

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
February 10, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held in the District Meeting Room at the Administration Building, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, New Jersey, on February 10, 2020.

Board President Annemarie Maini 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 Star Ledger, the News Record, TAPintoSOMA.net, villagegreennj.com and all schools.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Maini noted for the record that no Board Member gave advanced notice that they would not attend this meeting.

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member E. Baker, Board Member Cuttle, Board Member Joshua, Board Member Maini, Board Member Mazzocchi, Board Member Siders, Board Member Wright, Student Representative Lily Forman

Absent: Board Member R. Baker

7 VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Board President Maini explained the objective of tonight's meeting is to fill the vacancy on the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education created when former Board Member Javier Farfan resigned on January 6, 2020. The appointment made tonight will be for a term of the remainder of this calendar year ending on December 31, 2020. On the November 2020 ballot there will be a separate election for the remaining one year of this vacant term which the appointee may or may not pursue.

Board Secretary Paul Roth published the vacancy notice in all of the Board's typical publications, the District website and social media platforms informing the public of the effective date of Board member Farfan's resignation and that the Board would be accepting written requests for consideration for candidacy, which included letters of interest. This process is in accordance with Bi-law 0143. The only legal qualifications as determined by state legislation to be a Board member are that the individual 1) Be a citizen and resident of the district 2) Must live in the district for one year prior to the appointment or election 3) Be able to read and write English 4) Be registered to vote 5) Not disqualified as a voter 6) Has not been convicted of a disqualifying crime.

As stated previously candidates will be interviewed in public using the candidate format that is similar to how candidates can share with the public during normal election season. Each candidate will open with a five minute statement and then the Board will ask questions alternating who goes first. Once the interviews are complete there will be an opportunity for public speaks related to this action item on the agenda, which is the appointment. Once public speaks are over the Board will make a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the candidates. We will then return to the public session of the meeting and Board members will be asked to make nominations. These nominations require a second to the nomination. Then there will be a roll call vote conducted on the candidates in the order the

candidates were nominated. The first candidate to receive the majority of the votes of the remaining Board members will be elected to fill the vacancy. The Board member will then be sworn in. After a presentation on the 2020-2021 Budget, the Board will adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel decisions related to the budget, specifically plans related to the reorganization of Central Office.

Board Member R. Baker arrived at 7:07 p.m.

8 Voting Members Present

Board President Maini welcomed the three candidates and asked them to come forward.

Motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Board President Maini to move the Hearing of Individuals and Delegations. This portion of tonight's meeting will be held after the Board candidate interviews. Motion unanimously approved.

Board President Maini thanked the candidates for their willingness to serve our community. Each candidate offered experience and/or skills that were very impressive and would support the work of the Board. Candidates Susan Bergin, Sharon Kraus Tanenbaum and Kamal Zubieta were each given five minutes to introduce themselves to the Board and community.

Board members had the opportunity to ask each candidate questions in which they were given three minutes to respond.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

Motion made by Board President Maini, seconded by Board Member R. Baker to adjourn to Executive Session to deliberate.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session unanimously approved.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 8:08 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 9:13 p.m.

8 Voting Members and one Student Representative Present

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Board President Maini called for nominations to fill the Board vacancy.

Board Member Mazzocchi nominated Kamal Zubieta, Board member R. Baker seconded the nomination.

ROLL CALL to appoint Kamal Zubieta: YES: E. Baker, R. Baker, Cuttle, Joshua, Maini, Mazzocchi NO: Siders, Wright

3989. **Whereas** a vacancy has been caused on this board of education by resignation of Board Member Javier Farfan; and

Whereas this board of education has by law authority to fill a vacancy for the unexpired term thereof;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by a majority vote of all the remaining members of the board of education of the South Orange Maplewood School District that Kamal Zubieta be and hereby is, appointed to serve as a

member of the board of education of this school district for the unexpired term of February 10, 2020 ending on January 6, 2021.

ROLL CALL: Motion 3989 passed 6 yes 2 no.

Mr. Roth administered the oath of office to appointed Board Member Kamal Zubieta [The signed Oath of Office is on file in the Board Secretary's Office].

2020-2021 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Dr. Ronald G. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Paul Roth, Business Administrator, presented the 2020-2021 Budget Update. The presentation included the following details:

- Budget Development Process
- Projected Revenue and Tax Impact
- Goal of the 2020-2021 Budget
- Access and Equity
- Mental Health Support
- School Security (Infrastructure that supports safety)
- 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 Appropriations
- Budget Calendar
- Central Office Redesign

[Presentation on file in Board Secretary's Office]

Motion made by Board President Maini, seconded by Board Member E. Baker to adjourn to Executive Session. Motion unanimously approved.

Future Meetings

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm 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 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Action will be taken.

Paul Roth, Board Secretary