

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
November 3, 2005

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South-Orange-Maplewood was held in the Superintendent's Office, at 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, New Jersey, on Thursday, November 3, 2005.

Board 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: Ms. Crawford, Mr. Frazer, Ms. Jasey, Mr. Latz, Mr. Little.

Absent: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Betheil, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Wren-Hardin

Five Members Present.

Also Present: Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent; CHS Principal Renee Pollack; CHS Dean of Students Louis Brown; Marvin Comick, Esq., counsel for the school district; Ellen Bass, Esq., in-house counsel; Ms. Adriana Clavijo, CHS Spanish Teacher; June Miller Paton and Michael Paton, parents of student 08JT; Student 08JT, and Mitchell Friedman, Esq., counsel for Student 08JT.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Latz, that the Board of Education move to Executive Session for the purpose of a student discipline hearing to consider long-term suspension of Student District ID No. 08JT for assault on Columbia High School Spanish Teacher Ms. Adriana Clavijo at Columbia High School on September 26, 2005. Motion unanimously approved at 7:42 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Ms. Jasey, that the Board of Education reconvene in Public Session. Motion unanimously approved at 10:05 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Ms. Jasey, that the Board of Education approve Resolution 2027, as follows:

2027. WHEREAS, Student District ID No. 08JT has been duly noticed and afforded the opportunity to participate in a hearing before the Board of Education and has been afforded certain due process rights; and

WHEREAS, the student's parents were advised of the right to appeal to the Commissioner of Education; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the student engaged in prohibited conduct on September 26, 2005; and, having heard the administration's recommendation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Student District ID No. 08JT be suspended from September 26, 2005 through June 30, 2006 with home instruction, including making up any home instruction hours missed to date. First marking period examinations in November 2005 shall be part of home instruction.

On Tuesday, December 20, 2005, said student and his/her parents will meet with the Columbia High School Principal Renee Pollack, or her designee, to discuss the student's conditional early re-entry to Columbia High School on Monday, January 2, 2006. In early December, said student shall undergo a mental health evaluation, performed by a licensed mental health professional and at parent expense, which shall indicate that said student is not a danger to him/herself or others and that said student is able to return to school. Such report shall be provided to the Columbia High School principal by Tuesday, December 13, 2005 for discussion at the December 20, 2005 re-entry meeting.

In addition to the foregoing, as a condition of early re-entry, said student shall also attend after-school counseling sessions at Columbia High School through Family Connections' "The Loft" program to the extent that a slot is available.

In the event that said student is involved in any behavior warranting school suspension following early re-entry on January 2, 2006, said student shall be immediately removed from school without need for a Board hearing. Home instruction will again be provided, and end of quarter/semester examinations will be administered as part of home instruction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Student District ID No. 08JT shall be required to meet with his/her high school guidance counselor on a regular basis for the balance of the 2005-06 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT while out on school suspension, Student District ID No. 08JT is excluded from all Columbia High School extracurricular/school activities, and is not permitted on any school property or at any school function without prior approval of the Superintendent.

ROLL CALL: Motion to approve Resolution 2027 passed; 5 yes, 0 no.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Ms. Jasey, to adjourn at 10:19 p.m.

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent