

Special Meeting

Maplewood Township Committee

Township of South Orange Village Board of Trustees

South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education

October 11, 2012

A Special Meeting of the Maplewood Township Committee, the Township of South Orange Village Board of Trustees, and the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education District Meeting Room at the Administration Building, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, New Jersey, on October 11, 2012.

Board of Education President Elizabeth Daugherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Adequate written notice of this joint meeting of the Maplewood Township, the Township of South Orange Village Board of Trustees, and 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.

ROLL CALL:

Maplewood Township:

Present: Mr. Victor De Luca, Ms. Kathleen Levanthal, Mr. Marlon K. Brownlee, Mrs. India Larrier, Mr. Gerard W. Ryan

Absent: None

Also Present: Joseph F. Manning, Township Administrator

Township of South Orange Village Board of Trustees:

Present: Mr. Alex Torpey (arrived 7:08 pm), Ms. Janine Bauer (arrived 7:30 pm), Mr. Michael Goldberg, Ms Nancy Gould, Mr. Howard Levison, Mr. Mark Rosner,

Absent: Ms. Deborah Davis Ford

South Orange Maplewood Board of Education:

Present: Mr. Jeffery Bennett, Ms. Lynne Crawford, Mrs. Elizabeth Daugherty, Mr. Wayne Eastman, Mr. David Giles, Ms. Madhu Pai, Mr. Jonah Wolff (student representative), Mrs. Andrea Wren-Hardin

Absent: Dr. William Gaudelli, Ms. Sandra Karriem

Also Present: Dr. Brian G. Osborne, Superintendent and Mrs. Cheryl Schneider, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Daugherty welcomed and opened meeting

Dr. Osborne gave intro - joint meeting historic - where we are with schools, successes, finances,... made hard choices to operate efficiently, aware of economic conditions and hardships of taxpayers. Cost drivers continue to rise. In response, bold and creative. With your support held tax impact year after year while still providing services. Still lots to do, challenges to overcome. Elementary enrollment up over 20% over past 6 years. Middle school over 8%. Accommodated elementary without increase facilities or class size. Are adding at middle level, facilities aging with pressing capital needs. Have momentum and challenges vast. Not sufficient for goal to be graduation, look forward to work over next few months.

7:15 pm Moving BOE election to November:

Ms. Daugherty - gave background of discussion; uniqueness of so-m district and status at state level. If approved, would affect the 13-14 budget process. BOE would decide if within cap. BSE would still vote on capital. As BOE committed, to continue to maintain relationship with BSE no matter the decision. Starting next month would like to begin monthly meetings with the BSE. No decision to date, just open for discussion. BOE vote would move to following Nov election date with January taking office. Extends the length of office of current boe members up for election by 8 (?) months.

Mr. Ryan asked about cost of election

Mr. DeLuca Mpwd in favor of moving - citizens see the budget as being the owned by BSE, and that's not the case - the BOE owns and BSE votes. Won't to put BOE "on the hook" for the budget.

Mr. Ryan - agree, value is not saving money, but take advantage, even worst turnout for municipal is still 4 times turnout of BOE turnout - more representative of community.

Mr. Torpey - thought discussion of process, not issues

Mr. Ryan - once bill passed and signed - will BOE take it up?

Ms. Daugherty - will definitely discuss and vote by Dec - can't tell you how the vote will go

Mr. Ryan - hope BOE will take it up and move it. If not Mpwd will bring it up in Jan.

7:25 2013 budget process

Ms. Daugherty - BOE process - driven by district goals; goal 4 resource mgmt - emphasizing operating budget, not all in, but operating budget. Currently split about tax impact in goals - hold at 2% or use some of banked cap, almost 1.5million; \$975K expires this year; other \$500K one additional year. We are on path of continue improvement and need to stay on path of improvement for ALL students. K numbers are higher than anticipated. At 2%, even with no additional debt service, already at 2.5% all in - so struggling. Increased enrollment recognized in formula by state. Will begin to impact education. Asked administration to review following analyses:

Staffing implications for MMS

Technology (PAARC, 1:1 computing, etc)

Health benefits

Due in December; audit info in November - all to be shared with BSE

Beginning negotiations with both bargaining units.

Mr. Ryan - too soon to know impact of SE tuition?

Dr. Osborne -

Ms. Daugherty - too early for state aid, but early indications may be losing federal aid.

Mr. Goldberg - still determining goal? Goal should be a 2% cap, should be a 2% cap. Sounds like 2% cap is 2.5% cap and even higher. 2% is 2%, and with tax stress, 2% should be all in.

