

Special Meeting
Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting
South Orange-Maplewood
Board of Education
April 5, 2022

A Special Public Meeting of the Board of Education of South Orange-Maplewood was held utilizing the online video conference platform on April 5, 2022.

Board President Thair Joshua called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 Wright

Absent: Board Member Wittleder, Student Rep. Noah Morros

EIGHT VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

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.

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders to hold this meeting virtually. Motion passed unanimously.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

NONE.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING - Board Member Sidors

Dr. Matthew Friedman, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction introduced Jessica Lamb, of Equal Opportunities Schools (EOS) to provide an overview of all the work the District has done this year and next steps.

SOUTH ORANGE MAPLEWOOD ACTION FOR EQUITY - Jessica Lamb, EOS

Jessica Lamb of Equal Opportunity presented an overview of the following information:

- The gap between Black & Hispanic students in college completion in comparison to white and Asian students in the United States.
- NJ AP Data - white students are 2.3 times more likely than a Hispanic student and 2.5 times more likely than a Black student to be in an AP class.
- 2021-2022 Opportunity Chart - Columbia High School 11th and 12th grade participation in AP Courses
 - Targeted Students to Add
 - Targeted Students Currently in AP
 - Total Students Currently in AP
 - Participation by race
- District Goals
 - Increase Participation, Retention and Success in Higher-Level Courses
 - Ensure that students of color know they are cared for, supported and have access to all opportunities available within Columbia High School
 - 22-23 AP Participation Goal for Targeted Students:65%
- Highlights
 - AP Core Initiative
 - Support for Summer Assignments
 - Inclusive Drop-Policy
- Year at a Glance
 - Fall - Study Phase - Step One
 - Winter - Strategize - Step Two
 - Support - Step Three
 - Next Steps
 - Student Support Plan for 22-23 School Year
 - Phase 2 -Focus on Student Belonging

SOMSD FINE & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS - James Manno

Mr. James Manno, Supervisor of Fine Arts (K-12) presented the following updates and highlights for the Department of Fine and Performing Arts:

- Surviving vs Thriving
- Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 Transitioning Back
- 6-8 Instrumental Music Learning Recovery
- Department Highlights January 2022 - May 2022

Special Services Update - Ms. Budine

- Vacancies and New Hires
- Professional Development and Trainings
- Community Based Instruction (CBI) Program
- Autism Acceptance Month

Access and Equity Update:

- Placement letters have been sent to families of rising 6th graders
- Assistant Superintendent for Access and Equity, Dr. Kevin Gilbert will join the district May 16, 2022

Policy Update:

- 2415.05 Student Surveys, Analysis, and/or Evaluations - Revising from 9/2021
- 2431.4 Prevention and Treatment of Sports Related Concussions and Head Injuries
- 2622 Student Assessment
- 5460 High School Graduation
- 5541 Anti-Hazing

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Malespina - Expressed concern that there appears to be no additional funding in the Budget for social-emotional supports. Would like Administration to think about adding additional resources and doing what we can to help students who are greatly suffering right now.

Dr. Taylor - We are still in the current school year and have not implemented everything that we plan to because some of the programs are paced to happen in the spring. I would like to see those things come to fruition before we begin to add on more programs. There are a lot of additional providers in our schools. We also have Challenge day coming up at the middle schools and high school.

Ms. Bodnar - I just created the amendment to Title IV funding that we received carryover funds for and it is directly connected to our middle schools and high school social emotional learning. Tomorrow I have a group of administrators and teachers coming together to review a possible program. I met with the vendor and found the program to be impressive. Dr. Friedman and I set up some meetings and tomorrow is the first meeting. Let us see what is out there and what we can do for our students.

Dr. Friedman - We had someone reach out to us this afternoon and I am in the process of getting back to them as well. There are definitely other resources available but we need to vet and review them to see

how they can possibly be implemented into everything else we are doing.

Dr. Taylor - As Part of our Intentional Integration work we have been talking to our middle school principals about being prepared to support students who will be going to a school that they did not expect to attend and having additional layers of mental health supports for them that we can fund outside of our normal budget.

Board Member Siders - Perhaps at the next C&I meeting we can also talk about Mr. Fiedeldey. I believe we approved a three year contract with Fiedeldey Consulting for mental health support, so maybe we can talk about year two. I know he specifically had some items around student harm and how to support and identify those issues.

Ms. Bodnar - We have a meeting with Mr. Fiedeldey and building staff to look at next year and see if there are some things that we want to move around. We knew going into the first year that we had our plan to accomplish everything that we wanted to do, but we do want to evaluate what our plan is for the next year so that we can be sure that we are meeting the needs of what is going on with us at the moment. Mr. Fiedeldey is ready and willing to meet with us, to support our needs and offer recommendations.

Dr. Friedman - While we had a three year scope and sequence we knew years two and three would definitely be revised based on our progress and needs moving forward. We feel pretty good about what we have accomplished in year one, but we know that we need to move some things around and we will speak with Mr. Fiedeldey about additional resources and putting some things in place.

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board of Education will meet in Closed Session on Monday, April 18, 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. Action will be taken.

Motion made by Board President Joshua, seconded by Board Member Siders, that the Board of Education will meet in Executive Session prior to the April 18, 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. The Board will not return to public session. Motion to adjourn to Executive Session unanimously approved at 8:29 p.m.

Andrea Del Guercio, Asst. Board Secretary