

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

DRAFT

RESOLUTION 4868A

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL REPORTS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education receives and accepts the following financial reports:

1. August 2025 Board Secretary's Report
2. August 2025 Treasurer Report
3. September 2025 Transfer Report
4. September 2025 Expense Account Adjustment Analyses
5. September 2025 Revenue Account Adjustment Analysis
6. Check Register# in the amount of \$
7. Check Register#200922 in the amount of \$ 1,773,234.95 for August 2025 Payroll

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868B

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: BOARD OF EDUCATION'S MONTHLY CERTIFICATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.12(e), we certify that as of August 31, 2025 after review of the secretary's monthly financial report (appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of our knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6:20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868C

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: APPROVE ATTENDANCE AND WORK RELATED TRAVEL
AND/OR WORKSHOP EXPENSES

WHEREAS, the following employees have requested approval for the indicated work-related travel and/or online workshop; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at stated function was previously approved by the employees' supervisor and superintendent as work-related and within the scope of the work responsibilities of the attendee; and

WHEREAS, the attendance at the function was approved as promoting delivery of instruction or furthering efficient operation of the school district; and fiscally prudent;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the attendance and related travel and/or workshop expenses for the following work-related events:

EMPLOYEE	WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE	DATE(S)	LOCATION	ESTIMATED COSTS
Melissa Butler Clinton School	NABSE 53 rd Conference	12/10/25- 12/14/25	Chicago, IL	\$2,280.00
Dorothy Conners Central Office	2025 ERESC Regional Homeless Conference and Resource Fair!	10/16/25	Union, NJ	\$0.00
Olivia Cruz Montrose ECC	Community of Practice for Experience for Experienced PIRS	10/17/25	Virtual	\$200.00
Sandra Klemser Central Office	STS General Meeting	12/3/25	Monroe Twp., NJ	\$89.60
Liping Meng Columbia HS	ACTFL	11/21/25- 11/23/25	New Orleans, LA	\$1,754.70
Rebecca Milligan Montrose ECC	Community of Practice for Experience for Experienced PIRS	10/17/25	Virtual	\$200.00
Imani Moody Central Office	NJASBO Workshops	10/9/25- 5/19/25	Whippany, NJ	\$1,676.56
Paul Morgan Central Office	NJSBA Fall Workshop 2025	10/20/25- 10/23/25	Atlantic City, NJ	\$907.30
Tiffani Reneau Central Office	NJASBO Workshops	10/9/25- 5/19/25	Whippany, NJ	\$1,676.56
	2025 ERESC Regional			

Arelis Tapia-Vargas Columbia HS	Homeless Conference and Resource Fair!	10/16/25	Union, NJ	\$0.00
Colleen Thaler Central Office	USDA Foods Conference	12/4/25	Edison, NJ	\$0.00
Total				\$8, 784.72

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

New Jersey travel regulations (NJAC 6A:23B), Board Policy 8880 – Reimbursement of Travel Related Expenses, and newly enacted legislation [18A:11-12] require prior approval by the Superintendent and by a majority of the full membership of the Board of Education for reimbursement of travel and related expenses of an employee.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868D

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: APPROVE RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the following provider(s) for the 2025-2026 school year for the service indicated:

Provider Name	Service	Rate
Beyond Communication, LLC Lawrenceville, NJ	Comprehensive Oral & Written Language Evaluation	\$3,600.00/eval
Graham Behavior Services West Long Branch, NJ	Behavior Therapy Focused Support	\$130.00/hour
	Targeted Support	\$125.00/hour
	Enhanced Support	\$120.00/hour
	Comprehensive Support	\$115.00/hour
Dr. Leah A. McGuire Watchung, NJ	Comprehensive Neuropsychological Evaluation & Classroom Observation	\$7,500
Nicole L. Stewart Maplewood, NJ	Functional Behavior Assessment	\$1,025.00
	Behavior Intervention Plan	\$950.00
	Behavior Intervention Plan Training	\$850.00-\$1,150.00
	Skills Assessment	\$1,375.00-\$1,700.00
	Program Analysis or Independent ABA Evaluation	\$1,500.00-\$2,500.00
	Hourly Consulting or Case Management	\$200.00-\$250.00/hour
	Staff Training/Professional Development	\$500.00-\$650.00/hour

