

Board Retreat & Regular Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
July 30, 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 July 30, 2026.

Board President Meyer called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: 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

Absent: Board Member Bennett

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 11:22 a.m. on July 22, 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 RETREAT: SELF-EVALUATION AND GOAL PLANNING

NJSBA Field Representative Jeanne Cleary facilitated the Board Retreat, guiding the Board through the results of the Board self-evaluation, how to interpret the results and how to apply them toward the development of ongoing Board goals, while also reviewing the prior year's Board goals and how the Board achieved them.

Board Member Bennett joined the meeting during the Board Retreat
9 VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Student Athlete Recognitions - Ms. Winstead Athletic Director

The Columbia High School boys' and girls' fencing teams were recognized for their outstanding 2025-2026 seasons. The boys' team won the North Jersey Sectional State Championship, while the girls' team won both the North Jersey Sectional Championship and the NJSIAA New Jersey Scholastic State Championship. Coaches Marie Leger, Cameron Sviben and Robert White

were also recognized for their dedication and leadership. Coach White, has served Columbia High School for more than 20 years.

Boys' Fencing Team

Sander Becker – *Senior*
Zack Coulter
Nat Eads
Luca Inserro
Kai Khaw-Briot
Julien Khaw-Briot
Benji Kohol
Gareth Kreckle – *Senior*
Ethan Lavin
Henry O'Briant
Emeka Onugha II
Liam Wojciechowski

Girls' Fencing Team

Chloe Frazier
Elke Bak
Karol Agila
Lilian Clark
Madeleine Benson
Maliha Valentine
Saanvi Rohatgi
Samara Berg
Simone Swingle
Sofia Plaza
Talía Goldberg
Zoe Movahed
Sonia Zenobi

The athletes and coaches were presented with championship rings in recognition of their accomplishments.

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

Board Members adjourned to Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

Board Members reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Callahan made a motion seconded by Board Member Sackett-Gable to approve the minutes of the following meetings: June 11, 2026 Executive and Special Meeting Minutes; June 25, 2026 Executive and Regular Meeting Minutes; Motion unanimously approved.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Staff Memorials
 - Mr. Bing honored former elementary teachers Maryanne Murray and Sandra F. Prince, both of whom recently passed away.
 - Sandra F. Prince served the district from 1988-2009 at Clinton and Marshall schools.
 - Maryanne Murray began at Clinton in 1995, later worked at South Mountain Annex, and retired in 2019.
- Columbia High School Schedule 2026-27
 - Columbia High School will implement a four-day rotating A/B/C/D block schedule.
 - Students will attend six classes daily, with periods ranging from 46 to 71 minutes.
 - A 30-minute conference period will provide opportunities for academic support, make-up work, enrichment, and student-teacher meetings.
 - The schedule is intended to increase instructional time, reduce transitions, and provide greater flexibility and individualized support.
- Middle School Schedule
 - Sixth graders will move from a trimester schedule to a semester schedule, joining the existing model for seventh and eighth graders.
 - Students will be assigned a range of related arts courses so that by eighth grade, they experience all available offerings. Courses include art, STEM, drama/dance, investigations, band, chorus, orchestra, and world language. Sixth graders will be exposed to Spanish and Chinese before choosing one language to continue beginning in seventh grade.
- CHS Common Lunch
 - Approximately 2,000 students will have a common lunch period. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors may continue to leave campus for lunch. On-campus students can use the cafeteria, main gym, Alumni Commons, and additional outdoor/seating areas. Administrators will monitor the lunch areas, and the district is adding tables and other seating. Food service provider Pomptonian has helped plan the transition.
- Paraprofessional Transition to Delta-T
 - Delta-T representatives met with special services administrators, Board Member Callahan, and SEPAC to discuss the transition from ESS and address concerns. The district is seeking to retain existing paraprofessionals, with pay expected to be \$20-\$22 per hour. Parent focus groups and recruitment events were held to support the transition. Delta-T reported 166 paraprofessionals ready to start in September, representing approximately an 85-93% fill rate, with additional recruitment continuing.
- Facilities & Infrastructure
 - The 2019 bond addressed major infrastructure needs, including HVAC, air filtration, security entrances, learning spaces, and fire/intercom systems. A 2026-27 facilities improvement bond is being developed. Proposed projects include hallway,

bathroom and classroom improvements, Ritzer Field improvements, security vestibules, playgrounds, ADA compliance, and safety fencing. A detailed project list is expected to be presented in the coming weeks.

- Staff Trips to Israel
 - The district clarified that it has not sponsored, funded, or endorsed staff trips to Israel. Staff participating are doing so personally and using personal days. Employees are trusted to engage thoughtfully with diverse perspectives and professional experiences.

PRESENTATION

Superintendent Bing presented the South Orange Maplewood School District Student Transportation Plan: Establishing Safe Efficient Student Journeys Across South Orange & Maplewood.

