

HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION/SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2020 AT 6:00 PM

Board Members Present: V. Flynn, Board President | E. Urbanski | E. Briamonte | B. Foster
Administrators Present: J. Charney, Interim Assistant Superintendent | J. Brown, V.P.H.S.
Meeting Location: Remote

1. The committee met remotely on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:00 pm for its Curriculum and Instruction/Special Services Committee Meeting.
2. The committee discussed items recommended by the Interim Superintendent for approval including, but not limited to, approval of new courses for the 2021-22 school year (Peer Leadership, Dance 3, Forming a Critical Lens through Art and Humanities, English 6 Honors and AP World History), approval of out of district travel, donations, student teacher clinical practice, Home instruction and amendment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
3. Shannon O’Hara presented a proposal for implementing a Dance Honors Society for High School students.
4. Dr. Charney presented an analysis of the number of sessions and average time for teacher created afternoon Google meets (also known as Student contact time) by each department for the High School and Satz. Dr. Charney discussed how the Google meet times by subject provides this information.
5. The committee reviewed a document that was prepared by the HTEA to outline the time it takes to prepare for remote teaching. The District is unable to substantiate the information provided.
6. Dr. Charney presented a detailed analysis for the MAP and NJSLA scores from 2015-2019. Dr. Charney identified an area of concern in the performance of students first being identified at 5th and 6th grade levels because their Math and ELA scores appear to be underperforming as compared to other grade levels, which then carries over to 7th grade. There was a discussion about how these problems could be exacerbated by the compromised learning environment during the pandemic. The district will use funding from the Cares Act and Title 2 to teach supplemental math and ELA before and/or after school. Improving student performance in these grades is a priority for the administration. Programmatic revisions are being investigated in at least the math curriculum.
7. Dr. Charney provided an update regarding incidents of cheating at the High School. A discussion ensued about how the High School must do more to reinforce existing policy to curb cheating. 9 cases of cheating were investigated year-to-date.

8. The Committee inquired about the status of moving to full day instruction. Dr. Charney indicated that it is anticipated that Village and Indian Hill will move towards full day instruction because the plan that has been prepared is under serious consideration. The issue that remains for administrators for moving to full day instruction at the Complex involves the unit lunch and how a rotating schedule can work without it. Committee members indicated that we need to increase instruction time and expressed concern of parents that students are losing precious time by continuing with the half day schedule. Dr. Charney indicated that a proposal was shared by a high school teacher that would address the concerns over lunch -- students would attend school in the morning, be sent home for lunch, and then pick up with virtual learning for the last two classes of the day. Another schedule being considered is a 3 period morning/3 period afternoon schedule with lunch at home. The schedule would rotate throughout the week, so the class that a student may attend in the morning earlier in the week would be moved to the afternoon later in the week.

9. Under "Old Business," Dr. Charney presented AP data by subject matter and provided enrollment information. Dr. Charney also presented data regarding student performance on AP exams. In most cases, over 80% of students are already sitting for the AP exam.

Next Meeting Date: TBD