

South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
January 4, 2017

A Reorganizational Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the Auditorium at Columbia High School, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood, New Jersey, on January 4, 2017.

Board Secretary Paul Roth called the meeting to order at 7:15 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

Mr. Roth administered the oaths of office to the elected Board Members: Susie Adamson, Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad, and Johanna Wright [The signed Oaths of Office are on file in the Board Secretary's Office.]

ROLL CALL: Present: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Ms. Sandor, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright

Absent: Ms. Pai

8 VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Columbia High School Excelsior Singers performed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Roth 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. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith NO: none ABSTAIN: Mrs. Wright

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

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

Ms. Maini nominated Mr. Sabin. There were no further nominations for 1st Vice President.

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

Mr. Sabin 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. Baker as President: YES: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright NO: none

Ms. Pai was elected 2nd Vice President.

ITEM FOR ACTION - ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

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

1. Paul Roth as Board Secretary and authorize him to sign checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptance, undertakings or other orders for payment of money.
2. Appoint Paul Roth as the Qualified Purchasing Agent and authorize Mr. Roth to negotiate and award contracts pursuant to NJSA 18A:18A-3.
3. Appoint Paul Roth 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. Pamela Murray as the District ADA/504 Compliance Committee Coordinator for students.
6. Sidney Sayovitz as the District ADA/504 Compliance Committee Coordinator for employees.
7. Sidney Sayovitz of Schenck, Price, Smith & King as the District Title IX Coordinator.
8. Approve Kevin Walston as Affirmative Action Officer for the school district.
9. Approve Dr. Kalisha Harris-Morgan as District Liaison for the Education of Homeless Children (per N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.5).
10. Approve David S. Lieberman, Interim Director of Special Services as Liaison to the Division of Children and Families.
11. 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 to provide services on legal matters including work as special counsel related to Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying and litigation, \$125 per hour for paralegals and \$160 per hour for Sidney Sayovitz to act as In-house Counsel.
12. 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
13. Accept the By-Laws, Policies, Rules and Regulations.
14. Adopt the Public Meeting Calendar for 2016-2017 per attached.
15. Adopt the following newspapers for legal advertisements for the 2016-2017 school year: The Star Ledger, the News Record and the New York Times.

16. Adopt Code of Ethics

ROLL CALL: Resolution 1-16 passed. YES: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright NO: none

MOTION made by Ms. Maini, seconded by Ms. Jones, that the Board of Education approves the following:

3514A. Approve Board member committee assignments as noted on the attached spreadsheet [on file in Board Secretary's office].

Board members discussed the committee assignments. Mrs. Wright expressed concerned regarding the recommended committee chair appointments.

MOTION made by Ms. Wright to Table resolution 3514A.

Mrs. Wright stated that respectfully declines the proposed appointment as chairperson to the Community Engagement and Outreach committee.

Ms. Pai was nominated as chairperson to the Community Engagement and Outreach committee in lieu of Mrs. Wright.

MOTION made by Mrs. Wright, seconded by Ms. Maini to amend resolution 3514A to designate Ms. Pai as chair to the Community, Engagement and Outreach Committee.

ROLL CALL: Motion to Amend Resolution 3514A passed: 8 yes, 0 no.

Ms. Baker explained the process used to select committee chairs and assignments.

MOTION made by Ms. Maini, seconded by Ms. Smith to end discussion on resolution 3514A.

ROLL CALL: Motion to end discussion on resolution 3514A passed: 8 yes, 0 no.

ROLL CALL: Resolution 3514A passed. YES: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith
NO: none ABSTAIN: Mrs. Wright

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

3514B. Approve Board liaison assignments as noted on the attached spreadsheet [on file in Board Secretary's office].

ROLL CALL: Resolution 3514B passed. YES: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith,
NO: none ABSTAIN: Mrs. Wright

Ms. Baker thanked the Excelsior Singers for performing, and thanked members of the Board for their support and Dr. Ramos and staff for

their commitment to serving students. Ms. Baker read a letter to the Board, staff and community.

Dr. Ramos congratulated Ms. Baker and all members of the Board. The Board adopted a new Strategic Direction. This is a major accomplishment developed collaboratively among community members and staff and provides the blue for work going forward. Dr. Ramos looks forward to engaging with the Board, staff and community.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE.

Board Recessed at 8:23 p.m.

Board Reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

Dr. Ramos announced the appointment of David S. Lieberman as Interim Director of Special Services.

ITEM FOR ACTION MOVED FORWARD

MOTION made by Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, seconded by Ms. Maini, that the Board of Education move forward resolution 3512.

MOTION made by Ms. Smith, seconded by Mrs. Wright to approve the following:

3512A. APPOINTMENT

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTUAL SALARY
Lieberman, David S.	Interim Director of Special Services DIST - 1.0 FTE	1/5/17 6/30/17	\$632.00 (per day)

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].

2015-2016 AUDIT REPORT - Mr. Morrison

Mr. Roth introduced Robert Morrison, auditor from the firm of Hodulik & Morrison, who presented the findings of the annual audit. Mr. Morrison described the auditing process and reporting requirements. He reviewed the different sections of the audit and reported on the districts results. No recommendations were made and no corrective action is required. Mr. Morrison made the following suggestions: Fixed Asset

Inventory, track account balances for food service, create a uniformed process for student activities accounts at all schools.

Board Discussion included questions about pension issues and where student activity accounts and revenue from facility rentals can be found on the audit report.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, January 23, 2017, at 6:30 pm in the Columbia High School Guidance 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 Columbia High School Auditorium, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, February 27, 2017, at 6:30 pm in the Columbia High School Guidance 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 Columbia High School Auditorium, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

MOTION made by Mr. Sabin, seconded by Ms. Jones, that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the January 23, 2017 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 Ms. Smith that the Board of Education adjourn Motion unanimously approved at 10:28 p.m.

Paul Roth, Board Secretary