

Special Community Forum on Budget Meeting  
South Orange-Maplewood  
Board of Education  
March 18, 2017

A Special Community Forum to discuss the 2017-18 Budget of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the Auditorium at Montrose Early Childhood Center, 356 Clark Street, South Orange, New Jersey, on March 18, 2017.

President Elizabeth Baker called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.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. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright

Absent: Mr. Saulean, Student Representative

9 VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Motion made by Mrs. Wright seconded by Ms. Jones to amend the agenda to include the addition of new business.

Motion to amend the agenda passed. 9 yes, 0 no.

2016-17 Preliminary Budget - Mr. Roth

Dr. Ramos introduced 2016-17 Preliminary Budget. Mr. Roth presented a Powerpoint on the proposed budget including the following highlights:

- Revenue Sources
- Tax Levy Cap Adjustments and Banked Cap
- Estimated Tax Impact
- 5 Year Projection - Revenue vs. Expenditures
- Revenue compared to Appropriations
- Recommended use of Tax Levy Cap Adjustments & Banked Cap

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

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATION

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Steven Carberry Teacher Tuscan School	Spoke in support of keeping world languages. Understands making a budget is extremely difficult and requires tough decisions. Cutting elementary Spanish may save a few pennies this year but it is not a cure all for the district's budget woes. Once the program is gone it's gone for good or bad

and will weaken the overall World Language Program.

Rocio Lopez  
Columbia HS

Advocate for World Language Program. Teacher of three AP Spanish classes at Columbia High School in which every student passed. Cutting elementary world language is a wrong decision. How can we compete with other town? How can we say we care about diversity and cut the elementary world language program? What message are we sending? We are losing a valuable program that is mandated by the state.

Roehl Empestan  
South Orange

Asked if anti-bias training is incorporated into the budget or will additional cuts need to be made in order to provide the training.

Joe Malespina  
South Orange

Spoke against adding an additional principal at Columbia High School and cutting 2 physical education teachers when we are not sure how option II will work. Thanked Dr. Ramos and Mr. Roth for the transparency of the budget.

Shari Mayer  
Maplewood

Daughter is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student at Clinton School. She is not aware of her daughter receiving any world language courses. Other school districts offer courses in Mandarin. Would the district to offer languages that reflect our changing world. Also spoke about new apartment buildings and the impact the new developments will have on enrollment.

Ben Vitale  
South Orange

Advocate for using adjustments and banked cap. Also suggests advocating at the state level for adequate funding. Concerned that the district is hiring non-teacher staff instead of hiring teachers to support the 8% enrollment increase.

Tawanna Burnett  
South Orange

Asked how parents can work in partnership with the district to start to prioritize the things the district cannot afford to support. There are many parents willing to contribute to support the things the district cannot afford. Shared that she is part of an advocacy group "Parents in Partnership for Respect and Equality". The group is hosting a forum for a lot of concerned parents to bring the community together to be constructive and be in partnership with the district.

*Dr. Ramos and Ms. Baker responded to questions and concerns communicated by those who spoke during the hearing of individuals and delegations.*

#### DISCUSSION

Board member discussion regarding the budget included but was not limited to the following comments:

- Cutting elementary world language program goes against the strategic plan which calls for equipping our students to perform in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Suggestion to move to the Integrity Model for health insurance to save district and towns on health care costs.
- How will Option II for physical education be implemented and have we considered the challenges that may arise?
- Since redistricting efforts have been delayed will 2 additional FTE's be added to Seth Boyden School?
- Consider restructuring the elementary world language program.
- The issue of world language should be considered a programmatic issue not a budget issue.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Motion made by Ms. Pai, seconded by Ms. Jones to amend resolution 3537A.

Motion to amend resolution 3537A passed; 9 yes 0 no.

Motion made by Ms. Adamson, seconded by Ms. Jones to amend resolution 3537A to increase tax levy by \$147,000.

Motion to amend resolution 3537 failed; 1 yes (Ms. Adamson) 8 no.

3537A. Approves the Preliminary Budget for the 2017-2018 school year in the amount of:

	2017-18 Total Expenditures	Less: Anticipated Revenues	Tax Levy
General Fund	123,922,203	8,167,001	115,755,202
Special Revenues	1,925,997	1,925,997	0
Debt Service	4,169,235	386,434	3,782,801
Total	130,017,435	10,479,432	119,538,003

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2017-18 Budget includes adjustments for the use of banked cap, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b), in the amount of \$907,247 and current health care adjustments in the amount of \$823,744.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Orange and Maplewood Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to submit the 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget to the County Superintendent for review and approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Orange and Maplewood Board of Education, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3(a), establishes a maximum travel expenditure for the 2017-2018 school year not to exceed the amount of \$150,000.

ROLL CALL: Motion 3537A passed. YES: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, NO: Mrs. Wright

Motion made by Ms. Pai, seconded by Mr. Sabin to amend resolution 3537B.

Motion to amend resolution 3537b passed; 9 yes 0 no.

