

Special Meeting
Board Retreat
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
July 22, 2021

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, as well as utilizing the online video conference platform on July 22, 2021.

Board President Thair Joshua called the meeting to order at 6:36 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 the District website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member Bergin, Board Member Cuttle
Board Member Joshua, Board Member Maini,
Board Member Malespina (remote), Board Member
Siders (remote), Board Member Winkfield,
Board Member Wright (remote)

Absent: Board Member Sabin (due to a conflict on the agenda)

EIGHT VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Cuttle to allow distance participation for this Special Board meeting - Board Retreat.

Motion passed 8 yes, 0 no.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE.

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Cuttle to take a 5 minute recess. Motion unanimously approved.

***Board recessed at 6:40 p.m.
Board reconvened at 6:45 p.m.
8 Voting Members Present***

BOARD RETREAT

DISCUSSION

Ray Pinney Member Engagement Director and Charlene Peterson, Field Representative for New Jersey School Boards Association facilitated

the Board Retreat. The Retreat focused on the Board Self-Evaluation as outlined below. Board Members had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in open dialogue with the facilitators throughout the retreat.

- Tonight's Approach - Sometimes individual trustees find it difficult to find common ground with fellow trustees. It is extremely important for the board to take the time to try to work together and to forge professional, respectful relationships. The responsibility of educational governance is so profound that there is no acceptable alternative.
- Overview of Board Self-Evaluation
 - o Completed by 8 Board Members
 - o Standards - Planning, Policy, Student Achievement, Finance, Board Operations, Board Performance, Board/Superintendent, Board/Staff, Board & Community
 - o Score based on 4.0 Scale
 - o 2020 average score 2.3
 - o 2021 Average score 2.1

Board Member Sabin Joined the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

NINE VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

- Board Discussion
 - o How are we doing?
 - o What were your impressions after reading the Board Self-Evaluation?
 - o Is it an accurate reflection of the Board?
 - o How did it make you feel?
- Moving Forward Governance Choice - a Fork in a Board's Road
 - o You are elected as an individual, but you must govern as a member of a team. You didn't get to pick the team; you may not even like everyone on the team, but it's your team now and it wins or loses for children as a team. If the board succeeds, you succeed; if the board fails, you fail.
 - o A fundamental choice for any Board is how as a group they choose to govern within that team.
 - As a collection of individuals each with own agenda or as a cohesive unified team working toward a common vision?

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders to take a 5 minute recess. Motion unanimously approved.

Board recessed at 9:01 p.m.

Board reconvened at 9:08 p.m.

7 Voting Members Present

(Board Member Bergin technical difficulties, Board Member Sabin did not return to the meeting)

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

**Board Member Bergin joined the meeting at 9:15 p.m.
8 Voting Members Present**

ITEM FOR ACTION

Motion made by Board President Joshua seconded by Board Member Malespina that the Board approves the following:

4177. WHEREAS, The Board of Education approved the Board Committee Liaisons for the 2021 Calendar year at the January 7, 2021 Reorganization (Resolution #4092) and January 25, 2021 (Resolution #4103);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Board of Education amend the Board of Education Committee Liaisons for the 2021 calendar year as presented.

ROLL CALL: Motion 4177 passed. YES: Bergin, Cuttle, Maini, Malespina, Siders, Winkfield, Wright NO: Joshua

Future Meetings

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Superintendent's Office, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, as well as using the 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 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ in person and utilizing an online video conference platform which will include Hearing of Individuals. The community can view the meeting by following the steps which will be listed on the agenda. If there are members of the community who would like to attend the meeting in person, please note that masks and social distancing are required in accordance with the guidance received from the local DOH. Action will be taken.

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Malespina, that the Board of Education will meet in Executive Session prior to the August 16, 2021 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 unanimously approved.

MOTION made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Cuttle that the Board of Education adjourns. Motion unanimously approved at 9:37 p.m.

Joanne Butler, Board Attorney