

Special Meeting  
South Orange-Maplewood  
Board of Education  
September 29, 2020

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held using the online video conference platform on September 29, 2020.

Board President Annemarie Maini called the meeting to order at 5:01 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

Motion made by Board Member Maini, seconded by Board Member Joshua 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 R. Baker  
Board Member Cuttle, Board Member Joshua,  
Board President Maini, Board Member Mazzocchi,  
Board Member Siders, Board Member Zubieta,

Absent: Board Member Wright

8 VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE - *Dr. Ronald G. Taylor*

REPORT ON GRADUATES AND PATHWAYS REPORT

The District received an update on September 21, 2020 that there was a newly adopted regulation requiring the reporting out of certain graduation data by September 30.

New Jersey regulations (**N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.2(f)**) require districts to report graduation results annually to their district Boards of Education or charter school boards of trustees at a public meeting no later than September 30.

- The total number of students graduating in the prior school year: **450**
- The number of graduates who met the graduation assessment requirements by:
  - o Passing a substitute competency test (ELA): **238**
  - o Passing a substitute competency test (Math): **254**
  - o The portfolio appeals process (ELA): **4**
  - o The portfolio appeals process (Math): **29**
  - o Meeting alternate requirements specified in their IEPs (ELA): **3**
  - o Meeting alternate requirements specified in their IEPs (Math): **4**

- o The number of 12th grade students who were:
  - i. Denied graduation:**36**
  - ii. Denied solely due to failure to meet the graduation assessment requirements: **0**

**Board Member Wright joined the meeting at 5:13 p.m.  
9 Voting Members 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.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

The Board of Education will meet in Executive Session on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via online video conference platform 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. using the online video conference platform. The community can view the meeting by following the steps below. Action will be taken.

Motion made by Board President Maini, seconded by Board Member Joshua that the Board of Education will meet in Executive Session prior to the October 19, 2020 Public Meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues, negotiations and other matters, the nature of which will be made public at a future date.

Motion made by Board President Maini, seconded by Board Member R. Baker to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Merit Goals.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session unanimously approved at 5:34 p.m.

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Paul Roth, Board Secretary