

Special Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
June 4, 2024

A Special Public 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 4, 2024.

Board President Qawi Telesford called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

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

Absent: Board Member Duvall Wilson

EIGHT VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Pledge of Allegiance

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Please take notice that 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 10:01 am on May 29, 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, and the Village Green.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW SUPERINTENDENT - Board President Telesford

Tonight, marks the culmination of a process that began on January 5, 2024. The board embarked on one of its most important functions selecting a Superintendent. I would like to thank each board member for their engagement throughout the process. I also extend my gratitude to our Business Administrator, Mr. Burnside and our Assistant Business Administrator Mrs. Del Guercio for their support and assistance. Special thanks to Board Members Callahan and Eckert for serving alongside me as the Superintendent Search Liaisons. All of our meetings and planning have finally come to fruition in tonight's meeting. For the Superintendent Search, we partnered with Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates (HYA). Edward McCormick and Karen Shaw provided a robust process to guide us through. The search the process began with our engagement phase during which we received input from over 2,000 individuals through three community forums, an online survey and over 25 focus groups. HYA noted that they received more than twice the responses typical for community of our size, demonstrating the high level of engagement and care from our community members. We integrated your

voices and those of other key stakeholders into a comprehensive leadership profile which served as a template for the job posting and recruitment efforts. The Board received over 40 applicants for this position which would narrow down to a short list of candidates who interviewed with the Board over two weekends.

After much discussion and deliberation, I am happy to announce that the Board will appoint Jason Bing as Superintendent of the South Orange Maplewood School District. Mr. Bing brings extensive experience and impressive qualifications to the Superintendent role aligning with the district's mission to provide students with the highest quality educational experience. His robust background in curriculum development and educational administration will significantly enhance the District's ongoing efforts to improve academic standards and outcomes. What impressed the Board most was Mr. Bing's profound understanding of educational topics including curriculum and instruction, special education, the budgetary process and community engagement. His depth of knowledge and expertise will elevate the district's educational programs and initiatives. Additionally, Mr. Bing has demonstrated a dedication to equity, diversity and inclusion aligning well with the District's and the board's guiding principles.

Furthermore, Mr. Bing's familial history and ties to South Orange Maplewood Community further solidified our confidence in his abilities to lead the district with a genuine understanding of the community's needs and values. His local connection provides an added layer of insight and commitment. The Board is proud to welcome Mr. Bing and looks forward to the positive impact he will have on our students and the broader school community. This evening we will vote on approving Mr. Bing's appointment and passing a resolution for an early appointment to assist the district during this transitional period. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Bing to the South Orange Maple School District. We wish him well as he continues the progress we have seen over the years.

Mr. Jason Bing

I want to thank the Board the for opportunity. The process was comprehensive and every question, every comment from these particular Board Members were community-based. You could tell immediately that these students and the families were a priority so that was highly appreciated. Your investment in this community was quite obvious. It is one of the things that drew me to this position. I want to thank you all for the process. I'm honored and humbled as I take this position and I look forward to working with the community. We are going to put out a schedule of town hall meetings in the very near future. We are looking to do a lot of face to face meetings and get to know everyone as we move forward in the South Orange and Maplewood School District. Again, I am very excited, I want to thank you all and I truly and wholeheartedly look forward to working with the community.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

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.

Community Member Geneva McDaniel spoke about the difficulties that her family is experiencing due to the placement of her children via Intentional Integration and asked for guidance regarding the transfer process.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Motion made by Board President Telesford, seconded by Board Member Vadlamani to move resolutions 4623-4624 for discussion and voting. Motion unanimously approved.

Board Members extended a warm welcome to Mr. Bing and elaborated on the process and rationale behind his selection as the new Superintendent of the South Orange Maplewood School District.

Board Members also thanked Dr. Kevin F. Gilbert for his strength and leadership as Acting Superintendent over the past few months.

4623. Approves an agreement appointing Jason Bing as Superintendent of Schools for the period of July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2028; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute the agreement with the Superintendent on behalf of the Board.

4624. APPOINTMENT

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTUAL SALARY
Del Guercio, Andrea	Acting Business Administrator/ Board Secretary DIST - 1.0 FTE	7/1/24- TBD	\$189,975

ROLL CALL: Motion 4623-4624 PASSED YES: Callahan, Eckert, Gifford, Meyer, Sackett-Gable, Telesford, Vadlamani, Wittleder NO: None

Motion made by Board President Telesford, seconded by Board Member Vadlamani to move resolutions 4625 for discussion and voting. Motion unanimously approved.

4625. Approves Jason Bing as Supervisor of Special Services for the period of June 20, 2024 - June 30, 2024; and the purpose of such appointment is to assist with Mr. Bing's transition to the role of Superintendent of Schools for the School District of South Orange and Maplewood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the President of the Board of Education is authorized to execute the agreement with the Acting Superintendent on behalf of the Board.

ROLL CALL: Motion 4623-4624 PASSED YES: Callahan, Eckert, Gifford, Meyer, Sackett-Gable, Telesford, Vadlamani, Wittleder NO: None

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

SOMEA President Rocio Lopez welcomed Mr. Bing and spoke in support of Ms. McDaniel who spoke earlier this evening.

Nicole Josey, Co-President of the President's Council, expressed disappointment with the state of the Special Services Department. She highlighted the lack of in-district programming for her son and loss of leadership in the department.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Future Meetings

Board President Telesford made the following motions:

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 6:30 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 be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Immediately following the opening of Public Session, the board will move to go into a Closed Session in the Superintendent's Office, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, as well as using an online video conference platform to discuss personnel, matters within the attorney-client privilege, legal, negotiations, and other matters that may arise and require discussion, to be announced at a later date. Immediately following the Closed Session, the Board of Education will meet in Public Session (estimated to be 7:30 pm) in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ in person, 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 optional in accordance with the guidance received from the local DOH and the CDC. Action will be taken.

Motion made by President Telesford, seconded by Board Member Callahan to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 6:55 p.m.

Patrick Carrigg, Board Attorney