

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
June 11, 2026**

RESOLUTION 4985

FOR ACTION

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE SOUTH ORANGE & MAPLEWOOD
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S COMMITMENT TO LGBTQIA+ INCLUSION
AND RECOGNIZING JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH – 2026**

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 Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, sparking six days of protests. The first Pride march was held on June 28, 1970, the one-year anniversary of the uprising; and

WHEREAS, the South Orange-Maplewood School District (SOMSD) is home to a diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) community, along with allies, whose contributions enrich our schools and strengthen our district, and the District remains committed to supporting dignity, equity, visibility, and belonging for all members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that LGBTQIA+ students are entitled to equal educational opportunity, freedom from discrimination, and access to school environments in which they are treated consistently with their affirmed identity in accordance with New Jersey law, and further recognizes that LGBTQIA+ students, families, and staff may hold multiple identities and experiences, including race, ethnicity, disability, language, religion, and socioeconomic status, requiring ongoing attention to belonging and inclusion across our school community; and

WHEREAS, despite advancements toward the equitable treatment of LGBTQIA+ individuals, many continue to experience discrimination and bias, particularly transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive individuals, making it essential for

schools and communities to demonstrate continued commitment to inclusion, respect, and support; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes its ongoing responsibility under New Jersey law, including the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, to maintain safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environments free from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education hereby recognizes June 2026 as Pride Month and celebrates the contributions, resilience, and diversity of LGBTQIA+ students, families, staff, and community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all students have access to learning environments that are safe, welcoming, inclusive, and free from discrimination, including through the continued implementation of Board Policy 5756 and related district policies that affirm the rights of transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive students to be treated with dignity and respect in accordance with New Jersey law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District will continue to enforce anti-discrimination policies; support LGBTQIA+ students through student-led affinity groups, professional development for staff, and visible affirmations of support; ensure that LGBTQIA+ identities, histories, and contributions are accurately reflected in curriculum, school libraries, and classroom learning experiences in accordance with New Jersey's LGBTQ+ Inclusive Curriculum Law; and work collaboratively with LGBTQIA+ community members on shared goals related to education, equity, inclusion, and visibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board encourages all members of the school community to continue fostering a culture of dignity, respect, understanding, belonging, equity, and inclusion throughout the year.