

HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION/SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
JULY 21ST AT 9:00 AM

Board Members Present: E. Urbanski, Chair | E. Briamonte | V. Flynn | L. Zhang
Administrators Present: J. Charney, Interim Assistant Superintendent | F. Stromsland, Interim Director of Special Services.
Meeting Location: Board Conference Room, Village School and Remote

1. The committee met in person and remotely on Wednesday, July 21st at 9:00 AM for its Curriculum and Instruction/Special Services Committee Meeting.
2. Recommendation for Approval: The committee discussed items recommended by the Interim Superintendent for approval including, but not limited to: Out of district travel, New courses (Adaptive Dance and Novice Spanish), New Trade Books/Textbooks, Title fund motions, Donation by Satz PSG of 4 adirondack chairs for \$675 and \$3000 toward the class of 2024 senior activities, Field experience/student teacher observation, and Summer hours.
3. Special Services: Dr Stromsland presented Special Services recommendations for approval including, but are not limited to: Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired Services, Student placement, REACH program, STARS program, Extended school year tuition contracts for the board of educations of Middletown and Edison, 2021/2022 School year tuition contracts for the Board of Educations of Middletown, Edison, Matawan, and South Amboy, Submission of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant award Basic and Preschool for 2021/22, Allocation of 2021/2022 IDEA Preschool Fund, Acceptance of 2020/2021 Extraordinary Aid which is a substantial increase from last year.
4. Summer Step Up: Dr. Charney presented a status update on the Summer Step Up program. The first of two sessions is currently underway. 82% of children who were accepted the program are attending. 122 students are attending in July and 167 children are expected to attend the second session in August. The program has a mix of remote and in person classes. Dr. Charney presented an example of a lesson plan that is being used.
5. AP Chart: Dr. Charney presented the results of a study that examines the link between the students taking AP tests to college graduation rates. There is a positive correlation between taking the actual exam and graduating from college among a number of demographic groups. A link to the result can be found here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/15eG2v6i_fw4qc3k48aEfOyUIZ3ChuidW/view
6. Removing 0 as Lowest Grade: Dr. Charney presented a proposal to change the lowest grade from a 0 to a 50. He presented an article as evidence that issuing 0s undermines student achievement and presents a roadblock in which the student can't rectify their grade. Even if a 0 is put in

powerschool, the grade will automatically revert to a 50 at the end of the semester. Many districts already have this policy. A link to the article can be found here:

https://www.ccesa.org/Files/Uploads/252/The_Case_Against_Zero.pdf

7. Course name changes in HS: Latin Level 4 will be changed to Honors Latin 4 and Latin Level 5 will be changed to Advanced Placement Latin. The program of study will reflect these changes.
8. Linkit Report: Parents with children in grades 7-12 have received a report of their child's most recent Linkit assessment. Starting in the 2021/2022 school year, these benchmarks will be sent to parents three times a year so parents can have a more comprehensive view of their student's growth. An example of the report was shown to the committee.
9. Data Presentation: At the Board meeting, Ms. Farese for ELA data and Dr. Charney for Math data will be presenting the school performance report released by DOE for the year 2019/2020. He will be supplementing this with information about the 2020/2021 school year with data from the Linkit benchmark assessments that were given to students commencing in Fall 2020. There were no state standardized assessments given during 2020-21. The committee requested that the report be sent to the full board to review beforehand.
10. New Teacher Orientation: New teacher orientation will take place on August 27th, 30th and 31st. New hires will learn about important features of the district as well as evaluation systems and curriculum. There are approximately 45 new teachers, aides and monitors.
11. Teacher PD days: Teacher professional development will be on September 1st and 2nd. An additional day has been allotted on the calendar so staff can prepare for the new curriculum and procedures for the 2021/2022 school year. Dr Charney presented a detailed working agenda for these two days.
12. Harvard Training: This Summer, select supervisors and principals attended intensive week long remote leadership training at the Harvard School of Education.
13. Teacher Evaluations: Dr. Charney presented a district evaluation as an example of how this should be done in the Holmdel School district. Dr. Charney highlighted areas including: the component of questioning and discussion , engagement and communication as examples. Evaluations are created under the Danielson framework which has 22 criteria and 4 domains of instruction. Genesis will be employed in conjunction with Daneilson to organize the data. According to Danielson 11% of teachers in a district should be rated as highly effective.
14. Items for the Good of the Order: The Committee meeting dates for the remainder of the year were released to members.

Next Meeting Date: August 18th at 9:00 AM