



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

AGENDA
REMOTE MEETING
JUNE 10, 2020 7:00 PM

Mission Statement

The mission of the Holmdel Township Public Schools is to provide a comprehensive and caring educational environment that will develop the potential of every student into achievement. In partnership with our community, the School District will support all our students' efforts to meet and exceed the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and to become responsible and resourceful citizens and lifelong learners.

A. Call to Order

The Board of Education, Township of Holmdel, met remotely in a Regular Business Meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. Ms. Flynn, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Opening Statement

Statement is hereby made that adequate notice of this meeting was given by:

- Posting written notice prominently on the bulletin board in the Office of the Board of Education, 65 McCampbell Road, Holmdel, New Jersey, the District's website and sent to the four district schools.
- The mailing and/or hand delivery of said notice to the designated newspapers, Asbury Park Press, Independent, the PLG, PSG, PSA, PTSO, SAB presidents and student representatives to the Board.
- Filing with the Clerk of Holmdel Township, Police Headquarters and Public Library.

C. Open Public Meetings Act

Meetings of the Board are open to the public and all members of the community should feel free to participate:

- There are two opportunities for the public to speak; the first is at the beginning of the meeting for agenda items only and the second is at the end of the meeting for other items.
- Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
- The presentation shall be as brief as possible but no more than three (3) minutes per individual.
- The board vests in its president, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual if he/she deems it in the best interest of those present to do so.

D. Roll Call/Flag Salute

The following Board members were present: Mesdames: Flynn, Briamonte, Collins and Urbanski. Messrs: Sockol, Foster, Hammer, Reddy and Wall. Also present, Dr. Robert McGarry, Superintendent, Mr. Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Mr. Paul Green, Board Attorney. Student Representatives to the Board, Ms. Hannah Lin and Mr. Jide Anifowoshe were absent.

E. Presentation/Public Hearing:

- Performance – Satz Middle School Band
- Academic Achievements –Village, Indian Hill and W.R. Satz School (Principals)

F. Questions or Comments from the Public on Action Items Only - None

G. Action Items

1. Acceptance of Resignation, Superintendent of Schools

Resolved: That the Board accept the resignation of Dr. Robert McGarry, Superintendent of Schools, effective August 27, 2020.

MOTION: Mr. Sockol SECOND: Mr. Reddy VOTE: 9-0

H. Old Business - None

I. New Business - None

J. Questions or Comments from the Public

1. Mrs. Impreveduto, Parent, thanked Dr. McGarry for all of his efforts and services for the district and wished him the best of luck. She then asked if the Township has provided any feedback regarding paying for the Class III Officers and School Resource Officer that the district pays. Ms. Flynn stated we have not received any update/feedback from the Township.
2. Ms. Anifowashe, Former Student/HS Alumni, read a prepared statement regarding racial injustice the lack of equality amongst the Holmdel community and within the district's curriculum and urged district leaders to change what is taught regarding American History. Dr. McGarry advised that he would be meeting with Holmdel High School Alumni to gather information regarding this matter. Ms. Flynn encouraged Ms. Anifowashe and other alumni to contact the state since curriculum requirements are dictated by the state. Mr. Sockol mentioned that curriculum guides are listed on the district's website so the public can see exactly how these topics directly align with the district's goals of educating students.
3. Ms. Kostic, Former Student/HS Alumni, also commented on the issues of race and is hoping the students currently moving through the district are more informed and self-aware which requires dedication from the Board, Parents and Teachers in the district.
4. Ms. Schienvar, Former Student/HS Alumni, read a prepared statement regarding racial injustice and stated that she and another HS Alumni sent a letter to the Board respectfully requesting a curriculum update to address the topics of racial inequity and systemic racism. She stated that she is looking forward to speaking with Dr. McGarry regarding this matter.
5. Ms. Melikhova, Former Student/HS Alumni, read a prepared statement regarding racial injustice and stated she is the co-author of the letter Ms. Schienvar referenced. She stated that she is looking forward to speaking with Dr. McGarry regarding this matter.

6. Mr. Anifowashe, Student Representative to the Board, made statements about his experience in the schools and stated the history classes touch on civil rights but do not cover enough regarding racial injustice. Ms. Flynn stated that the concerns expressed will be looked into.
7. Mrs. Taylor, Parent/Educator, read a prepared statement regarding racial injustice and applauded the students who have spoken, thanked them for pushing change and stated that she and her colleagues stand with them.
8. Rachel Brudner, Former Student/HS Alumni, read a prepared statement regarding racial injustice and thanked Mrs. Taylor for speaking out regarding this matter.

Ms. Flynn responded, thanking everyone for their comments tonight and referenced the Class III Officers which helps address the community policing aspect and helps to have the officers working with children. The district is committed to pursuing this further and Dr. McGarry will report to the Board the results of his meeting.

9. Ms. Friedman, Former Student/HS Alumni, stated the teachers are deserving of a contract and made comments regarding the school's curriculum. She also referenced the Class III and School Resource Officers in the schools, expressing concerns about the impact on students. She stated that often times, police officers are not seen as a community resource or a resource of safety, especially for students of color, which is pretty easy to understand given what's happening all over our country right now. Students should be sent to the principal's office, not jail, for acting out in class and apparently, this is what is happening in other districts. Ms. Flynn advised that is not what is happening here in Holmdel.
10. Mr. Yannello, Parent, stated that Dr. McGarry will be missed and thanked him for all of his efforts. He then referenced the statements that were made tonight regarding racial injustice. He referenced the Township Committee meeting last night and stated he heard a lot of the same people speaking on this topic at that meeting as well. He referenced the requests, at last night's meeting, demanding the Township to denounce Blue Lives Matter and All Lives Matter because it is inherently racist. He stated that he is not opposed to looking into enhancing the curriculum and was glad to hear that the incidents referenced by students would be looked into accordingly. However, he expressed concerns with the demanding tone from the people who have spoken on this topic and stated that this looks a little too coordinated, a little too orchestrated, from possible outside sources, forces, social justice progressives. He stated that you can take a town, that in general is not racist and when you start demanding things from a social justice progressive background, may take a non-racist town like Holmdel and make it racist. He advised that people just need to be aware of that.
11. Ms. Neuberger, Former Student/HS Alumni, spoke of a personal experience in her junior year of high school where a student threatened to harm her and the entire class that she was in. They immediately went to the police. She stated that in a situation like this, though, where somebody is so deeply troubled, she thinks it is important that Holmdel has the proper mental health resources. She then responded to Mr. Yannello's comments stating she doesn't think asking their elected officials to take action is being aggressive and demanding too much. She stated what you are seeing now, is not a conspiracy theory, it is a bunch of people who are truly passionate about the Black Lives Matter movement and want to see actual change.

Dr. McGarry responded to her comments on mental health and stated this past year the district launched a very significant partnership with Rutgers University Behavioral Healthcare. He advised there is a full time clinician and these services are there to address mental health issues beyond the scope of school counselors.

12. Ms. Guerin, Former Student/HS Alumni, responded to Mr. Yannello's comments and stated that she was one of the people that spoke yesterday and expressed concerns with the statements he made. She made statements regarding racial injustice and the need for this topic to be addressed in every aspect of our teaching, as previously stated by her colleagues.

K. Executive Session (if required)

Board President Flynn stated the Board needed to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Legal and Attorney/Client Privilege matters. Ms. Flynn advised that no further action will be taken and the Board will adjourn from Executive Session. At 8:41 p.m., Mr. Wall motioned, Mr. Sockol seconded and by unanimous voice vote, the Board entered into Executive Session.

L. Adjournment

Board President Flynn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wall motioned, Mr. Sockol seconded and by unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary