

Special Meeting
Board Retreat
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
August 21, 2024

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held utilizing the online video conference platform on August 21, 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 Eckert, Board Member Meyer, Board President Telesford, Board Member Vadlamani Board Member Wittleder

Absent: Board Member Gifford, Board Member Sackett-Gable

SEVEN 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 7:59 am on August 13, 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, the Village Green, and TapintoSOMA.

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

Community Members Beth Cosentino and Thair Joshua spoke.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Future Meetings

Board President Telesford made the following motions:

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, August 29, 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 the meeting and begin the Board Retreat. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 6:42 p.m.

BOARD RETREAT - 24/25 SY DISTRICT AND BOARD GOAL DISCUSSION

***Board Members Gifford and Sackett Gable joined the meeting.
9 Voting Members Present***

Andrea Del Guercio, Acting Board Secretary