

Regular Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
May 21, 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 May 21, 2026.

Board President Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member Bennett, Board Member Brown,
Board Member Callahan, Board Member Higgins,
Board Member Kapadia, Board President Meyer,
Board Member Nayar, Board Member Sackett-Gable,
Board Member Stephan

Student Representatives Strogov and Shapiro present

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 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.

Clinton Elementary School Fifth Grade Chorus Performed led. by Miss Rebecca Jacobson

HONORING RETIREES

Superintendent Bing introduced 17 retirees with 426 years of accumulated service. He shared that he Googled today things that last for more than 426 years. The searched yielded one result, a shark from Greenland that lives to 450 years sometimes. So, this is truly unbelievable.

Mr. Bing expressed gratitude to retiring staff members, recognizing them as the heart of the school district and acknowledging the relationships they built with colleagues and the countless students whose lives they impacted. He emphasized that the retirees' true legacy is not measured by test scores or years of service, but by the positive influence they had on children and the community noting that their dedication helped shape future doctors, artists, parents, and compassionate citizens. Mr.

Bing wished the retirees rest, fulfillment, and the reminder that their work mattered deeply and left a lasting impact on generations of students.

Attending Retirees

Loren Quinn
Deborah Bialer (virtual)
Rocio Lopez
Raquel Horn
Lisa MacPherson
Vernell Conyers
Gail Schaefer-Gelo

Spokesperson

Dara Gronau
Laura Swyberius
Dr. Robles, Scarlet Strogov, Frank Sanchez
Dr. Lynn Irby-Hill
Dr. Lynn Irby-Hill
Anthony Cicenia & Kevin Mason
Anthony Cicenia & Kevin Mason

Non-Attending Retirees

Linda Abella
Susan Brody
Vineta Budhu
Myra de Ocera
Susan Jurist

Renee Kay
Heather Merrigan
Theresa Murphy
Dr. Greg Speth
Sharyn Wills

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, seconded by Board Member Kapadia to adjourn to Executive Session. Motion unanimously approved.

***Board Members adjourned to Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.
Board Members reconvened at 8:32 p.m.***

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Board Member Callahan seconded by Board Member Brown to approve the minutes of the following meetings: April 23, 2026 Regular and Executive Sessions. Motion unanimously approved.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Student Representative Scarlet Strogov provided an update on the expanded internship program through SOMSD Connect, an online platform that connects students with administrators for internship opportunities. She also shared plans to broaden the initiative by creating a "Little Big" mentoring program, which will pair high school students with middle school students who share similar interests to provide guidance and encouragement. Additionally, they are developing an advisory program that would bring community volunteers together with high school students for small-group discussions focused on future career and life planning.

BOARD RECOGNITIONS

	NAME/SCHOOL	RECOGNITION
	<p>Wynter Nation and Aiden Hines Delia Bolden Elementary School</p>	<p>A big congratulations to Delia Bolden Elementary students Wynter Nation and Aiden Hines for having their artwork selected for display at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark during the Spring and Fall 2026 seasons.</p> <p>Their creative pieces showcased originality, artistic skill, and self-expression while representing the talent growing throughout our district.</p> <p>We are thankful to art teacher Ms. McNally for helping guide and encourage these young artists.</p>
	<p>Ms. Liping Meng and the Chinese Honor Society Columbia High School</p>	<p>Please join us in congratulating Ms. Liping Meng and the Columbia High School Chinese Honor Society for earning first place in the 18th New Jersey Chinese Cultural Project Contest, continuing a remarkable five-year winning streak in the statewide competition. Through research, presentations, performances, and teamwork, students demonstrated outstanding dedication while strengthening their understanding of language and culture.</p>
	<p>Michelle T. Riecke Teaching Fellowship Recipients Tuscan School, Seth Boyden School, and Columbia High School</p>	<p>Please help us congratulate Leslie Baez, Amy Popp, Rich Cutrona, Sarah Fakhoury, Sarah Haldeman, and Rahmiece Lawson for being selected as recipients of the Michelle T. Riecke Teaching Fellowships through the Achieve Foundation.</p>

