

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
January 3, 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 Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

Board President David Frazer called the meeting to order at 7:50 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, Mr. Frazer, Ms. Jasey, Mr. Latz,

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

Five Members Present.

Also Present: Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent; Ellen Bass, Esq., in-house counsel; South Orange Middle School Principal Kirk Smith; South Orange Middle School Assistant Principal James Jennings; Melvin Randall, Esq., counsel for district administration; the mother and father of Student District ID No. 0AHB; Student District ID No. 0AHB; mother and father of Student District ID No. 0AAJ; Student District ID No. 0AAJ; and Mr. Renauld Pierre Louis, who served as translator for the family.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Ms. Jasey, that the Board of Education move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussion regarding the long-term suspension of Student District ID No. 0AHB for a weapons violation at South Orange Middle School on December 13, 2005. Motion unanimously approved at 7:51 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Betheil, seconded by Ms. Crawford, that the Board of Education reconvene in Public Session. Motion unanimously approved at 9:36 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Ms. Jasey, that the Board of Education approve Resolution 2047, as follows:

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

WHEREAS, Student District ID No. 0AHB 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 December 13, 2005; and, having heard the administration's recommendation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Student District ID No. 0AHB be suspended from December 13, 2005 through June 30, 2006 with home instruction. If required, mid-term and final examinations will be administered through home instruction.

On Monday, January 30, 2006, said student and his/her parents will meet with the South Orange Middle School Principal Kirk Smith, or his designee, to discuss the student's conditional re-entry to South Orange Middle School on Tuesday, January 31, 2006. In early January, 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 South Orange Middle School principal by Monday, January 23, 2006 for discussion at the January 30, 2006 re-entry meeting.

In the event that said student is involved in any behavior warranting school suspension following early re-entry on January 31, 2006, said student shall be immediately removed from school without need for a Board hearing. Home instruction will again be provided, and marking period/second semester examinations will be administered as part of home instruction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon re-entry to South Orange Middle School, Student District ID No. 0AHB shall be required to meet with his/her middle school guidance counselor on a weekly 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. 0AHB is excluded from all South Orange Middle 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 2047 passed; 5 yes, 0 no.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Betheil, to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent