

HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION/SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
MARCH 18, 2020 AT 6:30 PM

Board Members Present: J. Collins, Chair | V. Flynn | M. Sockol | E. Briamonte | T. Wall |
E. Urbanski | J. Hammer | P. Reddy | B. Foster

Administrators Present: R. McGarry, Superintendent | M. Petrizzo, Board Secretary | D. Seeley,
Director of Curriculum & Instruction | M. Gill, Director of Special
Services | M. Peart, Director of Human Resources & Compliance

Meeting Location: Indian Hill Cafetorium & Remotely via Google Hangouts

1. The board met on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 6:30 pm for its Curriculum and Instruction/Special Services Committee of the Whole Meeting.
2. The Administration gave its first report to the Board of Education on the status of Remote Learning in the District, two days into the process. They reported that one hundred percent of teachers are utilizing google classrooms to conduct class (up from 60% prior to the coronavirus outbreak) which required professional development especially in the lower grades, where google classroom was not being utilized due to the age of the students. Principals, Assistant Principals and Supervisors have access to and are monitoring every google classroom in an attempt to maintain cohesiveness across the district. The utilization of google classroom has been going smoothly other than some kinks related to the uploading of videos.
3. Board members expressed concerns from community members regarding the lack of online instruction, especially at the high school level, and that students in AP & honors classes in the high school have been inundated with an excessive workload. The board asked about the possibility for the implementation of live instruction and the administration indicated that, if it were to be done, it could be accomplished by the use of Google Meets or Seasaw. The administration did not have a count on the number of teachers doing live instruction. Board members asked about the possibility of providing extra help hours for students beyond the specified hours of 9 am to 1 pm.
4. The administration indicated that they have access to the Remote Learning Plans being utilized by other districts for comparison purposes. Dr. McGarry emphasized that it was premature to give an accurate portrayal or assessment regarding the state of Remote Learning, but they are optimistic.
5. Ms. Gill reported to the board on the status of home instruction, and instruction of our students with special needs. Every related service provider has created home program packets for the students they service and all self contained teachers created supplemental activity programs to go along with lessons they would be posting. Child Study Teams would continue to hold IEP Meetings, doing so through Google Hangouts.
6. Our Rutgers Behavioral Health Clinician will continue to provide services to at risk students and monitor the progress of those in her care using Webex.
7. The District distributed 149 Chromebooks to students via a centralized distribution center at Satz.

8. The board discussed the possibility of reaching out to parents to get their feedback regarding their experience to date with Remote Learning. I suggest that we reach out to students as well.
9. Paul Green, district counsel, indicated that the state ban on access to school building does not apply to Administration, Custodial, Maintenance and Grounds Staff and Technology Personnel.
10. Finally, concerns were expressed regarding academic integrity and Remote Learning. Dr. Seely indicated that she would report back to the board regarding the issue as she would be discussing it with supervisors.
11. As of the date of the meeting, there were no reports of any person infected with the coronavirus.
12. We ask that if parents or students have issues with Remote Learning to date, please contact your teachers and supervisors if necessary. You can also post questions to the District via a link sent by Dr. McGarry in his March 15th communication to parents. Technology issues should be communicated via email to support@holmdel.freshdesk.com. Also, the community should feel free to reach out to the board with any questions or concerns as we are welcoming emails in lieu of the public board meeting.

Next Meeting Date: April 29, 2020