[presentation on file in the Board Secretary's office and district website]

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE - Tiffani Reneau, Acting BA

Mrs. Reneau shared a brief update on the following:

- Closing out the 2025-26 fiscal year
- Preparing 2026-27 accounts and executing new contracts.
- Audit scheduled for week of August 17; preliminary budget outcomes to be reported thereafter.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

- New Business Administrator
 - The Board is voting to appoint Nicole Schoening as the district's new Business Administrator. Tiffani Reneau, Acting Business Administrator was recognized for her strong performance as Acting Business Administrator and she will return to her role as the Assistant Business Administrator.
 - The new business office leadership will begin planning the 2027-28 budget, with an emphasis on earlier and more organized financial planning. The district anticipates difficult budget discussions and additional cuts as it continues to navigate the projected "fiscal cliff."
- Board Self-Evaluation & Goals
 - The Board conducted a self-evaluation and reviewed progress on its three 2025-26 goals. The district either achieved or made significant progress toward all three goals. Results from the evaluation and strategic plan will inform the Board's 2026-27 goals. Additional meetings may be held in August to continue developing priorities focused on district oversight and student achievement.
- 2026-27 School-Year Readiness
 - Board committees have been heavily focused on preparing for the upcoming school year. Transportation remains a major

priority following challenges during the previous two school-year openings. The Board plans frequent transportation check-ins before and after the start of school to address problems quickly.

- Columbia High School Common Lunch
 - The transition to a single lunch period at Columbia High School has raised concerns among some students. The Board is monitoring preparations to ensure students have adequate food service, space, and support when school begins.
- Before and After School Care
 - The district is working with the YMCA to expand before- and after-school care capacity. District and municipal leaders plan to meet with the YMCA to discuss ways to better support families and accommodate students.
- Elementary School Security
 - Elementary school security positions that had been funded during COVID were eliminated as part of the budget.
 - The district is relying on newly constructed security vestibules and coordination with local municipalities to maintain school security.
- Facilities & Infrastructure
 - The Board is reviewing outstanding facility needs following major projects undertaken since 2018. Recent concerns include the localized ceiling collapse at Maplewood Middle School and other aging infrastructure. The district is developing a comprehensive list of remaining and newly identified projects to potentially present to the towns for funding support. Key projects under consideration include the middle school auditoriums and Ritzer Field, along with facilities needed to support educational programs and overall student life.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

Community Members Rachel Henes, Kim Takacs, Danielle Thorne, Yolanda Spann, Sabrina Foxe, Chantal Taylor, Alicia Paruag, Priti Khanal, Carrie Gordon, Naureen Akhter, Marcia Kaiser, Tonia Moore, Cassia Mosdell, Verna Holcomb, Jessica Mingus, addressed the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports from the Finance, Facilities & Technology, Special Services, Personnel, 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 Sackett-Gable made a motion seconded by Board Member Callahan to move resolutions 4994-5005. Motion unanimously approved.

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

4994A. MEMORIALS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION approve the following memorials:

Mary Ellen Murray, retired Elementary Teacher passed away on June 25, 2026, and

Sandra F. Prince, retired Elementary Teacher passed away on July 3, 2026

The Superintendent is asked to convey our condolences to the family and friends of Mary Ellen Murray and Sandra F. Prince.

4994B. RETIREMENT

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS IN DISTRICT
Tazewell, Lora	Library Media Specialist SOM/MM - 1.0 FTE	8/1/26	9

4994C. RESIGNATIONS

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	YEARS IN DISTRICT
Croce, Domenic	T Music (Elem-Strings) DIST - 1.0 FTE	9/5/26	5
Wright, Glen	T Science MM - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26	15

4994D. REVISED REAPPOINTMENTS 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
Irby-Hill, Dr. Lynn	Principal SOM - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26 6/30/27	\$210,759

4994E. 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
Ayala, Ricardo	T WL/Spanish CHS/SOM - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$71,479
Bhansali, Riya	T SPED/INC MAR - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$77,450
Currais, Valerie	T Science MM - 1.0 FTE	9/15/26 or sooner 6/30/27	\$94,574
Hood, Miranda	T 5 SM - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$75,059

Jean-Louis, Vanessa	School Social Worker/Elem Field Supv. CLIN - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$85,229
Li, Austin	T 3 SM - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$77,450
Micial, Rebecca	Dispatcher DIST - 1.0 FTE	7/16/26 6/30/27	\$66,000
Mule, Maggie	School Psychologist DIST - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$83,229
Munoz Rosario, Kiara	S4/10, Secretary MM - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$55,520
Myrick, James	T SPED/MD MM - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$82,929
Rodriguez, Jade	School Psychologist DIST - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$83,229
Sauchelli, Frank	Maintenance (Electrician) DIST - 1.0 FTE	8/3/26 6/30/27	\$84,305
Schneider, Kelsey	School Psychologist DIST - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$83,299
Schoening, Nicole	School Business Administrator DIST - 1.0 FTE	8/3/26 6/30/27	\$212,500
Sheridan, Kimberly	T 1 MAR - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27	\$70,000

