Regular Meeting

South Orange-Maplewood

Board of Education

December 5, 2005

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the District Meeting Room in the Administration Building, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, New Jersey, on December 5, 2005.

President David Frazer called the meeting to order at 7:40 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.

ROLL CALL: Present: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Betheil, Ms. Crawford, Mr. Frazer, Mrs. Jasey, Mr. Latz, Mr. Little, Mrs. Wren-Hardin

Absent: Mr. Miller

8 MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Latz arrived at 7:45 p.m.

9 MEMBERS PRESENT

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ñ*led by Kirk Smith, SOMS Principal*

BOARD RECOGNITION ñ *read by Dr. Horoschak*

1. Ms. Donna Ship, principal of South Mountain Elementary School, was selected as a member of the Elementary Level Education Committee of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association. Her work on this committee will help to support and enhance elementary education throughout the state.

2. Ms. Kathleen Anderson, South Orange Middle School media specialist, has received a grant from Montclair State University Center for Pedagogy for her Teacher Study Group proposal, ìBook Buzz.î The grant, in the amount of $500, will fund a staff professional development study group whose work will be presented at a summer conference.

3. Mr. Roger Johnson, Maplewood Middle School science teacher, has been selected by the Educational Testing Service to serve on its General Science Panel, which reviews and develops science-related testing materials. He was nominated for this panel by his principal, Mr. Kristopher Harrison.

4. Ms. Ozella Brundidge, Columbia High School biology teacher, was invited to participate in the Oxford Round Table at Oxford University, Great Britain in July, 2006. The Oxford Round Table is a symposium for learned discussions of contemporary issues of significant consequence. Participants make formal presentations and submit papers for publication. The 2006 Round Table is entitled *Science and Faith: The Great Matter*. One of Ms. Brundidgeís biology classes from last year wrote a modern-day play based on the Scopes Trial after reading *Inherit the Wind* in an English class.

Mr. Frazer reported the death of former employee, Barbara Golembeski, and two former students.

Mr. Frazer reported on the progress of a series of meetings that are being held to answer questions and seek resolutions of South Mountain School issues.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

The following parents spoke to share their concerns about South Mountain: Melanie Leslie, Julie Peterson, Joanne Goldberg, Mark Gleason, Michelle Schwartzbord, Kim Miller, and Marian Cutler. Topics included: The procedure being followed, mediation, rate of teacher turnover, communication.

Mr. Frazer advised that parents are being engaged and informed through the PTA leadership and that appointments should be made with Mrs. Davenport to express concerns. The Superintendent would be available for a general meeting if requested.

Additional Individuals and Topics:

Name	Topic
Laura Pennington and Katheryn Huang Marshall PTA Representatives	Art program at Marshall School
Lauren Miller CHS Student	Student Council efforts to improve atmosphere at CHS.

PRESENTATIONS

Sixth Grade Reorganization ñ Dr. Barker, Mr. Smith, Mr. Memoli

The focus of the presentation was on evaluation of the first year of the program [powerpoint presentation on file in the Board Secretaryís office]:

- Evaluation was done using teacher and parent surveys, discipline analysis, and final grades and test score assessments.
- First year evaluation shows positive results.

Board membersí comments included the following:

- Results so far are encouraging, but it is important to follow students for the next two years.
- It was suggested that the HSA be involved to increase the number of parent survey returns.
- Balance among minorities across all levels is sought.

Grade 6 Transition Program ñ Dr. Barker, Mr. Smith, Mr. Memoli

The following points were made during the presentation [powerpoint presentation on file in the Board Secretaryís office]:

- This is the seventh year of the Transition Program; enrollment has almost doubled in that time due to modification of the selection criteria and the acceptance of Special Education students into the program.
- Small class size is always a goal, therefore, the number of teachers involved has grown.
- Social workers and guidance counselors work with Transition Teachers.
- It was recommended that there be a teacher/coordinator for the program that would provide uniformity between both middle schools, and that the Director or Supervisor of Special Services and Special Education teachers be involved more if Special Education students are to remain in the program.

Board Membersí comments included the following:

- The report was good, however greater detail regarding long term effects and interventions would be helpful.

- It would be beneficial to see data broken down by school to determine if varying approaches have different results.
- Positive results need to be proportionate to spending for program.

Board recessed at 9:50 p.m.

Board reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

Project Ahead ñ Dr. Barker and Mr. Memoli

The Project Ahead program was defined and the identification and student selection process explained [powerpoint presentation on file in the Board Secretaryís office].

- The analysis shows that the program has been more successful in language arts than in math.
- Recommendations were made for a review of the materials and instructional strategies used, professional development opportunities, and time allotted to the math portion of the program.

Board Membersí comments included the following:

- Success of the program is not clear according to the report since it has shown mixed results.
- Surveying elementary teachers where pull out program interrupts regular classrooms should be considered.
- Continued work on this may bring about better results for the students.

Discussion: 2006-07 Budget ñ Topics for Analysis ñ Mr. Latz, Ms. Crawford, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Milanette

Mrs. Milanette introduced the list of topics developed by the Finance and Facilities Committee. Mr. Latz noted that the list of topics is similar to that of previous years, but the difference would be the exploration of savings realized from reduction in services [list on file in the Board Secretaryís office].

Board Membersí comments are as follows:

- Closer review of costs and/or potential savings in the following areas may be beneficial ñ full day kindergarten pilot/expansion of program, administrative expenses, In-House Counsel, stipends and transportation for athletics and extracurricular activities, banking.

Discussion: Reports of Board Liaisons to District Schools ñ Board Members

Discussion was postponed.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

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

2039. Approves the administration of two surveys on school culture to Columbia High School students and staff in December 2005.

MOTION amended by Mr. Betheil, seconded by Ms. Crawford, to table the action.

ROLL CALL: Motion to table Resolution 2039 passed; 9 yes, 0 no.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Name	Topic
Mark Gleason District Parent	Disappointed that reports from Liaisons have been postponed.

NEW BUSINESS

Overview of December 19, 2005 Public Meeting:

- Discussion: 2006-07 Budget ñ Develop Budget Goals/Priorities
- 2nd Reading/Adoption: Policy 8880-Travel Expenses

Overview of January 9, 2006 Public Meeting:

- Discussion: 2006-07 Budget

MOTION made by Mr. Latz, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board of Education

meet in Executive Session on Monday, December 19, 2005, to discuss personnel

and legal matters, the nature of which will be made public at a future date.

Motion unanimously approved.

MOTION made by Mr. Latz, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board of

Education meet in Executive Session on Tuesday, December 6, to discuss the

Superintendentís evaluation. Motion unanimously approved.

MOTION made by Mr. Betheil, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 11:30 p.m.

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Karla Milanette, Board Secretary