



Budget Advisory Committee

Presented by

Jason Bing

Superintendent of Schools



Introduction

South Orange & Maplewood School District's new **Budget Advisory Committee** will enhance transparency, provide broader perspectives, and improve decision making in our district and support a long-term strategic vision for our schools.

[Submit application](#)



**Budget Advisory
Committee**

Definition of the Budget Advisory Committee

A Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) is a representative body composed of various stakeholders, tasked with providing input and guidance on our school district's financial planning process. The BAC is a consultative group to support the district in making informed decisions regarding budget allocation and prioritization.



**Budget Advisory
Committee**

Purpose of the Budget Advisory Committee

The primary purpose of the BAC in SOMSD will be to:

Promote transparency and community involvement in the budget development process.

Provide recommendations that reflect the priorities and concerns of various stakeholders.

Help align the budget with the district's strategic goals and objectives.



**Budget Advisory
Committee**

Roles and Responsibilities of the BAC

BAC members in South Orange & Maplewood will have several important roles and responsibilities:

Review and Analysis

Review the proposed budget, financial reports, and relevant data.

Provide Input

Offer recommendations on budget priorities, efficiencies, and areas of need.

Liaise with the Community

Represent the perspectives of different stakeholder groups, including parents, staff, and community members.

Support Transparency

Facilitate communication and understanding between the district and the broader community regarding financial matters.



**Budget Advisory
Committee**

Why implement this Budget Advisory Committee?

The BAC is crucial to SOMSD for several reasons:

- **Enhanced Transparency:** It allows the community to understand the budget development process more deeply and build trust in decision-making.
- **Broader Perspective:** The committee provides a diverse range of viewpoints, ensuring that the budget reflects the needs and priorities of the entire community.
- **Better Decision-Making:** Collaboration and input from various stakeholders contribute to more informed and balanced financial decisions.



**Budget Advisory
Committee**

Composition of the Committee

The BAC will be composed of 15–20 members, including:

1. District Administrators: To provide context on district operations and budget needs.
2. Association Representatives: To represent the perspectives of educators and staff.
3. Parents/Guardians
4. Local Business Representatives: To provide a business perspective on resource management.
5. Community Leaders: To ensure broader representation from the community.
6. Board Member

The diverse group ensures that the committee has a wide range of insights and experiences to draw from.



**Budget Advisory
Committee**

Commitment to the BAC

Committee members will be asked to:

- Attend regular meetings, particularly during the budget development season.
- Dedicate time for reviewing financial documents and preparing for discussions.
- Participate actively in discussions, offering constructive feedback and recommendations.

The expected commitment will be approximately 4 meetings through March 2025, ensuring members have enough time to contribute meaningfully.



**Budget Advisory
Committee**

Application and Selection Process

Application: Interested candidates will complete an application form, relevant experience, and what they hope to contribute to the BAC.

Selection: The selection process will aim for a balanced representation of the various stakeholder groups, focusing on members with relevant expertise and commitment to the district's goals.



**Budget Advisory
Committee**

Questions that will be asked when the BAC is assembled —

The BAC will consider various questions to help guide the budget process, such as:

1. How does the proposed budget align with our district's strategic priorities?
2. Are there opportunities for cost savings or efficiencies without compromising quality?
3. How can we ensure that the budget supports equitable outcomes for all students?
4. What are the potential long-term financial impacts of current budget decisions?

These questions help ensure that the BAC's recommendations are aligned with our mission to provide a high-quality and equitable education for every student.



**Budget Advisory
Committee**

Conclusion & Next Steps

The SOMSD Budget Advisory Committee will represent an important opportunity for collaboration and transparency in our financial planning. We look forward to forming a group of committee individuals who are passionate about supporting our schools.

Financial resources will be used effectively to benefit all SOMSD students when we plan together.

[Submit application](#)



**Budget Advisory
Committee**