

South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
January 4, 2016

A Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the District Meeting Room at the Administration Building, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, New Jersey, on January 4, 2016.

Board Secretary Cheryl Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:35 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OATH OF OFFICE

Ms. Schneider administered the oaths of office to the elected Board Members: Annemarie Maini, Madhu Pai and Christopher H. Sabin [The signed Oaths of Office are on file in the Board Secretary's Office.]

ROLL CALL: Present: Ms. Baker, Mrs. Daugherty, Ms. Jones, Ms. Kambili, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright

Absent: none

9 VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Schneider called for nominations for President of the Board.

Mrs. Lawson Muhammad nominated Ms. Baker. There were no further nominations for President.

ROLL CALL for Ms. Baker as President: YES: Ms. Baker, Mrs. Daugherty, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright. NO: none

Ms. Baker was elected President and assumed the Chair as President.

Ms. Baker called for nominations for 1st Vice President of the Board.

Ms. Jones nominated Mrs. Lawson Muhammad. There were no further nominations for 1st Vice President.

ROLL CALL for Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad as 1st Vice President: YES: Ms. Baker, Mrs. Daugherty, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright. NO: none

Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad was elected 1st Vice President.

Ms. Baker called for nominations for 2nd Vice President of the Board.

Ms. Smith nominated Ms. Pai, There were no further nominations for 2nd Vice President.

ROLL CALL for Ms. Pai as 2nd Vice President: YES: Ms. Baker, Mrs. Daugherty, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright.
NO: none

Ms. Pai was elected 2nd Vice President.

Ms. Baker welcomed Ms. Maini and Mr. Sabin and thanked them for agreeing to serve the community. Ms. Baker also thanked her fellow Board members for the nomination and commented on her hopes to serve the community well.

ITEM FOR ACTION - ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

MOTION made by Ms. Pai, seconded by Mrs. Daugherty, that the Board of Education:

1. Appoint Cheryl Schneider as Board Secretary and authorize her to sign checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptance, undertakings or other orders for payment of money.
2. Appoint Cheryl Schneider as the Qualified Purchasing Agent and authorize her to negotiate and award contracts pursuant to NJSA 18A:18A-3.
3. Appoint Cheryl Schneider as Custodian of Records for the school district.
4. Appoint Andrea Del Guercio as Assistant Board Secretary and authorize her to sign checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptance, undertakings or other orders for the payment of money in the absence of the Board Secretary.
5. Approve Kevin Walston as ADA/504 Compliance Committee Coordinator for the school district.
6. Approve Kevin Walston as Acting Affirmative Action Officer for the school district.
7. Approve Kevin Walston as District Liaison for the Education of Homeless Children (per N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.5).
8. Approve Ella Rideau as Liaison to the Division of Children and Families.
9. Appoint the law firm of Schenck, Price, Smith & King as the school district's attorney at the rate of \$170 per hour for legal work performed by attorneys of the firm and \$125 per hour for paralegals to provide services on legal matters including work as special counsel related to Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying.
10. Appoint the firm of Phoenix Advisors, Inc. as the Continuing Disclosure Agent, Municipal Advisor of Record and to provide annual Financial Advisory Services necessary by the Board of Education; fees are determined per agreement on file in Board Secretary's Office.

11. Accept the By-Laws, Policies, Rules and Regulations.
12. Adopt the Public Meeting Calendar for 2015-2016 per attached.
13. Adopt the following newspapers for legal advertisements for the 2015-2016 school year: The Star Ledger, the News Record and the New York Times.
14. Adopt Code of Ethics

Board members discussed whether the Affirmative Action Officer is a South Orange Maplewood Education Association (SOMEA) position and also whether the recent restructuring of the supervision of the secondary schools reporting to the Assistant Superintendent for Administration impacts the Affirmative Action Officer appointment. Ms. Baker pointed out that this was being approved as an "Acting" Affirmative Action Officer to allow for a determination as to where within the District's structure the Affirmative Action Officer position should be situated.

ROLL CALL: Resolution 1-14 passed. YES: Ms. Baker, Mrs. Daugherty, Ms. Jones, Ms. Maini, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith. NO: Mrs. Wright

MOTION made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, that the Board of Education:

15. Approve Board member committee assignments as noted on the attached spreadsheet [on file in Board Secretary's office].

Board members discussed the committee assignments and the procedure for assignments including a concern about the partial year assignments.

ROLL CALL: Resolution 15 passed. YES: Ms. Baker, Mrs. Daugherty, Ms. Jones, Ms. Maini, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith. NO: Mrs. Wright.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Topic</u>
William Keegan Maplewood	Congratulated the new Board members. Expressed concern that the online calculus course will no longer be offered second semester which will cause his daughter to miss out on the opportunity to take an advanced topics course. Would like to know how this will affect student transcripts and why parents were not notified of the course cancellation.
Greg Lembritch Maplewood Township Committee	Congratulated the Board members being sworn in and Ms. Baker on being named President. Thanked all all Board members and pledged support and Commitment to serve and improve district schools and to work towards a more equitable distribution of state aid.

DISCUSSION

Board of Education Code of Ethics Review - Ms. Peterson

Ms. Charlene Peters, Field Service Representative from the NJ School Boards presented a PowerPoint containing a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board members and explained the role of a Board Member. [Powerpoint on file in Board Secretary's office].

Members had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the Code of Ethics [signed acknowledgements on file in Board Secretary's office].

NEW BUSINESS

None.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, January 25, 2016, 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.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, February 22, 2016, 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. Daugherty, that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the January 25, 2016 to discuss personnel, legal and special education matters, and negotiations, the nature of which will be made public at a future date. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion made by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Daugherty, that the Board adjourn to Executive session to discuss Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) claims. Motion unanimously approved at 9:08 p.m.

Cheryl Schneider