

Regular Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
April 23, 2026

A Regular 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 and via an online video conference platform on April 23, 2026.

Board President Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member Bennett (6:41 p.m.), Board Member Brown, Board Member Higgins, Board Member Kapadia, Board President Meyer, Board Member Nayar (6:45 p.m.) Board Member Sackett-Gable, Board Member Stephan

Absent: Board Member Callahan

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 7:58 a.m. on January 6, 2026.
- 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.

South Mountain Elementary students performed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-11, permits the Board of Education to meet in closed executive session to discuss certain matters, and

WHEREAS, the length of the Executive Session is estimated to be seventy-five (75) minutes after which the public meeting of the Board shall (select one) reconvene and immediately adjourn or reconvene and proceed with business where formal action will be taken, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: The Board of Education adjourns to closed session to discuss personnel, legal, and miscellaneous confidential matters. Be it further

RESOLVED: The minutes of this closed session will be made public when the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

Motion made by Board Member Sackett-Gable, second by Board Member Higgins to adjourn to Executive Session. Motion unanimously approved.

**Board Members adjourned to Executive Session at 6:46 p.m.
Board Members reconvened at 8:17 p.m.**

**Student Representatives Strogov and Shapiro present
Board Member Callahan arrived at 8:25 p.m.
Nine Voting Members Present**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Stephan seconded by Board Member Kapadia to approve the minutes of the following meetings: March 24, 2026 Executive and Preliminary Budget Hearing and March 26, 2026 Regular and Executive Sessions. Motion unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Student Representative Strogov inquired about the proposed bell schedule for Columbia High School for the 2026-2027 school year and requested additional details.

Student Representative Shapiro provided positive updates on the student internship program, noting that the program website has been completed and will support applications, onboarding, and task assignments. He also shared that outreach to departments interested in hosting interns will begin next month. There are currently 3 interns actively working with administration.

BOARD RECOGNITIONS - Scarlet Strogov

	NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
	Francie Christensen Columbia High School	Congratulations to Columbia High School senior Francie Christensen on earning both the AANJ Student Achievement Award and the New Jersey Governor's Award in Arts Education. Under the guidance of Mr. Richard Cutrona, her work reflects creativity, discipline, and a strong artistic voice. These honors place her among the top student artists in the state, and we are proud to recognize her achievement.
	Caroline Shaw Archer Freedman Columbia High School	We congratulate Columbia High School seniors Caroline Shaw and Archer Freedman on their selection to the SOPAC Inspired Minds exhibition. Guided by Ms. Alexandra Paholke and Dr. Kandice Stewart, their work will be featured in a professional gallery setting

		that highlights their growth and talent. Their inclusion reflects both individual excellence and the strength of our arts program.
	Art Students Representing Columbia High School	Caroline Shaw and Archer Freedman were also selected to participate in SOPAC's Inspired Minds exhibition, representing Columbia High School among leading young artists in Essex County. Their work will be exhibited in a professional gallery environment, marking an important milestone in their artistic journey. This recognition speaks to their commitment and creativity.
	Chinese Cultural Project Team Columbia High School	Congratulations to the Columbia High School team for earning first place at the 2026 New Jersey Chinese Cultural Project Contest at Seton Hall University. Competing against teams from across the state, their work earned top recognition for the fifth consecutive year. This achievement reflects strong scholarship, teamwork, and a sustained standard of excellence.

TEACHER RECOGNITIONS

Ms. Casey Dickson was honored for her exceptional leadership, compassion, and dedication as an autism teacher at Clinton Elementary School. Her leadership in crisis response, staff training, and the creation of inclusive and sensory-focused spaces that support students across the school community was highlighted. She was also praised for her efforts to promote autism awareness, strengthen family partnerships, and create meaningful inclusion opportunities for students. In addition to her commitment beyond the classroom as a foster parent and as a dedicated advocate and valued member of the Clinton community.

Mr. T.J. Whitaker was recognized for his outstanding leadership and the remarkable turnaround he led as boys basketball coach after two challenging seasons. He was also honored for being named Super Essex County Liberty Division Coach of the Year. In addition, Mr. Whitaker was praised for building strong relationships with players and families and for generating excitement and optimism about the future of the program under his leadership.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE - *Mr. Jason Bing*

Superintendent Bing shared updates on the following:

- District Goals and Student Support Initiatives including the implementation of NJMTSS to better integrate academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports. He highlighted significant

improvements in the Freshman Academy, including major reductions in course failures, suspensions, and HIB incidents.

