



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGENDA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 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, September 18, 2024 at Holmdel High School, 36 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Wall, 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: Tuccillo. Messrs: Wall, DiMare, Reddy, Buckley, Mann and Libecchi. Absent: Dr. Collur and Mrs. LoPresti. Also present, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary 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.

E. Motion to Return to Public Session – N/A

F. Call to Order – N/A

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. Presentations(s)/Public Hearing(s) - None

J. Action Items - None

K. BOE Liaison Reports - None

L. Board Sub Committee Reports

- Mr. DiMare referenced the Policy Committee status (to be further discussed under Old Business). Mr. Reddy inquired if there is data to see how many other districts went through this process and made the switch with policy service providers.
- Mr. DiMare also thanked Mrs. DeWysockie and Mr. Petrizzo for compiling 15 years of school related financial data for Board review and analysis and shared that the Board really appreciates the time and effort they put into this project as it will be utilized to help make decisions moving forward.
- Mrs. Tuccillo stated that the first SEPAC meeting will be October 9, 2024 in the High School Library.

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M. Old Business

1. NJSBA Policy Manual Conversion – Dr. Cascone provided an update regarding the status of this process and the next steps with the Policy Committee in determining a policy review process going forward.
2. Strategic Plan Survey Results – Dr. Cascone reviewed the survey results with the Board.

N. New Business

1. Review of Agenda Action Items for September 25, 2024 Public Meeting
Administration provided an overview of the agenda.

2. Central Office Department Updates

Dr. Cascone provided an overview of the Transportation status and then referenced Derek Jordan and Sophia Piela from Colliers Engineering, who were in the audience tonight. Mr. Jordan introduced himself and shared that he and his team have been on-site and stationed at various locations throughout the Complex during drop off and pick up. They are in the process of assessing the efficiency of movement; how long a car sits in queue before it gets on-site, how long is it on-site and how long it takes to get to where it's dropping off or picking up a student and then exiting the site and if there anything that can be done to improve that efficiency. In addition, they will be assessing safety to ensure there are clear lines of sight and addressing any concerns observed. Once their observations and assessments are complete, Colliers Engineering will submit a final report with their findings.

Mr. Wall, Mrs. Tuccillo, Mr. Libecchi, Mr. Reddy and Mr. DiMare provided additional comments regarding transportation.

Administration provided an overview of the updates.

Mrs. Tuccillo referenced incorporating parent input for Teacher of the Year nominations. Mr. Howard stated that he would review the guidelines and will get information out to solicit additional nominations.

Mr. Wall referenced that the PILOT numbers will be run by Phoenix Advisors, the district's Financial Advisors.

Mr. Reddy referenced the pads on the walls in the High School and Satz gymnasiums and thanked the Business Office and Buildings and Grounds Department for getting this done.

Mr. Wall referenced a parental concern posted on social media alleging a potential mold issue at Indian Hill. Dr. Cascone shared that we take those concerns very seriously and shared that our Buildings and Grounds team was immediately dispatched to evaluate it and found there was no mold. There is a current leak that is being repaired, but there was no mold in the building, at that site, or in any of the other buildings.

Mr. DiMare referenced that it is nice to see the players are utilizing the lights pretty much every night now.

Mr. DiMare referenced the removal of the "Hawks" logo on the Satz gym floor and Dr. Cascone shared that next it will be removed from the bleachers.

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Mr. Wall encouraged students, parents and caregivers to follow the Chain of Command and asked Dr. Cascone to provide a little more information on it. Dr. Cascone shared this information is on our website under the 'parent' tab and he will reiterate it in his next weekly update and community newsletter. Mr. Wall and Mr. DiMare made follow-up comments.

Mr. Wall referenced the possibility of introducing new curriculum and referenced the district being a stigma-free environment and the potential of building a neurodiversity and/or physical diversity curriculum or an elective for people to be taught so they can understand and learn about the neuro-divergent cohort, which is a large part of our student population.

Mr. DiMare provided follow up comments regarding Dual Enrollment, HFEE, the Robotics Club, and the Science Fair starting at Satz. He also spoke about introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) into our curriculum as much as possible.

Mr. Libecchi referenced the HFEE and their amazing donation and mentioned their Varsity Night event at 7 PM this coming Friday night at The Barn on South Holland.

Mr. Reddy shared that he appreciates that we are no longer permitting cell phone usage during PE class, which is just as important as any other class. He also referenced the upcoming approval of a volunteer for the Pep Band. Mr. Wall made follow-up comments regarding the cell phones in PE class.

Mr. Wall requested that Administration take a look into implementing 'script' back into the curriculum. Dr. Cascone advised that he and Dr. Arciero have spoken about this and they have begun conversations with teachers and building principals about it and it is something we are looking to advance.

Mr. Reddy referenced his request for consideration in recognizing faculty members with 25+ years of experience in the district (via a parking sign – he had IT share a picture).

Mrs. Tuccillo encouraged Satz and the High School to begin planning for career day. She then referenced working with Mr. Howard to implement a bus and parent component with regard to the PBIS initiative so bus drivers and parents can give out tickets to boost positive student behavior. Lastly, she suggested opening up Google calendar for students so they can view all of their assignments in one spot which will help to keep them organized.

O. Questions or Comments from the Public

- Ms. Hijli, Vocational School Student, expressed concerns with the Vocational School transportation.
- Mrs. Sargent, Parent, expressed concerns with an earlier statement made by Mr. Wall which indicated that certain comments on "Fakebook" were politically motivated.
- Mrs. Roth, parent, has students at three (3) different schools and expressed concerns with her Satz School student pick up time. Her Indian Hill School student has no issues because they walk and her Village School student is late getting to school in the morning and getting home at the end of the day. Dr. Cascone responded accordingly and shared that he would like to review her comments and sit down with Transportation to see how this can be improved.

P. Executive Session (if required) - N/A

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Q. Adjournment

Board President Wall called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Tuccillo motioned, Mr. Reddy seconded and by a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary