

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
January 5, 2022

RESOLUTION 4241

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: ADOPT CODE OF GOVERNANCE BEST PRACTICES

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT The Board of Education Adopt the Code of Governance Best practices as shown below:

BEFORE a meeting:

- Be prepared by reading packets prior to board meetings (and holding administration responsible for delivering draft agendas and packet information in accordance to bylaws)
- Arrive and begin on time for meetings
- Board members to notify the board officers and the Superintendent of in person or virtual attendance, absence or late arrival in advance of the meeting
- Ask questions ahead of time to allow administration to research requested information,
- questions for administration should go through the executive committee
- Respond to requests for availability or information from board members and/or administration within 72 hours
- Maintain confidentiality of information shared in advance of meeting

DURING a meeting:

- Adhere to Robert's Rules of Order during meetings
- Listen and speak with respect for others at all times, in public and in private.
- Reflect on personal comments prior to speaking to avoid duplication
- Listen with an open mind to the opinions of others and work to find consensus
- Respect the majority decision of the board
- Maintain the focus on student achievement and student growth
- Protect confidentiality of discussions during the preceding executive session

AFTER a meeting:

- Uphold all decisions of the board
- Systematic follow through on topics and discussions from board meetings
- Understand and respect the separate roles and responsibilities of the board and the administration. Confine activities within the boundaries of the respective roles and ensure that both the administration and the board can fulfill their respective roles
- Continually develop trust among board members and with the administration

If any board member feels that another board member has violated any provision of this agreement, that board member shall personally talk with the offending board member in an attempt to resolve the issue. If the attempt fails, the board member who feels that another board member has violated this agreement shall bring the matter to the attention of the entire board. Any concerns that arise should be dealt with at the earliest practical opportunity. We the undersigned members of the board of education and superintendent agree to abide by these objectives as a commitment to valuing education, showing good character and strong leadership to our students, staff and community

BACKGROUND

The Code of Governance Best Practices reflects the conduct with which this Board will undertake at all public and closed board meetings, and agree to abide by as a commitment to valuing education, showing good character, mutual respect, and strong leadership to our students, staff and community.