

Special Meeting  
Board Retreat  
South Orange-Maplewood  
Board of Education  
September 10, 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 September 10, 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, Board Member Vadlamani, Board Member Wittleder

Absent: Board Member Gifford

*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 1:52 pm on September 6, 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.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S UPDATE - Dr. Telesford

BOARD GOALS

Today we will be finalizing our District Goals and Board Goals.

NEGOTIATIONS

This week we will hold our eighth Negotiations meeting with SOMEA. We have been working diligently with them trying to come to a resolution. We are hoping to come to a speedy resolution soon.

MEMORIAL

The Board would like to extend its deepest condolences to the family of Jerry Ford, the Interim Transportation Supervisor for the District, who passed away last week. He joined the district during a time of great need, and we are grateful for his service. He will be missed.

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, September 26, 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 the Board Retreat begin. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 6:41 p.m.

**BOARD RETREAT - 24/25 SCHOOL YEAR DISTRICT AND BOARD GOAL  
DISCUSSION**

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Jason Bing, Superintendent