- Budget Challenges and Fiscal Planning - Ongoing financial concerns, including structural deficits, reduced state aid, and the end of reliance on reserve funds. Mr. Bing emphasized transparency, cost-saving strategies, and the need for difficult financial decisions to stabilize the budget while minimizing impacts on students. Board Member Bennett shared concerns about New Jersey's state aid formula and stated that South Orange-Maplewood remains underfunded compared to similar districts.
- Transportation and Tiered Busing Changes - proposed three-tier bus scheduling, route efficiencies, earlier pickup concerns, and efforts to improve transportation planning was discussed. The district is reducing buses from about 37 to 22 and exploring community feedback, central hubs, and improved routing systems.
- Class Size Optimization and Staffing - Efforts to manage staffing through attrition, transfers, and vacancy reductions rather than changing class size policy was discussed. Questions were raised about impacts on AP courses, classroom supports, and larger class sizes, particularly for neurodiverse students. Student Representative Brown asked whether smaller AP and advanced classes could be cut due to enrollment numbers. Mr. Bing explained that courses generally require at least 17 students to run.
- Athletic and Staff Recognition - Mr. Bing also celebrated wrestling coaches, student athletic achievements, Administrative Professionals Day, and Board Member certifications.

Board President's Update - *Will Meyer*

Board President's updated included:

- The Board will begin evaluating the superintendent and conducting a board self-evaluation over the next month.
- Summer planning will focus on developing new board and district goals.
- Business Administrator Imani Moody resigned effective at the end of the school year. District is working with Interim Business Administrator Frank Ceurvels while searching for a permanent or interim replacement.
- Budget process is ongoing after preliminary approval, with efforts focused on finding additional revenue and minimizing cuts. The full budget presentation is expected at the May 4 meeting.
- Community members continue raising concerns about Ritzer Field and the need for athletic practice/play space. Discussions on Ritzer Field proposals, funding, and next steps are expected over the next month. The Board anticipates continued public feedback and discussion on the issue.
- Columbia High School Hall of Fame celebration honored alumni Fred Profeta, Joanna Calo, and Sabatino Perrota, Jr. The event highlighted the achievements of these graduates and praised Columbia High School's impact and legacy. where speakers inspired students through stories of perseverance and success despite personal struggles in school.

Board members also celebrated the softball team's outstanding 8-2 season and fourth-place state ranking, while freshman pitcher Allison Callie was recognized for earning Jersey Sports Zone's "Softball Game Ball of the Week" after throwing a complete-game shutout with 21 strikeouts against West Essex. The Board further announced the upcoming Lavender Graduation ceremony on June 5, which will honor LGBTQIA+ students and allies, and concluded the discussion by reflecting on Columbia High School's student-led fashion show, praised as a creative, inclusive, and community-centered event that showcased student talent under the leadership of educator Marsha Hicks, with special recognition given to Lauren Hill for sponsoring and supporting the program.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Students Dylan Graham, Isaiah Wilson, Hans Archer, Thomas Walmsley, David Burstein, Abraham Hoffman, Levi Taber Kewene and Community Members Lynn Irby-Hill, James Waldron, Jason Coulter and Steven Reichenstein addressed the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports from the Rutgers Implementation, Finance, Facilities & Technology, Special Services, Personnel, Community, Revenue & Partnerships, Curriculum & Instruction, and Policy & Governance committee meetings were presented by the committee chairs. The minutes for these meetings are available on the district website.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Board Member Bennett made a motion seconded by Board Member Callahan to move resolutions 4951-4961 excluding 4954E and 4954H. Motion unanimously approved.

The Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve the following personnel fiscal resolutions.