4994F. APPOINTMENT OF LEAVE REPLACEMENT STAFF 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
DeCicco, *	LR T SS	8/31/26	
Joseph	SOM - 1.0 FTE	6/17/27	\$70,000
Foster, Nasir	LR T Music	9/14/26	
	SOM - 1.0 FTE	4/2/27	\$70,000
Lesser, David	LR T KDG	8/31/26	
	SM - 1.0 FTE	12/23/26	\$70,000
Rockwell, Kevin	LR T 4	8/31/26	
	SM - 1.0 FTE	12/23/26	\$70,000
Sheehy, Kristyn	LR T SPED/INC	8/31/26	
	MM - 1.0 FTE	6/17/27	\$77,450
Sina, Gianna	LR T SPED/INC	8/31/26	
	SB - 1.0 FTE	12/18/26	\$77,450

* Pending completion of CE requirements

4994G. RESCIND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE
Emp. #5354	5/21/26-5/29/26 (Unpaid Medical Leave)

Emp. #5002	4/16/26, 4/22/26, 4/26/26, 5/5/26, 5/27/26 (1/2 day), 6/11/26 (Unpaid NJ FLA)
------------	---

4994H. LEAVES OF ABSENCE

NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE
Emp. #4333	10/5/26-1/5/27 (Unpaid NJ FLA)
Emp. #3838	8/31/26-9/9/26 (Unpaid NJ FLA) 9/10/26-6/30/27 (Unpaid Childcare Leave)
Emp. #4764	/8/26-6/18/26 (Paid Maternity Leave) 8/31/26-11/20/26 (Unpaid NJ FLA) 11/23/26-12/23/26 (Paid Sick Days)

4994I. TRANSFERS/REASSIGNMENTS

NAME	OLD ASSIGNMENT	NEW ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Dorton, Jayne	T Elem SMA - FTE	T Elem CLIN - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27
Harris, Dr. Lamont	LDT-C CLIN/SM - 1.0 FTE	LDT-C DB/TUS	8/31/26 6/30/27
Johnson, LeShia	LDT-C DB/TUS - 1.0 FTE	LDT-C CLIN/SM 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/630/27
Kelly-Lewis, Tashmirah	T PreK/INC MONT - 1.0 FTE	T Preschool Relief MONT - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27
Leick, Diane	Speech/Language Specialist MM - 1.0 FTE	Speech/Language Specialist SOM - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27
Melendez- Pallitto, M. Laura	School Psychologist SB/MAR - 1.0 FTE	School Psychologist CHS - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27
Osher, Nicole	School Psychologist DB/TUS - 1.0 FTE	School Psychologist SB/MAR - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27
Shook, Gretchen	School Nurse MM - 1.0 FTE	School Nurse SM - 1.0 FTE	8/31/26 6/30/27

4994J. SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE	ACTUAL SALARY
Irby-Hill, Dr. Lynn	Principal SOM - 1.0 FTE	5/20/26 6/30/26	\$204,831 (pro-rated)

Bennett, Dr. Telia	Asst. Principal SB - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26 6/30/27	\$137,360
Davenport, Maureen	Acting Principal TUS - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26 6/30/27	\$139,254
Gronau, Dara	Principal SM/SMA - 1.0 FTE	7//26 6/30/27	\$176,361
Kassalow, Peter	Asst. Principal CLIN - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26 6/30/27	\$122,444
Mason, Kevin	Principal MM - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26 6/30/27	\$206,759
Wallace, Lavonne	Asst. Principal MM - 1.0 FTE	7/1/26 6/30/27	\$124,937

4994K. SOMEA PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR
see attached list

4994L. STIPENDS (CO-CURRICULAR) - see attached list

4994M. STIPENDS (ATHLETICS) - see attached list

4994N. SUMMER SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT
see attached list

4995A. REAPPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL
YEAR AT \$175/DAY STATE CERTIFIED TEACHER

1. Atkinson-DeLoach, Rosalie
2. Anderson, Esther
3. Bashir, Tahira
4. Blagrove, Selica
5. Blaine, Erin
6. Boni, Susan
7. Faison, Theodore
8. Freeman, Willie
9. Gehman, Henry
10. Guiliano, Mark
11. Hirsh, Susan
12. Huemer, David
13. Jenkins, Philomena
14. Lamkin, Kathleen
15. LaParle, Kathleen
16. Li, Austin
17. Losardo, Lark
18. Menk, Susan
19. Mompont, Ingrid
20. Nolet, Elizabeth
21. O'Connor, Martha
22. Qian, Yuxin
23. Steiner, Michael

