

Special Meeting  
South Orange-Maplewood  
Board of Education  
October 13, 2014

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the Columbia High School Library at 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood, New Jersey, on October 13, 2014.

Board President Mrs. Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Adequate written notice of this meeting of the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education was sent to the Township and Village Clerks, the Libraries, The Star Ledger, the News Record and all schools.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Daugherty, Dr. Gaudelli, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Mrs. Wren-Hardin, Mrs. Wright

Absent: Mr. Eastman, Ms. Karriem, Ms. Kritzberg, Ms. Pai

6 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOTION made by Dr. Gaudelli, seconded by Mrs. Wren-Hardin, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent Search.

***Board adjourned to executive session at 7:12 pm  
Board reconvened in public session at 8:39 pm***

8 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

**Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Daugherty, Mr. Eastman, Dr. Gaudelli, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mrs. Wren-Hardin, Mrs. Wright.**

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH CRITERIA

Mrs. Daugherty introduced Dr. Leroy Nunnery of HYA Associates, the search firm assisting with the superintendent search. Dr. Nunnery presented an outline of the search process including a description of the community engagement process. Dr. Nunnery reported the results of the engagement process including participation rates, common themes including strengths of the district, challenges of the district, and preliminary selection criteria identified in the process.

Selection Criteria were identified in five categories: Academic, Operational, Communication, Professional Skills, and Personal Characteristics.

[Presentation is on file in the Board Secretary's Office]

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Brandon Mills  
Maplewood

Spoke about the importance of the selection of a new superintendent and the need to get a new Board of Education. Meeting should not have been scheduled on night of candidates' forum because it keeps the candidates out of the process. Spoke about candidate Dr. Molokwu and his ideas on how to reach students and support them.

Dr. Dione Williams  
Maplewood

Stated that the selection process for the new superintendent should wait until January after the new board members have taken their seats. Cannot rely on the current board or the same search firm as last time.

#### DISCUSSION

Mrs. Daugherty thanked everyone for their input into the superintendent search criteria. There were many consistent themes that came out of the community engagement process.

Board member comments included the following:

- Appreciation for Dr. Nunnery narrowing down all the information into the succinct list.
- The board of education - elect members will be invited to join in the process to hear all the candidates and to have access to all of the information. The new board of education will determine the finalists after January.
- Incumbent to think about process and decide if we should be using the firm that picked the last two superintendents.
- The criteria indicates that we want someone with teaching experience but we need someone with experience and success as a superintendent.
- Need to visit the current district of candidates being considered for superintendent.
- Board members leaving the board will not have to work with the new superintendent. The process should wait until new board members take their seats in January.

#### ITEM FOR ACTION

MOTION made by Mrs. Wren-Hardin, seconded by Dr. Gaudelli, that the Board of Education approve the following:

3199. Approves the attached search criteria to be used in the Superintendent Search process. [Attachment on file in Board Secretary's office]

ROLL CALL: Motion 3199 Passed; Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 1 (Mrs. Wright - due to personal conflict/in accordance with School Ethics Advising Opinion A20-12.

FUTURE MEETINGS - Read by Mrs. Daugherty

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, October 20, 2014, at 6:30 pm in the Superintendent's Office to discuss personnel and legal issues, negotiations and other matters to be announced at a later date. Immediately following the Closed Session, the Board of Education will meet in Public Session at 7:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

MOTION made by Ms. Pai, seconded by Mrs. Wren-Hardin, that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the October 20, 2014 Public Meeting to discuss personnel, legal and Special Education matters, negotiations, and security, the nature of which will be made public at a future date. Motion unanimously approved.

MOTION made by Ms. Pai, seconded by Dr. Gaudelli, that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 9:20 p.m.

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Cheryl Schneider, Board Secretary