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The providers will perform services and/or evaluations for students as needed. Pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 18A:4-1, et seq., the Board is permitted to enter into professional service contracts without the necessity of public bidding.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868E

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: APPROVES USE OF VENDORS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the use of the following vendors in excess of the \$53,000 for the 2025-2026 school year:

VENDOR NAME	PRODUCT	TYPE OF VENDOR
Advanced Assessment Systems, Inc.	Curriculum Software	Other
BSN Sport, LLC	Athletic Supplies	Co-op
Classic Sport Floors	Gym Floor Repair, Refinish	Co-op
Rich Tree Service, Inc.	Tree Services	State Contract

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board is required to approve spending authority above \$53,000 for items not awarded by public bidding. Copyrighted materials and vendors on co-op and state contract are exempt from public bidding.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025**

RESOLUTION 4868F

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR DISTRICT CLUBS,
PARENT ORGANIZATIONS AND PTA'S

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education authorize the following Clubs, Parent Organizations and PTA's be covered as additionally insured under the District's NJSIG policy for the 2025-2026 school year.

Columbia High School Clubs/Activities

Academic Challenge Team
Assembly
Choral
DECA
Diversity Rocks
Econ Club
Flags
History Club
INTRAM F/T
INTRAM P/T
Jepsy
Marching Band Assistant
Math Computer Lab
Muslim Arab Student Union Club
No Place for Hate
Orchestra
Psi Alpha
Psychology National Honor Society
Set Construction
Set Painting
Step Team

Maplewood Middle School Clubs/Activities

Choral
Intramurals
MLKA
Model U.N.
Musical/Drama
Orchestra
Scenery Design/Construction

School Newspaper
Science Fair
Student Council
Yearbook

South Orange Middle School Clubs/Activities

Band
Choral
Intramural Sports
MLK Club
Model UN
Middle G-Mac
Newspaper
Orchestra
Science Club
Student Council
Yearbook

This list must be approved annually and may be amended throughout the school year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868G

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: **AUTHORIZE THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO
AN AGREEMENT WITH ULTIMATE FRISBEE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Business Administrator to enter into an agreement with Ultimate Frisbee of South Orange, New Jersey for Facility Usage at Underhill field. This agreement is to include the waiver of facility use fees unless there is a cost to the district.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ultimate Frisbee has requested use of the Underhill Field turf/track for the 2025-26 school year.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025**

RESOLUTION 4868H

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: APPROVE 2026-2027 BUDGET CALENDAR

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the 2026-2027 Budget Calendar as presented.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Budget Calendar is subject to change at the discretion of the Business Administrator and /or Superintendent.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868I

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: APPROVE SUBMISSION OF COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE
 PLAN AND M1

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the submission of the District's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the for the 2025-2026 school year and the Annual Maintenance Worksheet (M1).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education states that the district's required maintenance activities are reasonable to keep the schools' facilities open and safe for use or in its original condition and maintain the validity of their warranties.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As per 6A:26A-20.5, the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and the Annual Maintenance Budget Amount Worksheet (form M-1) is required to be submitted to NJDOE in November of each year, accompanied by a Board resolution approving the submission.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025**

RESOLUTION 4868J

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: APPROVE RENEWAL OF LINKIT!