4951A. RETIREMENTS

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS IN DISTRICT
Kay, Renee	School Psychologist SM/CLIN - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	20
Murphy, Theresa	T KDG TUS - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	33.8
Schaefer-Gelo, Gayle	T 2 SM - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	37
Speth, Dr. Greg	School Psychologist CHS - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	22
Wills, Sharyn	School Nurse SM - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	14.4

4951B. RESIGNATIONS

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS IN DISTRICT
Dore, Deirdre	T 2 TUS - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	13
Jackson, Terri	LR T 4 TUS - 1.0 FTE	4/22/26	.1
McGovern, Jennifer	T KDG CLIN - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	21
Moody, Imani	School Business Administrator DIST - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	1.7
Thomas, Nicole	T Art CHS - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	8

4951C. CHANGE IN END DATE

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	OLD END DATE	NEW END DATE
Castaneda, Julie	T WL/Spanish SOM - 1.0 FTE	4/20/26	4/8/26
Smalls, II Dr. Donovan	Acting Principal DB - 1.0 FTE	4/24/26	5/1/26

4951D. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE
Employee # 4002	1/14/26-4/3/26 (w/pay)
Employee # 3309	4/20/26 - TBD (w/pay)
Employee # 4978	2/6/26-3/5/26 (w/pay)

4951E. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Davis, Jessica	T SPED/INC Gr. 3 SM 1.0 FTE	3/16/26-4/7/26 (Paid Maternity Leave) 4/8/26-4/29/26 (Unpaid FMLA) 4/30/26- 6/30/26 (Unpaid NJ FLA)

Klein, Betsy	T SPED MM 1.0 FTE	4/6/26-5/18/26 (Paid Maternity Leave) 5/19/26-6/30/26 (Unpaid NJ FLA) 8/31/26- 10/20/26 (Unpaid NJ FLA)
La Padula, Maria Cristina	T WL/Italian CHS - 1.0 FTE	4/14/26 (Unpaid FMLA)
Ng Suzanne	Library Media Spec CHS - 1.0 FTE	1/22/26 (1/2 day)-5/30/26 (Unpaid Personal Leave)
Wallace, LaVonne	Asst. Principal CLIN 1.0 FTE	4/16/26; 4/22/26-4/23/26; 5/5/26; 5/14/26 (.5 day) (Unpaid NJFLA)

4951F. STIPENDS

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTUAL SALARY
Boni, Jeffrey	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Conley, Elizabeth	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Crowther, Ann	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Davis, Rashad	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Duffey, Dallas	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Falk, Suzanne	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Fleming, Yolande	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Giusti, Ryann	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	1/2/26 6/30/26	\$1,200 (pro-rated)
Hannemann, Monika	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Johannsen, George Rem	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Johnson, William	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Kraft, Todd	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Marrese, Jaclyn	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Murphy, Kelly	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Nugent, James	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200

Philipps, Dana	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Pociask, Elizabeth	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Pollioni, Eugene	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Queiruga-Pessoa, Maria	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Soliman, Monica	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Tedeschi, Chasity	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Wagor, Benjamin	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Wilburn, Alterik	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Wisner, Susan	Freshmen Academy PLC CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$1,200
Irby-Hill, Lynn	ASPIRE Institute DIST - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$10,000
Dalton, Jennifer	Col. Publication CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$3,811
Celio, Angela	Chess CHS - 1.0 FTE	9/1/25 6/30/26	\$3,223
Jacobi, Marissa	Asst. Coach, Freshmen Outdoor Track CHS - 1.0 FTE	3/1/26 6/30/26	\$3,811

4951G. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	ADJUSTMENT	ACTUAL SALARY
Novemsky, Michael	T SCI/Physics CHS - 1.08 FTE	9/1/25	+\$8,990	\$121,366
		1/31/26	(pro-rated)	(pro-rated)
	T SCI/Physics CHS - 1.2 FTE	2/1/26 6/30/26	+\$22,475 (pro-rated)	\$134,851 (pro-rated)
Fein, Suzanne	T SPED MM - 1.2 FTE	4/6/26 6/30/26	+\$19,103 (pro-rated & paid @17%)	\$131,480 (pro-rated)
Ghiretti, Robert	T SPED MM - 1.2 FTE	4/6/26 6/30/26	+\$14,134 (pro-rated & paid @17%)	\$97,280
Moran, Colleen	T SPED MM - 1.2 FTE	4/6/26 6/30/26	+\$12,840 (pro-rated & paid @17%)	\$88,372
Reyes, Nicolas	T SPED MM - 1.2 FTE	4/6/26 6/30/26	+\$13,159 (pro-rated & paid @ 17%)	\$90,570 (pro-rated)
Santos, Ryan	T SPED MM - 1.2 FTE	4/6/26 6/30/26	+\$12,747 (pro-rated & paid @ 17%)	\$87,729 (pro-rated)

