

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2024**

RESOLUTION 4707

FOR ACTION

**SUBJECT: COMMENCEMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION FOR THE
2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education (Board) approves **COMMENCEMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION**

Whereas, in recent years the proliferation and widespread access to and use of social media among public school students has expanded dramatically, leading to significant risks of anxiety, depression, thoughts of self harm and suicidal ideations;

Whereas, students have been part of this phenomenon by engaging with social media in school and on school grounds in addition to outside of school;

Whereas, the district students widespread adoption, consumption, and use of social media has caused the district to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, emotional and social counseling, medical services, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until students use of social media is reduced or the social media platforms reform their practices in attracting students;

Whereas, the district has become aware of litigation against Meta Platforms Inc, Facebook holdings LLC, Snap inc, TikTok inc, Alphabet inc., and other parties responsible for the creation, design, marketing, and proliferation of social media platforms, with this litigation now involving more than 1000 US public school districts across more than 32 states and being led by Frantz Law Group, APLC of California; and

Whereas, the Board of Education (the "Board") of the district has determined that it is necessary, advantageous, desirable, and in the public interest and the best interest of the district that it participate in this litigation by filing a lawsuit seeking monetary and non monetary damages against the above referenced media companies and other parties responsible for the harm caused by social media platforms, approving the attorney-client fee contract with Frantz Law Group, APLC (the "Contract") attached as Exhibit A.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Education of South Orange and Maplewood School District as follows:

1. The board finds that all of the recitals contained above are true and correct, and the same are hereby incorporated herein by reference;

2. The board authorizes the filing of a lawsuit against Meta Platforms Inc. Facebook Holdings LLC, Snap Inc., TikTok Inc., Alphabet Inc. and other parties consistent with the recitals set forth above.
3. The contract is hereby approved and substantially the form reviewed by the board and attached as Exhibit A, together with such minor modifications as are deemed necessary by the board, with attorneys, and administrators to protect the best interests of the district.
4. The Superintendent is hereby authorized to sign and enter into the contract on behalf of the district.
5. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption.