Language Arts Grade K            | AP Calculus AB                |
| Language Arts Grade 1            | Calculus Honors               |
| Language Arts Grade 3            | iOS Application Development   |
| Language Arts Grade 4            | Senior Mathematics Essentials |
| Language Arts Grade 6            | Calculus Honors               |
| Language Arts Grade 7            | Studio Art II                 |
| Language Arts Grade 8            | AP Psychology                 |
| Language Arts II                 | Geometry Honors               |
| Language Arts II Honors          |                               |
| Language Arts III Language Arts  |                               |
| III Honors Language Arts IV      |                               |
| Honors Mystery, Crime and the    |                               |
| Criminal Search for Self in Pop  |                               |
| Culture Public Speaking          |                               |
| Advanced Placement Language Arts |                               |
| Journalism I                     |                               |
| World Studies Grade 9            |                               |
| World History Honors             |                               |
| US History I Honors              |                               |
| Video Production II              |                               |

- I. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Monroe Township Board of Education (“the Board”) participated in a Board Retreat on Saturday, August 25, 2012, and

WHEREAS as this retreat was facilitated by NJSBA Field Representative Gwen Thornton, and

WHEREAS, each board member in attendance was able to express the many things the district has accomplished within the last year, and

WHEREAS, the Board believes considerable progress has been made on the currently established District goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Monroe Township Board of Education formerly adopt the following Board goals:

1. To develop a strategic plan around the following six key areas to engage the community and maintain instructional excellence.

- a. Communication
- b. Community Engagement/Business Partnership
- c. Instruction
- d. Facilities
- e. Technology/Fine Arts
- f. Fiscal Accountability

2. To review, evaluate and assess current programs and structures including identifying and developing a schedule for review. The coming year the focus will be on the technology and structures (Standard Operating Procedures).

3. Develop a budget philosophy, parameters and framework for developing 2012-2013 budget; and

HEREBY formally adopt these goals and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to implement strategies necessary to accomplish these goals.

- J. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Monroe Township Board of Education (“the Board”) attests that the State has failed to fully fund the School Funding Reform Action of 2008; and

WHEREAS, the State’s failure to fully fund the SFRA has resulted in a decrease in state aid to Monroe Township; and

WHEREAS, this decrease has placed the Monroe Township School District at a disadvantage; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township School District has pursued all reasonable avenues to reverse this pattern, and

WHEREAS, the Board, in collaboration with the Superintendent of Schools and the Monroe Township Municipal Government, believes a concerted effort between these two bodies may generate better results, and

WHEREAS, if the State fully funded the SFRA and did not defer payments Monroe would receive an additional \$6,902,041; and

WHEREAS, if the State continues to fail to fund the formula, it could severely stress the property tax reliant model to a point where taxpayers would no longer be able to support the high quality education and supplemental services currently provided to Monroe students; and

WHEREAS, if the State had fulfilled its obligation to Monroe Township students in the 2012-2013 school year, the Monroe Township School budget would have resulted in a slight school tax decrease.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Monroe Township Board of Education put the State Department of Education on notice through the distribution of a community-wide petition that the citizens of Monroe have demanded action by the State Department of Education to fully fund the formula in order to offset the impact of the school budget on the local taxpayer.

## 7. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT/RECOMMENDATIONS

### BOARD ACTION

#### A. BILL LIST

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$4,346,590.21 for July 2012 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

#### B. SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL & CASH REPORT

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2-11(c)4, Be It Resolved that the Board of Education hereby certifies that it is in receipt of the Financial Reports for July 2012, which indicates that no major accounts or funds have been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the fiscal year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b). In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, Be It Further Resolved that the Board Secretary certifies that the July 2012

Secretary's Report indicates that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

C. TRANSFER #1

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Transfer #1 as presented for fiscal year 2012/13. A copy is attached hereto.