Cahill, Alison	T PE/Health CHS - 1.2 FTE	3/16-4/7/26 (12 days)	\$124.86 (per day)	\$1,498.35
Maggiore, Molly	T PE/Health CHS - 1.2 FTE	3/16-4/7/26 (12 days)	\$103.15 (per day)	\$1,237.76
Napoli, Paul	T PE/Health CHS - 1.2 FTE	3/16-4/7/26 (12 days)	\$73.44 (per day)	\$881.33
Picillo, Nicholas	T PE/Health CHS - 1.2 FTE	3/16-4/7/26 (12 days)	\$89.84 (per day)	\$1,078.03
Salguero, Carlos	T PE/Health CHS - 1.2 FTE	3/16-4/7/26 (12 days)	\$111.47 (per day)	\$1,337.63
Bethea, Sabrina	Clerical Aide TUS - 1.0 FTE	4/15-20/26 (11.5 hours)	\$14.78 (per hour)	\$169.97
Cadorette, Catherine	Clerical Aide SB - 1.0 FTE	12/12- 4/10/26 (59.35 hours)	\$10.69 (per hour)	\$634.45
Copeland, Jeanette	Clerical Aide DB - 1.0 FTE	4/15/26 (7 hours)	\$14.78 (per hour)	\$103.46

4952A. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR AT \$175/DAY

STATE CERTIFIED TEACHER

1. Blagrove, Selica

COLLEGE GRADUATE AND STATE SUBSTITUTE CERTIFICATE

1. Pettigrew, Bethany
2. Tomaselli, Nicholas

4953. Approves the attached list of students who are scheduled to attend Out-of-District tuition supported programs for the 2025-2026 school year list on file in Board Secretary's office].

4954A. Receives and accepts the following financial reports:

1. March 2026 Board Secretary's Report
2. March 2026 Treasurer Report
3. March 2026 Transfer Report
4. March 2026 Expense Account Adjustment Analyses
5. April 2026 Lease Payments in the amount of \$654,977.20
6. Check Register#429016-429241 in the amount of \$5,306,814.44
7. Check Register#200957-200972 in the amount of \$5,611,036.79
8. March 2026 Payroll Register in the amount of \$7,887,879.86

4954B. 4937B. Certify the Board Secretary's Monthly Financial Report.

4954C. Approves the attendance and related travel and/or workshop expenses for the following work-related events:

EMPLOYEE	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE	DATE(S)	LOCATION	ESTIMATED COSTS
Michael Calissi Tuscan School	Legal One - School Law: Year in Review	6/16/26	Virtual	\$170.00

Kathleen Gesumaria Central Office	NJSBA School Law Forum	6/11/26	Monroe, NJ	\$299.00
Corrina Parsio Columbia HS	The leaders Compass	11/18/25 1/26/26 3/27/26 5/19/26	Monroe, NJ	\$670.08
Jesse Pierre Tuscan School	Group Practice Conference 2026	5/4/26- 5/5/26	Traverse, MI	\$0.00
Lavonne Wallace Clinton School	FEA Leadership 2.0 for Aspiring Leaders	5/13/26	Virtual	\$0.00
Total				\$1,139.08

4954D. Approves the following provider(s) for the 2025-2026 school year for the service indicated:

Provider Name	Service	Rate
Elizabeth Wolter Maplewood, NJ	ASL/English Interpreter (sign language)	\$200 flat rate (2-hour minimum, plus travel)
Silver Hill Hospital New Canaan, CT	Educational Services Residential	\$100/hour

4954E. Approves the use of the following vendors in excess of the \$53,000 for the 2025-2026 school year:

VENDOR NAME	PRODUCT	TYPE OF VENDOR
Lowes	Building Supplies	State Contract
F.W. Webb	Industrial & Hardware Supplies	Co-op
Dynamic Security (Minuteman)	Security Systems	Co-op
SHI International Corp.	Licenses	Co-op

4954F. Accepts NJ State Library grant funds on behalf of Clinton Elementary School in the amount of \$1,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following account line is increased and the Superintendent or his designee is authorized to administer it:

20-019-200-890-CL Clinton School \$1,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board President, Superintendent, and Board Secretary are authorized to execute and deliver any necessary contracts and reports on behalf of the Board.