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves the renewal of Linkit! Assessment Content and Professional Development software in the amount of \$132,950 for the 25-26 school year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is the first renewal of the 2024-2025 contract per 18A:18A-42. These services have been budgeted for the 2025-2026 school year.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025**

RESOLUTION 4868K

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: RENEW AGREEMENT WITH CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves an agreement with Curriculum Associates to purchase the Iready Program at cost of \$190,538.04.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is the first renewal of the 2024-2025 contract per 18A:18A-42. These services have been budgeted for the 2025-2026 school year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868L

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: APPROVE EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION AFFILIATION
AGREEMENT WITH FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education approves an Experiential Education Affiliation Agreement: Master of Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree program with Fairleigh Dickinson University for the purposes of providing practice experience for University students in the program effective July 25, 2025 through July 24, 2028.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The purpose of this this agreement is to identify the mutual responsibilities and expectations of the University and the District.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868M

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: ACCEPT FY 2026 FEDERAL I.D.E.A. BASIC PART –B AND
 PRESCHOOL HANDICAPPED FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts FY 2026 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act entitlement funds as follows:

- Part B Allocation \$1,634,129.00
- Preschool Allocation \$ 48,042.00

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The I.D.E.A. provides federal funds to school districts for supplementary services to benefit students with disabilities enrolled in the district. The district share of the funds will be used to support mandated educational services and/or promising practices in the area of special education.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868N

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: ACCEPT SAFETY GRANT FROM NJSIG

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts a grant from New Jersey School Insurance Group in the amount of \$7,144.00 to support building safety improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the following budget is increased and the Acting Superintendent or his designee is authorized to administer it:

20-035-200-890	NJSBAIG	\$7,144.00
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board President, Superintendent and Board Secretary be authorized to execute and deliver any necessary contracts and reports on behalf of the Board.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The application for this grant was approved on May 29, 2025 (Resolution 4807F).

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025**

RESOLUTION 48680

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM AMERICAN WATER
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts grant funds in the amount of \$2,000 from the American Water Charitable Foundation (AWCF).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Funds will be applied to the cost of water filling stations at various buildings.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025**

RESOLUTION 4868P

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: ACCEPT DONATION TO COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL FINE AND
PERFORMING ARTS TEACHER

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education accepts a donation from Music & Arts Education Project, Inc. (MAEP) allocated to Columbia High School's Fine and Performing Arts teachers, totaling up \$1,000 per educator (\$13,000 approximate value), intended for the procurement of supplies and equipment to support their respective classrooms or programs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Teachers will create a wish list up to \$1,000. MAEP will have the items drop-shipped directly to Columbia High School.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868Q

FOR ACTION

SUBJECT: APPROVE TERMINATION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL
EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN

WHEREAS, the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education (“Board”) currently provides health insurance benefits to eligible employees through the New Jersey School Employees’ Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.25* et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed available coverage options and determined that it is in the best interests of the District, its employees, and taxpayers to obtain health insurance coverage through an alternate provider beginning January 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, *N.J.A.C. 17:9-2.10(b)* authorizes a participating employer to terminate its participation in the SEHBP upon the adoption of a resolution by its governing body and submission of written notice to the School Employees’ Health Benefits Commission not less than 60 days prior to the effective date of termination; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the South Orange Maplewood Board of Education hereby resolves to terminate its participation in the State Health Benefits Program, including the Prescription Drug Plan, thereby canceling coverage provided by the School Employees’ Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) for all its active and retired employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education shall notify all active employees of the date of their termination of coverage under the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education understands that the Division of Pensions and Benefits will notify retired employees of the cancellation of their coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education understands that all COBRA participants will be notified by the Division of Pensions and Benefits and advised to contact the District concerning a possible alternative health plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to:

1. Transmit a certified copy of Form Resolution (Attachment A) to the School Employees’ Health Benefits Commission immediately following adoption;
2. Provide all other required documentation to ensure proper termination of SEHBP participation; and
3. Take all actions necessary to secure replacement coverage for the District’s employees effective January 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution shall take effect the first of the month following a 60-day period beginning with the receipt of the resolution by the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The language of this resolution is required by the Division of Pensions and Benefits to withdraw from the School Employees' Health Benefits Program. The retired employees do not include the retirees that are covered by specific legislation that permits them to continue SEHBP participation upon the termination of their former employer. This does not impact the current or future retirees who are eligible to receive State-paid coverage.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868R

