

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood

Board of Education

April 19, 2006

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 Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

Board First Vice President Mila Jasey 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. Bethel, Ms. Jasey, Mr. Latz, Mrs. Wren-Hardin

Absent: Ms. Crawford, Mr. Frazer, Mr. Little, Mr. Miller

Five Members Present.

Also Present: Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent; Ellen Bass, Esq., in-house counsel; CHS Dean of Students Brenda Brown; Marvin Comick, Esq., counsel for district administration; the step-mother and father of Student District ID No. 0DTS; and Student District ID No. 0DTS.

MOTION made by Mr. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Latz, that the Board of Education move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussion regarding the long-term suspension of Student District ID No. 0DTS for possession of a weapon at Columbia High School on March 24, 2006. Motion unanimously approved at 7:44 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Betheil, seconded by Mr. Latz, that the Board of Education reconvene in Public Session. Motion unanimously approved at 8:31 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms.Wren-Hardin, seconded by Mr. Bennett, that the Board of Education approves Resolution 2094, as follows:

WHEREAS, Student District ID No. 0DTS 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 March 24, 2006; and, having heard the administration's recommendation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Student District ID No. 0DTS be suspended from March 27, 2006 through November 30, 2006 with home instruction. Marking period and/or final examinations shall be part of home instruction.

During the last week of April 2006, said student and his/her parents will meet with the Columbia High School Principal or her designee to discuss the student's conditional reentry to Columbia High School on May 1, 2006. 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 CHS principal for discussion at the reentry meeting.

The student will meet with his/her guidance counselor weekly to determine whether referral to "The Loft" for counseling services is necessary or appropriate. In the event that said student is involved in any behavior warranting school suspension following re-entry to school in May 2006, said student shall be immediately removed from school without need for a Board hearing. Home instruction will again be provided, and marking period/semester examinations will be administered as part of home instruction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT while out on school suspension until May 1, 2006, Student District ID No. 0DTS 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 2094 passed; 5 yes, 0 no.

MOTION made by Mr. Bethel, seconded by Ms. Wren-Hardin, to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent