

HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION/SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 AT 6:30 PM

Board Members Present: J. Collins, Chair | V. Flynn, Board President | E. Urbanski | B. Foster
Administrators Present: J. Charney, Interim Assistant Superintendent | M. Gill, Director of Special Services
Meeting Location: Remote Meeting - Google Meets

1. The committee met remotely on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm for its Curriculum and Instruction/Special Services Committee Meeting.
2. The committee first discussed the items recommended by the Interim Superintendent for approval.
3. Under New Business, the committee discussed its concerns over possible staffing issues due to teachers going remote due to approved 504 plans, and more specifically its concerns about remote teaching of students in special services classes.
4. The committee also shared its concerns over the canceling of the September SAT in Holmdel.
5. The committee was presented with a list of colleges where our most recent graduates are attending (as opposed to colleges where students were accepted, which was the first list the Board received).
6. We discussed possible academic goals for the new school year including LinkIt, Social & Emotional Learning, and the Development of a Peer Leadership Program. The committee expressed its concerns about the viability of such a program due to prior feedback on peer leadership programs in place by members of the community. Dr. Charney emphasized the transformative potential of Linkit as a diagnostic tool for the individual student and the entire class/grade. There will be future discussions on the topic of academic goals for the District.
7. We also discussed teacher evaluations, plans for effective remedying of issues that might be discovered.
8. The committee was informed that the SAT course will be divided into two classes, taught by different teachers - one for Math and one for English.
9. Dr. Charney also touted the exciting new AP Music Theory course.

10. Finally, we inquired into the dates for the first MAP administration of the 2020-21 school year.
11. Under Old Business, the committee shared its ongoing concerns that the District has purchased modules for Naviance that are not being used, it concerns that Naviance is not introduced to the students early enough in High School, and that there is not enough information provided to students and parents regarding the use of Naviance. There were also issues with missing data from colleges that need to be addressed.
12. We also discussed our ongoing commitment to promote academic integrity and provide consequences for breaches in academic integrity in the District. Dr. Charney indicated that, in most instances of findings of breaches in academic integrity, in particular academic integrity in regards to cheating on assessments, the result will be removal from (or non admittance to) the National Honor Society. We also discussed the committee's desire to have Guidance more involved with students from the time they start high school, and that perhaps they should receive the senior packet and related information sooner.
13. The administration has decided that it will not be requiring our students to sit for an AP exam in order to obtain a weighted grade for this school year. Rather, the administration will work on implementing the requirement for the 2021-22 school year. Finally, Dr. Charney presented an informative slideshow on AP Data to the committee, which suggests that while there is room for improvement, our AP students are doing quite well. In fact, the data on grades in AP courses suggests that our students should experience success on the AP exams. Therefore, the administration needs to promote the idea that a student that takes an AP class should sit for the AP exam.

Next Meeting Date: TBD