	These educators will spend part of their summer pursuing advanced professional learning opportunities that will strengthen their practice and benefit students throughout the district.
Chinese Cultural Project Team Columbia High School	We proudly celebrate Ethan Lewars, Shmily Zheng, Charlie Fleischer, Lilian Clark, Aravella Espinosa, Yuv Khanna, Claire Ceglio, Anushka Pimplaskar, and Aidan Kleinman for helping Columbia High School earn first place in the 2026 New Jersey Chinese Cultural Project Contest. We also recognize Laila Gordon, Robin Nostrand, and Kemelide Alexis for contributing behind the scenes through prop design and project support.
DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) Columbia High School	<p>Congratulations goes to the Columbia High School DECA chapter for an outstanding first year of competition and leadership development. Competing in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management events, CHS students advanced through both the district and state levels before earning a spot at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Atlanta.</p> <p>Reaching the national stage in the chapter's inaugural year is a remarkable accomplishment that reflects the students' hard work, professionalism, and commitment to excellence.</p>
Nathaniel Eads, Kevin Roth Deves, Hunter Eggert, and Norah Hershey Columbia High School	A well-deserved congratulations goes to Nathaniel Eads, Kevin Roth Deves, Hunter Eggert, and Norah Hershey for earning second place in the New Jersey Chinese Teachers Association Chinese Video Project Contest.

Board Member Callahan made a motion seconded by Board Member Kapadia to move up public speaks for students in the audience only. Motion unanimously approved.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS (STUDENTS ONLY)

Students Jacob Dunbar, Mica Rodgers, Chase Barnes, Laila Rappaport, Ellie Tamir, addressed the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE - Mr. Jason Bing

Superintendent Bing shared updates on the following:

- Antonio Fuda (South Orange Middle School) recognized for his quick and heroic response in assisting a choking student by successfully performing the Heimlich maneuver.

- Emily Veta (Columbia High School) honored for her dedication to students and support of the Music Studio Club and Music Industry Club, helping students build confidence and creativity.
- Recognition of four staff members who earned doctoral degrees:
 - Dr. Lynn Irby Hill
 - Dr. Telia Bennett
 - Dr. Candace Stewart
 - Dr. Kesha Knight
- Highlighted district efforts to balance a challenging budget
- Clarified that staff participation in educational trips to Israel is personal and not district-sponsored.
- Announced that all emergency snow days have been used and schools will remain open on the regular schedule.
- Celebrated the Columbia High School Robotics Team for earning an award at the world championship competition in Houston.
- Congratulated Sophia Khan and Lola Car Foster for being named Essex County Valedictorian and Salutatorian honorees.
- Thanked Cougar Cares for donating supplies to support summer programs.
- Recognized the CHS Girls Softball Team for reaching the Essex County Championship and celebrated Claire Shupe as the program's all-time hits leader.

Board President's Update - Will Meyer

Board President's updated included:

- The Board is continuing to review plans for the Ritzer Field and auditorium bond projects and expects to present a completed plan soon.
- The district completed its third and final Strategic Planning session, gathering community input to help shape a new 5-year strategic plan and future district goals.
- The Board received NJSBA Board Certification, recognizing its commitment to training, compliance, and best practices.
- Board Members Meyer, Callahan, Sackett-Gable and Higgins attended the Essex County School Boards Association meeting to receive recognition for the Board Certification and Board President Meyer and Board Member Callahan received individual certifications.
- Board Member Bennett participated in the NJSBA Delegate Assembly, where he supported a proposal to allow ranked-choice voting in school board elections; the proposal failed but advanced the discussion.
- The Board is considering a resolution urging the state to address rising public school employee healthcare costs, which were a major factor in this year's budget and tax increases.
- Board leadership emphasized the need for state assistance to help school districts manage escalating healthcare expenses.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Community Members Leelia Strog, Tara Jacqueline, Meredith Dragon, Linda Scherzer, Sherri L, Lauren Rutkin, Loren Levy, Heather Harrington and Emilia S. addressed the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Board Member Bennett reported on his role at the NJSBA Delegate Assembly and noted that the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education was the first in New Jersey to pass a resolution supporting ranked-choice voting as an optional tool for school board elections. Although the proposal narrowly failed by a 58-55 vote, Board Member Bennett expressed disappointment with the outcome and discussed how the structure of the delegate voting system may have influenced the result. He noted that the Rank Choice Voting could be revisited in 2027.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Board Member Brown made a motion seconded by Board Member Sackett-Gable to move resolutions 4970-4981. Motion unanimously approved.

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

4970A. RETIREMENTS

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS IN DISTRICT
Abella, Linda	T Science SOM - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	28
Budhu, Vineta	S4/11, Secretary CLIN - 1.0 FTE	9/1/26	24
De Ocera, Myra	Data Entry Mgr. Business Ofc DIST - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	29.1
Lopez, Rocio	T WL/Spanish CHS - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	25

4970B. RESIGNATIONS

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS IN DISTRICT
Dennehy, Caitlin	T SPED/MD SOM - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	13
Hodges, John	T WL/French CHS - 1.0 FTE	7/17/26	6
Kraft, Todd	T Math CHS - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	1.3

Lesperance, Cara	T SPED/ABA CLIN - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	3.10
Silvestri, Colleen	T 3 TUS - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	10
Simpkins, Dashanda	T PreK/INC MONT - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	7

4970C. APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

(This employment is conditional and subject to the disclosure requirement; pending compliance with NJ Public Law 2018, Chapter 5)

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTUAL SALARY
Otruba-Fhal, Philana	T Science MM - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$77,450

4970D. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE
Employee # 5072	5/7/26-6/30/26 (w/pay)

4970E. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE
Emp #4993	5/14/26-TBD (Paid Medical Leave)
Emp #4534	8/31/26-6/30/27 (Unpaid Personal Leave)
Emp #4142	3/16/26-4/7/26 (Paid Maternity Leave) 4/8/26-6/30/26 (Unpaid FMLA) 8/31/26-11/20/26 (Unpaid NJ FLA)
Emp #2461	4/21/26-5/26/26 (.8 day) (Paid Sick/Personal Days) 5/26/26(.2 day)-6/18/26 (Unpaid FMLA)
Emp #4262	1//26-3/10/26 (1/2 day) Paid Maternity Leave 3/10/26 (1/2 day)-3/25/26 (Unpaid FMLA) 3/26/26-6/10/26 (Unpaid NJ FLA)
Emp #0627	1/22/26 (.5 day)-6/30/26 (Unpaid Personal Leave)
Emp #5068	4/23/26-4/28/26 (Unpaid FMLA)
Emp #5002	4/16/26; 4/22/26; 4/23/26; 5/5/26 5/27/26 (1/2 day); 6/11/26; 6/16/26 (1/2 day); 6/18/26 (Unpaid NJ FLA)

4970F. TRANSFERS/REASSIGNMENTS

NAME	OLD ASSIGNMENT	NEW ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Easton, Jennifer	Social Worker (Reg. Ed.) CHS - 1.0 FTE	Social Worker Elem Field Supv CLIN - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27
Steiner, Alison	Social Worker (Reg. Ed.) SOM - 1.0 FTE	Social Worker (Reg. Ed.) CHS - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27

4970G. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	ADJUSTMENT	ACTUAL SALARY
Rivera, II Angel	Assistant Principal DB - 1.0 FTE	3/1/26 6/30/26	+\$500	\$123,638
Bethea, Sabrina	Clerical Aide TUS - 1.0 FTE	5/12- 5/14/26 (16 hours)	\$14.78 (per hour)	\$236.48

