

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
March 2, 2016

A Special 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 March 2, 2016.

Board President Elizabeth Baker 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

ROLL CALL: Present: Ms. Baker, Mrs. Daugherty, Ms. Jones,
Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Mr. Saulean,
Mrs. Wright

Absent: Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Smith

7 VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

DISCUSSION

2016-17 Preliminary Budget - Mrs. Schneider

Mrs. Schneider presented a Powerpoint presentation that included the following information:

- Strategic Planning
- Revenue Sources and Tax Levy Caps
- Revenues and Tax Impact
- Historical Enrollment Trends
- Budget Considerations
- Expenses Proposed 2016-17 Budget
- Spending and Personnel Adjustments
- Expiring Banked Cap (Taxing Authority) - \$409,103

[presentation is on file in Board Secretary's office and on district website]

Presentation was followed by discussion among Board members including the following topics:

- How will this address the access and equity policy?
- Learning to do more with less
- Implementing structural changes in place of additional resources
- Elimination of two supervisor positions

- Next budget process will be zero-based budgeting which hopefully will identify any remaining efficiencies.
- Need to increase revenues including an increase in grant applications.
- Maximizing student enrollment in courses
- What would be the impact of eliminating the healthcare opt out incentive?
- What is driving the increase in out of district placements?
- Budget attempts to align resources with the community priorities.
- Why are we closing the pool when it is operational.
- The whole budget is about students and how we are going to provide services to them.

Mr. Saulean left at 9:40 pm
7 Voting Members Present

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Elissa Malespina South Orange	Concerned that librarians may be cut at focus schools where students need these resources. Will provide the Board with reading materials regarding the Every Student Exceeds Act that allows funding for Library programming to help the District achieve federal funds to keep librarians in place.
Kim Field South Orange	Thanked the Board for the hard work on the budget. Literacy is more important than ever and hopes the Board will reconsider cutting librarians.
Rachel Fisher Maplewood	Understands that cuts have to be made or taxes must be raised. Asks the Board to communicate clearly and do not be afraid to raise taxes.
Gabe Harris Maplewood	Schools were a large part of his decision to move to Maplewood. Disappointed to hear about a budget that has been cut year after year. Agrees with applying for grants and raising taxes, need to increase revenues rather than cutting programs.
Steve Latz Maplewood	It is the Board's role to see that every child receives a thorough and efficient education. Encourage the Board to make sure there are no cuts to academic intervention and to make sure that Seth Boyden School has the resources they need.

Steve Hayek
South Orange

Spoke about the closing of Columbia High School pool. Columbia is a historical building and there are grants available for funding as well as companies that will donate pumps and other equipment. Ask the Board to reconsider closing the pool and let the swimming club be part of Columbia's future.

FUTURE MEETINGS - *Read by Ms. Baker*

The Board of Education will hold a Community Forum at 7:30 pm on Monday, March 7, 2016 in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ 07040 to discuss the 2016-17 preliminary budget. No action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, March 21, 2015 at 6:30pm 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 7:30pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

MOTION made by Mrs. Daugherty, seconded by Mrs. Daugherty, that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 9:59 p.m.

Cheryl Schneider, Board Secretary