

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
February 22, 2021**

FOR ACTION

RESOLUTION 4113

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION FROM THE SOUTH ORANGE
MAPLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROPOSE NEW NJSBA
POLICY LANGUAGE SUPPORTING AND AFFIRMING LGBTQ+
LANGUAGE INCLUSION IN NJSBA'S OFFICIAL MANUAL OF
POSITIONS AND POLICIES ON EDUCATION FOR ADOPTION AT THE
MAY 2021 NJSBA DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, The South Orange Maplewood School District is committed to equity, diversity and inclusiveness, providing safe and welcoming spaces for all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, language, disability status, gender expression or identity, and sexual orientation;

WHEREAS, The South Orange Maplewood Board of Education is in support of and is committed to ensuring welcoming inclusive safer schools for all students and families and has adopted policies to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTQ+) students and families;

WHEREAS, Findings from the GLSEN 2019 National School Climate Survey demonstrate that New Jersey schools were not safe for most LGBTQ secondary school students. In addition, many LGBTQ students in New Jersey did not have access to important school resources, such as an LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum, and are not protected by supportive and inclusive school policies.

WHEREAS, The STATE of New Jersey has enacted and required numerous laws to require education that is culturally responsive and equitable, and to teach respect, diversity, antibias, bullying and prejudice; and to highlight the contributions of persons in history including the LGBTQ+ community, and to ensure our schools provide safe climates for all students, regardless of gender identity, expression, and sexual orientation, and in the following laws; History of disabled and LGBT persons included in middle and high school curriculum (C.18A:35-4.35), The New Jersey Law Against Discrimination ("NJLAD"), N.J.S.A. 10:5-12(11)(f),

Holocaust/Genocide Education (N.J.S.A. 18A:35-28), and African American History (Rev Stat § 52:16A-87-89),

WHEREAS, The Delegate Assembly is the official policy making body of the New Jersey School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, Education-related policies resulting from prior Delegate Assembly and Board of Directors actions are codified in the NJSBA's Manual of Positions and Policies on Education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education proposes the following additional policy language for adoption by the Delegate Assembly and inclusion in NJSBA's Manual of Positions and Policies on Education:

The NJSBA believes that it is important to cultivate inclusive affirming welcoming school communities that contribute to the overall safety, pedagogy and school climate; and to support and work with Board Members and school districts to create a greater awareness, to ensure continued safety, support, student engagement and implementation of best practices and policies of all students including those who are perceived as being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning or who are LGBTQ+, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the following resolution be considered by the next NJSBA Delegate Assembly to be held in May 2021.