



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGENDA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL  
MARCH 19, 2025 6:00 P.M.  
PUBLIC MEETING APPROXIMATELY 7:00 P.M.

## *Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Holmdel Township School District is to provide a well-rounded and inclusive education that empowers all students to reach their full potential and thrive. We believe that excellence comes from building strong relationships, embracing a positive attitude toward growth, overcoming challenges with determination, and celebrating our unique differences. Through teamwork and cooperation, we aim to create an environment where students can succeed academically as life-long learners and responsible global citizens.*

### A. Call to Order

The Board of Education, Township of Holmdel, met in a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at Holmdel High School, 36 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mr. DiMare, Board President.

### B. Open Public Meetings Act

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, Star Ledger, 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. Roll Call

The following Board members were present: Mesdames: LoPresti, Collur (6:10 p.m.) and Tuccillo (6:30 p.m.). Messrs: DiMare, Kim, Libecchi and Mann. Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy. Also present, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Deborah Donnelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Arthur Howard, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Dr. Amanda Lamoglia, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services, Mrs. Elena Jaume, Human Resources Manager and Mr. Kyle Trent, Board Attorney. Student Representatives to the Board, Mr. Jack Powers and Ms. Isabella Spicer were absent.

### D. Resolution for Executive Session

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b, permits a public body to go into an Executive (Closed) Session during a public meeting to discuss certain matters specified in the statute; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has determined that it is necessary to go into an Executive Closed Session to discuss matters relating to certain items as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the Township of Holmdel that it shall adjourn into Closed Session at this time to discuss the following subject matter(s) without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b and 10:4-13:

1. Student matters
2. Personnel matters

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3. Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, it is not yet possible to determine when the matters discussed in Closed Session will be made public; the matter(s) discussed will be made known to the public at such time as appropriate action is taken on said matter(s), and when disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Board of Education, provided such disclosures will not violate Federal, State, or local statutes or regulations and do not fall within the attorney-client privilege.

MOTION: Mrs. LoPresti SECOND: Mr. Libecchi VOTE: 5-0  
Absent: Dr. Collur, Mrs. Tuccillo, Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy

At 6:07 p.m., the meeting moved to Executive Session.

E. Motion to Return to Public Session

MOTION: Mrs. Tuccillo SECOND: Mr. Mann VOTE: 7-0  
Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy

At 7:07 p.m., the meeting returned to public session.

F. Call to Order

G. Opening Statement

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

- There is one opportunity for the public to speak.
- 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.
- There are certain matters that may be brought before the board that cannot be immediately addressed in public. Such matters may be referred by the president to a board committee and/or to the Superintendent for consideration and/or resolution.
- 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.

H. Flag Salute

I. Presentation(s)/Public Hearing(s)

Board Vice President, Mrs. LoPresti spoke of the Holmdel School District's financial uncertainties and referenced Middletown's situation. She expressed the Board's commitment to providing continued transparency during difficult decisions.

- *Tentative Budget 2025/2026 – Dr. J. Scott Cascone & Mrs. Deborah Donnelly*

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At the conclusion of the budget presentation, there was an in-depth discussion among the Board. Mr. Kim inquired about specific programs (Waggle/Freckle) and Dr. Arciero responded accordingly. Mr. DiMare shared additional information regarding the current financial situation of the District. Several Board Members mentioned potential revenue streams.

J. Questions or Comments from the Public on Action Items Only

Mrs. Collins, parent, referenced per pupil costs, the county median for Administrative Staff and the presentation slide showing the number of teaching staff cuts vs. Administrators. Mrs. Collins also inquired about the number of out-of-district students and the cost of legal settlements over the past five years.

K. Action Items

1. Approval of Shared Service Agreement with the Township of Holmdel for Assistance in Completing the Crawfords Corner Road Project

Resolved, pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., that the Holmdel Board of Education approves the Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Holmdel for the Assistance in Completing the Crawfords Corner Road Project, on file in the office of the School Business Administrator, and authorizes its President and Secretary to execute same on behalf of the Board.

DISCUSSION: Mr. DiMare made comments regarding the history regarding roadway bottlenecks by the Complex. He shared that he is excited about the upcoming improvements and thanked the Township for their collaboration and support of the project.

MOTION: Mrs. Tuccillo SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 7-0  
Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy

2. Approval of Shared Service Agreement with the Township of Holmdel for the Provision of Maintenance Funding

Resolved, pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et seq., that the Holmdel Board of Education approves the Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Holmdel for the Provision of Maintenance Funding, on file in the office of the School Business Administrator, and authorizes its President and Secretary to execute same on behalf of the Board.

DISCUSSION: Mr. DiMare thanked the Township for their financial support.

MOTION: Mrs. Tuccillo SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 7-0  
Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy

3. Tentative Budget 2025/2026

The Superintendent recommends approval to adopt the Tentative Budget for FY 2025/2026:

BE IT RESOLVED that the tentative budget be approved for the 2025/2026 School Year using the 2025/2026 state aid figures and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary be authorized to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

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	GENERAL	SPECIAL	DEBT	
	<u>FUND</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2025/2026 Total Expenditures	\$72,039,105	\$1,377,217	\$3,066,550	\$76,482,872
Less: Anticipated Revenues	6,721,162	1,377,217	616,124	8,714,503
Less: Fund Balance	-	-	1	1
Taxes to be Raised	\$65,317,943	\$ -	\$2,450,425	\$67,768,368

And to advertise said tentative budget in the Asbury Park Press, in accordance with the form required by the State Department of Education and according to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a public hearing will be held at Holmdel High School located at 36 Crawfords Corner Road in Holmdel, New Jersey on Wednesday, April 30, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2025/2026 School Year.

