



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF

**South Orange  
& Maplewood™**

**Mr. Jason Bing**

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**August 12, 2025**

Dear SOMSD Staff and Community,

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved Supervisor of English Language Arts, **Dr. Jane Bean-Folkes**. Dr. Bean-Folkes was more than an exceptional educator—she was a tireless advocate for literacy, equity, and the belief that every child has the right to a high-quality education, regardless of circumstance.

Throughout her time in South Orange & Maplewood, Dr. Bean-Folkes poured her heart into her work, always centering the needs of our most marginalized students. Her unwavering dedication to building a love of reading and writing, her high expectations for excellence, and her compassion for the whole child inspired students, staff, and families alike. She pushed us all to think more deeply, to act more boldly, and to never lose sight of the transformative power of education.

Dr. Bean-Folkes was a devoted educator, scholar, and advocate whose life's work reflected her unwavering belief in the power of language to transform lives. Earning both her master's and doctorate degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University, she dedicated her career to teaching students and mentoring colleagues in education alike.

Her impact will be felt for years to come—in the programs she strengthened, in the teachers she mentored, and most importantly, in the countless students whose lives she touched. Dr. Bean-Folkes leaves behind a legacy of empathy, advocacy, and an unshakable belief in the potential of every learner.

We know this loss will be deeply felt across our schools and community. In the coming days, we will share opportunities to honor her memory and celebrate her life's work. In the meantime, we encourage anyone who is struggling to reach out for support, whether through our school counseling staff or community resources.

Our hearts are with her family, friends, colleagues, and all who were fortunate enough to know her. May we continue her mission by carrying forward her passion for literacy and her unwavering commitment to equity.

With deepest sympathy,

Mr. Jason Bing  
Superintendent of Schools  
South Orange & Maplewood School District

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*Remembering*

**Dr. Jane Bean-Folkes**

Supervisor of English Language Arts K-12