4970H. WITHHOLD EMPLOYMENT AND/OR ADJUSTMENT INCREMENT

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has the authority pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14 to withhold, for inefficiency or other good cause, the employment increment, adjustment increment, or both, of any member in any year, upon recorded roll-call majority vote of the full membership of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent has reviewed the performance, conduct, record, and/or other relevant circumstances concerning Employee #4002, and has recommended that the Board withhold his employment increment for the 2026-2027 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent's recommendation is based upon good cause, including, but not limited to, the reasons set forth in the confidential personnel materials memoranda, correspondence, administrative record, and/or other documentation reviewed by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered the Superintendent's recommendation and the information presented in support of that recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that there is sufficient basis to accept the Superintendent's recommendation and to withhold Employee #4002's employment increment for the 2026-2027 school year for inefficiency and/or other good cause; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that this action is a withholding of increment under N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14 and that the employee must receive written notice of the Board's action and the reasons therefor within ten days, and may have appeal rights as provided

by

law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby withholds Employee #4002's employment increment for the 2026-2027 school year pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14 for good cause; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator is authorized and directed to take all necessary payroll and personnel actions to implement this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, or Board Counsel is authorized and directed to provide Employee # 4002 with written notice of this action and the reasons therefor within ten days of the Board's action, consistent with N.J.S.A. 18A:29-14.

4970I. APPROVE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Revised: Supervisor of Math, K-12
Supervisor of Science, K-12
Preschool Relief Teacher
Dispatcher

4970J. 2026 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT (see attached list)

4970K. 2026 SUMMER CURRICULUM WRITING (see attached list)

4971A. APPOINTMENT OF OUT OF DISTRICT COACHES FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	CONTRACT YEAR	STIPEND
Barnes, Charles	Boys JV Swimming Coach	12/2025 2/28/26	\$5,490
Barnes, Charles	Girls JV Swimming Coach	12/2025 2/28/26	\$5,490
Earle, Chenae	Girls Flag Football Coach	3/2026 6/2026	\$7,780

4971B. APPOINTMENT OF OUT OF DISTRICT STIPENDS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	STIPEND
Abbondante, Tara	Stage Crew Director	\$5,832

4971C. APPOINTMENT OF ATHLETIC EVENT TICKET TAKERS, SUPERVISORS, AND OFFICIALS FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Lys Blanc

4972A. 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].

4972B. Approves the attached list of students who are scheduled to attend Out-of-District tuition supported programs for the 2026-2027 school year [list on file in Board Secretary's Office].

4972C. Approves the attached list of students who are scheduled to attend Out-of-District tuition supported programs for the 2026-2027 school year [list on file in Board Secretary's Office].

4973A. Receives and accepts the following financial reports:

1. April 2026 Board Secretary's Report
2. April 2026 Treasurer Report
3. April 2026 Transfer Report
4. April 2026 Expense Account Adjustment Analyses
5. May 2026 Lease Payments in the amount of \$306,279.27
6. Check Register#429242-429474 in the amount of \$5,775,770.37
7. Check Register#200973-200979 in the amount of \$3,504,056.00
8. April 2026 Payroll Registers totaling \$8,038,909.30

4973B. Certify the Board Secretary's Monthly Financial Report.

4973C. Approves the attendance and related travel and/or workshop expenses for the following work-related events:

EMPLOYEE	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE	DATE(S)	LOCATION	ESTIMATED COSTS
Melissa Butler Clinton School	ASCA 2026 Annual Conference	7/10/26- 7/14/26	New Orleans, LA	\$1,925.90
Christine Houseworth Columbia HS	2026 SIOP Virtual Conference	7/14/26- 7/16/26	Virtual	\$290.00
Dennis James Central Office	NJSBGA 25 th Annual Conference	3/22/26- 3/25/26	Atlantic City, NJ	\$1,086.10 increase
Dr. Ramon Robles Fernandez Columbia HS	2026 SIOP Virtual Conference	7/14/26- 7/16/26	Virtual	\$290.00
Veronica Wilson Columbia HS	APSI Business with Personal Finance	8/3/26- 8/6/26	Virtual	\$799.00
Total				\$4,391.00

4973D. Approves the following provider(s) for the 2025-2026 school year for the service indicated:

Provider Name	Service	Rate
	Evaluation & Consultation Services	\$595.00/eval \$525.00/hour
	Comprehensive	\$70.00

Brainchild Neurology Dr. Zev Stomel Springfield, NJ	Neurological Evaluation Record Review and Written Report	
Four Winds Hospital, Inc. Katonah, NY	Home Instruction	\$68.00/hour
Genpsych Livingston, NJ	Psychiatric Clearance	\$250.00/eval
Marie H. Katzenbach School of the Deaf West Trenton, NJ	Child Study Team Assessment	\$900.00
UHS of Doylestown LLC Db Foundation Behavioral Health Doylestown, PA	Tutoring	\$56.00/hour

4973E. Authorizes the enrollment of Students #4911884898 and 4237508051 for the 2025-2026 school year through June 30, 2026, on the basis of tuition, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the tuition contract.

4973F. Establishes 2026-2027 tuition rates as listed below:

Grades 9-12	\$ 19,203.00
Grades 6-8	\$ 19,798.00
Grades 1-5	\$ 18,358.00
Pre-K/Kindergarten	\$ 17,824.00
Autism	\$ 11,085.00
Emotional Regulation Impairment	\$ 11,085.00
Learning and/or Language Disabilities	\$ 49,496.00
Multiple Disabilities	\$142,206.00
Preschool Disabilities	\$ 56,903.00

4973G. Enters into an agreement with Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 to provide eligible students in South Orange and Maplewood nonpublic schools with the following services: Compensatory Education, English as a Second Language, Home Instruction, Supplementary Instruction, Speech-Language, and Evaluation and Determination of Eligibility at a per student rate established by the New Jersey Department of Education.

4973H. Agrees to enter into a contract with the Essex Regional Services Commission for the 2026-2027 school year to provide nursing services to non-public schools located in South Orange and Maplewood at an amount not to exceed the amount of state funding received for these services.

4973I. Enters into an agreement with Essex Regional Educational Services Commission for IDEA-B Services for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 for the proportionate share of non-public IDEA-B funds.

4973J. Enters into an agreement with Essex Regional Educational Services Commission to provide Child Study Team Services to students in the South Orange Maplewood School District for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 at the following rates:

Social Assessment	\$510.51
Educational Evaluation	\$510.51
Psychological Evaluation	\$510.51
Speech Evaluations	\$510.51
Bilingual Evaluations	\$638.14
Physical Therapy Evaluation	\$574.33
Occupational Therapy Evaluation	\$574.33
<u>CST MEETINGS</u>	
LDTC	\$159.53
Social Worker	\$159.53
School Psychologist	\$159.53

4973K. Approves a tuition and additional services agreement with Union County Educational Services Commission for each district resident special education student referred to them for the 2026-2027 school year and for additional services at the following rates:

	<u>RATE</u>
<u>Westlake School:</u>	
Multiply Disabled Program (Elementary/Middle School)	\$63,250.00
Multiply Disabled Program (High School)	\$63,720.00
Autistic Program (Elementary/Middle School)	\$88,520.00
Autistic Program (High School)	\$89,180.00
<u>Half-Day Shared Program - Ages 16-21</u>	
Focus on Vocational and Life Skills Development	\$41,375.00
Half-Day Shared Personal Aide	\$36,525.00
<u>Crossroads School</u>	\$88,520.00
<u>Lamberts Mill Academy</u>	
Behavioral Disabilities Program	\$71,075.00
Middle School / High School	
<u>Post Secondary Program for 5th Year Students</u>	\$71,075.00
Half Day Shared Program	\$35,540.00
<u>New Point Specialty Program (ages 13-21)</u>	\$71,075.00
<u>Transition Services Department</u>	
Work Readiness Academy - Full Time	\$69,550.00