COLLEGE GRADUATE AND STATE SUBSTITUTE CERTIFICATE

1. Ababneh, Miriam
2. Abbas, Galila
3. Adenihun, Adikat

4. Akbar, Bayyianah
5. Armstrong, Sean
6. Arrington, Jennifer
7. Artilles, Sergio
8. Atkinson, Lenworth
9. Auguste, Decereste
10. Berwind, Elizabeth
11. Birdsall, Olivia
12. Blagrove. Selica
13. Boudewyns, Christopher
14. Brooks, Desiree
15. Brown, Socia
16. Brown, Tammi
17. Butz, Michelle
18. Camillo, Al-Qadr
19. Capparuva, Geraldine
20. Chin, Marlene
21. Cockey, Sharon
22. Conroy, Mackenzie
23. Cooper, Denard
24. Dahroug, Hussein
25. Downey, Ryan
26. Ellis, Robert
27. Eltarazy, Hany
28. Fanneron, Thomas
29. Foster, Ian
30. Greenfeld, Douglas
31. Grier, April
32. Halpern, Samuel
33. Hammarberg, Jill
34. Herbert, Cynthia
35. Innocent, Reginald
36. Ishola-Ayodeji, Abimbola
37. Jean, Rachel
38. Jean-Baptiste, Amiyah
39. Lambert, Meredith
40. Larkins, Melody
41. Lewis-Johnson, Patricia
42. Lopez, Mia
43. Mazzaferro, Stephen
44. Miller, Vernon
45. Mostafa, Dina
46. Motachwa, Enosh
47. Munford, Sherry
48. Okubanja, Ebun
49. Santacruz, Ana Maria
50. Sasso, Michael
51. Seales, Bethany
52. Sevengul, Yuliya
53. Shaffron-Davis, Benjamin
54. Simon, Alex
55. Singh, Indira
56. Tahoe, Mireille

57. Tomaselli, Nicholas
58. Tarazy, Christina
59. Valerius, Paul
60. Vasilic, Stana
61. Vincent, Sarah
62. Vogt, John
63. Ward, Stuart
64. Williams, Eric
65. Wright, Eillaen
66. York, Lydia

NON-DEGREE AND STATE SUBSTITUTE CERTIFICATE

1. Ameh, Otini
2. Anderson, Tonika
3. Benevento, Christina
4. Beno, Karen
5. Boerger, David
6. Carter, Amber
7. Chisholm, Malcolm
8. David, Alexander
9. Derilus, Matthew
10. Dieunel, Simon
11. Duvalier, Cory
12. Green, Mateo
13. Kaesshaefer, Ian
14. Kerr, Darriel
15. Koch, Nicole
16. McNeil, Marcell
17. Metka, Rachael
18. Nikolic, Ivana
19. Pearsall, Priscilla
20. Richardson, Iman
21. Shaw, Diana
22. Tekeste, Ruth
23. Victor, Eveline
24. Williams, Crystal
25. Williams, Kendra

4995B. APPOINTMENT OF OUT OF DISTRICT COACHES FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR FALL

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	CONTRACT YEAR	STIPEND
Cooper, Denard	Freshman Girls Tennis Asst. Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$3,811
Green, Kevin	Assistant Football Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$6,566
Green, Mateo	Girls Varsity Soccer Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$7,891
Kinsey, Kai	Assistant Football Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$6,498

McCombs, David	Assistant Football Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$6,566
Newman, Xavier	Freshman Soccer Asst. Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$3,749
Pearsall, Priscilla	Freshman Field Hockey Assistant Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$3,710
Petroccia, Grace	JV Volleyball Asst. Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$5,490
*Rahaman, David	Girls JV Soccer Asst. Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$5,490
Royal, Eriq	Assistant Football Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$6,566
*Thomas, Beaira	Girls Varsity Cross Country Head Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$6,470
*Williams, D'Sherrick	Color Guard Coach	9/2026 11/2026	\$3,811
*Willis, Austin	Boys Varsity Cross Country Head Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$6,470

**Pending criminal history clearance*

WINTER

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	CONTRACT YEAR	STIPEND
*Breitman, Aaron	Girls Varsity Head Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$7,891
Earle, Chenae	Freshman Girls Asst. Basketball Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$3,811
Glymph, Belinda	Girls JV Indoor Track Asst. Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$5,614
*Keenan, Margaret	Boys Varsity Swimming Head Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$7,891
*Keenan, Margaret	Girls Varsity Swimming Head Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$7,891
Leger, Marie	Fencing Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$5,614
McCombs, David	Boys JV Indoor Track Asst. Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$5,614
*Rubinstein, Phillip	Boys Freshman Asst. Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$3,811
*Sabol, Joseph	Boys Varsity Wrestling Head Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$7,905
*Sims, Stevana	Girls JV Basketball Asst. Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$5,614
*Synsmir, Gregory	Boys Varsity Asst. Basketball Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$5,614
*Thomas, Beaira	Girls Varsity Indoor Track & Field Head Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$6,470

*Willis, Austin	Boys Varsity Indoor Track & Field Head Coach	12/2026 2/2027	\$6,470
--------------------	---	-------------------	---------

*Pending criminal history clearance

SPRING

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	CONTRACT YEAR	STIPEND
*Alves, Jennifer	JV Softball Asst. Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$5,614
Anderson, Yasmeen	Girls Varsity Lacrosse Head Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$7,808
*Dennis, Donte	Girls JV Lacrosse Asst. Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$5,614
Glymph, Belinda	Girls JV Outdoor Indoor Track Asst. Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$5,614
*Mapp, Everett	Freshman Girls Lacrosse Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$3,811
McCombs, David	Boys JV Outdoor Track Asst. Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$5,614
Rothenberger Nicole	Freshman Softball Asst. Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$3,811
Royal, Eriq	JV Flag Football Asst. Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$5,614
*Smith, Cliff	Varsity Softball	03/2027 06/2027	\$7,891
*Thomas, Beaira	Girls Varsity Outdoor Track & Field Head Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$6,470
*Willis, Austin	Boys Varsity Outdoor Track & Field Head Coach	03/2027 06/2027	\$6,470

*Pending criminal history clearance

4995C. APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTEERS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

NAME	ASSIGNMENT
*Green, Kurvan	Varsity Football Coach
*Kennehy, Brian	Varsity/JV Football Coach
*Kruse, Ken	Varsity/JV Football Coach
*Mims, Perry	Varsity Football Coach
*Parks, Rodney	Varsity Football Coach
*Philidor, Maxwell	Varsity Football Coach
*Tandy, Derrick	Varsity Football Coach

**Pending criminal history clearance*

4995D. APPOINTMENT OF OUT OF DISTRICT STIPEND POSITIONS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

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

Matalon, Marc	Set Construction	\$2,834
Passeri, Kaelyn	Marching Assistant	\$2,834
Pettigrew, Bethany	Musical Director	\$6,533
Winters, Max	Flags	\$3,323

4995E. APPOINTMENT OF ATHLETIC EVENT TICKET TAKERS, SUPERVISORS, AND OFFICIALS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Brian Clyburn | 10. Lys Blanc |
| 2. Christopher Pruden | 11. Steven Reichenstein |
| 3. Matthew Femenella | 12. Ronald Barkley |
| 4. Anthony Campiglia | 13. Wahkeelah Ellis |
| 5. Lee Carter | 14. Sabina Ellis |
| 6. Yanquoi Zara | 15. Stephanie Goncalves |
| 7. Shawn Hurd | 16. Shelia Paschall |
| 8. David Crouch | 17. Cassandra Bragg |
| 9. Robert Ellis | 18. Monique Durant |
| | 19. Antonio Rodriguez |

4996A. 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].

4996B. 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].

4997A. Receives and accepts the following financial reports:

1. July 2026 Lease Payments in the amount of \$55,609.75
2. Check Register#430151-430326 in the amount of \$3,099,218.68
3. Check Register#430327-430383 in the amount of \$3,811,878.88
4. June 2026 Payroll Registers totaling \$7,991,668.26

4997B. Approves the attendance and related travel and/or workshop expenses for the following work-related events:

EMPLOYEE	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE	DATE(S)	LOCATION	ESTIMATED COSTS
Jennifer Antoni Columbia HS	2026 Onward Fall Conference	10/14/26- 1016/26	Atlantic City, NJ	\$1,205.51
James Manno Columbia HS	NJMAA/AANJ Arts Supervisors Meeting	10/2/26, 12/4/26, 2/5/27, 4/9/27, 6/4/27	Piscataway, NJ	\$285.10
Eva Marin Columbia HS	AP Spanish Language for the New AP Teacher	6/29/26- 7/2/26	Watertown, CT	correction \$1,161.39

Marcia Hicks Columbia HS	SPH - NJ Safe Schools Program	7/10/26- 8/28/26	Virtual	\$880.00
Rachael Richard Columbia HS	Online AP Summer Institute	8/3/26- 8/6/26	Virtual	\$850.00
Frank Sanchez Columbia HS	SPH - NJ Safe Schools Program	7/22/26	Virtual	\$600.00
Total				\$4,982.00

4997C. Approves the following provider(s) for the 2026-2027 school year for the service indicated:

Provider Name	Service	Rate	Not to Exceed
Best of You Therapy, Inc. Wayne, NJ	Speech Therapist	\$105.00/hr \$135.00/hr (home based) \$425.00/eval	\$20,000.00
	Occupational Therapist	\$105.00/hr \$135.00/hr (home based) \$425.00/eval	
	Bilingual Therapist (PT, OT, SLP)	\$115.00/hr \$145.00/hr (home based) \$625.00/eval	
	LDTC	\$95.00/hr \$110.00/hr (home based) \$425.00/eval	
	Psychologist	\$95.00/hr \$110.00/hr (home based) \$425.00/eval	
	Physical Therapist	\$100.00/hr \$140.00/hr (home based) \$475.00/eval	
	Special Education Teacher	\$70.00/hr \$95.00/hr (home based)	
	ABA Therapy Services	\$100.00/hr \$115.00/hr (home based)	
	BCBA	\$135.00/hr \$150.00/hr (home based) \$1400.00 FBA	
	Reading Specialist	\$90.00/hr \$105.00/hr (home based) \$1,500.00/eval	

