

Special Meeting
Board Retreat
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
July 11, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held using the online video conference platform Webex on July 11, 2020.

Board President Annemarie Maini called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Thank You all for joining us this morning for our Board Retreat. The focus for the meeting is coming to an agreement on how the Board works best in its governance role to support student achievement as our primary purpose for the District.

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 President Maini, seconded by Board Member Joshua to allow distance participation for this Special Board meeting - Board Retreat during the COVID-19 emergency.

Motion passed 7 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, Student Representative Lily Forman

Absent: Board Member R. Baker, Board Member Zubieta

7 VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

DISCUSSION

Board President Maini thanked fellow Board Members for agreeing to this multiday retreat in an effort to work better together and to ensure that we are using the Board appropriate channels and tools, so that every decision we make is ensuring achievement for all of our students. I know that each of us is dealing with stress or concerns for our families or community, coupled with trying to hold discussions and make decisions virtually is very hard, especially when we do not have the opportunity to have simple human interactions like greeting each other. This type of interaction builds cohesiveness.

I would also like to thank Dr. Taylor for stepping away from the urgent need of planning the reopening of schools. You have the task of creating a plan that is not only safe and conveys a culture of safety for students

and staff but also delivers excellent learning opportunities for all children, in a timely manner that families can plan and figure out how best to serve and support their children. I do think that today's topic of student achievement is relevant to the work so I hope that does not distract too much from the urgent work ahead.

Thank you, Dr. Adams for agreeing to host this Retreat remotely.

**Board Member Robin Baker arrived at 9:11 a.m.
Eight VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT**

Board Retreat - Governance Training Part I

Dr. Ronald G. Taylor, Superintendent of Schools, introduced Mr. William H. Adams, Facilitator of the Board Retreat. Mr. Adams is a well know New Jersey educator, who served as a Superintendent in the same District for 36 years and President of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators as well as many other organizations. Mr. Adams understands Governance and the relationship between the Board and the Superintendent.

Mr. Adams provided a brief background of his experience as an educator and asked Board members to introduce themselves and explain why the became a Board Member.

Part I of the Board Retreat focused on the following:

- Roles, Responsibilities, Communications & Relationships Impact on Student Success
- Primary and Secondary Objectives
- Managing the Volume of Information
- What did you learn from the NJSBA BOE Self-Evaluation?
- Review Concepts of Trusteeship, Governance, Leadership, Management & Continuous Improve.
- Impact of the Superintendent on Student Achievement
- How Can or Do you Measure the Impact of Boards on Student Achievement?
- The Washington State School Board Standards
- The Montana Study & Study Results
- Effective School Boards: A Review of the Literature - Three Studies
- 7 Critical Conditions for School Renewal
- Key Differences in Board Attitudes
- New England School Development & Educational Research Service
- Panasonic Foundation Report
- Governance Model
- Definitions
- Complementary Roles

Future Meetings

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2020, to conduct the Hearing of Individuals and Delegations and will then move to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. The Board of

Education will return to Public Session for Action and the Board Retreat using the online video conference platform. Action may be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 using the online video conference platform for a Board Retreat for Goal Setting. No action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via the online video conference platform (Webex) or 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. via the online video conference platform (Webex). Action will be taken.

Motion made by Board Member Maini, seconded by Board Member R. Baker, that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the July 20, 2020 public meeting.

MOTION made by Board President Maini, seconded by Board Member Joshua that the Board of Education adjourns. Motion unanimously approved at 12:24 p.m.

Paul Roth, Board Secretary