Mayor DeLuca yield to Mr. Ryan

Mr. Ryan - finance committee for Mpwd: long standing policy to try to negotiate with employees to contribute to health care; was doing before statute - already a couple of years into roll in which helps. Paying off long term debt of varying maturities, as take on new projects more that what is retiring (more than 80% of what was retiring) so overtime reduce outstanding debt. Only took on 65% and continuing on that goal. Stay at or below cap. Two years ago 0%, last year 2%, did not take advantage of adjustments (health benefits, etc) so fair amount banked. Taken in less revenues then anticipated but state aid, etc came in so fine with revenue.

Based on everything know right now, expectations of surplus, etc. on target to be under 2%. Pretty solid and pretty predictable.

Mr. DeLuca - at or below 2%.

Mr. Torpey on SO - last year below 2%. 1.7% second lowest in 10 years. Making sure below 2% not just legal sense but political sense. Good sense of slalary etc. same things as mpwd mentioned, some larger projects on line soch as municipal building renovation; keep budget increase as low as possible, shoot for 0% - people not frustrated with 1.5% increase but that being responsible with debt, etc. most community okay with a little above 0%.

Mr. Levison (chair of finance) - same as mpwd - taking advantage of low rates from pokicy perspective what types of debt to have; new projects not to exceed those retiring.

Mr. Torpey - community understand number - being transparent - what can we use to help people understand budget - posting on web. Putting info in standardized format - that others can use. All three bodies consider how to put info out there; more easily understood than state formats - more visual - year over year. Easier for community by township committee to understand.

Mr. Levison - commitment to investment in technology - add to transparency.

7:55 pm - capital and development and plan.

Ms. Daugherty - hired agency to do facility assessment for long term capital - fiscally prudent CHS vision of future. Projects to be phased in through 2025. Reconfiguration of classrooms within CHS to allow collaboration, etc. Used around the clock - use of facilities by the community. One driver is the swimming pool - last year bonded about 1.7M to improve pool, with understanding with BSE that can be repurposed to repurpose space or build new pool. Swing space to renew CHS -

1. Build new pool to allow for repurpose to flexible classroom space will allow additional space within existing space
2. Build a new wing house science rooms and renovate existing pool
3. Renovate existing pool space and not build a pool, but doesn't allow space to meet needs and eliminate pool.

If new building is built - would most likely be built in the gym parking lot would impact parking. Options are being looked at parking needs. Also know that Mpwd is looking at acquiring space from boe's existing space - need to have conversation to look at options under consideration by architects. New governance tool being used by BOE establishes guidelines for admin including limitations as to what cannot be considered - one being considered is would we consider an option to eliminate the pool. Engage community in discussions regarding the importance of pool especially with community usage. Can be greater asset especially in more accessible location. Admin meeting with capital advisors to determine long term impact of the various options. How much does community want to spend, importance of facilities, pool, to the

community. Doing due diligence - looking at partnerships as well as corporate sponsorship. Have seen impact of previous projects and impact of taking pride in facilities. Need additional space - how do we get it?

Mr. Goldberg - had approved 1.7M towards pool; what are the estimates of the various options?

Ms. Daugherty - in process - would be above the 1.7M doesn't incorporate the revitalization of Columbia - will need infusion to get it going

Mr. Ryan - question on the pool - how far away to be viable?

Mr. Ryan - have YMCA build pool and BOE use it

Ms. Daugherty - have spoken with YMCA - also would like to speak to townships about recreational use and partnering.

Mr. Rosner - hard to gauge without numbers, but assume will get more information. Are there some decisions are parking?

Ms. Daugherty - working with architect.

Mr. Rosner - what percentage use pool

BOE - at least 25% (9th grade); 100% over the time

Mr. Giles - if maintain pool is current place - pool size limitations for competitive swim team.

Ms. Gould - EI report -can be available?

Ms. Daugherty - explained raw data not digestible.

Dr. Osborne -

Mr. Bennett - if don't use 1.7M what happens

Ms. Daugherty - go back to BSE to repurpose

Mpwr - development plans - residential units

Mr. Deluca - doing a reassessment of all property values - valuations will change in all calculations. Quite a bit of exposure from tax appeals. 190 units in process - expect 182 rentals and 8 condos - of rentals expect no more than 10 school aged children. 50 units next to train station - 2 student per 100 units - 50 units so 1 student (may have other children but not school-aged); burnett 126 rentals - 9 school-aged children. Both may be affected by COLA may be more family residency - burnett commons - working with developer for affirmative plan to attract seniors. 8 condos just outside that property - don't expect a lot of students - not large units - all 1 or 2 bedroom including town homes. Expect about 120 by mid to end of next year.

Burnett ave in 2 phases (63 and 63, second in 2014) Old police station M/J.
Burnett - SB.

