

Special Meeting  
South Orange-Maplewood  
Board of Education  
March 31, 2022

A Special Public Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held utilizing the online video conference platform on March 31, 2022.

Board President Thair Joshua called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Board of Education held a moment of silence to mourn the recent loss of a Columbia High School student. Thank you, Dr. Taylor and team, for working with Columbia High School Administration to help everyone process what occurred.

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 Joshua,  
Board Member Malespina, Board Member Siders,  
Board Member Telesford, Board Members Vadlamani,  
Board Member Wittleder, Board Member Wright

Absent: Board Member Winkfield

*EIGHT 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.

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Wittleder to allow distance participation in our monthly Regular Board Meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Dennis Kearney urged to Board to share contact tracing information so that parents are aware of positive cases in their child's classroom so that parents can respond responsibly and appropriately with proper COVID-19 protocols.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Wittleder to adjourn to Executive Session to interview candidates for the General Counsel Solicitor position. Motion to adjourn to Executive Session unanimously approved at 6:08 p.m. The Board will not return to public session.

The Board of Education will meet in a Special Public Session on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 6:30 pm for a Curriculum & Instruction Update 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. Action may be taken. The Board of Education will adjourn to go to Executive Session immediately after the Curriculum & Instruction Update using an online video conference platform to discuss personnel and legal issues, negotiations, and other matters to be announced at a later date.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, April 18, 2022 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

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders, that the Board of Education will meet in Executive Session prior to the April 18, 2022 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.

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Eric Burnside, Business Administrator