

Reorganizational Meeting  
South Orange-Maplewood  
Board of Education  
January 7, 2014

A Reorganizational 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 January 7, 2014.

Board Secretary Cheryl Schneider 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

OATH OF OFFICE

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

ROLL CALL: Present: Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Daugherty, Mr. Eastman,  
Dr. Gaudelli, Ms. Karriem, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad,  
Ms. Pai, Mrs. Wren-Hardin, Ms. Wright

Absent: Ms. Kritzberg

9 REGULAR MEMBERS PRESENT

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Schneider called for nominations for President of the Board.

Ms. Wright suggested nominations should be tabled as she did not know the other members and so was not prepared to vote. Ms. Schneider informed Ms. Wright that she is able to abstain if she is not prepared to vote.

Mrs. Wren-Hardin nominated Mrs. Daugherty for President.  
There were no further nominations for President.

ROLL CALL for Mrs. Daugherty as president passed. YES:  
Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Daugherty, Mr. Eastman, Dr. Gaudelli,  
Ms. Karriem, Ms. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mrs. Wren-  
Hardin. NO: Ms. Wright.

Mrs. Daugherty assumed the Chair as President and called for nominations for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:

Dr. Gaudelli nominated Ms. Karriem as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.  
There were no further nominations for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

ROLL CALL for Ms. Karriem as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President passed. YES: Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Daugherty, Mr. Eastman, Dr. Gaudelli, Ms. Karriem, Ms. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mrs. Wren-Hardin. NO: Ms. Wright.

Mrs. Daugherty called for nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:

Ms. Karriem nominated Dr. Gaudelli as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. There were no further nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

ROLL CALL for Dr. Gaudelli for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President passed. YES: Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Daugherty, Mr. Eastman, Dr. Gaudelli, Ms. Karriem, Ms. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mrs. Wren-Hardin. NO: Ms. Wright.

ITEM FOR ACTION - ORGANIZATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

MOTION made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Ms. Pai, that the Board of Education:

1. Appoint Cheryl Schneider as Board Secretary and authorize her to sign checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptance, undertakings or other orders for payment of money.

ROLL CALL: Resolution 1 passed. YES: Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Daugherty, Mr. Eastman, Dr. Gaudelli, Ms. Karriem, Ms. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mrs. Wren-Hardin, Ms. Wright. NO: None.

MOTION made by Ms. Karriem, seconded by Dr. Gaudelli, that the Board of Education:

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

Board members discussed committee assignments and procedure for assignments.

ROLL CALL: Resolution 2 passed. YES: Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Daugherty, Mr. Eastman, Dr. Gaudelli, Ms. Karriem, Ms. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mrs. Wren-Hardin. NO: Ms. Wright.

***Ms. Kritzberg arrived at 7:55 pm  
9 MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT***

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Dr. Dionne Williams Community Resident	Spoke about a protest at South Orange Middle School and about the Common Core. She discussed a student who was suspended for protesting and now feels bullied and humiliated at the school.

*Mr. Stern commented that the Board of Education cannot comment on personnel issues.*

DISCUSSION

Board of Education Code of Ethics Review - Mr. Stern

Mr. Stern, In-house Counsel, presented a packet containing a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board members. Background on the code was provided. Members had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the Code of Ethics [signed certificates on file in Board Secretary's office].

Mr. Stern gave an overview of the Nepotism policy as it relates to a Board member having a relative who is a member of the New Jersey Education Association.

Board members had a chance to ask questions about the policy including how it relates to Board members with students attending district schools.

Capital Projects

Mrs. Daugherty described the background and that the Board of School Estimate asked the Board to consider all the projects receiving state funding.

Mrs. Schneider explained the changes to the resolution to submit proposed improvement projects to the Board of School Estimate that will be voted upon tonight.

Board members discussed the repurposing of Montrose School project.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Peggy Nwobu Maplewood Resident	Spoke about rumors she heard about an incident involving the South Orange Middle School principal.

*Mr. Stern cautioned that while the Board will not censor remarks from the public, people need to be aware that the person about whom comments are made has the right to protect his or her reputation. He offered to meet with anyone who wants to share information regarding the rumors.*

Joyce Smith Tuscan Teacher	Spoke about the Committee and Liaison Assignments and suggested that the list should have been shared with the public.
Zena Hardy South Orange Resident	Suggested changes to procedures used to communicate information about Board meetings and meeting procedures.

ITEM FOR ACTION

MOTION made by Dr. Gaudelli, seconded by Ms. Karriem, that the Board of Education approves the following:

3102. WHEREAS, the Board of Education of South Orange and Maplewood, New Jersey (the "Board of Education") has determined that certain capital improvements authorized by law should be undertaken by the Board of Education and that it is necessary to raise money for such capital improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to record its determination in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:22-27.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of South Orange and Maplewood, New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmative concurring) as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Education hereby determines that it is necessary to undertake the following capital projects (the "Improvement Projects") and to incur the costs associated therewith: (a) roof replacements at Columbia High School, Jefferson Elementary School, Marshall Elementary School, South Mountain Annex; (b) water infiltration repairs at Columbia High School; (c) mechanical upgrades at Columbia High School and Jefferson Elementary School; (d) barrier free upgrades at Seth Boyden Elementary School; (e) window replacements at Maplewood Middle School and Clinton Elementary School; (f) Alterations to Montrose School and (g) such other projects as are set forth on the attached Schedule A and not otherwise set forth above.

Section 2. The Board of Education hereby determines that the costs of the Improvement Projects described in Section 1 hereof are estimated to be \$16,380,302.00 as set forth in the estimate attached hereto as Schedule A, which estimate is determined by us to be readily understandable and is incorporated by this reference as if set forth in this resolution. Of the foregoing amount, it is reasonably believed that \$5,080,000.00 of the costs to be borne by the Board of Education for the Improvement Projects will be funded through the issuance of school bonds and/or notes and \$11,300,302.00 will be funded from other available funds, including \$6,181,626.00 in remaining proceeds of prior school bond issues, and the share of the costs for the Improvement Projects to be borne by the State of New Jersey through grants will be \$5,118,676.00; provided that in anticipation of the receipt of such grants, the State share of the costs of the Improvement Projects may be funded through the issuance of temporary notes, or may be funded on a permanent basis through the issuance of bonds, in the event that the State provides debt service aid in lieu of the State grants.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that a public hearing will be held by the Board of School Estimate with respect to the amounts of money to be raised for the project described herein on January 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building in the District Meeting Room or at such other date and time as approved by the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator.

Section 4. The Board Secretary/School Business Administrator of the Board of Education is hereby authorized and directed to certify a copy of this resolution to each member of the Board of School Estimate not more than thirty (30) days nor less than

fifteen (15) days prior to the date set for the public hearing and shall cause a notice of the public hearing and this resolution to be published at least once and not less than seven (7) days prior to the public hearing in the News Record and shall cause the resolution to be on file and open to examination of the public and to be produced at the public hearing for the information of those attending. The notice of the public hearing and the resolution shall include a statement that the resolution will be on file and open to examination to the public between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the office of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator from the date of such notice until the date of the public hearing.

Section 5. This resolution shall also constitute a declaration of intent by the Board of Education to issue tax-exempt bonds for the purpose of paying expenditures for the Improvement Projects pursuant to Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

	School Name	Project Name	State ID Number	Total Project Cost
1	Columbia High School	Roof Replacement (B & D)	4900-030-14-1024	1,218,695
2	Columbia High School	Water Infiltration Repairs	4900-030-14-1005	610,132
3	Jefferson Elementary School	Partial Roof Replacement	4900-090-14-1013	545,440
4	Marshall Elementary School	Partial Roof Replacement	4900-100-14-1014	893,047
5	South Mountain Annex	Partial Roof Replacement	4900-140-14-1017	491,474
6	Columbia High School	Roof Replacement D-wing	4900-030-14-1023	178,188
7	Columbia High School	A-Wing Mechanical Upgrades	4900-030-14-1007	5,354,696
8	Clinton Elementary School	Window Replacements	4900-060-14-1010	1,085,626
9	Seth Boyden Elementary School	Barrier Free Upgrades	4900-130-14-1015	53,887
10	Maplewood Middle School	Window Replacements	4900-040-14-1008	2,213,154
11	Jefferson Elementary School	Mechanical Upgrades	4900-090-14-1011	152,350
12	Montrose School	Alterations to Montrose School	4900-110-14-1000	3,583,613
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>			<b>16,380,302</b>

ROLL CALL: Resolution 3102 passed. YES: Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Daugherty, Mr. Eastman, Dr. Gaudelli, Ms. Karriem, Ms. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Pai, Mrs. Wren-Hardin. NO: Ms. Wright.

NEW BUSINESS

The State of the District address by the Superintendent is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at 7:00 pm in the library at Columbia High School, 17 Parker Avenue, Maplewood, NJ. Immediately following, the Board of Education will have an Executive Session to discuss the quarterly evaluation of the Superintendent. No action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, January 27, 2014, at 6:30 pm 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 7:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, February 24, 2014, at 6:30 pm 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 7:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

MOTION made by Ms. Pai, seconded by Ms. Karriem, that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the January 15, 2014 Public Meeting to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation. Motion unanimously approved.

MOTION made by Ms. Karriem, seconded by Ms. Pai, that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the January 27, 2014 Public Meeting of the Board of School Estimate 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 Mrs. Wren-Hardin, seconded by Ms. Pai, that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 9:00 p.m.

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Cheryl Schneider