D. BILL LIST

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$9,869,437.12 for August 2012 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

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

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$55,968.00 for August 2012 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

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

It is recommended that the bills totaling \$105,088.36 for August 2012 be ratified by the Board. The bills have been reviewed by the Chairperson of the Finance Committee and certified by the Board Secretary.

G. SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL & CASH REPORT

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2-11(c)4, Be It Resolved that the Board of Education hereby certifies that it is in receipt of the Financial Reports for August 2012, which indicates that no major accounts or funds have been over expended and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the fiscal year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(b). In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(c)3, Be It Further Resolved that the Board Secretary certifies that the August 2012 Secretary's Report indicates that no line item account has encumbrances and expenditures which in total exceed the line item appropriation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a).

#### H. TRANSFER #2

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Transfer #2 as presented for fiscal year 2012/13. A copy is attached hereto.

#### I. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

1. It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Summit Speech School to provide service to a student who is hearing impaired at the following fee: 40 sessions for \$145.00 per session for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.
2. It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services, Inc., for the 2012-2013 school year to assist a student to and from school on the bus and during the school day at the hourly rate of \$55.00 per hour for an RN and \$49.00 per hour for an LPN.
3. It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve Oxford Consulting Services, Inc. to provide Speech and Language services at the rate of \$100. Per hour to cover for leave replacements for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.
4. It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve TALX UC eXpress Corporation to provide unemployment cost management services for fiscal year 2012/13. The estimated annual cost is \$700.

#### J. ICE RENTAL AGREEMENT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the attached agreement between Rams Associates, LP d/b/a Jersey Shore Arena and the Monroe Township Board of Education to provide ice rental time for a three year period commencing May 1, 2012 Please refer to attached for supplemental information.

#### K. SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES - CONTRACT RENEWAL

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education authorize Michael C. Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Purchasing Agent to renew the contract for snow removal services between the Monroe Township Board of Education and Garden Irrigation for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Terms of the contract renewal in accordance with November 16, 2011 initial bid contract award. Please refer to attached for supplemental information.

L. GROUNDS CARE MAINTENANCE – CONTRACT RENEWAL

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education authorize Michael C. Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Purchasing Agent to renew the contract for grounds care services service between the Monroe Township Board of Education and Pleasant View Landscaping for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Terms of the contract renewal in accordance with March 22, 2012 initial bid contract award. Please refer to attached for supplemental information.

M. BID AUTHORIZATION – GARBAGE DISPOSAL SERVICES

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education authorize Michael C. Gorski, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Purchasing Agent to advertise for and solicit bids for garbage disposal services for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

N. EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PLAN AGREEMENT

It is recommended that members of the Board of Education approve the Employee Assistance Program Plan Agreement between Saint Barnabas Management Services and the Monroe Township Board of Education for the period commencing October 1, 2012 and until September 30, 2013. Please refer to attached for supplemental information.

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

8. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

10. OTHER BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS

#### 11. CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Township of Monroe hereby moves to go into Closed Session, in accordance with Sunshine Law, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975(N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 through 10:4-21), to discuss the following subject(s):

Personnel: Employee No. 003190

Other: Legal Advice

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

#### 12. PUBLIC FORUM \*

#### 13. NEXT SCHEDULED PUBLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER, 17, 2012 – 7:00 PM - AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

\* Public discussion is confined to this portion of the agenda unless permission is granted by the Board President prior to the start of the meeting or when the Board is considering a special agenda item that the Board deems appropriate for public participation. Anyone wishing to address the Board is requested to stand and state his/her name and address.

\*\* Any member of the public may record the proceedings of a public meeting of the Board in a manner that does not interrupt the proceedings, inhibit the conduct of the meeting, or distract Board members or other observers present at the meeting.

The Board will permit the use of tape recorder(s), still or movie camera(s), or videotape camera(s) only when notice of such intended use has been given to the Board Secretary one day in advance of the meeting. No more than three camera(s) may be in use at any time, and any camera must be operated in an inconspicuous location in the meeting room.

The presiding officer shall determine when any recording device interferes with the conduct of a Board meeting and may order that an interfering device be removed.