

**HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**AD HOC CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 12, 2019 AT 6:00 PM**

**Board Members Present:** J. Collins, Chair | V. Flynn | L. Ammirati | B. Foster  
**Administrators Present:** R. McGarry, Superintendent  
**Meeting Location:** Central Office Conference Room

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The following are the notes from the February 12, 2019 meeting of the Ad Hoc Culture Committee:

The committee convened and watched a slideshow that provided the committee with a framework for discussion of school culture. The slideshow addressed the broad topic of school culture as it pertains to bullying including the following:

- Defining school culture
- Importance of school culture for learning
- Research on bullying and its impact on aggressors and targets
- Adult Supervision, Social Skills, Social Media, Parenting
- Children likely to be bullied
- Children likely to bully
- HIB law, HIB Bullying and non-HIB bullying
- Topic of the elongation of adolescence
- Challenges for Leaders in making change

The slideshow also addressed three different types of school based culture/bullying programs for purposes of comparison.

- Risky Business is a developmental and neurodevelopmental on-line program that teaches reading peer group roles and skills for accurate perception to children and adults. It holds that bullying occurs when there are breaches in empathy based on age.
- Olweus is a well known program on bullying that works on improvement of peer relations. It is a comprehensive approach that includes schoolwide, classroom, individual, and community components. The program is focused on long-term change that creates a safe and positive school climate.
- StopIt, is an anonymous reporting program that allows students to use mobile apps, web or phone to report bullying or any other type of concerning behavior to school officials.

The idea is that students who do not feel comfortable personally reporting a matter to school officials, would do so in the safety of anonymity.

The consensus of the committee was that we would take some time to digest the material and would work on creating and organizing the information to create an agenda for next meeting.

The next committee meeting is Tuesday, March 12, 2019.