

Special Meeting
Board Retreat
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
August 19, 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 August 19, 2025.

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

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

Absent: Board Member Bennett, Board Member Kapadia

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 1:53 pm on August 13 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

Tonight's Board Retreat will focus on Board/District Goal Discussion. The Board of Education working together in partnership with the district to develop board and district goals for the 25-26 school year.

Before we begin the Board Retreat, our Director of Communications, Eshaya Draper, will present the Seton Hall University's SOMSD Market Research results. Although this was initially scheduled for our August 29th meeting, I believed it was important for us to receive these results tonight, as they may guide and motivate our discussions as we finalize our goals. Following that, we will be joined by our NJSBA Representative, Janine Cleary, who will explain the process of engaging with NJSBA to develop a multi-year Strategic Plan.

Since joining the Board in 2023, many of my Board colleagues and I have expressed a keen interest in collaborating with the Superintendent and district leadership to develop a five-year strategic plan. I am both encouraged and invigorated by Superintendent Bing's shared enthusiasm for establishing a long-term vision for our district, which will be

steered not only by our board and administration but also by the perspectives of community members and key stakeholders.

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

None.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Eshaya Draper, our Director of Communications, shared the results of the Seton Hall University SOMSD Market Research Caregiver Experience Survey. This survey, conducted in partnership with Seton Hall University and led by Professor Adam Warner, gathered insights from 454 parents and caregivers.

As we review these findings, it's important to remember that our goals go beyond just meeting benchmarks. We're committed to creating an environment where students thrive, educators feel supported, and community members are connected to our shared mission. The survey revealed that many parents and caregivers see opportunities for improvement in areas such as transparency, communication, accessibility, budget allocation, student well-being, and special education. This feedback is invaluable and will help shape our strategic plan.

[Presentation on file in the Board Secretary's Office and the District Website]

NJSBA Presentation on Strategic Planning

The NJSBA Field Representative introduced the NJSBA 3-D Strategic Planning process. She explained strategic planning, its benefits, and how to get involved.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, August 28, 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 is 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 Callahan to adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 7:11 p.m.

BOARD RETREAT

- 25/26 SY District and Board Goal Discussion

Imani Moody, Board Secretary