Shared Time Tuition (prorated based on participation)	
Project SEARCH at Overlook Medical Center	\$58,015.00
Contracted SLE Programs (Rates vary based on district needs)	
<u>Personal Aides - All (3) Three Schools:</u>	\$58,630.00
Related Services -Physical Therapy (OT & Speech included in tuition)	\$90.00/sess
<u>Transportation</u> surcharge: contract & aide	5%
<u>Hospital Services</u>	
Trinitas Hospital - Behavioral Unit (Bedside Instruction)	\$80.00/hour
<u>New Point Specialty Residential Education Program</u> New Day	\$71,075.00
<u>Extended School Year</u>	
Westlake School	\$ 7,460.00
Westlake School - Autistic Program	\$10,310.00
Crossroads	\$10,310.00
Lamberts Mill Academy	\$11,760.00
New Pointe Specialty Residential Treatment Facility	\$11,760.00
Personal Aides - All (3) Three Schools	\$ 5,050.00
Work Readiness Training Program	
Half-day Program	\$ 5,940.00
Full-day Program	\$11,115.00
<u>Child Study Team Evaluations with written reports</u>	
Educational, Psychological, Social History & Speech/Language Evaluations	\$420.00/eval
Articulation or Fluency only Evaluation	\$125.00/eval
Occupational or Physical Therapy Evaluation	\$420.00/eval
Augmentative and Alternative Communication/Assistive Technology Evaluation	\$850.00/eval
<u>Additional CST Evaluations</u>	
Addition of Oral Language to the WJIV	\$75.00 addt'l
Other additional Subtests to WJ or Wechsler	\$75.00 addt'l
Additional Supplemental Educational, Speech or Psychological Standard Evaluation	\$300.00/eval
Spanish Bilingual Educational or Psychological Standard Evaluation	\$525.00/eval
CST Review of Records and/or review and accept outside evaluations plus written report	\$75.00/report
CST Classroom Observation plus written Report	\$75.00/report
Evaluation Rush Fee (within 2 weeks) additional	\$50.00 addt'l

Child Study Team Consultative Services

Hourly CST/SLP Meeting attendance, Consultation (min 2 hours)	\$100.00/hour
Case Management (for CST initial and/or re-evaluations)	\$75.00/case
IEP Development Fee	\$125.00/case
Annual Review	\$275.00/case
Goals & Objectives Creation subject/area	\$100.00/per

Related Services

Social Work Services	\$110.00/hour
Counseling Services	\$110.00/hour
Occupational Therapy Services	\$110.00/hour

Behavioral Services

Full Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA)	
Full FBA & BIP	\$850.00
Team Meeting to Review FBA/BIP	\$150.00/hour
Behavior Intervention Plan Staff Training	\$150.00/hour
On Site BCBA hourly	\$150.00/hour
On Site BCBA per diem	call for rate
Autism Program Evaluation & Consultation	call for rate

4973L. Approves the renewal of the contract for Food Service Management to The Pomptonian, Inc. "FSMC" for the food service operation for 2026-2027.

1. FSMC Fee:

The FSMC shall receive, in addition to the costs of operation, an administrative/ management fee of \$129,787 to compensate the FSMC for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be included as a cost of operation and billed in 10 monthly installments of \$12,978.70 per month. The SFA guarantees the payment of such costs and fees to the FSMC.

2. There is no guarantee of financial performance.

3. Total Estimated Cost of Contract:

Total estimated expenses (cost) include food, labor, supplies, other expenses and FSMC management fee.