Blazerworks, LLC Peachtree Corners, GA	Speech Language Pathologist	\$95.00- \$100.00/hr	\$111,450.00
	Physical and/or COTA	\$97.65- \$104.00/hr	
	SLPA, PTA and/or COTA	\$78.75- \$80.33/hr	
	SLP-CFY	\$98.75- \$108.25/hr	
	School Nurses- RN/LPN	\$76.00- \$82.56/hr	
	Psychologist	\$95.52- \$102.25/hr	
	RBT/ABA	\$58.20- \$65.33/hr	
	Guidance Counselor	\$75.98- \$85.21/hr	
	Social Worker	\$84.00- \$94.50/hr	
	Special Education Teacher	\$73.50- \$89.23/hr	
	Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	\$78.23- \$85.40/hr	
	Sign Language Interpreter	\$70.00- \$74.00/hr	
	Teacher of the Visually Impaired	\$79.00- \$88.00/hr	
	Adaptive Physical Education Teacher	\$79.00- \$88.00/hr	
	Orientation Mobility Specialist	\$78.00- \$89.00/hr	
	BCBA	\$98.40- \$118.25/hr	
	Instructional Assistant/ParaEdu cator	\$48.20- \$56.18/hr	
	Learning Disabilities Teach/Consultant	\$98.40- \$110.25/hr	
	Certified Nursing Assistant	\$48.23- \$52.26/hr	
EI US, LLC, dba Learnwell Plymouth, MA	Home or Hospital Instruction	\$72.20/hr \$76.00/hr	\$50,000.00

	Virtual Instruction		
Kaleidoscope Education Solutions, Inc. Bryn Mawr, PA	BCBA	\$112.75/hour	\$8,500.00
	RBT	\$92.25/hour	
	BHT	\$28.70/hour	
	Speech Language Pathologist (SLP)	\$94.00/hour	
	Occupational Therapist (OT)	\$96.35/hour	
	Special Education Teacher	\$76.88/hour	
	ESL Instructor	\$51.25/hour	
	Psychologist	\$1,230.00/eval	
	Social Worker	\$1,230.00/eval	
	LDTC	\$1,230.00/eval	
	ESL Instructor	\$51.25/hour	
	General Education Teacher	\$71.75/hour	
	Special Education Teacher	\$82.00/hour	
	Independent DST	\$2,562.00-\$3,587.50	
	COTA	\$51.25/hour	
	Physical Therapy	\$98.40/hour	
	PTA	\$51.25/hour	
	School Psychologist	\$92.25/hour	
	BCBA	\$112.75/hour	
	Counselor	\$51.25/hour	
NJ Neurology Inc. Romana Kulikova, MD Garwood, NJ	Neurology Evaluation	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
Derrick T. Mckie East Orange, NJ	Behavior Therapy	\$75.00/session	\$16,200.00

Rutgers Health University Behavioral HealthCare Piscataway, NJ	Medical Bedside Instruction	\$75.00/hour	\$2,500.00
Silvergate Prep Bridgewater, NJ	Home Instruction	\$65.00/hour	\$80,000.00
Hanover Research Arlington, VA	Custom Research Queue with HR Digital	\$43,700.00	\$53,700.00
Michal J. Alves Davidson, NC	Alves Group 26/27 III	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00

4997D. Approves the use of the following vendors in excess of \$53,000.00 for the 2026-2027 school year:

Vendor Name	Product	Contract#	Estimated Expenditure
Arctiq US Inc.	Data Cabling	1NJCP 21-TELE-01506 NJ CISCO NVP AR3227	\$119,232.45
Liberty Parks & Playgrounds	Playground Equipment, Playground Surfacing	ESCNJ 24/25-01 & ESCNJ 24/25-03	\$191,107.89
Minuteman Security Technologies, Inc	Security System	103-MCSSSDCPS-24-06	\$1,252,932.32
Open System Integrators	Fire Alarm Inspection, Maintenance	MRESC 21/22-41	\$150,000.00
School Specialty, LLC	Library and Classroom Supplies	T0114 22-FOOD-06175	\$540,000.00
Stewart Industries (Xerox)	Managed Print Services	24-FOOD-57004	\$54,000.00

4997E. Accepts school year 2026-2027 New Jersey Nonpublic Textbook Aid Entitlement Funds in the amount of \$10,723.00 to be allocated as follows:

SCHOOL	PUPILS	STATE AID
Our Lady of Sorrows	169	\$9,390.00
Weekday	24	\$1,333.00

4997F. Accepts school year 2026-2027 New Jersey Nonpublic Nursing Aid Entitlement Funds in the amount of \$31,303.00 to be allocated as follows:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PUPILS</u>	<u>STATE AID</u>
Our Lady of Sorrows	169	\$24,606.00
So. Orange Country Day School	22	\$ 3,203.00
Weekday	24	\$ 3,494.00

4997G. Accepts school year 2026-2027 New Jersey Nonpublic Technology Aid Entitlement Funds in the amount of \$7,566.00 to be allocated as follows:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PUPILS</u>	<u>STATE AID</u>
Our Lady of Sorrows	169	\$6,625.00
Weekday	24	\$ 941.00

4997H. Accepts school year 2026-2027 New Jersey Nonpublic Security Aid Entitlement Funds in the amount of \$41,881.00 to be allocated as follows:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>PUPILS</u>	<u>STATE AID</u>
Our Lady of Sorrows	169	\$36,673.00
Weekday	24	\$ 5,208.00

4997I. Enters into an agreement with Essex Regional Educational Services Commission to provide Security Services to nonpublic school students for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

4997J. Enters into an agreement with Essex Regional Educational Services Commission to provide Technology Services to nonpublic school students for the period of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

4997K. Approves the agreement with NJ Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired of Newark, New Jersey, to provide services for district students who are visually impaired for the 2026-2027 school year at the following rates:

Level 1	\$ 2,668.00/year
Level 2	\$ 6,367.00/year
Level 3	\$17,706.00/year
Level 4	\$20,119.00/year

4997L. Approves the submission of an application for FY 2027 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act entitlement funds as follows:

• Part B Allocation	\$1,646,932.00
• Preschool Allocation	\$ 48,935.00

4997M. Accepts a donation to Columbia High School in the amount of \$2,872.77.

