

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
June 9, 2022

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 June 9, 2022.

Board President Thair Joshua called the meeting to order at 6:34 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 President Joshua,
Board Member Malespina, Board Member Siders,
Board Member Telesford, Board Member Vadlamani,
Board Member Winkfield, Board Member Wittleder,
Board Member Wright

Absent: Student Representative Morros

NINE VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD RECOGNITION

SOMSD Teacher and PRIDE Chair Kristie Thomas introduced the winners of the annual Essex County Education Association Essay Contest, Jack Levit (Tuscan 2nd Grader) and Brandon Jones (CHS Senior) who each read their winning essay submissions. Ms. Thomas read the winning submissions of Jonathan Cross (CHS Freshman) who wrote his submission on Shira Lincoln, Marshall School Teacher and SOMEA VP and Arushi Vadlamani (CHS Sophomore) who were unable to attend this evening.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Rocio Lopez, SOMEA President

Thanked the Board the contract with SOMEA. SOMEA worked really hard to create salary guides that we believe can be competitive and we were able to retain some teachers due to this agreement. Thank you to Board President Joshua and Board Member Winkfield for bringing their expertise to the negotiations table. SOMEA members are very happy with the contract.

Ms. Lopez Urged the Board and administration to include SOMEA in decision making for important matters throughout the district.

Dr. Taylor thanked Ms. Lopez for her comments and requested to continue the discussion with SOMEA in a more appropriate setting.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Board President Joshua made the following motions seconded by Board Member Siders:

The Board of Education will meet in a Special Public Meeting on Monday, June 20, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, as well as using the online video conference platform, which will include Hearing of Individuals and Delegations. Immediately following the Public Session, the Board of Education will then move to go into Executive Session, in person and utilizing an online video conference platform to discuss the Chief School Administrator's evaluation. Action may be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, June 27, 2022 at 6:00 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 a Special Public Meeting on Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, as well as using the online video conference platform, which will include Hearing of Individuals and Delegations. Immediately following the Public Session, the Board of Education will move to go into Executive Session, in person and utilizing an online video conference platform to discuss the Chief School Administrator's evaluation. Action may be taken.

MOTION made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss the Chief School Administrator's evaluation.

Motion unanimously approved at 7:00 p.m.

Joanne Butler, In-House Counsel