

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
February 16, 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 Thursday, February 16, 2006.

Board First Vice President Mila Jasey called the meeting to order at 7:58 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. Bethel, Ms. Crawford, Ms. Jasey, Mr. Latz, Mrs. Wren-Hardin

Absent: Mr. Bennett, Mr. Frazer, Mr. Little, Mr. Miller

Five Members Present.

Also Present: Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent; Ellen Bass, Esq., in-house counsel; Maplewood Middle School Principal Kristopher Harrison; Marvin Comick, Esq., counsel for district administration; the mother of Student District ID No. 0840; and Student District ID No. 0840.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, 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. 0840 for attempted arson at Maplewood Middle School on January 9, 2006. Motion unanimously approved at 7:59 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Betheil, seconded by Ms. Crawford, that the Board of Education reconvene in Public Session. Motion unanimously approved at 8:46 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Betheil, seconded by Ms. Wren-Hardin, that the Board of Education approve Resolution 2062, as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Board of Education approves the following:

WHEREAS, Student District ID No. 0840 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 parent was 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 January 9, 2006; and, having heard the administration's recommendation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Student District ID No. 0840 shall be suspended from January 9, 2006 through June 30, 2006 with home instruction. Mid-term, semester and/or final examinations will be administered as part of home instruction.

On or about Monday, February 27, 2006, Student District ID No. 0840 and his/her parents will meet with South Orange Middle School Principal Kirk Smith, or his designee, to discuss the student's conditional entry to South Orange Middle School on or about March 1, 2006. Said student's parents shall contact Mr. Smith's office to schedule the conference. 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 he/she is able to return to school. Such report shall be provided to Mr. Smith on February 27, 2006 for discussion at the conditional entry meeting.

In the event that said student is involved in any behavior warranting school suspension following entry to South Orange Middle School on or about March 1, 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, Student District ID No. 0840 is excluded from all Maplewood Middle School and/or South Orange Middle School extracurricular/school activities, including the 8th Grade Dinner Dance and the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony, 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 2062 passed; 5 yes, 0 no.

MOTION made by Mr. Latz, seconded by Ms. Crawford, to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent