

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
June 13, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held using the online video conference platform on June 13, 2020.

Board President Annemarie Maini called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.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

Motion made by Board Member Cuttle, seconded by Board Member E. Baker to allow distance participation for this Special Board meeting during the COVID-19 emergency.

Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member E. Baker, Board Member Cuttle,
Board Member Joshua, Board President Maini,
Board Member Mazzocchi, Board Member Siders,
Board Member Wright Board Member Zubieta,

Absent: Board Member R. Baker (due technical difficulties)

8 VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

BOARD PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

The School Board meeting is a business meeting in public not a meeting with the public. Oftentimes it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases a unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the Administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools/Chief School Administrator (CSA). If the Superintendent of Schools/Chief School Administrator is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then referred to the appropriate Board Committee. The Members of the Board Committee work with Administration and the Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. After the committee discusses the matter, it is presented to the full Board for discussion before any action is taken. Only then, is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting.

After public speaks, we will adjourn to Executive Session to start the Board's portion of the Superintendent's Evaluation. On the NJSBA website there is a section on evaluations. An outline of the Board's Self Evaluation and the Superintendent's Evaluation is available as a reference. SOMSD measures success against our four District goals: (1) Facilities, (2) Integration, (3) Teaching and Learning/Student Achievement, (4) Staff Recruitment/Retention/Development as well as six leadership traits that all Boards measure their Superintendents against (Values, Governance, Operations, Curriculum, Community of Care and Professional Capacity). Evaluation of the Superintendent is the most important role of the Board.

A high quality evaluation process has helped us develop and maintain a positive working relationship and important understanding of roles and accountability for the benefit of our students.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NAME

COMMENT/QUESTION

Community Member Can the public have a video and microphone in the virtual meeting?

Response: There is no video or microphone option for public comment on this platform. Comments should be place in our WebEx chat or sent via the forms on our website.

Due to technical difficulties, the following public comments were accepted after the Board adjourned to Executive Session.

Cari Bak Troubled by the District's current distance learning plan. Is concerned that there has been no guidance, no follow through and no standards.

Scott Sinkler Asked the Board to explain how attendees can contribute in Public Speaks, both in written form and via voice/video?
Can a link be posted to let people know to go to the Q&A section?
If I want to speak, how do I signal that and do it?
For people who have joined, it's not clear what is meant by 'the website'. Could you please explain?
As with our previous distance methodology public speaks should be placed in this platform or the website form.

Brad Schenker Disappointed with the process for today's public speaks.

Marc Handelman Parent of a CHS 11th grader and SOMS 7th grader who strongly supports mandatory Zoom classes if we are still in remote participation in the Fall.

**Board Member R. Baker joined the meeting at 10:24 a.m.
9 Voting Member Present**

Motion made by Board President Maini, seconded by Board Member R. Baker to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the Litigation Update and the Superintendent's Evaluation.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session unanimously approved at 10:25 a.m.

Paul Roth, Board Secretary