Total Estimated Cost of Contract \$2,482,758.36.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT meals will be priced at the following schedule:

<u>School Level</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Reduced</u> <u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Variable</u>	<u>Reduced</u> <u>Lunch</u>
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Elementary	\$2.15	\$0.40	\$3.35	N/A	\$0.60
Middle	\$2.35	\$0.40	\$3.60	\$4.00	\$0.60
High	\$2.50	\$0.40	\$3.85	\$4.25	\$0.60

4973M. Awards the bid for Custodial Services for the 2026-2027 school year to Pritchard Industries, LLC of Florham Park, NJ for the lowest responsible base bid of \$5,697,882.34 with the following hourly rates:

- Boiler Operator \$48.00/hour
- Snow Removal (before or after shift) \$56.00/hour
- Holidays and weekends \$48.00/hour
- Community Functions/Extracurricular Activities \$56.00/hour

4973N. Approves a Clinical Affiliation Agreement with the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences for the purposes of providing clinical experience for university students enrolled in Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) programs. The agreement is effective March 26, 2026 to March 26, 2031.

4973O. Approves the disposal either by auction or as refuse the following item(s) deemed unusable by the district based the age and/or condition of the item(s):

- 2005 Ford E350 Super Duty Cargo Vin#1FTSE34L55HA79481

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the sale of the property through GovDeals pursuant to the terms and conditions of State Contract A-70967/T2581.

4974. Adopt the following curricula:

Resolution Number	New/Revised	Department	Subject
4973-1	New	Fine Arts K-12	Fashion Design 1
4973-2	New	Fine Arts K-12	Fashion Design 2
4973-3	New	Fine Arts K-12	Fashion Design 3

4975. Approves the addition of the following class field trip destinations based upon the attached "Statements of Assurance."

DESTINATION	CITY	STATE
Six Flags Great Escape Lodge and Indoor Waterpark	Queensbury	NY
Christ Church	Glenn Falls	NY
All-Star Music Resort	Lake Buena Vista	Florida
Disney Springs	Lake Buena Vista	Florida

4976. Affirms the HIB investigations reported to the South Orange/Maplewood School District for the month of April 2026.
- 4977A. Abolish Policy 3362 Sexual Harassment - Teaching Staff.
- 4977B. Abolish Policy 4352 Sexual Harassment - Support Staff.
- 4977C. Abolish Regulation 3362 Sexual Harassment - Teaching Staff.
- 4977D. Abolish Regulation 4352 Sexual Harassment - Support Staff.
- 4977E. Adopt Policy 1552 Sexual Harassment - Staff.
- 4977F. Adopt Regulation 1552 Sexual Harassment - Staff.
- 4977G. Adopt Regulation 2418 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- 4977H. Adopt Regulation 5111 Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students.
4978. Adopt Board Policy 2418 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
4979. Orders the transfer or removal of the students identified below.

<u>NJ State ID #</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
6828274042	CHS	11 th
4778858226	TUSC	5 th

4980. Approves the settlement agreement for Student ID #8484730662 and authorizes the Board President to execute the settlement agreement.

4981. WHEREAS, at a time of continued fiscal uncertainty and mounting challenges, local boards of education from across the state of New Jersey continue to suffer under the growing crisis posed by the rising cost of health benefits and are desperate for relief; and

WHEREAS, Despite record levels of state investments in public education, school districts are facing fiscal pressures similar to those confronting the state budget, including the unsustainable growth in health-care premiums and the broader instability in the public employee health benefits landscape; and

WHEREAS, Both within the School Employees' Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) and the private market, year-over-year double-digit increases are placing tremendous strain on district budgets and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Even school districts that have pursued alternative insurance arrangements or transitioned from the SEHBP continue to

face rapidly escalating health-care costs that threaten long-term fiscal sustainability and operational stability; and