4954G. Approves an agreement with Sussex County Regional Cooperative to provide transportation coordination services for the 2026-2027 school year. The South Orange Maplewood Board of Education shall pay to the Sussex County Regional Transportation Cooperative a percentage of the actual transportation costs, as set forth below.

- Special Education Routes: 3.5%
- Public Routes: 2.0%
- Non-Public Routes: 2.0%
- Field Trips/Athletic Trips 5.0%

4954H. Approves the establishment of a partnership with the following private child care providers in the 2026-2027 school year, as required by the Division of Early Childhood Education in the New Jersey State Department of Education. Projected enrollment includes a total of 412 general education students who are eligible to participate in the District's Pre-School Program in 2026-2027.

Applecore Learning
 Beth El Pre School
 Mickey Fried
 Curious Children Childcare Center
 Iris Family Center for Early Childhood Education
 Le Petit Academy - South Orange
 Le Petit Academy - Maplewood
 Zadie's of the Oranges
 Village Babies Development Center

4954I. Approves the submission of an application for 2026-2027 Preschool Expansion Aid (PEEA) Discretionary Grant funds in the amount of \$10,483,795.00.

4954J. Approves memorandums of agreement with Montclair State University, Department of Psychology, for the purpose of providing internship opportunities for university students enrolled in the School Psychology Program, effective March 26, 2026, and a practicum environment for students, effective April 24, 2026.

4954K. Accepts the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Fiscal Year 2025 Carryover funds in the amount of \$32,818.00 and Fiscal Year 2026 Consolidated Entitlement Funds in the amount of \$483,726.00 as outlined below:

FISCAL YEAR 2026

<u>Public School</u>	
Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs	\$275,240.00
Title II, Part A: Teacher/Principal Training/ Recruiting	\$116,329.00
Title III, English Language Acquisition/Language Enhancement	\$ 27,753.00

Title III Immigrant Language Instruction for Immigrant Student	\$ 15,906.00
Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment	<u>\$ 30,105.00</u>
Total Public School Allocation	\$465,333.00

	Title I	Title II-A	Title III	Title IV	
Total Non-Public Allocation	\$14,253.00	\$3,289.00	\$0	\$851.00	\$18,393.00

TOTAL ESEA ALLOCATION **\$483,726.00**

4954L. Adopts the South Orange Maplewood School District Employee Benefit Plan Document and Summary Plan Description established by Meritain Health, effective January 1, 2026.

4954M. Approves parental transportation agreements #25/26-P1 in the amount of \$7,800.00 for the period April 13, 2026 - June 30, 2026, and agreement #26/27-1 in the amount of \$3,450.00 for extended school year programming, July 1, 2026, through August 1, 2026.

4954N. Authorizes the Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with the below vendors for Facility Usage at Columbia High School. The agreements are to include the waiver of facility use fees unless there is a cost to the district.

- MASPO Basketball (Spring basketball training sessions for high school boys and girls in grades 9-12)
- Jacob Sumner (Spring basketball training sessions for girls in grades 4-6)

4954O. Accepts NJSBA Educational Leadership Foundation grant funds on behalf of Maplewood Middle School in the amount of \$2,500.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following account line is increased and the Superintendent or his designee is authorized to administer it:

20-019-200-890-MM	Maplewood Middle School	\$1,000.00
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board President, Superintendent, and Board Secretary are authorized to execute and deliver any necessary contracts and reports on behalf of the Board.

4955. Adopt the following new courses:

New Course Name	Department
Fashion Design 1	Fine Arts K-12

New Course Name	Department
Fashion Design 2	Fine Arts K-12

New Course Name	Department
Fashion Design 3HN	Fine Arts K-12

4956. Approves the addition of the following class field trip destinations based upon the attached "Statements of Assurance."

