

Special Meeting  
Budget Workshop &  
Finance, Facilities & Technology (FFT) Committee  
South Orange-Maplewood  
Board of Education  
March 16, 2022

A Special Public Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held utilizing the online video conference platform on March 16, 2022.

Board President Thair Joshua called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Adequate written notice of this meeting of the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education was sent to the Township and Village Clerks, The Star Ledger, the News Record, TAPintoSOMA.net, villagegreennj.com and the District website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Board Member Bergin, Board Member Joshua,  
Board Member Malespina, Board Member Siders,  
Board Member Telesford, Board Members Vadlamani,  
Board Member Winkfield, Board Member Wittleder,  
Board Member Wright

Absent: None

*NINE VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT*

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders to allow distance participation in our monthly Regular Board Meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

The School Board meeting is a business meeting in public not a meeting with the public. Oftentimes it may appear to members of our audience that the Board of Education takes action with very little comment and in many cases a unanimous vote. Before a matter is placed on the agenda at a public meeting, the Administration has thoroughly reviewed the matter with the Superintendent of Schools/Chief School Administrator (CSA). If the Superintendent of Schools/Chief School Administrator is satisfied that the matter is ready to be presented to the Board of Education, it is then referred to the appropriate Board Committee. The Members of the Board Committee work with Administration and the Superintendent to assure that the members fully understand the matter. After the committee discusses the matter, it is presented to the full Board for discussion before any action is taken. Only then, is it placed on the agenda for action at a public meeting.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

The following community members expressed similar concerns and comments regarding outsourcing of district bus drivers: Jacqueline Collier-Thomas, SOMEA President Rocio Lopez, Amanda Mazzarella, Katie Stein, SOMEA Vice President Shira Lincoln, Amy Singer, Patrice Massung (SOMEA), Cameron Parke, Gregory Tuttle, Kendall Pierce, Jocelyn Ryan, Beth Consentino, Kendall Pierce, Rosemary Connell, Molly Gise, Robin Gutkin, Susan Boni, Daniel Caplan, Samara Caplan, Kate Brown, Julie Skrivanic, Dallas Duffey, Maura Sackett, Pat Hurley, Tivoli Hunt, Ceelea Graham, Malia Herman (SEPAC), David Mastrodonato, Kay Puthaaroon, Ryann Varney, Renaud Pierre-Louis.

Christine Yoon

Urged the Board to budget for and creatively think around, how to improve special education for our students and to improve our fiscal health with more private/public partnerships, including maximizing Achieve Foundation.

2022-2023 TENTATIVE BUDGET - Eric Burnside, Business Administrator

Business Administrator Eric Burnside presented the Tentative Budget for the 2022-2023 School Year. The presentation included the following:

- Budget Development Process
  - Budget Meetings in November & December
  - Estimate Revenue (January)
  - Budget Meetings in November & December
  - Estimate Revenue (January)
- Projected Revenue
  - 2022-23 Operating Revenue
  - Revenue Source
  - Tax Levy Cap Adjustments & Banked Cap
- Enrollment
- Expenditures
  - Salaries, Benefits and Contract Services (\$1M increase)
  - Tuition
  - Other Benefits
  - Revenue vs. Appropriations
  - Reserves
- Tax Impact
  - Estimated School Tax Impact
  - 2022-23 Debt Service
- Highlights
  - Technology \$1.7 Million (Lease Purchase Finance)
  - Personnel
  - Athletic Fields Renovation-Estimated \$1 Million
  - Playgrounds for schools under construction- \$500k

[presentation on file in Board Secretary's office and on the district website]

### Policies for First Reading in March

These policies were reviewed by the FFT committee because they pertain to use of school facilities.

Policy 7510 Use of School Facilities - Board Members and administration discussed adding language regarding security to the policy. Dr. Taylor suggested the policy state that the organization renting the facility has to abide by district protocols that are in place at the time of usage. This language allows the flexibility that the Business Administrator, Asst. Business Administrator and Facilities Director will need when reviewing facility usage forms.

Policy 7540 Joint Use of Facilities - No discussion.

### HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

### NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Wittleder inquired about the cost of technology upgrades with regard to student card access for Columbia High School. The discussion will take place in Executive Session.

Board Member Malespina inquired about the legality of the public speaks signup document in terms of the open public meetings act because the form does not offer the option of selecting a city or town other than South Orange and Maplewood. Ms. Butler will review the form and provide guidance.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Superintendent's Office, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ, as well as using the online video conference platform to discuss personnel and legal issues, negotiations, and other matters to be announced at a later date. Immediately following the Closed Session, the Board of Education will meet in Public Session at 7:30 pm in the District Meeting Room, 525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ in person and utilizing an online video conference platform which will include Hearing of Individuals. The community can view the meeting by following the steps which will be listed on the agenda. If there are members of the community who would like to attend

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Bergin, that the Board of Education will meet in Executive Session prior to the March 21, 2022 Public Meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues, negotiations and other matters, the nature of which will be made public at a future date. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel, legal issues and

negotiations. Motion to adjourn to Executive Session Unanimously approved at 8:44 p.m.

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Eric Burnside, Business Administrator