

Special Meeting
Board Retreat
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
February 22, 2024

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 February 22, 2024.

Board President Qawi Telesford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member Callahan, Board Member Duvall Wilson, Board Member Gifford, Board Member Meyer, Board Member Sackett-Gable, Board President Telesford, Board Member Vadlamani, Board Member Wittleder

Absent: Board Member Eckert

EIGHT VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Pledge of Allegiance

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in the following manner:

- A. That written notice was sent from the Office of the Secretary of the Board at 2:19 p.m. on January 31, 2024.
- B. That said notice was sent via email to Maplewood and South Orange Township Clerks and the Editors of the News Record, Star Ledger, TapintoSOMA and the Village Green.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

The school board meeting is a business meeting in public and 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 then shared with the other Board members for consideration. Only then is it placed on the agenda for Board discussion and action at a public meeting.

Motion made by Board President Telesford seconded by Board Member Duvall Wilson to move up the Hearing of Individuals and Delegations on tonight's agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

Thank you for coming in-person and dialing-in by phone this evening. The South Orange - Maplewood Board of Education certainly respects that you've taken the time out of your busy day to address the Board at tonight's meeting. We value public involvement in our school district, and we are eager to hear what you have to say. The board does have time limits by policy, and it will be enforcing those to enable as many people to speak as possible this evening. Each individual will be given two minutes to speak, please do your best to stay within the time afforded to you. The first public comment period is usually limited to one hour and the second public comment period may be limited to thirty minutes. All input shared with the Board of Education is taken very seriously, and will inform future deliberations and work by the Board of Education and its committees.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE.

BOARD RETREAT

- Breakout session
- Presentation from NJSBA Field Representative Charlene Peterson on Board Governance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Eric Burnside, Board Secretary