FOR ACTION

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT AS AN
EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIABLE SERVICE**

WHEREAS, the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education requires employee health-insurance coverage effective January 1, 2026 following its withdrawal from the School Employees' Health Benefits Program; and

WHEREAS, the provision of group health-insurance coverage constitutes an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service (EUS), pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(10)* and *N.J.A.C. 5:34-2.1* et seq., as the service is specialized and qualitative in nature and not reasonably susceptible to specification or competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, the School Business Administrator/Qualified Purchasing Agent has submitted a written Certification describing the nature of the service and stating that the procurement of such insurance qualifies as an extraordinary unspecifiable service and that competitive bidding is impracticable; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the selection of a qualified carrier for health insurance coverage is in the best interests of the District and its employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education hereby awards a contract for employee health-insurance coverage to Meritain/Aetna for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, at a total annual cost of approximately \$23 million, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in the proposal received and the recommendation of the School Business Administrator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this award is made pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(10)* and *N.J.A.C. 5:34-2.1* et seq. as an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service, and that the accompanying written certification of the School Business Administrator shall be maintained in the Board's official files; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board President and School Business Administrator are authorized to execute all necessary contracts and related documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this contract award shall be published once in the Board's official newspaper within ten (10) days of adoption, in accordance with *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(10)* and *N.J.A.C. 5:34-2.3(c)*.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
October 30, 2025

RESOLUTION 4868S

FOR ACTION

**SUBJECT: SOUTH ORANGE-MAPLEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION TO TERMINATE EXISTING HEALTH-INSURANCE
BROKER AND AWARD CONTRACT TO NEW BROKER**

WHEREAS, the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education (“Board”) currently maintains a professional-services agreement with a health-insurance broker (the “Current Broker”) for the purpose of providing employee benefits brokerage and consulting services; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the District to terminate its existing agreement with the **Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc.** effective **December 31, 2025**, coinciding with the end of the current plan year; and

WHEREAS, the Board has solicited proposals for health-insurance brokerage services through a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq. (New Jersey Pay-to-Play Law) and N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(10) of the Public School Contracts Law, which exempts contracts for insurance brokerage services from formal bidding as an Extraordinary Unspecifiable service; and

WHEREAS, upon review and evaluation of the proposals received, the Board has determined that **Fairview Insurance Associates, A Foundation Risk Partners Company** (“New Broker”) submitted a responsive and responsible proposal and possesses the necessary qualifications, experience, and resources to provide comprehensive employee benefits consulting and brokerage services to the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board, in consultation with its administration, has determined that awarding a one-year contract to the New Broker, effective **January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026**, will serve the best interests of the District, its employees, and taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Board hereby **terminates** its professional-services agreement with Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. effective **December 31, 2025**.
2. The Board hereby **awards a contract** to **Fairview Insurance Agency Associates, A Foundation Risk Partners Company**, having an office at 25 Fairview Avenue, Verona, NJ 07044, to serve as the District’s **Health-Insurance Broker of Record** for the period **January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026**, at an annual compensation not to exceed **\$45 per employee per month** subject to the negotiation and execution of a written professional-services agreement satisfactory in form to Board counsel.
3. The contract is awarded pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(10) as a professional service, and the New Broker shall comply with all applicable provisions of the New Jersey Pay-to-Play Law, N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 et seq.
4. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to issue written notice of termination to the Current Broker, to prepare and execute all necessary

documents with the New Broker, and to take such other actions as may be required to effectuate this Resolution.

5. A copy of this Resolution, the executed contract, and the required Political Contribution Disclosure Form shall be placed on file in the Office of the Business Administrator and made available for public inspection.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this award shall be published in the official newspaper of the Board in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5(a)(1)