

Budget Hearing and Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
May 2, 2016

A Special Meeting and Budget Hearing 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 May 2, 2016.

Board President Elizabeth Baker called the meeting to order at 7:25 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. Baker, Mrs. Daugherty, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright

Absent: Ms. Kambili

9 MEMBERS PRESENT

BUDGET HEARING

2016-17 Budget - Mrs. Schneider

Dr. Ramos indicated that the Board is being asked to adopt the 2016-17 budget this evening. Mrs. Schneider will provide a budget presentation that captures the key components of the 2016-17 Budget. Mrs. Schneider presented the proposed 2016-17 school budget before the Board for approval with budget highlights including but not limited to:

- Utilizes \$409,103 of expiring Banked Cap taxing authority
- Takes into consideration the Access and Equity Policy and Strategic Planning Process
- Provides new and expanded district Special Education programs to support students in the least restrictive environment
- Provides funding for increased tuition expenses and for prior increases in paraprofessional staffing
- Provides additional intervention support at Seth Boyden School
- Provides resources for continually increasing elementary enrollments
- Provides funding for redistricting considerations
- Maintains curricula and co-curricular programs including funding for the arts and athletics
- Maintains class size at the current Board policy levels
- Includes maintenance for technology initiatives

[Presentation on file in Board Secretary's.]

A brief discussion followed the presentation including the following comments:

- The budget resolution in April was approval to submit the budget to the county office for review. The resolution this evening is to adopt the budget and to set the tax levy.
- Clarification that federal funding that may exceed the budgeted amounts would be absorbed into the budget and reported both in the resolution to apply for the federal funding and in the adjusted budget report.
- The adjusted budget reported in the comparative view of the budget shows the allocations for the current year. Any adjustments are reflected in the monthly reports. The most recent actual spending figures would be reflected in the prior year's audit which was presented to the Board of Education in December.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Topic</u> |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Elissa Malespina South Orange | Spoke in support of the school library program and urged the Board to find a way to support full time librarians at all schools. |
| Jeffrey Bennett South Orange | Recognized the difficulty in laying off staff and that it will continue with the structural budget deficit. Indicated that although developments in town may be controversial, the tax impact of high density buildings is that they increase the tax base without adding many students to the system. Suggested that the Board work with the municipal governments to encourage additional projects of this sort. |
| Steve Latz Maplewood | Concurred with the previous speaker that need to broaden the tax base and suggested that assisted living complexes would be well suited for the community. Also raised a procedural question regarding the need for two separate resolutions to set the tax levy for operating budget and for debt service. |

ITEM FOR ACTION

MOTION made by Mrs. Daugherty, seconded by Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, that the Board of Education:

3409. WHEREAS, on March 21, 2016, the South Orange and Maplewood Board of Education approved a preliminary budget to be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools on March 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary budget was advertised in the News Record of Maplewood and South Orange on April 21, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the preliminary budget was presented to the public during a public hearing on May 2, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the 2016-17 budget shall be:

| | 2016-17 Total Expenditures | Less: Anticipated Revenues | Tax Levy |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| General Fund | 119,655,772 | 7,929,095 | 111,726,677 |
| Special Revenues | 1,931,997 | 1,931,997 | 0 |
| Debt Service | 4,152,635 | 318,938 | 3,833,697 |
| Total | 125,740,404 | 10,180,030 | 115,560,374 |

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education hereby adopts the 2016-2017 School District Budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT there should be raised for the General Fund \$111,726,677 for the ensuing 2016-17 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT there should be raised for Debt Service Fund, \$3,833,697 for the ensuing 2016-17 school year.

ROLL CALL: Motion 3409 passed. YES: Ms. Baker, Mrs. Daugherty, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, Ms. Maini, Ms. Pai, Mr. Sabin NO: Ms. Smith, Mrs. Wright

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Future Meetings

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Thursday, May 12, 2016, 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 Mrs. Daugherty, that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the May 12, 2016 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 Mrs. Daugherty, seconded by Mrs. Lawson-Muhammad, that the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, the nature of which will be made public at a future date. Motion unanimously approved at 8:02 p.m.

Cheryl Schneider, Board Secretary