

Reorganizational Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
May 9, 2022

A Reorganizational 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 May 9, 2022.

Board President Thair Joshua called the meeting to order at 8:00 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

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member Bergin, Board President Joshua,
Board Member Malespina, Board Member Siders,
Board Member Vadlamani, Board Member Winkfield,
Board Member Wittleder, Board Member Wright,
Student Representative Morros

Absent: Board Member Telesford

EIGHT VOTING MEMBERS AND ONE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders to hold this meeting in a hybrid setting. Motion passed unanimously.

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 following individuals spoke in support of SOMSD teacher Tamar Herman and against antisemitism - Alice Solomon and Stephanie Baram on behalf

of the SOMA Aviva Chapter of Hadassah, (an international Jewish women's organization).

The following individuals expressed similar concerns regarding the lack of COVID-19 protections, the rise in cases since the District has gone mask optional and the lack of transparency regarding positive cases: Natalie Peretti, Cathleen Mitchell, Heather Saslovsky and Laina Stapleton.

Dr. Taylor

Legally we are not permitted to discuss employee matters in public. I will give a statement regarding COVID-19 protocols and mitigation efforts in the near future.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders to move resolutions 4295 and 4296 for discussion and voting.

4295. APPROVE REAPPOINTMENT OF STAFF FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

LIST NO. 1 - Reappointment of Non-Tenured Staff

LIST NO. 2 - Reappointment of All Other Staff

[Lists on file in Board Secretary's Office]

ROLL CALL: Motion 4295 passed. YES: Bergin, Joshua, Siders, Vadlamani, Winkfield, Wittleder, Wright NO: Malespina

4296. Approve the following Organizational Appointments for the 2022-2023 School Year:

1. Approve Thomas Giglio as the District Health and Safety Officer.
2. Approve Thomas Giglio as the Integrated Pest Management Coordinator, AHERA Coordinator and Asbestos Management Officer.
3. Approve Thomas Giglio as the Right to Know Officer.
4. Approve Thomas Giglio as the Indoor Air Quality Officer.
5. Appoint Eric Burnside as Board Secretary and authorize him to sign checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptance, undertakings or other orders for payment of money.
6. Appoint Eric Burnside as the Qualified Purchasing Agent and authorize him to negotiate and award contracts pursuant to NJSA 18A:18A-3.
7. Appoint Eric Burnside as the Custodian of Records for the school district.
8. Appoint Andrea Del Guercio as Assistant Board Secretary and authorize her to sign checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptance, undertakings or other orders for the payment of money in the absence of the Board Secretary.

9. Approve Eric Burnside as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the school district.
10. Approve Dr. Kevin Gilbert as the Affirmative Action Officer for the school district.
11. Approve Susie Budine as District Liaison for the Education of Homeless Children (per N.J.A.C. 6A:17-2.5).
12. Approve Susie Budine as the Liaison to the Department of Children and Families Division of Child Protection and Permanency.
13. Approve Susie Budine as the District ADA/504 Compliance Committee Coordinator for students.
14. Approve Stacey Robinson as the District ADA/504 Compliance Committee Coordinator for employees.
15. Appoint Dr. Kevin Gilbert as the Anti-Bullying Coordinator for the school district.
16. Appoint Dr. Kevin Gilbert as the District Title IX Coordinator.
17. Approve Matthew Friedman or Designee to implement the district's approved vocational and technical education safety and health programs (per N.J.A.C. 6A:19-10.2(b)).
18. Appoint Dana Sullivan as Treasurer for the school district.
19. Appoint Dr. Michael Kelly of West Orange, New Jersey as School Physician at an annual fee of \$36,500.
20. Appoint the firm of PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP as the independent statutory auditor for the school district at an annual fee of \$62,160.
21. Appoint Patrick Carrigg Esq. and the Law Firm of Lenox Socey, Fomidoni, Giordano, Carrigg, Lange and Casey as Special Counsel for Labor, Employment and other overflow legal matters at the following rates: Partners \$175 per hour, Associates \$145 per hour and Paralegals \$95 per hour.
22. Appoint David B. Rubin, Esq. of David B. Rubin, PC and Busch Law Group as Special Counsel to the Board of Education at a rate of \$185 per hour, plus reimbursement of all costs, disbursements and expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred in connection with this agreement.
23. Appoint the law firm of Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri and Jacobs, LLC as General Counsel for the District at the rate \$165 per hour for Attorneys and \$90 per hour for Paralegals plus \$0.20 per page for photocopying.
24. Appoint Busch Law Group as Special Education Counsel for the District at the rate of \$170 per hour, plus the cost of direct expenses.
25. Appoint the law firm of Wilentz Attorneys at Law as the Bond Counsel firm to provide specialized legal services necessary in connection with the authorization and the issuance of bonds or notes by the Board of Education; fees are determined per agreement on file in Board Secretary's Office.
26. Appoint the firm of Phoenix Advisors, Inc. as the Continuing Disclosure Agent, Municipal Advisor of Record and to provide annual Financial Advisory Services necessary by the Board of Education; fees are determined per agreement on file in Board Secretary's Office.

27. Appoint Willis of New Jersey, Inc. as insurance broker of record.
28. Appoint Balken Risk as insurance agent for school district employee benefits.
29. Appoint the firm of Spiezle Architectural Group as the school district's architect; fees are determined per agreements on file in Board Secretary's Office.
30. Approve the following depositories for school monies:
 - Bank of America
 - NJ ARM
 - PNC Bank
 - Chase Manhattan Bank
 - Wells Fargo Bank
31. Adopt the following approved District secondary school, middle school and elementary school curricular programs as presently written for the 2022-2023 school year, with new/revised curricula brought forward for adoption as they are completed and prior to their implementation: [curriculum on file in the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction]:
 - Art K-12
 - Career & Technical Education 9-12
 - Counseling 6-12
 - Educational Media & Technology K-12
 - English as a Second Language K-12
 - English/Language Arts K-12
 - Health/Family Life K-12
 - Mathematics K-12
 - Music K-12
 - Physical Education K-12
 - Science K-12
 - Social Studies K-12
 - World Languages 4-12
 - Pre-K [Tools of the Mind]
32. Accept the existing master agreements with the following units:
 - a. South Orange-Maplewood Education Association (SOMEA)
 - b. Association of Supervisors, Coordinators and Administrators (ASCA)
33. Adopt the following newspapers for legal advertisements for the 2022-2023 school year: The Star Ledger, News Record, TAPintoSOMA.net, villagegreennj.com or the New York Times.
34. Authorize the Board Secretary to purchase the following types of securities for the purpose of investment on a short-term basis:
 - a. Bonds or other obligations of the United States of America or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America; or
 - b. Bonds of any Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Land Bank, Federal national Mortgage Associates or of any United

States Band for Cooperatives which have a maturity date not greater than twelve months from the date of purchase; or

- c. Bonds or other obligations for other school districts.
(18A:20-37)
35. Authorize the Superintendent or designee, to approve such line item budget transfers as are necessary between Board of Education meetings, and that such transfers shall be reported to the Board of Education, ratified and duly recorded in the minutes of the next regular meeting.
 36. Authorize the Board Secretary to establish the following imprest petty cash fund accounts for the period July 1st through June 30th during the next fiscal year in accordance with N.J.S.A.18A:19-13. Business Administrator' office, amount of fund to be set at \$1,000. Assistant Business Administrator's office, amount of fund to be set at \$100.
 37. Authorize the Business Administrator to issue bids on behalf of the Board of Education, as necessary.
 38. Approve continued membership in the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association and agree to be governed by the Constitution, By-laws and Rules and Regulations of the Association, including all rules governing student athlete eligibility, for the 2022-2023 school year.
 39. Approve continued membership in New Jersey School Boards Association, Minority Student Achievement Network and Garden State Coalition of Schools for the 2022-2023 school year.
 40. Establish a photo copy fee of \$0.05 (\$0.10 color copy) per letter size page or smaller and \$0.07 (\$0.12) per legal size page or larger of official Board Minutes and other public documents. A special service fee may be added for irregular size copies or requests that require an extraordinary amount of time or effort to accommodate the request.
 41. Approve procurement of goods and services through state agencies and Mercer County Special Services Cooperative Pricing System ("MCSSSD"), Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council, Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative (Middlesex Regional), New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (Bergen County), The Educational Services Commission of Morris County Cooperative, Educational Data Services, Inc., Union County Cooperative Pricing Agreement and the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission Cooperative.
 42. Approve the attendance and related travel expenses for regular district business as caused by or subject to contractual provisions, other statutory requirements or federal requirements and approve the reimbursement for such regular district travel expenses not to exceed \$1,500 per employee.

