

**[SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
JUNE 26, 2025**

RESOLUTION 4827

FOR ACTION

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT’S COMMITMENT TO LGBTQ+ INCLUSION AND
RECOGNIZING JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH – 2025**

WHEREAS, Pride Month, celebrated in June, commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, a pivotal moment in the gay liberation movement. The uprising occurred after a police raid on the gay bar in Greenwich Village, Stonewall Inn, sparking six days of protests. The first Pride march was held on the one year anniversary, on June 28, 1970; and

WHEREAS, the South Orange–Maplewood School District (SOMSD) has a diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) community along with allies. The SOMSD District is committed to supporting dignity, equity, and visibility for all people in the community; and

WHEREAS, many students, family members, educators, and community members are part of the LGBTQIA+ community, and they contribute greatly to the enrichment of our schools; and

WHEREAS, SOMSD reaffirms its unwavering commitment to creating and sustaining safe, affirming, and equitable learning environments for all students and staff, in alignment with Board policy and New Jersey state law protecting individuals on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and

WHEREAS, although advancements have been made with respect to equitable treatment of LGBTQIA+ persons, they still face discrimination, especially the transgender community, thus making it essential for all districts and all communities to stand up and show support for all who are affected; and

WHEREAS, SOMSD re-affirms its commitment to upholding our values and championing our responsibility to protect and support all youth, by guaranteeing they have access to learning environments that are safe, welcoming, and free of any discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the SOMSD community re-affirms enforcing anti-discrimination policies that protect students and staff regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. We are committed to ensuring that LGBTQIA+ identities and histories are accurately and meaningfully reflected in our curriculum, school libraries, and classroom discussions, in accordance with the NJ LGBTQ+ Inclusive Curriculum Law; and

WHEREAS, the District will continue to support LGBTQIA+ students through student-led affinity groups, professional development for staff, and visible affirmations of support.

WHEREAS, we continue to work closely with our LGBTQIA+ community members on our shared goals of developing and implementing ongoing educational, equity, and visibility projects for our LGBTQIA+ students; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the South Orange–Maplewood School District does hereby declare and invite the members of our community to continue to celebrate Pride Month and reflect on ways we all can live and work together throughout the year with a commitment to mutual respect and understanding.