

Special Meeting  
South Orange-Maplewood  
Board of Education  
May 28, 2026

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 and via an online video conference platform on May 28, 2026.

Board President Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

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

Absent: Board Member Brown

***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 4:34 p.m. on May 26, 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.

Board President's Update

Board President Meyer shared that tonight's meeting is focused on three primary objectives: Conducting the Chief School Administrator (CSA) evaluation of Superintendent Bing during the Executive Sessions, participating in its second annual retreat of the year to receive governance training and prepare for the Board's self-evaluation and the development of next year's Board and district goals, and acting on two time-sensitive resolutions. The resolutions authorize paraprofessional services for Summer 2026 and approved architectural services to address ongoing drainage issues at Seth Boyden School that have left one of its gymnasiums unusable.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent Bing announced that students and staff would return to Maplewood Middle School on Friday after repairs were completed following a partial ceiling collapse over Memorial Day weekend. He thanked the facilities team and local partners for their around-the-clock work, noting that all repairs, air quality testing, and state inspections had been successfully completed, clearing the building for reopening.

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

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE.

ACTION ITEMS

Motion made by Board Member Sackett-Gable, seconded by Board Member Stephan to move resolutions 4982A-B. Motion unanimously approved.

4982A. WHEREAS, on May 6, 2026, the Board of Education received two (2) bids in response to its advertisement for a Paraprofessional Services contract, Bid #02-202627; and

WHEREAS, the District is currently evaluating the bids received; and

WHEREAS, the contract with the current vendor, ESS Northeast LLC, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, expires on June 30, 2026, and

WHEREAS, services must be provided beginning July 1, 2026, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Board of Education to extend the current contract with ESS Northeast LLC, of Cherry Hill, for the services to be provided until the evaluation process has been completed;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-42, the Board of Education and ESS Northeast LLC, of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, mutually agree to have the contract for Paraprofessional Services extended from July 1, 2026, through July 31, 2026, at the same terms and conditions of the current contract.

The cost of the one-month contract is estimated not to exceed \$250,000.

4982B. WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 18A:4-1, et seq., the Board is permitted to enter into professional service contracts without the necessity of public bidding; and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Architectural Service Agreement between Parette Somjen Architects and the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education.

WHEREAS, Parette Somjen Architects submitted a proposal whereby Parette Somjen Architects is to provide Professional Services for Drainage Improvements at Seth Boyden Elementary School at the request of the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education.

WHEREAS, Parette Somjen Architects is desirous of entering into an Agreement, commencing on May 29, 2026, under the provisions set forth below;

Fee	Phase
\$13,500.00	2.1 Information Gathering & Documentation of Existing Conditions
\$22,500.00	2.2 Schematic Design, 2.3 Preliminary Budgeting, 2.4 Applications, Submissions, 2.5 Design Development
N/A	2.6 Presentation Materials
\$36,400.00	2.7 Construction Documents
\$ 4,500.00	2.8 Procurement Phase Services
\$13,500.00	2.9 Contract Phase Services
\$ 5,900.00	3.1 Reimbursable Expenses
\$96,300.00	Total Flat Fee + Expenses (P.O. Amount)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, between both parties, all terms and conditions of the agreement are incorporated herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the agreement with Parette Somjen Architects be approved and that the Board Secretary or designee be authorized to sign said agreement.

Roll Call: Motion 4982A-B PASSED YES: Bennett, Callahan, Higgins, Kapadia, Meyer, Nayar, Sackett-Gable, Stephan NO: None

Board Members adjourned at 6:46 p.m. to begin the Board Retreat. Following the Retreat, Board Members will enter Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation.

BOARD RETREAT

NJSBA Field Representative Jeanne Cleary, facilitated the Board Retreat on Superintendent and Board Evaluations.

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Board Secretary