

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD

BOARD RECOGNITION
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

September 18, 2017

The Board of Education recognizes **Clinton Elementary School** and **South Orange Middle School** for successfully fulfilling the requirements of the NJDOE to exit from the Focus School List. Clinton and South Orange Middle School both received Exit Letters on June 30th, informing us that they are no longer on the Focus School list.

NJDOE Acting Commissioner Kimberley Harrington commended both schools, saying:

“I applaud your successful efforts to close the achievement gaps in your school, and encourage you to maintain a cycle of continuous improvement in order to remain on a positive trajectory.”

We congratulate **Ann Bodnar, Lynn Irby** and their staffs for the incredible work they have done to comply with RAC requirements and to support their students’ achievement. Will all Clinton and South Orange Middle School staff who are present please stand to be recognized.

~~~~~

CHS Teacher **TJ Whitaker** has worked tirelessly to protect the rights and promote the welfare of our students and our community. Mr. Whitaker helped organize a “Charlottesville Teach In” with other educators from around NJ on September 9th, which provided teachers with ways to help their students process disturbing recent national events. In addition, Mr. Whitaker was the driving force behind exposing the true facts of what occurred on July 5, 2016. The Board thanks Mr. Whitaker for his outstanding dedication to social justice and the wellbeing of our students.

~~~~~

Peter Bauer, CHS Director of Bands, earned my Master of Arts degree with a concentration in instrumental conducting from Montclair State University.

~~~~~

**Louise Kern-Kensler**, CHS Junior trombone player, completed a summer residency of work at the Kinhaven Music camp in Vermont.

~~~~~

CHS English Teacher **Stacey Lawrence** had her poem LOOKING published in the literary journal, *The Raven's Perch* theravensperch.com this summer.

~~~~~

**Scott Cohen**, CHS STEM/CTE teacher graduated in June 2017 from an 8-month leadership development and advocacy education program for adults with developmental disabilities and family members. This program is delivered by the Rutgers RWJ Medical School of Pediatric Medicine and The Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities with funding from the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities. The goal of this program is to prepare the next generation of disability advocates to work toward meaningful change in our state. Participants are chosen through a highly selective process and learn about best practices and important areas for advocacy from nationally-known experts and work on developing their own advocacy action plans

~~~~~

Keysha Knight, Secretary in the Office of Curriculum & Instruction, is currently in a Master's program at Rutgers, and was just selected to *The National Society of Leadership and Success* due to her 4.0 GPA.

~~~~~

Board of Education Member **Johanna Wright** was honored at the Historically Black Colleges and Universities "Living Legends Scholarship Gala" in North Carolina in August. Ms. Wright was honored for her true passion for serving students, and the impressive accomplishments of the CHS Cougars girls' basketball team under her outstanding coaching.

~~~~~

Columbia High School was selected as the most beautiful public school in New Jersey as part of Architectural Digest's September 12th [article](#) "The Most Beautiful Public High School in Every State in America."