DESTINATION	CITY	STATE
Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel & Convention Center	Atlanta	GA
Georgia World Congress Center	Atlanta	GA
China Institute of America	New York	NY
Dim Sum Palace	New York	NY
George R. Brown Convention Center	Houston	Texas
Heritage Place	Houston	Brookhollow

4957. Hereby orders the transfer or removal of the students identified below.

<u>NJ State ID #</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
4237508051	Mar	5 th

4958. Affirms the HIB investigations reported to the South Orange/Maplewood School District for the month of March 2026.

4959A. Adopt Policy 1220 Employment of Chief School Administrator.

4959B. Adopt Policy 2422 Statutory Curriculum Requirements.

4960-1. Abolish Board Policy 3362 Sexual Harassment - Teaching Staff.

4960-2. Abolish Board Policy 4352 Sexual Harassment - Support Staff.

4960-3. Abolish Board Regulation 3362 Sexual Harassment - Teaching Staff.

4960-4. Abolish Board Regulation 4352 Sexual Harassment - Support Staff.

4960-5. Approves the first reading of Policy 1552 Sexual Harassment - Staff.

4960-6. Approves the first reading of Regulation 1552 Sexual Harassment - Staff.

4960-7. Approves the first reading of Regulation 2418 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

4960-8. Approves the first reading of Regulation 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students.

4961. Approves the assignment of the student listed below as a tuition-

free student for 2025/26 school year, pursuant to Board Policy 5111 (Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Students) through June 30, 2026. Transportation will be provided.

Student ID#	School	Grade
9593261401	Maplewood Middle School	8th

4962. **DUPLICATE OF RESOLUTION 4957**

4963. WHEREAS, on April 10, 2026, an HIB appeal hearing was held by a Committee of the Board in closed session involving a Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying matter HIB Report # 30126_MMS_1215025;

WHEREAS, at the hearing, the Board heard from the Anti-Bullying Specialist, the Principal and the parents who filed the appeal on behalf of their child; and

WHEREAS, the Committee carefully considered the relevant information; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has made a recommendation to the full Board during the executive portion of its April 23, 2026 Board meeting, and the Board has carefully considered the matter and the recommendation of the Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby overturns the Administration's determination, and finds that incident # 30126_MMS_1215025 DID NOT constitute HIB within the meaning of New Jersey's statute and the Board's policy on Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying as to Student #3211013369; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby reverses the Administration's findings, and directs the Administration to update the records in HIBster and SSDS to reflect the finding of non-substantiated HIB; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administration will take appropriate supportive, restorative, remedial action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary is further directed to notify all individuals affected by this decision of the Board's determination.

ROLL CALL: Motion 4951A-G. 4953, 4954A-D, 4954F-G, 4954I-O, 4955, 4956, 4957, 4958, 4959A-B, 4960, 4961 YES: Bennett, Brown, Callahan, Higgins, Kapadia, Meyer, Nayar, Sackett-Gable, Stephan NO: None

Motion made by Board Member Callahan, seconded by Board Member Brown to move resolution 4954E.

ROLL CALL: Motion 4954E YES: Bennett, Brown, Callahan, Higgins, Kapadia, Meyer, Nayar, Sackett-Gable, Stephan NO: None

Motion made by Board Member Callahan, seconded by Board Member Sackett-Gable to move resolution 4954H.

ROLL CALL: Motion 4954E YES: Bennett, Brown, Callahan, Higgins, Kapadia, Meyer, Nayar, Sackett-Gable, Stephan NO: None

Motion made by Board Member Sackett-Gable, seconded by Board Member Callahan to move resolution 4963.

ROLL CALL: Motion 4963 YES: Bennett, Brown, Callahan, Higgins, Kapadia, Meyer, Nayar, Sackett-Gable, Stephan NO: None

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE.

Future Meetings

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ as well as using an online video conference platform. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the 2026-2027 School District Budget. The community can view the meeting by following the steps which will be listed on the agenda. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, May 7, 2026, 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 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 at 7:30 pm for an Organizational/Staff Renewal Meeting in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, in person and 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. Action will be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, May 21, 2026 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. Action will be taken.

On Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., the Board of Education will convene using an online video conference platform for an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Chief School Administrator (CSA) Evaluation. Action will not be taken.

Motion made by Board Member Callahan, seconded by Board Member Bennett to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 10:35 p.m.

Patrick Carrigg, Board Attorney