MOTION: Mrs. Tuccillo SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 7-0  
Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy

4. Adjustment for Healthcare Costs

BE IT RESOLVED that the Holmdel Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$1,193,379. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

MOTION: Mrs. Tuccillo SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 7-0  
Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy

5. Use of Banked Cap

BE IT RESOLVED that the Holmdel Board of Education includes in the proposed budget the adjustment for banked cap in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-10.1(b). The district has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the base budget in the amount of \$1,300,770 for the purpose of transportation costs. The district intends to complete said purposes by June 2026.

MOTION: Mrs. Tuccillo SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 7-0  
Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy

6. Travel and Related Expense Reimbursement 2025/2026

WHEREAS, the Holmdel Township Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3 et seq. requires Board members to receive approval of these expenses by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board and staff members to receive prior approval of these expenses by the Superintendent of Schools and a majority of the full voting membership of the Board; and

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WHEREAS, the Holmdel Board of Education established \$66,340 as the maximum travel amount for the current school year and has expended \$23,907 as of this date; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-7.3, to a maximum expenditure of \$69,596 for the 2025/2026 school year.

MOTION: Mrs. Tuccillo SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 7-0  
Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy

L. BOE Liaison Reports

S.E.P.A.C. Update – Mrs. Tuccillo provided the SEPAC update and shared that Child Study Team members and students from each of the buildings were in attendance to share their experience on the transition from one building to the next, for example, Indian Hill to Satz and Satz to the High School.

M. Board Sub Committee Report

1. *Policy Committee Meeting 2/24/25*
2. *Budget & Finance Committee Meeting 3/11/25*
3. *Labor Negotiations & Personnel Committee Meeting 3/5/25*

Public Relations – Mr. Libecchi shared the Public Relations Committee will be meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> to review a myriad of items, including the recent newsletters and Board updates that have been shared.

Policy – Dr. Cascone shared that the District is currently in the process of fully transitioning to the New Jersey School Boards Association's policy manual.

Budget & Finance – Mrs. LoPresti shared that the Budget & Finance Committee met on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, she shared that the Budget & Finance Committee met with the Township on March 10<sup>th</sup> and, again, thanked the Township for their continued support expressed that she is looking forward to a collaborative year with them.

Labor Negotiations/Personnel – In Mr. Buckley's absence, Mrs. LoPresti read a prepared statement and shared that the Board's Personnel Committee Negotiations met with the HTEA on March 12<sup>th</sup> and discussions suggest that both parties are far from reaching an agreement. The District Administration has separately offered to meet with HTEA Leadership to provide additional information in support of the Board's position. Two additional negotiations sessions are scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> and, if progress is not made, the parties may request the assignment of a mediator from the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) which would allow for neutral input in an effort toward achieving an agreement beneficial to all stakeholders.

Curriculum & Instruction – Mrs. Tuccillo shared she has a meeting with Dr. Cascone on March 20<sup>th</sup> regarding several items, but mainly they will discuss the return of tests. Dr. Cascone has been doing legwork with the supervisors as there seems to be some inconsistency with what is happening in the district as far as students getting their tests returned and it has been made clear that all tests should be reviewed before moving to the next unit so there is an expectation that students will have an understanding of the testing material prior to going to the next unit.

Mr. Kim thanked Mrs. Tuccillo and Dr. Cascone for addressing the return of tests and taking the steps to clarify the procedure and policy and ensure consistency across the district moving forward.

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N. Old Business

Mrs. Tuccillo referenced the health curriculum survey and the over-abundance/excessive amount of reminders (email, phone, etc.) and shared there were some misperceptions among parents and families regarding the survey. Mr. Libecchi shared the push to respond to the survey was extremely important since it is such a sensitive subject and cannot be compared to signing your child up for sports. Dr. Cascone thanked Mrs. Tuccillo for the feedback and responded accordingly, sharing that the district is always looking for ways to do better. Mrs. LoPresti and Mr. DiMare made additional comments regarding the health curriculum survey.

O. New Business

1. *Review of Agenda Action Items for March 26, 2025 Public Meeting*

Mr. Kim inquired about inviting the lacrosse coaches to speak on behalf of Billy DiMaio at the March 26, 2025 Board Meeting, in advance of the lacrosse home opener on March 27<sup>th</sup> which will be dedicated to Billy.

2. *Central Office Department Updates*

Administration provided the department updates.

3. *The Balance Project*

*The Anxious Generation*

Mrs. LoPresti referenced the community-led initiative called The Balance Project and the parent event to be held May 14<sup>th</sup> in the evening - Connected but Protecting: Empowering Parents in the Age of Social Media.

P. Questions or Comments from the Public

Mrs. Lisa Vitale, HTAA President/Indian Hill Principal thanked the Board and Central Office Staff for its continuous support and collaborative efforts and shared that, despite challenges, you will not find a more dedicated group of individuals. The Holmdel Administrators all give 110%, the staff are top-notch and she is proud to be a leader in this high achieving district committed to academic excellence.

Mrs. Collins shared that many parents are filling in the gap with supplemental education. She then suggested the Board review the district's HIB policy to ensure that parents are notified prior to their child be called as a witness in an HIB investigation.

Mrs. Collins also suggested the Board review the Attendance/Tuancy policy and shared that we don't currently recognize students with special needs and school refusal issues. Students are missing school and being penalized because they don't have the appropriate support.

Q. Executive Session (if required) – N/A

R. Adjournment

Board President DiMare called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Libecchi motioned, Mrs. LoPresti seconded and by a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Deborah Donnelly  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary