

HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
AD HOC CULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 7, 2019 AT 5:30 PM

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

The following are the notes from the March 7, 2019 meeting of the Ad Hoc Culture Committee:

The committee convened and watched a slideshow that provided the committee with a framework for comparison of HIB bullying or bias based bullying and bullying as defined by the Center for Disease Control & Prevention, which is a much broader definition and is based on a power imbalance. The slideshow addressed the following broad topics:

- Comparison of HIB bullying and other forms of bullying - especially the concepts of distinguishing characteristic versus imbalance of power
- Challenges in implementing an HIB statute that is bias based and that does not include power imbalance as part of its definition
- Bullying as a major and preventable public health problem with long lasting consequences for Aggressors, Targets and Bystanders
- Bullying Statistics - Most HIB cases are based on other distinguishing characteristics and are verbal acts (being teased, made fun of); Bullying happens mostly in hallways, gym class/locker rooms, lunchrooms, in class when teacher is absent. Most bullying is based on appearance
- Characteristics of Aggressors and Targets
- Bullies with motivation of seeking status
- Increase in Bullying and Culture at Large - what has changed

The committee also discussed the following:

- The possibility of revising our school policy so that it includes all forms of bullying, not just bias based bullying.
- The possibility of using surveys to get an accurate idea of kids attitudes, beliefs and feelings of safety (or lack thereof) in school
- Compiling our bullying data to identify patterns
- Dr. McGarry asked the committee to come up with an overarching question for the committee and we discussed the possibility of a question that includes the concept of accountability

The next committee meeting date has not yet been decided.