

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

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

Board President Annemarie Maini called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Thank You all for joining us this evening for part two of our Board Retreat. The focus for the meeting is to continue to come to an agreement on how the Board works best in its governance role to support student achievement as our primary purpose for the District. We will adjourn into Executive Session after public comment and then we will return for the Board Retreat.

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 9 yes, 0 no.

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member E. Baker, Board Member R. Baker
Board Member Cuttle, Board Member Joshua,
Board President Maini, Board Member Mazzocchi,
Board Member Siders, Board Member Wright,
Board Member Zubieta, Student Rep. Lily Forman

Absent: None

9 VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

David Boerger

Q. Online learning for my kids (grades 4 & 7) fell woefully short in the spring. What changes are being considered so that kids are more engaged and challenged?

A. A community wide update on this topic is forthcoming.

Motion made by Board President Maini, seconded by Board Member Joshua to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Motion to adjourn unanimously approved.

**Board Members adjourned to Executive Session at 6:10 p.m.
Board Members reconvened at 6:52 p.m.
Nine Voting Members and one Student Representative Present**

ITEM FOR ACTION

Motion made by Dr. Taylor, seconded by Board Member Joshua to approve the following:

4028. Approves a settlement agreement with the Black Parents Workshop (BPW), et al, and authorizes the Board President to execute the settlement agreement.

Roll Call: Motion 4027 passed. YES: E. Baker, R. Baker, Cuttle, Joshua, Maini, Mazzocchi, Siders, Wright, Zubieta NO: None

Board Retreat - Governance Training Part II

Dr. William H. Adams facilitated part II of the Board Retreat. Part II of the Retreat is a continuation of Governance Training and focused on the following:

- Reflections and Recap of the Board
 - Committed to Children
 - Committed an Equitable
 - Smart. Each member brings unique and valuable experiences and expertise to the BOE (finance, performance art, law, education, business backgrounds), some with children in the district.
 - Desire for all students to succeed and provide educational opportunities to meet individual student's needs, talents and passions.
 - Desire/Acknowledgement that transparency of information, appropriate and timely communication leads to building trust among and between Board members and the Board-Superintendent Relationships.
 - Desire for transparency of processes to build trust and accountability.
 - Members have high standards/expectations for the Board
 - Professional and respectful decorum expected from BOE as a government official and representative of the district.
 - Self-described as: Compassionate, Determination, wants what's best for children.
- Suggested Outcomes/Next/Steps/Deliverables
 - Annual Agenda developed and communicated to all District stakeholders
 - Enhance process for distribution of BOE committee and agenda meeting information. Information should be communicated expeditiously and efficiently.
 - Onboarding process for new BOE members

- o Development of Action Plans for new goals with benchmarks and agreed upon measurements with timeline for goals - accountability for all stakeholders.
 - o BOE and District goals should be similar or complementary.
- Overview of District's Mission, Vision & Goals
 - District Goals
 - Board Goals
 - Let's Talk About the District's Goals
 - o Where are the successes?
 - o Where are the challenges?
 - o How do we know?
 - Prioritize Short-term District Expectations
 - Critical Issues in the Board-Superintendent Relationship
 - Board Meeting Monitoring Questions
 - The Board's Role in Monitoring and Assessing Progress Made Toward Achievement of Expectations
 - Board Committees - Role, Responsibilities and Effectiveness
 - Suggested Policies and Protocols for Effective Board and Leadership Team Relations
 - Steps for Continuous Monitoring of Governance and Leadership Effectiveness Moving Forward
 - Board Self-Assessment Follow-up
 - Recap and Consideration of Next Steps

Future Meetings

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 on 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 Joshua, 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 Wright that the Board of Education adjourns. Motion unanimously approved at 9:32 p.m.

Paul Roth, Board Secretary

