

Regular Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
June 11, 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 June 11, 2026.

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

ROLL CALL: Present: Board Member Bennett, Board Member Brown (6:33 p.m.)
Board Member Callahan, Board Member Higgins,
Board Member Kapadia, Board President Meyer,
Board Member Nayar (6:39 p.m.), Board Member Stephan

Absent: Board Member Sackett-Gable

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.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Kerri Waibel, Director of Access and Equity and Mr. Paul L. Morgan, Director of School and Community Safety presented the Annual Report of Student Safety Data System (SSDS) Period 1: September 2025- December 2025 and the HIB Official Grades Report 24-25.

Superintendent Jason Bing presented 2026-2027 District Budget & Strategic Overview.

[presentations on file in Board Secretary's Office and the district Website]

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Students and community members addressed the Board on various topics including: cuts to arts programs and staffing, freshman being barred from taking certain electives, requests to reconsider the proposed block lunch schedule and more transparent communication around scheduling and cuts.

ACTION ITEMS

Board Member Callahan made a motion seconded by Board Member Bennett to move resolutions 4984A-B. Motion unanimously approved.

4984A. BE IT RESOLVED that the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education has received the audit; reviewed the recommendations contained in the Management Report on Administrative Findings, Financial, Compliance and Performance Reporting Audit Report for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 as prepared by PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education does hereby approve and authorize the Audit Recommendations and implementation of the Corrective Action Plan as detailed below and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator to produce two (2) certified copies of said Corrective Action Plan to be filed with the County Superintendent of Schools and the State Department of Education.

ACFR/AMR Finding	Condition/ Finding	Recommendation	Method of Implementation	Person Responsible for Implementation / Title	Implementation Date
Finding 2025-001	During our audit of the student activity funds for the Maplewood Middle School, we noted that funds collected by school clubs and activities were not consistently deposited in a timely manner.	We recommend that the District strengthen its internal controls and procedures to ensure that all funds collected for activities of the Maplewood Middle School be deposited in a timely fashion.	Deposits will be made in a timely manner, proper documentation will be maintained, and bank reconciliations will be completed monthly	School Treasurer/ Assistant Business Administrator/ Business Administrator	6/30/2026
Finding 2025-002	Our review of the Student Activity Fund bank reconciliations identified that several outstanding checks and deposits in transit (DITs) have remained unreconciled for extended periods of time, in certain	We recommend the District perform a review of all outstanding reconciling items in excess of one year to determine if such items should be reissued or cancelled.	All outstanding checks/reconciling items will be reviewed in May of each year. Any adjustments that require board approval (cancelled checks) will be made prior to the end of the fiscal year and	School Treasurer/ Assistant Business Administrator/ Business Administrator	6/30/2026

	instances exceeding one year.		recorded prior to closing the books for the year.		
Finding 2025-003	The District did not meet the required 90% participation rate in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, achieving a participation rate of approximately 30%. The New Jersey Department of Education mandates a 90% participation rate in SEMI to maximize Medicaid reimbursements for special education services. The District potentially forfeited Medicaid reimbursements, resulting in lost revenue that could support special education programs	We recommend the District implement a monitoring system to track provider compliance, enhance training on SEMI requirements, and develop corrective action plans to achieve the required participation rate.	The Special Services Department will develop processes and procedures to maximize the participation rate in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative.	Assistant Superintendent of Special Services	6/30/2026

4984B. WHEREAS, the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education ("Board") has a need to obtain paraprofessional staffing services for the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board previously authorized and conducted a local public procurement process for paraprofessional staffing services pursuant to the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, after review of the bids received, the Board determined to reject all bids pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22, including but not limited to the grounds that the bids substantially exceeded the District's cost estimates and/or appropriations for the services, and/or that rejection was otherwise in the best interests of the District consistent with the Public School Contracts Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board continues to require paraprofessional staffing services to meet the operational and student-support needs of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Contracts Law authorizes boards of education to procure goods and services in accordance with applicable public bidding, cooperative purchasing, and joint purchasing requirements; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 authorizes boards of education to provide jointly, by agreement, for the provision and performance of goods and services for their respective districts; and

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Purchasing Rules, N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq., authorize contracting units to participate in and purchase goods and services through a duly approved cooperative pricing system or joint purchasing system, subject to the terms and conditions of the cooperative award; and

WHEREAS, the Mercer County Special Services School District Consortium conducted a public procurement process for paraprofessional staffing services and awarded a contract to Delta-T Group North Jersey, Inc. and/or its applicable affiliate ("Delta-T") for such services; and

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized to obtain paraprofessional staffing services through the Mercer County Special Services School District Consortium contract, subject to the pricing, terms, conditions, specifications, and contract documents applicable to that cooperative award; and

WHEREAS, the District's administration has reviewed the need for paraprofessional staffing services and recommends award to Delta-T through the Mercer County Special Services School District Consortium contract; and

WHEREAS, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary has determined that the procurement may be made through the cooperative contract in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law and applicable cooperative purchasing regulations; and

WHEREAS, the availability of funds for this contract shall be certified by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, subject to appropriation and the District's actual need for services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education hereby confirms and ratifies the rejection of all bids received through its local public procurement process for paraprofessional staffing services pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-22; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the award of a contract for paraprofessional staffing services to Delta-T through the Mercer County Special Services School District Consortium cooperative contract, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract shall be subject to the pricing, terms, conditions, specifications, and requirements of the Mercer County Special Services School District Consortium award and any District purchase orders or related contract documents issued in accordance therewith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President, Superintendent, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and/or their designees are authorized to execute any documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate this resolution and obtain paraprofessional staffing services from Delta-T consistent with law and the cooperative contract award; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all payments under this award shall be subject to certification of the availability of funds, properly executed purchase orders, satisfactory performance of services, and compliance with all applicable federal, State, and local procurement requirements.

ROLL CALL: 4984A-B YES: Bennett, Brown, Callahan, Higgins, Kapadia, Meyer, Nayar, Stephan NO: None

Board Member Callahan made a motion seconded by Board Member Bennett to move resolutions 4985. Motion unanimously approved.

4985. WHEREAS, Pride Month, celebrated in June, commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, a pivotal moment in the gay liberation movement. The uprising occurred after a police raid on the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, sparking six days of protests.

The first Pride march was held on June 28, 1970, the one-year anniversary of the uprising; and

WHEREAS, the South Orange-Maplewood School District (SOMSD) is home to a diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) community, along with allies, whose contributions enrich our schools and strengthen our district, and the District remains committed to supporting dignity, equity, visibility, and belonging for all members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that LGBTQIA+ students are entitled to equal educational opportunity, freedom from discrimination, and access to school environments in which they are treated consistently with their affirmed identity in accordance with New Jersey law, and further recognizes that LGBTQIA+ students, families, and staff may hold multiple identities and experiences, including race, ethnicity, disability, language, religion, and socioeconomic status, requiring ongoing attention to belonging and inclusion across our school community; and

WHEREAS, despite advancements toward the equitable treatment of LGBTQIA+ individuals, many continue to experience discrimination and bias, particularly transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive individuals, making it essential for schools and communities to demonstrate continued commitment to inclusion, respect, and support; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes its ongoing responsibility under New Jersey law, including the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, to maintain safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education hereby recognizes June 2026 as Pride Month and celebrates the contributions, resilience, and diversity of LGBTQIA+ students, families, staff, and community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all students have access to learning environments that are safe, welcoming, inclusive, and free from discrimination, including through the continued implementation of Board Policy 5756 and related district policies that affirm the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive students to be treated with dignity and respect in accordance with New Jersey law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District will continue to enforce anti-discrimination policies; support LGBTQIA+ students through student-led affinity groups, professional development for staff, and visible affirmations of support; ensure that LGBTQIA+ identities, histories, and contributions are accurately reflected

in curriculum, school libraries, and classroom learning experiences in accordance with New Jersey's LGBTQ+ Inclusive Curriculum Law; and work collaboratively with LGBTQIA+ community members on shared goals related to education, equity, inclusion, and visibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board encourages all members of the school community to continue fostering a culture of dignity, respect, understanding, belonging, equity, and inclusion throughout the year.

ROLL CALL 4985 YES: Bennett, Brown, Callahan, Higgins, Kapadia, Meyer, Nayar, Stephan NO: None

Future Meetings

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Board Member Callahan, seconded by Board Member Kapadia to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Evaluation following this the Board will immediately adjourn. Motion unanimously approved at 9:42 p.m.

Casey Acker, Board Attorney