3537B. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the South Orange and Maplewood Board of Education, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.3(b)2, approves the use of \$970,247 banked cap (2014-15 unused adjustment) to meet budgetary requirements for the 2017-18 school year. The funds are needed for teaching staff to meet the increasing enrollment needs of the district. The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$970,247 for the purpose of maintaining the academic program in compliance with the state and local academic goals. The additional staffing is necessary for the 2017-18 operating budget and this need must be completed by June 2018 and cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

ROLL CALL: Motion 3537B passed. YES: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, NO: Mrs. Wright

Motion made by Mr. Sabin, seconded by Ms. Pai to amend resolution 3537C.

Motion to amend resolution 3537C passed; 9 yes 0 no.

3537C. Approves the fees for use of district facilities effective July 1, 2017:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Cost per hour</u>
Auditorium: CHS	\$250*
Black Box Theater (CHS)	\$100
Middle Schools	\$150
Elementary	\$100
Gym: High School & Middle Schools	\$120
Elementary	\$100
Cafeteria	\$ 90
Classrooms/Library	\$ 50
Ritzer Field	\$ 50
Underhill Complex: Football Field	\$150
Baseball Field	\$100
Track	\$ 75
Project Adventure	\$50 per person - minimum 10 people*

- Use of kitchen will require a cafeteria worker who must be compensated at their overtime rate (4 hour minimum). Dishes, silverware, and utensils of the cafeteria may not be used.
- Custodial hours will be charged at the custodial rate of \$50 per hour per custodian (minimum 4 hours).
- Security guard (required for groups with more than 100 people in attendance) \$50 per hour per guard for a minimum of 4 hours.
- Use of stage lighting/sound and stage equipment must be under the supervision of a representative of the Board of Education to be paid by the applicant at a rate of \$55 per hour. The following fees will be charged for all other equipment or services used:

Stage Manager/Staff	\$55 per hour per person
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Projector	\$25 per event
VCR/DVD	\$25 per event
Microphone	\$20 per event (each microphone)
Tripod Screen	\$20 per event
Stage Screen	\$20 per event
Overhead	\$25 per event
Audio System	\$30 per event (and requires Stage Manager)
Stage Lighting	\$35 per event (and requires Stage Manager)
Underhill Sound Booth	\$100 per event
Underhill Concession Stand	\$100 per event
CHS Cafeteria Equipment	\$30 per event (and requires Stage Manager)

\* Use of Project Adventure must be under the supervision of a Project Adventure certified representative of the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL: Motion 3537C passed. YES: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright NO: none

Motion made by Ms. Pai, seconded by Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad to amend resolution 3537D.

Motion to amend resolution 3537D passed; 9 yes 0 no.

3537D. Rescinds the offer of a cash incentive of \$3,300 to eligible employees who waive their medical benefits effective July 1, 2017.

ROLL CALL: Motion 3537D passed. YES: Ms. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith NO: none ABSTAIN: Mrs. Wright

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Elissa Malespina South Orange	The District will be out of compliance with QSAC. Would like the Board to take a look at compliance issues with regard to world language and physical education. Urges the Board to listen to the community and keep the elementary world language program.
Rocio Lopez Columbia High School	Asked if there is a plan in place to address teacher coverage with cuts to the elementary world language program. World Language teachers provide coverage to teachers during prep periods.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Ramos read the following statement:

*Whereas, the Board of Education lacks knowledge of a comprehensive chronology of events for both the recent bias incidents in our schools and instances where reports of bias in instruction have been made to the office of the superintendent;*

*Therefore be it resolved that the Board directs the superintendent to provide a report by March 27 that includes, at a minimum, the following information for each incident:*

- *description,*
- *date,*
- *timeline, content and dates of subsequent communications and decision points related to the incident where such communication includes interactions between you and:*
  - o *building leaders*
  - o *SLT*
  - o *Anti-bias experts*
  - o *community leaders*
  - o *BOE*
- *timeline, content, author and dates of subsequent communications between district administrators and school communities or the public at large,*
- *whether there was a decision to investigate the incident as HIB, and, if so the timing and findings of the investigation.*
- *whether police were contacted and who made that decision,*
- *whether there was a decision to address the incident in accordance with a school's Code of Conduct, including the timing with which the decision was made, and*
- *the outcome of such discipline processes*

*Be it further resolved that the board directs the superintendent to separate the report into public and confidential sections, reserving to the confidential section all information that implicates legal or privacy concerns in the opinion of district counsel.*

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, March 20, 2017, at 6:30 pm in the Montrose Early Childhood Center Faculty Lounge 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 Montrose Early Childhood Center Auditorium, 356 Clark Street, South Orange, NJ. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, April 24, 2017, at 6:30 pm in Room A107 at Columbia High School 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 Library, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken. MOTION made by Ms. Pai, seconded by Mr. Sabin, that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the March 20, 2017 Public Meeting 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. Maini, seconded by Ms. Jones, that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 1:20 p.m.

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Paul Roth, Board Secretary