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

20-068-200-890-CH-5900 Columbia High School \$2,872.77

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.

4997N. Authorize the following Clubs, Parent Organizations and PTA's be covered as additionally insured under the District's NJSIG policy for the 2026-2027 school year.

South Orange Middle School		
All School Musical		Model UN
All YouthNet Clubs		Newspaper
Band		Orchestra
Choral		Principal Irby's Legacy Dance Club
Empowerment Club		Sankofa Sisters
HSA		Science Club
Intramural Sports		Spectrum Club
Middle G-MAC		Student Council
MLK Club		Yearbook
Seth Boyden Elementary School		
Student council		Boyden Buzz newspaper

This list must be approved annually and may be amended throughout the school year.

4997O. Approves the disposal of the following list of furniture and other items. These items are deemed unusable by the district based on their condition.

11	RECTANGLE TABLES
2	HORSESHOE TABLES
7	RUGS
20	SHELVES
25	CUBE CHAIRS

27	CHAIRS (child size)
7	SAND AND WATER TABLE
3	ART EASELS
2	Kitchen Stove

4997P. Approves the following Organizational Appointments for the 2026-2027 School Year effective August 3, 2026:

1. Appoint Nicole Schoening as Board Secretary and authorize her to sign checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptance, undertakings, or other orders for payment of money.
2. Appoint Nicole Schoening as the Qualified Purchasing Agent and authorize her to negotiate and award contracts pursuant to NJSA 18A:18A-3.
3. Appoint Nicole Schoening as the Custodian of Records for the school district.
4. Approve Nicole Schoening as the Public Agency Compliance Officer for the school district.
5. Appoint Tiffani Reneau as Assistant Board Secretary and authorize her to sign checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptance, undertakings, or other orders for the payment of money in the absence of the Board Secretary.

4997Q. Approves an agreement with Family Connections, Inc. to provide in-kind contributions valued at \$80,000 to the provision of a School-Based Youth Services Program at Columbia High School for the 2026-27 school year as follows:

- 1,630 square feet of dedicated space
- year-round security services during regular hours of operation
- telephone and fax service and high-speed internet access for space
- ongoing janitorial and maintenance services for space
- additional classroom space as needed occasionally for larger group/family activities during after school or evening hours

4997R. Approves an agreement with Family Connections, Inc. to provide in-kind contributions valued at \$65,000 to the provision of a School-Based Youth Services Program at Maplewood Middle School for the 2026-2027 school year as follows:

- 300 square feet of dedicated space
- dedicated office space to provide privacy to students utilizing counseling services, including year-round utilities for the space
- telephone and fax service and high-speed internet access for the above space

- ongoing janitorial and maintenance services for space
- additional classroom space as needed occasionally for larger group/family activities during after school or evening hours

4997S. WHEREAS on Thursday, July 16, 2026, Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission (HCEC) and the School Business Administrator conducted an opening for sealed bids for the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education for the lease purchase financing to pay for the acquisition of 2,200 Chromebooks and cases, network infrastructure, cameras, PA system, printers, swipe cards, new clocks, and classroom presentation stations (see attached list);

WHEREAS, The Repayment term for the principal amount plus all interest is for four (4) years, and the best interest rate on the \$2,594,000.00 lease purchase amount being offered by Webster Public Finance Corporation was 3.88%, and repayment will be made in four (4) equal installments of \$685,985.06, totaling \$2,743,940.24. Total interest: \$149,940.24.

WHEREAS formal Board action is required to award the contract for the financing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the resolution to award the contract to Webster Public Finance Corporation for Lease Purchase Financing to pay for the acquisition of 2,200 Chromebooks and cases, network infrastructure, cameras, PA system, printers, swipe cards, new clocks, and classroom presentation stations and authorizes the School Business Administrator to execute all related documents to close on this financing.

4997T. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the South Orange and Maplewood School District, accepts and approves the withdrawal of capital reserve for other capital projects occurring in the 2026-2027 school year and;

The projects include the boiler replacements at Tuscan Elementary School (1) and South Orange Middle School (2). The total cost of these projects is approximately \$1,500,000, which represents expenditures for construction elements or projects that are in addition to the facilities efficiency standards determined by the Commissioner as necessary to achieve the core curriculum content standards.

4997U. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-13.3(i), we approve the submission of the 10% transfer report for transfers between 7/1/2025 and 6/30/2026 to the Executive County Superintendent.

