

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood

Board of Education

March 7, 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, March 7, 2006.

Board First Vice President Mila Jasey called the meeting to order at 7:04 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; CHS Dean of Students Louis Brown; Marvin Comick, Esq., counsel for district administration; the mother, father and stepfather of Student District ID No. 03TD; Mark Gertner, Esq., counsel for Student District ID No. 03TD; and Student District ID No. 03TD.

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. 03TD for fighting and inciting a riot at Columbia High School on February 8, 2006. Motion unanimously approved at 7:11 p.m.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Ms. Wren-Hardin, that the Board of Education reconvene in Public Session. Motion unanimously approved at 9:54 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Latz, seconded by Mr. Betheil, that the Board of Education approve Resolution 2072, as follows:

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

WHEREAS, Student District ID No. 03TD 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 February 8, 2006; and, having heard the administration's recommendation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Student District ID No. 03TD be suspended from February 8, 2006 through June 30, 2006 with home instruction. Marking period and/or final examinations will be administered through home instruction.

On or about Friday, April 7, 2006, said student and his/her parents shall meet with Columbia High School Principal Renee Pollack, or her designee, to discuss the student's conditional early re-entry to Columbia High School on April 17, 2006. Said student's parents shall contact Ms. Pollack's office to schedule the re-entry conference. Prior to that meeting, 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 high school principal at the reentry conference for discussion.

Student District ID No. 03TD shall be permitted entry onto district property for three days, Tuesday, March 7 through Thursday, March 9, 2006, to enable said student to participate in HSPA testing that week. Each morning, said student shall report to the Superintendent's Office in the Central Administration Building where he/she shall be escorted to a testing location. Upon completion of testing each day, said student shall be required to leave school district property immediately.

In the event that said student is involved in any behavior warranting school suspension following early re-entry on April 17, 2006, said student shall be immediately removed from school without need for a Board hearing. Home instruction will again be provided, and marking period and/or final examinations will be administered as part of home instruction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT while out on school suspension, Student District ID No. 03TD 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 2072 passed; 4 yes, 1 no.

MOTION made by Ms. Wren-Hardin, seconded by Mr. Latz, to adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

Peter P. Horoschak, Superintendent