

Special Meeting - Board Retreat
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
July 23, 2025

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education 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 on July 23, 2025.

Board President Nubia DuVall Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

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 1:50 pm on July 8, 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, TapintoSOMA and the Village Green.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

In this year's Board Self-Evaluation, we received an average Board score of 2.95, a significant step toward approaching the target score of 3.0 that well-functioning Boards aspire to achieve. During my tenure on the board, this marks the highest score recorded by the Board, and I am proud of the efforts we have undertaken this year to attain it. The evaluation highlighted a notable shift towards increased professionalism in meetings, enhanced collaboration behind the scenes, and greater clarity in both internal operations and public engagement. These improvements are evident in a more professional tone during meetings, increased utilization of data, and stronger alignment across committees.

Nevertheless, there remain opportunities what we often refer to as areas for growth—to further strengthen our governance. Suggestions include prioritizing additional training, improving the consistency and context of data utilization, further enhancing internal communication, and expanding community engagement efforts. Additionally, there is a call to deepen our focus on closing the achievement gap and tracking underrepresented areas such as pre-kindergarten, to ensure enhanced

governance oversight, creativity, and budget planning are recurring themes that will be crucial in the years ahead. Suggestions were made to prioritize more training, improve the consistency and context of data use, further enhance internal communication, and broaden community engagement efforts. There's also a call to deepen our focus on closing the achievement gap and tracking and tracking underrepresented areas like pre-k to ensure greater governance oversight. Oversight and creativity and budget planning were also a recurring theme that will be essential in the years ahead.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, July 24, 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.

Board President Duvall Wilson Motion made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sackett-Gable to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 6:38 p.m.

BOARD RETREAT

- Board Self Evaluation
- 25/26 SY District and Board Goal Discussion

Imani Moody, Board Secretary