43. Adopt Code of Student Conduct through June 30, 2023.
44. Approve the Emergency Management Plan and the Bio-security Plan as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.
45. Approve the Business Office Purchasing Manual and Business Office Standard Operating Procedures Manual as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.
46. R & L Data Centers, Inc. Payroll Company.
47. Adopt the 403(b) and 457(b) Plan Documents for Public Education Organizations
48. Approve 403B Tax Shelter Annuity Brokers
 - a. Ameriprise Financial Services
 - b. AXA Equitable
 - c. Great American Life
 - d. The Legend Group
 - e. MetLife
 - f. AIG Retirement-VALIC
49. Adopt the Board Policy Manual for the 2022-2023

ROLL CALL: Motion 4296 passed. YES: Bergin, Joshua, Siders, Vadlamani, Winkfield, Wittleder NO: Malespina, Wright

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

The following topics were presented and discussed during New Business:

Board President Joshua provided COVID-19 related updates:

- Rapid and PCR COVID-19 tests are counted on our dashboard. Home tests are not reported on the district dashboard but are accepted to initiate virtual learning for students. We confirmed with our health departments that at home COVID-19 test results are not reported in the townships, county or State metrics.
- Contract tracing is not occurring because there is not enough capacity in house to do so and the definition of close contact has changed as well as other definitions.
- The health department has specifically stated that the district should not wait for their recommendations to implement additional mitigation strategies and should do what we believe is in the best interest of the district overall and each individual school community. This also applies to removal of additional mitigation strategies.
- An outbreak is defined as three lab confirmed cases in a classroom. Per local health recommendations three classes in a school that is experiencing an outbreak mandates schoolwide masking.
- This information was also shared with the district's Health and Wellness Subcommittee.

On behalf of the Business Office Board Secretary, Eric Burnside asked the Board to consider moving the standing monthly Board meetings to the last Thursday of the month. There are two main reason for this recommendation.

1. As it stands when we have middle of the month Board meetings it does not give our vendors enough time to get their invoices in to us. There is a processing time that we must consider, especially with all of the construction that we have going on. Construction vendors for example, are having a hard time completing their certified payroll as it is a multi-part approval. The construction manager creates certified payroll for the month, it is then sent to the architect for verification and finally it comes to the Business office where it is verified again before payment is issued.
2. This change would also allow additional time to schedule committee meetings and to gather data so more items can be included on the agenda for approval. When the meeting is in the middle of the month there is a two week period where we miss the opportunity to present items to the Board.
3. It will also help the district remain compliant with New Jersey's prompt payment laws.

Dr. Taylor reminded the Board that this meeting schedule was tested earlier this year and it went well.

Board Member Wittleder presented the following topics for discussion:

1. Facility tours for Board Members. Some Board Members have never seen the inside of district buildings. As a member of the FFT committee it is our fiduciary responsibility to make sure we are making informed decisions. Knowing and seeing the layout of the buildings can better help put things into perspective when making decisions. Board Member Wittleder also suggested the Board add facility tours to onboarding of new Board Members.
2. Formalizing the committee chair meetings also known in other districts as the Governance Committee. This committee arguably is one of the most important from an organizational standpoint because as the committee chairs convene we are making sure we are discussing district goals from different vantage points. Topics that Board Members want to bring forth for discussion find a home and starting point with this committee. It is important that we can all weigh in. As it stands, Board Members can contact committee chairs to add things to the agenda but making the committee chair meetings a formal committee will allow for more structured communication and committee minutes.

Board Member Malespina opened the discussion on the role of the Executive Committee stating that this Board is one of the only Boards in New Jersey to have an Executive Committee; while the role of the Board President is necessary, are two vice presidents necessary? Additionally, there is currently nothing in the bi-laws outlining the role of the Executive Committee.

Board Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback for each topic presented.

Future Meetings

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Superintendent's Office, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, as well as using an 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. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 7:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ in person and utilizing an online video conference platform to honor retirees and celebrate staff accomplishments. Action will not be taken.

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders, that the Board of Education meet in Executive Session prior to the May 16, 2022 Special Public Meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

MOTION made by Board President Joshua seconded by Board Member Winkfield that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion approved unanimously at 9:47 p.m.

Eric Burnside, Board Secretary