



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGENDA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL
APRIL 23, 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, April 23, 2025 at Holmdel High School, 36 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 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 and Tuccillo (6:21 p.m.). Messrs: DiMare, Buckley, Kim, Libecchi and Reddy. Absent: Dr. Collur and Mr. Mann. Also present, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Deborah Donnelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mr. Arthur Howard, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, 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: Mr. Buckley SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 6-0
Absent: Dr. Collur, Mrs. Tuccillo and Mr. Mann

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

E. Motion to Return to Public Session

MOTION: Mr. Buckley SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 7-0
Absent: Dr. Collur and Mr. Mann

At 7:05 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)

- *Chartwells Presentation* – Scott Thibideau, Area Director, introduced Gabriella Down, Director of Dining Services, Carey Brandsdorfer, Chef Manager, Gaetano Mastrangelo, Regional Executive Chef, Amy Brinton, Regional Dietician and Ali Kauffman, Field Marketing Director. Sarah Bridges, Regional Vice President was absent. Mr. Thibideau, Ms. Down and Chef Brandsdorfer provided an overview of Chartwells features and programs.

Mr. DiMare thanked Chartwells for presenting and referenced the recognition/transformation on eating, sharing that Chartwells listened and took action as we are seeing healthier choices.

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Mr. Reddy commented on the RFP process and ‘The Hive’ and inquired about getting information from each school regarding their Top 10 choices. He would like to see where we are year over year. Ms. Donnelly noted that Edvocate started monitoring last month.

Ms. Down shared information for seniors, explaining that parents can either request a lunch account refund or transfer the lunch account balances to a sibling(s).

J. Questions or Comments from the Public on Action Items Only - None

K. Action Items - None

L. BOE Liaison Reports

SEPAC – Mrs. Tuccillo reported there was no meeting this month and the next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2025.

HFEE – Mr. DiMare thanked the HFEE and the community. Dr. Cascone shared that we should be receiving the official award letter from the HFEE for the Aquaponics lab and the HFEE mini grant applications are all in, trustees are deliberating and we should have a list of successful award recipients shortly.

M. Board Sub Committee Report

1. Labor Negotiations / Personnel Committee – 4/1/25

2. Policy Committee – 4/2/25

Dr. Cascone shared that he and Dr. Lamoglia moved forward a number of policies for Board review. The next Committee meeting is May 7th. They are working through a large number of policies and are approximately 50-60% complete. The process is moving along according to plan and the goal is to have the full policy manual go through a first reading at the July meeting, a second reading at the August meeting so that updated policy manual is ready and prepared to roll out at the beginning of the new school year.

3. Community Relations Committee – 4/9/25

Mr. Libecchi reported the Communications Committee met and had a great meeting with Steve Lelivelt and Carlos Machado regarding the implementation of Parent Square for the 2025/2026 school year which will streamline communications to the community.

4. Curriculum & Instruction Committee – 4/3/25

Mrs. Tuccillo reported the Committee met on April 3rd and discussed the following topics:

1. Test return practices – Dr. Cascone will cover under Old Business

2. Adaptive Physical Education – The Committee got a rundown of where it is being used. It is in the district, we’re using it when deemed necessary by the IEP but, of note, it is least used in Village because we’re using related arts and especially gym as a great source of inclusive practices for our special needs community and that is why it is being used the least. Of course, if it was deemed necessary that a student

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needed more individualized instruction for physical education, that would happen, but it's really a great inclusive approach to support the development of students with special needs.

3. Spanish 3 waivers – New this year and basically, we only have a need based on the New Jersey requirements for two years but colleges want more than two years but there are kids who struggle sometimes to get that third year so now, there is a minimum grade needed and, if not, you can waive in by doing summer work which will give students the opportunity to catch up and get some of the necessary proficiency in order to get to 3 and help them be successful but it still looks good on their transcript.

4. Dual Enrollment – Mrs. Tuccillo explained that seniors participating in “campus dual-enrollment” take all of their core classes in the morning and then leave in the afternoon to attend classes at Brookdale. This was the first year of dual enrollment being offered on-campus and we have 16 students participating, growing to 25 for next year. We continue to increase the number of dual enrollment schools we have relationships with for dual enrollment courses offered in-house and are finding that specialized instructor credentials and financial constraints are challenging. We use our current staff, however, they must have the same credentials that the college would require to hire (Master’s). For instance, Mrs. Tuccillo stated, that Supervisor Gwenn Lotter is fantastic with math but her masters is not in math so she wouldn’t be able to teach any of the math courses for dual enrollment. Campus dual enrollment gives seniors the opportunity to attend Brookdale their senior year.

Mr. DiMare asked Board Members to let him or Mrs. LoPresti know if a Board Member is unable to attend a scheduled Committee Meeting so they can fill the spot with an alternate member.

N. Old Business

1. Test Return Policy Discussion

Dr. Cascone provided an overview of the Test Return discussion and shared that currently, there are inconsistencies with the return of tests, depending on teacher. Parents feel that students cannot learn from their mistakes and parents do not have an opportunity to review tests when they are not returned. Additionally, some tutors market themselves by sharing that they have a ‘bank’ of Holmdel tests, which is concerning. If we start returning tests, academic integrity would be compromised and we’ve lost control. We are also seeing selective absenteeism, where students are intentionally not coming to school on the day of the test so they can possibly get some intel on what was actually on the test.

Dr. Cascone shared the directive to staff is that they not move on to a new unit until students have received feedback (individual or as a class) on key pieces missing or key understandings in the content and that this practice is consistent from teacher to teacher.

Board Members discussed the test return policy.

2. Complex Traffic Concerns Follow up

Dr. Cascone shared concerns over dismissal issues and the large number of staff and students leaving at once. Mr. Frank Papalia, our school security specialist conducted site observations and reviewed camera footage of dismissal

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for a period of two weeks and what Mr. Papalia noted was that, when all of our staff is in place, things run smoothly. On occasion, when officers were absent, there were issues. We have since put a communication protocol in place where we are notified of an absence prior to dismissal and can then fill that absence with a staff member or Administrator to prevent any further issues.

O. New Business

1. *Review of Agenda Action Items for April 30, 2025 Public Meeting*

Dr. Cascone and Mrs. Donnelly will present a top-level review of the financials at the budget during public hearing on April 30th.

Mr. DiMare shared the Board will be recognizing Fire and EMS Cadets and Bus Companies/Drivers on April 30th.

2. *Central Office Department Updates*

Administration provided the department updates.

P. Questions or Comments from the Public

- Mr. Jay Yannello, parent, referenced that school budgets are ‘household news’ nowadays, stating that it’s on everyone’s mind. President DiMare responded accordingly and shared that the Board is working diligently, and will continue to be transparent. Mrs. LoPresti provided additional comments and stated that the collaboration between the district and the Township needs to continue. She also referenced the importance of community engagement on the Board side and the Township side. Tuccillo made follow up comments regarding the PILOT. Mr. Reddy made follow up comments.

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

R. Adjournment

Board President DiMare called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Tuccillo motioned, Mr. Buckley seconded and by a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Deborah Donnelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary