

Special Meeting
Fergus Implementation Committee
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
July 24, 2024

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held utilizing the online video conference platform on July 24, 2024

Board President Qawi Telesford called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

Absent: Board Member Gifford, Board Member Vadlamani,
Board Member Wittleder

SIX 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 10:58 A.m. on July 15, 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.

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 three 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.

No speakers were present.

DR. FERGUS' REFLECTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT PLAN

Dr. Fergus thanked the district team that he worked with this past school year. It was the first time that actually he was engaged by the district leadership team around the reports that he generated over the last several years for South Orange Maplewood School District. They earnestly sort of not only invited me in but I offered my time to meet with them monthly and they took it. We met every month on a Friday for a couple of hours to walk through how they were delineating their plans in relation to the recommendations and I want to thank them for earnestly understanding that these recommendations are ones that are necessary for this school district to really not only sort of align with the set of agreements but there was also an earnest understanding that there was also part of the moral compass that the South Orange Maplewood Community had and also was making an investment around. I look forward to the work that's going to transpire uh over the next several years

Dr. Edward Fergus presented South Orange Maplewood School District: Getting Integration Ready for the Board. The presentation included the following:

- History of School Desegregation and Integration
- SOMSD Equity Audit Reports
- Disparity Patterns 2018-19 to 2021-22
- Special Education Findings
- Special Education Relative Risk Ratio by Race 2018-19 to 2021-22
- AP and Honors Enrollment Findings
- AP and Honors Relative Risk Ratio by Race 2018-19 to 2021-22
- Additional Patterns
- Discipline Relative Risk Ratio by Race, FRLP and Gender 2018-19 to 2021-22
- Overall Disparity Findings
- Math Curriculum
- Overall Curricular Finding
- Intervention Supports
- Findings
- Recommendations
- Key Steps in Recommendation Implementation

[Presentation on file in Board Secretary's Office]

Board Members were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the presentation.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Future Meetings

Board President Telesford made the following motions:

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, July 25, 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 Board President Telesford, seconded by Board Member Sackett-Gable that the Board of Education adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 7:41 p.m.

Andrea Del Guercio, Acting Board Secretary