

**HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION/SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**  
**APRIL 21, 2021 AT 9:00 AM**

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**Board Members Present:** E. Urbanski, Chair | V. Flynn, Board President | E. Briamonte | L. Zhang

**Administrators Present:** J. Charney, Interim Assistant Superintendent | M. Gill, Director of Special Services

**Meeting Location:** Remote

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1. The committee met remotely on Wednesday, April 21st, 2021 at 9:00 AM for its Curriculum and Instruction/Special Services Committee Meeting.
2. Board Agenda Resolution: The committee discussed items recommended by the Interim Superintendent for approval including, but not limited to, professional development for district personnel, Summer curriculum writing writers, donation of furniture to the Holmdel theater company by the Christie family, donation of \$500 by the ExxonMobil corporation for math and science at Indian Hill school, and student teachers.
3. Public Showcases: Dr. Charney reviewed and provided parent feedback about two showcases that were presented to the community. A presentation about social media by Nicki Francis on April 15th had 44 attendees and the Special Services/G&T showcase on April 14th had 109 attendees.
4. Final Exams and AP tests: There was a discussion about final exams and AP testing at the high school. A statement by Mr Schillaci clarifying the Administration's position was sent to the school community on April 22nd.
5. NJSLA: The NJ DOE has waived the NJSLA test this year if districts have provided an alternative form of assessment. In line with the directive from the DOE to use such measures, the Administration has been utilizing the MAP assessment in grades 1-6 and Linkit assessments in grades 7-12.
6. State Interim Report: The district has submitted a status report to the state using Map and Linkit assessment data. There are 1220 students in ELA and Math from K-12 currently below grade level: 641 students in grades 1-8 and 579 students in the high school. Some of these students overlap.

7. ESSER Grant to Remediate Learning Loss: The administration will be utilizing the \$525K ESSER grant to create a Summer Step up program to mitigate learning loss with the goal of getting students to grade level. Students will be invited to participate in this program based on their Spring assessment scores. The Summer Step Up program will be skills based and each student will have their own menu of targeted goals. The students will work in small groups no larger than 12 students. There will be a math and ELA component. A survey was sent out to the entire school community to gauge interest in attending the Summer Step Up programs which will aid in scheduling sections and determine how many instructors may be needed. The administration strongly encourages families with students identified as having learning loss to have their child attend this program.
8. Indian Hill Science Program: Dr. Charney has identified a need for an improved science curriculum and instruction at Indian Hill school for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Charney has asked the assistant principal, along with a consultant, to create a new schedule that will increase science instructional time. Once a week, students will be brought into the science labs where a science specialist and teacher will be co-teaching labs.
9. Holmdel High performance report: Dr Charney presented the Holmdel High school state performance report for the years 2017-18 and 2018-19. The ELA scores met both the goal set by the state and the target set by the school. The math scores met the target but not the district goal. One factor in not meeting the math target is that some students take Algebra and Geometry at Satz and that is not reflected in the test results. Dr. Charney stated that this two year old information does not reflect student performance during the pandemic. A copy of the report will be available on the school website after the data is presented to the Board.
10. Summer Curriculum Writing: The number of courses required by the NJDOE for Summer Curriculum writing has been revised. 61 courses will be revised or written by the faculty.
11. DLM: Meryl Gill updated the committee that the DLM (Dynamic Learning Maps) assessment has not been waived by the NJDOE. The assessment takes several days to administer and special services will be conducting the tests from May 4-June 11.
12. SEL: The school district is filing for an ESSER II grant of \$45K to be directed toward designing and implementing a tiered mental health intervention program. The grant is a one time payment with the intent that the program will be self sustaining going forward. This program will be a Tier 1 program focusing on staff, students and parents. A committee including Art Howard, Chantel Simonelli, Matt Kukoda, Jamie Brown and Meryl Gill has been formed to research district mental health needs. A survey from the Casel organization was sent to parents, staff and students and the committee will be analyzing the data to organize and develop the initiative. The feedback from the survey is disparate.
13. Special Services: Meryl Gill presented revised hours for the Extended school year and Jump Start for Summer 2021. Students are recommended by the IEP team to attend ESY every year,

however due to the pandemic the team is changing the criteria to allow more students to attend. ESY will be a 6 week program that will run from 8:30-12:30 Monday through Thursday from July 12th to August 19th. The Jump Start program, which will provide individualized instruction, will run from 1:30-3:30 two times a week. Students with IEPs may attend the Summer Step up also , a Gen Ed initiative, which focuses on skills and standards for the next grade level.

14. Old Business: Questions were raised about the status of utilizing the Hibster program when investigating HIBs.

Next Meeting Date: May 19th, 2021 @ 9:00 AM