WHEREAS, Access to high-quality and affordable health benefits remains essential to recruiting and retaining the dedicated educators and staff who serve New Jersey's students; and

WHEREAS, Governor Sherrill and legislative leadership have publicly acknowledged the urgent need to address rising health-care costs and the challenges facing the state's health benefits plans, including both the state and local portions of the State Health Benefits Program and the SEHBP; and

WHEREAS, The seriousness of this issue is underscored by the mid-year SEHBP analysis released by the Treasury Department in March 2026, which concluded that "based on these projected losses and building in future trends, active premium rate increases for 2027 are likely to be in the double digits;" and

WHEREAS, These projected increases would follow the 31.9 percent premium increase that took effect in January 2026, further exacerbating an overall premium increase of nearly 74 percent in the preceding five years; and

WHEREAS, This growth in health-care costs far exceeds inflation, state aid increases and the fiscal capacity of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Rising health-care premiums are consuming an ever-larger portion of already constrained school district budgets, forcing difficult decisions that directly affect students, staff and educational quality; and

WHEREAS, These cost pressures also have significant consequences for taxpayers, as districts are often compelled to utilize the full extent of their available tax levy, even after which many districts remain unable to fully offset these increases due to the constraints of the property tax levy cap, despite the limited health-care exception; and

WHEREAS, For the families and students these districts serve, the downstream consequences – including district deficits, program cuts and school closures – mean the loss of community stability, continuity of services, and in many cases, access to the specialized supports that our most vulnerable students depend on; and

WHEREAS, These are also precisely the conditions that erode student achievement and weaken the family engagement that is central to strengthening New Jersey's public schools; and

WHEREAS, Implementing real and sustainable solutions to rising health-care costs, while improving the affordability,

predictability and long-term sustainability of public employee health-care systems, would demonstrate the Governor's and Legislature's continued commitment to New Jersey's students, educators, families and taxpayers, and would advance the shared goal of affordability and effective, efficient government for all New Jerseyans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education in the county of Essex calls upon the Governor and State Legislature to provide immediate, short-term relief from the unsustainable increased health-care costs experienced by school districts in recent years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education in the County of Essex urges the Governor and Legislature to engage collaboratively with school districts, employee representatives and other stakeholders to develop and implement practical long-term strategies that improve the affordability, predictability and sustainability of public employee health-care costs statewide while maintaining access to quality benefits for public employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Mikie Sherrill, State Treasurer Aaron Binder, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, Senator Renee Burgess, Assemblywoman Cleopatra Tucker, Assemblyman Chigozie Onyema, and the New Jersey School Boards Association.

ROLL CALL: Motion 4970A-K, 4971A-C, 4972A-C, 4973A-O, 4974, 4975, 4976, 4977, 4978, 4979, 4980 4981 YES: Bennett, Brown, Callahan, Higgins, Kapadia, Meyer, Nayar, Sackett-Gable, Stephan
NO: None

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Communications Director Shai Draper expressed pride in the South Orange-Maplewood School District's commitment to community engagement and thanked past communications leaders for helping build a strong foundation of trust and collaboration. He also announced his election as the first Black President-Elect of the New Jersey School Public Relations Association and reflected on recent accomplishments, including the launch of a new district website, expanded community outreach, and communications opportunities for Columbia High School students.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE.

Future Meetings

A Special Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., the Board of Education will convene in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, for a Board Retreat and an Executive

Session to discuss the Chief School Administrator (CSA) Evaluation. No action will be taken.

A Special Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ. Immediately following the Special Meeting, the Board of Education will move into Executive Session in the Superintendent's Office, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, as well as utilizing an online video conference platform for the purpose of discussing the Chief School Administrator (CSA) Evaluation with the CSA. Action may be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, June 25, 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.

Motion made by Board Member Callahan, seconded by Board Member Bennett to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 10:40 p.m.

Patrick Carrigg, Board Attorney