4997V. Approves an agreement with PowerSchool Group, LLC of Folsom, CA, to provide the following licenses and subscriptions for the K-12 Student Information System for the 2026-2027 school year:

Licenses and Subscription Fees

PowerSchool Ecollect Form Saas	\$ 4,667.55
PowerSchool SIS hosting	\$24,263.56
PowerSchool SIS Hosting SSL Certificate	\$ 471.87
PowerSchool SIS Hosting VPN	\$ 7,078.05
PowerSchool SIS Maintenance and Support	\$54,531.86
PD & Subscription	<u>\$ 5,209.89</u>
Total	\$96,222.78

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.

4997W. Approves the revised 2026-27 Business Office Purchasing Manual as presented.

4998. Orders the transfer or removal of the students identified below.

<u>NJ State ID #</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1903469507	CHS	11 th
6503741071	SOMS	8 th
7662311935	MMS	7 th
8450511809	SOMS	6 th
2428186586	CLIN	5 th
9337939357	CLIN	3 rd
7259199134	DB	2 nd
8953495621	CLIN	2 nd
7081511221	CLIN	1 st
5390606214	CLIN	K
7650487993	BEEL	PreK-3

4999. Affirms the HIB investigations reported to the South Orange/Maplewood School District for the month of June 2026.

5000A. Adopts Policy 0162 Notice of Board Meetings.

5000B. Adopts Policy 0162.01 Legal Notices.

5000C. Adopts Policy 1643 Family Leave.

5001-1. Approves the first reading of Policy 2260 Equity in School and Classroom Practices.

5001-2. Approves the first reading of Policy 5460 High School Graduation.

5001-3. Approves the first reading of Policy 5461 High School Diplomas.

5001-4. Approves the first reading of Policy 6112 Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures.

5001-5. Approves the first reading of Policy 6115.02 Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls - Mandatory Disclosures.

5001-6. Approves the first reading of Policy 6311 Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants.

5001-7. Approves the first reading of Policy 6311 Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants.

5002A. Approves the settlement agreement for Student ID #5800776010 and authorizes the Board President to execute the settlement agreement.

5002B. Approves the settlement agreement for Student ID #2315427153 and authorizes the Board President to execute the settlement agreement.

5002C. Approves the settlement agreement for Student ID #8148256344 and authorizes the Board President to execute the settlement agreement.

5003. WHEREAS, On July 2, 2020, P.L. 2020, c. 57 was approved and codified under the already existing statute section N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9 which permits a school district to implement a Commissioner-approved program of virtual or remote instruction in the event the school district is required to close a school or the schools of the district for more than three consecutive school days due to a declared state of emergency, declared public health emergency, or a directive by the appropriate health agency or officer to institute a public health-related closure.

WHEREAS, In the event the above events apply, the Commissioner of Education shall allow the district to apply to the 180-day requirement established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-9, to allow one or more days of virtual or remote instruction provided to students on the day or days the schools of the district were closed and shall meet such criteria that is established by the Commissioner of Education.

WHEREAS, A day of virtual or remote instruction, if instituted under the district's Commissioner of Education's approved program of virtual or remote instruction, shall be considered the equivalent of a full day of school attendance for the purposes of meeting State and local graduation requirements, the awarding of course credit, and other such matters as determined by the Commissioner of Education.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the District's Emergency Virtual or Remote Plan of Instruction for the 2026-2027 school year.

5004. Approves the revised school calendar for the 2026-2027 school year as presented.

5005A. WHEREAS, on June 25, 2026, the South Orange-Maplewood Board of

Education approved Resolution 4993A authorizing a confidential settlement agreement for a student; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that Resolution 4993A referenced an incorrect student State ID number; and

WHEREAS, the confidential settlement agreement itself remains unchanged, and the sole purpose of this action is to correct the student State ID number referenced in the Board's prior approval; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to rescind Resolution 4993A and replace it with a new resolution approving the same confidential settlement agreement with the correct student State ID number;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education hereby rescinds Resolution 4993A - Confidential Settlement Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board shall consider and approve a new resolution authorizing the same confidential settlement agreement, replacing the incorrect student State ID number referenced in Resolution 4993A with the correct student State ID number; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other terms and conditions of the previously approved confidential settlement agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

5005B. Approves the settlement agreement for Student ID #8718353933 and authorizes the Board President to execute the settlement agreement.

ROLL CALL: Motion 4994A-N, 4995A-E, 4996A-B, 4997A-W, 4998, 4999,
5000 A-C, 5001 (1-7), 5002 (A-C), 5003(A-C, 5004, 5005A-B
YES: Bennett, Brown, Callahan, Higgins, Kapadia, Meyer,
Nayar, Sackett-Gable, Stephan NO: None

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE.

FUTURE MEETINGS

On Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., the Board of Education will hold an Annual Goal Setting Retreat. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and establish the Board's annual goals and objectives. Action will not be taken.

The Board of Education will meet in Public Session on Thursday, August 27, 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 matters, 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 a 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 Kapadia, seconded by Board Member Brown to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved at 10:11 p.m.

Tiffani Reneau, Acting Board Secretary