Property on dunnell road (50 units, 46 tax) - \$92,000 in taxes for schools anticipated. Burnett ave granted ail taxes - will get about \$60,000 to schools which is what you are getting right now. Burnett is a wash - what you are getting. On pilot - \$430,000 per year to municipality. COA - moderate medium income to qualify. Mitigate potential school aged children - go to disability agencies for resident placements. Very conscience of impact on schools. Doesn't appear to be much more. One more going out - PSE&G - one of biggest tax payers - looking to replace with a commercial real estate - could have potential of residential

Kings move to post office - above units - may be residential/business - governed by designs/parking

Ms. Wren-Hardin -pilot - how long?

Mr. DeLuca - 30 year for pilot and coa

Mrs. Daugherty - any way for part of pilot to go to boe, or all to municipality

Mr. DeLuca - all to municipality (and 15% to county) - can choose to give to schools

Mr. Rosner - school budget stays the same; so pilot impacts opposite municipality, zero impact on school

Ms. Daugherty -but does impact school because of the impact on the taxpayer in determining budget approval - revenue stream has harsher impact on the taxpayer.

Mr. Torpey - SO development plans - Beifus site - 57 units with retail on bottom; expect similar types of results that Mr. Deluca indicated based on what we have been seeing at the Avenue, etc. 3rd and valley is second site - still developing plans - relocating emergency squad, commuter parking; 200-220 rental units - smaller units, higher rent - retail space on bottom with parking garage to replace commuter spots as well as residential parking. Looking at opportunities coa for third and valley; beifus, vested and don't have to put coa units on site. Will likely have tax abatements. Work with seton hall and merge interests in finding more residential units to provide students and faculty places to live - minimal impact on school district with emphasis on students; faculty may have children.

Ms. Daugherty - tax abatement - partial or entire abatement?

Mr. Torpey - usually full abatement -

Mr. DeLuca - still collecting tax on land; it's the improvement that is abated.

8:40 residency verification

BD - BOE administration report on re-registration entire 10th grade

Dr. Osborne - take seriously residency issues. Twice a year report on residency enforcement (Jan and July) - investigations, what initiated, and results. Have hot line to report - this year entire 10th grade. Dropped a total of 29 10th graders and 11 siblings last May by resolution all but 3 have re-established residency. Analyzing if should repeat or take different effort. Having electronic info from towns was very helpful.

Mr. Ryan - how much better than what get from ordinary process

Dr. Osborne - few students identified as a result. 5 dis-enrolled, but difficult to say if it was the process or would have happened anyway. No proportional increase due to re-registration process.

Mr. Levison - what percentage did it represent of the 10th grade?

Ms. Gould - did people move?

Dr. Osborne - no discernible pattern

Mr. DeLuca - prosecuting individual who allowed people to use address for residency (ordinance) - cooperative with school district to provide information. (put lien on property) - should make this public - use in parent information process.

Mr. Eastman - board committed to cooperation on these issues.

8:50 emergency management

Mr. Torpey - responsibility to contact residents of info - municipal gov't facing - over-reliance on 911 system calling land-lines which many don't have or show on cable, so power outage significant numbers of residents couldn't be reached through this system. Opt in with cell phone number or email - very hard to get people to opt into these systems. (Mpwd reaching out through "code red" getting more and more) - way to share that information between entities to have larger reach.

Mr. DeLuca - yes

Dr. Osborne - may be privacy issues, but can use our system to reach out on behalf.

MR. Torpey - Seton Hall emergency protocols - looking at schools -another conversation that needs to be had.

Mr. DeLuca - another tool that we have used is our cable television station that used by all - something to consider as tool for using. Should have used tv for daily updates on water issue, for instance. Did it with crime issues on tv - very effective. Continue to think of as a tool

Ms. Larrier - some of your sentions that are not cell phone savvy or computer outage - tv may be best way to reach them.

8:55 HEARINGS OF INDIVIDUALS

Alyssa Aronson - SO - status of MMS Aquatic center -

Aquatic center being discussed for CHS

MMS addition happening in the fall and community meeting before break ground

Andrea Marino - Mpwd - aquatic center - YMCA is entity that should be building and operating a pool, not taxpayers. Bubbling the pool - MMS students walk to pool why can't bus take students to Municipal pool - don't discount.

Lc motion to adjoun

Awh second

Unanimously approved.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Future Meetings - Read by Mrs. Daugherty

A Special Workshop of the Maplewood Township Committee, the South Orange Village Trustees and the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, October 11, 2012 in the District Meeting Room at 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. No action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, October 15, 2012, at 6:00 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, October 29, 2012, at 7:30 pm in the Superintendent's Office 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ to discuss the evaluation of the Superintendent. No action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, November 19, 2012, at 6:00 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. Crawford, seconded by Mrs. Wren-Hardin that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the October 15, 2012 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 Ms. Crawford, seconded by Dr. Gaudelli, that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 1:10 a.m.

Cheryl Schneider, Board Secretary

