

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 19, 2015

RESOLUTION 3339

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: AFFIRMATION OF COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL MISSION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education affirms the mission, core beliefs and profile of graduates of Columbia High School (attached) which was developed as part of the process to obtain accreditation from the Middle States Association.

BACKGROUND

The mission, core beliefs and profile of graduates of Columbia High School incorporate the work and vision done by Columbia High School staff, students, parents/guardians and other community stakeholders throughout the Excellent By Design Self Study completed during the 2014-2015 school year.

The Mission of Columbia High School

Columbia High School

Erected by the people of South Orange and Maplewood and dedicated to the principle of education for all.

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This building, the product of many thoughtful minds and skillful hands, is an expression of the will of the people to provide full opportunity to all who enter its halls, for the development of ability and character - that they may become sturdy, righteous citizens inspired by the ideal of unselfish service.

Our Core Beliefs

We believe that experiences designed to suit the emerging needs of the learner are the building blocks of achievement.

We believe that teaching and learning facilitated by structures and schedules that allow for choice and flexibility are the foundation for academic and institutional excellence.

We believe that when all students find and use their voice in learning, we build a more just and open community.

We believe that athletic, artistic, academic, and all other school activities and facilities designed to promote them are integral to social, emotional, and intellectual growth and development.

We believe that the school is the center of civic identity for students, their families, and our community.

We believe that a collaborative school culture provides context for the understanding and successful navigation of the obligations of membership in a democratic society.

Profile of Graduates

Graduates of Columbia High School will be:

- proficient in all standards set by the Board of Education and the State of New Jersey required for a high school diploma
- skilled, active learners able to adapt in a rapidly evolving world
- prepared to contribute in commerce and labor, science and technology, and arts and culture

And be thoughtful and skillful citizens who:

- speak and act from self-awareness, and sensitivity to others and the environment
- contribute their talents, time and resources to society

And who have had full opportunity to:

- grow from the school's diverse course offerings, clubs, activities, and organizations
- expand and apply their skills and knowledge to their interests, passions, and futures
- serve and lead

And have developed ability and character to:

- improve and grow from self-reflection
- actively engage in civic society and the body politic
- build relationships based on trust and the recognition of shared goals and values

As well as sturdy and righteous citizens who:

- are socially, emotionally, and physically healthy
- are committed to social justice, opportunity and equity for themselves, the school, the community, and the world
- are inspired by the ideal of unselfish service.