

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
April 19, 2017

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in Columbia High School Library, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood, New Jersey, on April 19, 2017.

Board President Elizabeth Baker called the meeting to order at 6:39 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. Adamson, Ms. Baker, Ms. Maini,
Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Mr. Saulean,
Mrs. Wright

Absent: Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad,
Ms. Smith

6 BOARD MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE.

Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad arrived at 6:41 p.m.

7 BOARD MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

DISCUSSION

SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - Ms. Baker

Ms. Baker read the following statement regarding the appointment of Special Counsel to the Board of Education:

As set forth in the Superintendent's employment contract, there is a reopener provision that is triggered this May when the state-mandated salary cap changes. At the time the contract was negotiated, the District employed an in house attorney as District Counsel and Mr. Sayovitz of Schenck Price acted as the Board's special counsel with respect to the negotiation of that employment contract.

Now that Mr. Sayovitz is working as District Counsel and in district part time during the week as part of the administrative team that reports to the Superintendent, it is appropriate, and the best practice, for the Board to retain special counsel to advise the Board in matters related to the superintendent's employment to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

ITEM FOR ACTION

MOTION made by Mr. Sabin, seconded by Ms. Pai, that the Board of Education approves the following:

3545. Approve David B. Rubin, Esq. of David B. Rubin, PC of Metuchen, New Jersey as Special Counsel to the Board of Education for the period April 19, 2017 through the reorganizational meeting of the Board in January 2018 at a rate of \$185 per hour, plus reimbursement of all costs, disbursements and expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred in connection with this agreement.

ROLL CALL: Motion 3545 passed; 6 yes, 0 no, abstain 1 (Mrs. Wright - due to personal conflict/in accordance with School Ethics Advising Opinion A20-12).

NEW BUSINESS

NONE.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:30 pm in room A107 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.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:30 pm in room A107 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.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, June 15, 2017 at 6:30 pm in room A107 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. Maini, seconded by Mr. Sabin that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session. Motion unanimously approved at 6:48 p.m.

Paul Roth, Board Secretary