

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
April 22, 2013

RESOLUTION 3017

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: Solutions to School Violence

WHEREAS, a prerequisite for effective learning is a safe and secure school environment; and

WHEREAS, school violence poses a direct and material threat to the safety of our children and their ability to succeed academically; and

WHEREAS, too many schools have been subject to horrific acts of violence, resulting in the injury and death of children, adolescents and school staff; and

WHEREAS, tragedies such as those in West Paducah, Kentucky, at Columbine High School in Colorado and most recently in Newtown, Connecticut underscore the need for meaningful action to address access to firearms, the delivery of mental health services, and the focus on violence in our society; and

WHEREAS, profiles of school shooters illustrate the need for a thorough examination of mental health services; and

WHEREAS, our society is saturated with depictions of violence, which desensitizes our youth; and

WHEREAS, school security is a complex issue requiring both effective responses to societal issues and the implementation of enhanced security measures in school buildings; and

WHEREAS, our school community and our community at large include individuals whose knowledge should be engaged in the search for effective responses to the issue of school violence. Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education, in the County of Essex, State of New Jersey urges President Obama, Congress, Governor Chris Christie and the New Jersey State Legislature to identify and implement meaningful actions that address legal access to firearms and ammunition, the delivery of mental health services, and financial support for initiatives to ensure a safe and secure school climate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education urges the state and federal governments to provide funding for local law enforcement activities, such as the School Resource Officer program, that are directed toward youth in schools and in communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such action should include consultation with experts in elementary and secondary education, higher education, mental health and law enforcement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Obama, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg, Representative Donald Payne, Jr., Governor Christie, Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney, Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver, state Senator Richard J. Cody and Assembly Representatives Mila Jasey and John McKeon, the New Jersey School Boards Association, and the National School Boards Association.