

Regular Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood

Board of Education

January 8, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the District Meeting Room in the Administration Building, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, New Jersey, on January 8, 2007.

President Rowland Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:35 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Present: Mr. Bennett, Ms. Crawford, Mr. Eastman,
Mr. Gleason, Mrs. Jasey, Mr. Laine, Mr. Little, Dr.
Payne-Parrish, Mrs. Wren-Hardin

Absent: None.

9 MEMBERS PRESENT

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Name

Topic

David Buckley Spoke about discipline and safety in
Maplewood Resident the schools.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: School-Based Youth Services Program ñ Mr. John Surface, Family Connections

Dr. Horoschak introduced Mr. Surface, the director of Family Connections, who summarized the purpose and functioning of their school-based youth services program.

The presentation included a proposal to expand the services currently offered at Columbia High School to the middle school level. Services include:

- Behavioral health counseling
- Supportive skills building/Positive prevention services
- Learning support programs
- Positive expression activities
- Recreational services

He noted that these services are funded by the State and no district funds are used, and that the services offered are designed to enhance, not replace or supplant existing school services. Most services are offered during after-school hours. Also, the agreement is to include a rider that Family Connections will only remain at the school as long as the current guidance staffing level remains at its current level.

Discussion included the following:

- Current program at the high school has been running for 2 years.
- Evaluation is done by State on benchmarks for quality of service.
- Program operates all year on school days and some Saturdays.
- Program could move to the high school in the summer when middle school would be closed.
- Necessary renovations would be funded by Family Connections.
- Regional coordinators inspect sites on a regular basis.
- Funding is available for only one school.
- In-kind match is required.

Presentation: Emergency Management Update ñ Dr. Corino, Mr. Kyle

Dr. Horoschak outlined the concerns raised at Jefferson School that resulted in this presentation, and introduced Dr. Corino who described the development of the Emergency Management Procedures Plan since its inception in October, 2005.

The District Emergency Management Task Force currently consists of the following eighteen members who are representatives from central office, district schools, Aramark, Bowles Security, and the Maplewood Police Department: Jim Bailey, Jim Corino, Joseph Fanning, Sharon Grant, Michael Healy, Cathryn Iorio, Patricia Johnson, Richard Katz, Bill Kyle, Judy Levy, Judy LoBianco, Marge Mingin, Brian Murphy, Renee Pollack, Rob Prezuhy, Rob Shannon, Kirk Smith, Robert Smith.

Mr. Kyle provided an overview of the seventy-page manual, noting that priorities during an emergency are: people first, property second, and image third.

The recent incident at Jefferson School brought our attention to the following areas that are in need of improvement:

- Utilization of technology to improve communication
- Establish a central Rapid Response Team
- Improvement of communication with sister schools
- Reinforce protocols involved with transportation to hospitals

In addition to developing a comprehensive emergency management procedures plan that is continuously monitored and updated, the task force is also establishing and enforcing reasonable preventative measures, and providing relevant staff training.

Board members' comments included:

- Need to practice fire drill evacuations and lock downs.
- Lessons learned at Jefferson to be incorporated in manual

- Outdoor sheds are being installed at each site for storage of flammable materials and equipment(lawnmowers).
- Need for all phone numbers to be current

ITEMS FOR ACTION

MOTION made by Mr. Laine, seconded by Ms. Crawford, that the Board of Education:

2191. Accept Family Connectionsí proposal to collaborate on a school-based youth services program for middle school students for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year at a location to be determined.

ROLL CALL: Motion 2191 passed, 8 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain (Mrs. Jasey).

MOTION made by Mr. Eastman, seconded by Ms. Crawford, that the Board of Education:

2192. Award the contract for Construction Consulting Services to Wagner, Hohns, Inglis, Inc., of Mount Laurel, NJ, for \$275 per hour for consulting services related to the Columbia High School kitchen and cafeteria alterations project.

ROLL CALL: Motion 2192 passed; 8 yes, 1 no (Dr. Payne-Parrish).

MOTION made by Mr. Little, seconded by Mr. Laine, that the Board of Education approves the following:

2193. WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New Jersey has recommended

changes to the statutes governing the New Jersey State Health Benefits Plan (NJSHBP); and

WHEREAS, these changes, reflected in Senate and Assembly Bills S-40 and A-2, would enable school districts to obtain substantial cost savings and, as a result, reduce or moderate increases in local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, these proposed changes would allow for variations in levels of coverage for different classifications of employees; and

WHEREAS, these proposed changes would enable the use of certain financial incentives (that are prohibited currently) to encourage employees eligible for duplicate coverage to waive such coverage; and

WHEREAS, all of the aforementioned changes to the statutes governing the NJSHBP would provide immediate and material assistance to the South Orange and Maplewood School District, and other districts, that are struggling to balance the often-conflicting imperatives of ensuring the delivery of a thorough and efficient education while, at the same time, attempting to control rising property taxes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the School District of South Orange and Maplewood hereby supports the changes in state employee health benefits that were recommended by the New Jersey Legislature's special session on property tax reform.

ROLL CALL: Motion 2193 passed; 9 yes, 0 no.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Name

Topic

Josette Abruzzini	Inquired about the responsibilities of the District
Teacher	Clerk of the Works

NEW BUSINESS

It was announced that Judy LoBianco, Supervisor of Health and Physical Education, received an award for the best Physical Education program in the state.

An update on Youth Task Force activities was given, noting that the Youth Summit is to be held January 23-25, 2007.

The Board of Education will meet in Special Public Session on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office at 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. The Board will consider a motion to recess into Closed Session to hold a *Student Discipline Hearing*. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, January 22, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the Superintendent's Office to discuss personnel and legal issues, negotiations and other matters to be announced at a later date. Immediately following the Closed Session, the Board of Education will meet in Public Session at 7:30 p.m. in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

The Education Liaison Committee of the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education, the Township of Maplewood and the Township of South Orange Village will meet on Friday, January 26, 2007, at 7:30 a.m. in the Superintendent's Office at 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, to discuss issues pertinent to the school district and to the two municipalities of South Orange and Maplewood. No action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, February 5, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the Superintendent's Office to discuss personnel and legal issues, negotiations and other matters to be announced at a later date. Immediately following the Closed Session, the Board of Education will meet in Public Session at 7:30 p.m. in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Special Public Session on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office at 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. The Board will consider a motion to recess into Closed Session to hold a *Student Discipline Hearing*. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, February 26, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the Superintendent's Office to discuss personnel and legal issues, negotiations and other matters to be announced at a later date. Immediately following the Closed Session, the Board of Education will meet in Public Session at 7:30 p.m. in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

MOTION made by Ms. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Gleason, that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 9:50 p.m.

Karla Milanette, Board Secretary