

Deila Bolden Comments

Hello Bolden Students and Staff! So great to be with you today! Thank you Principal Hutchinson, for that kind introduction. As I begin, please allow me to recognize some very special visitors who have joined us today. Students, please realize how important you and your school are to not only us here in South Orange and Maplewood but across the state of New Jersey!

Let's talk about Governance. Can you please say the word with me (pause) Governance? Governance. A short definition for the word Governance is how people organize themselves to get important work done. As your Superintendent of Schools, that's my job; some say my job is like being the Principal of all the Principals in South Orange and Maplewood. But if I were to describe my job to you, I'd say my job is to work with lots of people, including Principal Hutchinson and Asst Principal Rivera, and many others, to make sure that you and your Teachers have all you need to be successful. The way some people would say I am the Principals of the Principals of SOMSD, We have a Commissioner of education, this person is a visionary who leads all the Superintendents like me, who have the same job I have but in different places across our state, whether it is Newark, Nutley, Paterson, South Jersey, Central Jersey, etcWe have a singular educational leader who guides us in partnership with the Governor and our State BOE. And guess what? Our commissioner of education is so special to us in particular because years ago, she was the principal of Marshall Elementary School. The celebration we are having today is **so important**, that our NJ Commissioner of Education, Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, and members of her team are here to be a part of it! Please give applause and a warm welcome. Like every great leader, our

Commissioner has a team of folks who help her do all the great things she accomplishes for our state. We are fortunate that she brought one of her team members today, Assistant Commissioner Dr. Chris Irving, please stand, sir.

How many states are in our Country? 50. Every year, the states are ranked on how well the schools are performing. They are ranked on how great our students are learning. Out of 50 states, guess which state is #1? That is right, NJ. Thanks to students like you, teachers like ours, parents who support us, and leaders like Principal Hutchinson and Mr. Rivera, as well as our Commissioner, NJ is ranked as the number 1 state in the country for public education.

So we spoke about our state. Does anyone know what county we are in? That's right, Essex County. Part of Governance is understanding who we are a part of....how we fit together. We are in Maplewood and also NJ. But our County that holds other towns and cities like Maplewood is Essex County. And the Bolden School is so important that today the Executive Superintendent of Essex County, Mr. Joe Zarra is here today. Please give him a round of applause. Similarly, Mr. Zarra helps me and Superintendents like me in Essex County solve problems and make great plans in support of you. Mr. Zarra has also brought Deputy County Superintendent Mr. Leonard Luciano; please stand.

An important part of my job is to also work with our Board of Education. The Board of Education is a group of people who are voted in by our community to help us make important decisions and also **approve how we spend the School District's money.** So all your desks, books, computers, even the new section of

your building that had construction. Even field trips, lunches ... all these are things that I work with our Board of Education to get for you! The Board of Education also voted to approve the change of your school's name. They are great partners in our school district. I'm going to call our Board members' names and allow them to all stand and be recognized.

- Current Board of Education Members (6)
 - Mrs. Kaitlin Wittleder, Board President
 - Mrs. Nubia DuVall Wilson , Vice President
 - Mrs. Regina Eckert , Board Member
 - Mr. Bill Gifford , Board Member
 - Dr. Qawi Telesford, Board Member
 - Mrs. Courtney Winkfield , Board Member
- Former Board of Education Members in attendance(5)
 - Thair Joshua
 - Annemarie Maini
 - Erin Siders
 - Shannon Cuttle
 - Chris Sabin

Speaking of voting by the public. Voting by all your parents and adults, family members, and friends. I would be remiss to not acknowledge our very own Mayor of Maplewood who has always supported our efforts, Mayor Dean Dafis.

Id also like to thank and recognize Delia Bolden, PTA President

- Ildi Conrad

Thank you to the CHS Archive Committee (5), who helped not only Bring the great Delia Bolden to our attention but also was instrumental in connecting us to the family members of Deila Bolden. The members are

- Carol Petrallia (Speaker)
- Anne Wessel
- Hannah Edelman
- Andra Marx
- Susan Newberry

Lastly, we are so fortunate to have here at our celebration today family members of the Delia Bolden Family (5)

- Dr. Carole Willis (Niece)
- Courtney Washington (Great Niece)
- Dr. Ashley Willis Domangue (Great Niece)
- Mr. Domangue (Husband to Dr. Ashley)
- Ms. Morgan Domangue

Students Principal Hutchinson told us that you would be an exceptional audience, and she was 100% Correct. We will now hear from some of our very special guests. We will first hear from our Commissioner, followed by our Board President, Mayor, and A member of the Archive Committee that was a driving force in helping to bring the legacy of Deila Bolden to fruition. After these four

greetings, we will shift back to Principal Hutchinson for a special surprise presentation.