

Special Meeting  
Board Retreat  
South Orange-Maplewood  
Board of Education  
February 4, 2025

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 4, 2025.

Board President Nubia DuVall Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member Bennett, Board Member Brown,  
Board Member Callahan, Board President DuVall Wilson,  
Board Eckert, Board Member Gifford,  
Board Member Kapadia, Board Member Meyer,  
Board Member Sackett-Gable,

Absent: None

*NINE 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 2:56 pm on January 23, 2025
- 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Bing commended the Board for pursuing Board Retreats and New Jersey School Board Association certification, welcomed the new football coach, shared updates on K-12 right sizing, the Columbia High School course selection guides, future pathways for high school students to obtain industry certifications or associate degrees through dual enrollment opportunities, meetings with faith leaders and Mayors around civil discourse and bringing the community together, the upcoming meeting with the newly formed Budget Advisory Committee, and ongoing efforts to change the state aid formula.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Tonight, the Board of Education is maintaining its commitment to ongoing retreats to build on the skill sets and Governance acumen necessary for providing appropriate oversight. As such, tonight, we will receive training on two topics the first is the Board's Role in Curriculum and

Student Achievement which will be done here at the horseshoe. Next will be Data Decision-Making which will entail a workshop that will be conducted at the side table so that members can brainstorm and collaborate on systems that will be carried into our monthly committee work.

I would like to take a moment to recognize it is Black History Month. At a time when efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion are being challenged across the country, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to uplifting and protecting those values in our schools. We recognize that our black students, families and educators are deeply impacted by these national conversations, and we stand with you. Black history is American history, and our collective future is stronger when we embrace the rich diversity of our community. Thank you to our educators for preparing and delivering lesson plans this month that recognize and celebrate the contributions of black Americans to our nation's history, culture, and future.

#### 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 Member Carrie McGee addressed the Board.

#### BOARD RETREAT

Board's Role in Curriculum and Student Achievement

#### Future Meetings

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, February 27, 2025, 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 DuVall Wilson, seconded by Board Member Callahan to adjourn the public meeting and begin the Workshop. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 8:00 p.m.

**WORKSHOP**

Data Decision-Making Workshop

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Imani Moody Board Secretary