

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
February 24, 2022

RESOLUTION 4269

FOR ACTION

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION FROM THE SOUTH ORANGE MAPLEWOOD BOARD
OF EDUCATION IN SUPPORT OF NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY BILL
A1588 TO PERMIT USE OF PREFERRED NAMES ON STUDENT
DIPLOMAS**

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, religion, ethnicity, national origin, language, disability status, gender expression or identity, and sexual orientation;

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

WHEREAS, Recognizing a student by the student's preferred name and pronouns is a gender affirming practice that the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education supports;

WHEREAS, On May 17, 2021, the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education adopted Policy 5756 Transgender and Nonbinary Students, recognizing that every student has the right to be addressed by a name and pronouns that correspond to the student's gender identity;

WHEREAS, The South Orange Maplewood School District accepts a student's asserted gender identity and/or chosen name without requiring the student to meet any legal requirements to have their gender identity and/or chosen name recognized on school documents; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Assembly Bill A1588 permits graduating students to use preferred names on diplomas conferred by both public and nonpublic schools, institutions of higher education, and proprietary institutions licensed to offer academic degrees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education supports New Jersey Assembly Bill A1588 and the ability of graduating students to request that a diploma be conferred by the school or institution listing the student's preferred name without documenting a legal change in name or gender.