

**HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION/SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**  
**MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2022 @ 6:30PM**

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**Board Members Present:** P. Reddy - Chair; E. Urbanski; K. Tuccillo; T. Wall (phone)  
**Administrators Present:** Scott Cascone - Spdt; J. Charney - Interim Asst Spdt, A. Lamoglia - Director of Special Services; D. Wrubel J. Arciero – Supervisor of Humanities  
**Meeting Location:** Board of Education office

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The committee met in person on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for its Curriculum and Instruction/Special Services Committee Meeting. The following agenda items were discussed.

**Superintendent’s Recommendations for Approval**

1. [Approval of Out-of-District Travel, District Personnel](#): reviewed list of teachers & staff attending various conferences.
2. [Approval of Out of District Travel, Non Public Staff](#): reviewed list of teachers attending various conferences (4 teachers from St Benedict’s).
3. [Approval of Student Trips](#): Reviewed school trips planned in the 4 district schools. Twin Light’s Lighthouse, Monster mini-golf, Graduation walk, Project Graduation.
4. [Approval of New & Revised Curriculum Writing Projects and Writers for the 2022/2023 School Year](#): continuation of policy writing from last board meeting. Revisions of different subjects & teachers responsible.
5. [Approval of ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Math & Science School Grant Donation](#) annual donation we receive every year.
6. [Approval of Policy 2431- First read/Old Policy](#): Policy number 2431 was on a previous board agenda but tabled, as we had received a more recent and detailed policy alert and update from Strauss Esmay.

*From Apr meeting: Reviewed Athletic competition policy which was last updated in 2018. Added in new sports to the policy (boys volleyball, fencing & girls flag football). Only addition I would like to see added involves Satz wrestling. Currently only 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders are allowed to wrestle on the Satz wrestling team. Unfortunately the team before a match starts is already behind or has lost because they cannot fill many weight classes due to number of wrestlers on the team so they get an automatic DQ (loss) in those spots. We can remedy this by allowing 6<sup>th</sup> graders who wrestle & would like to compete the ability to join the team. Would have to work out transportation to practice & meets but assume it would not be much different than Vo Tech students who play on HS teams. This has been an on-going issue for years & would be a win-win for all involved. All the neighboring districts have allowed I would expect we would write the policy that no 6<sup>th</sup> grader would take an 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders spot. They would only be allowed to wrestle if the weight was open.*

7. [Approval of Library Books to be discarded at Indian Hill](#)

**Special Services**

1. [Home/Hospital Instruction](#): Reviewed list of student(s) receiving home/hospital based instruction.
2. [Approval of Criteria for Independent Evaluations](#)  
Policy 2468 requires that the board determine and approve the maximum allowable cost for an independent evaluation. This is a list of the evaluations and allowable cost.
3. [Approval of CBI / SLE 2022-2023 Location for Community Based Instruction \(CBI\) and Structure Learning Experience \(SLE\)](#)  
This is a list of community business, organizations and facilities that support the district’s Work Based Learning and Structured learning experiences for students in our district. Students receive hands-on and real world learning experiences to generalize skills that are taught in the school setting and carry them out into the community.
4. [Review of Special Services Providers](#): We reviewed the list of service providers and agencies that the district may utilize as a result of a student or district need.

**New Business:**

1. [Class size average K-12](#) Pursuant to board member request and community feedback, information was provided to the committee regarding average class size in grades K through 6, and in the tested areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts in grade 7 through 12. The committee requested that at the next Committee meeting class-size by each section for grades K through 2 be shared. Numbers are not as high as we have been hearing. If anything need to identify which section in the younger grades are above the average. The additional teachers being added to Village school will help we keep the numbers in the low 20s.

2. **School Starting Times** Superintendent Cascone updated the committee on an exploratory conference call in which he engaged with the superintendent of Chatham school district. Chatham is one of the school districts moving forward next year with a delayed start time for the high school. Some high-level takeaways from that conversation were shared. High school in Chatham will start 40 minutes later, the high school day is shortened by reducing passing time between classes and lunch, the elementary start time is moved back to 9 o'clock and the instructional day ends at 3:30. One key logistic question was discussed with regard to how a schedule such as this would be handled with regard to transportation. A follow up meeting will be scheduled with the district's primary bus contractor to understand the feasibility and any associated costs.
3. **MCVSD:** The number of Holmdel residence students currently attending the Monmouth County Vocational School was shared. There are approximately 100 students in grades 9 through 12 attending the schools. This number has remained relatively constant over the last 5 to 7 years. Understanding the motives for students going to these vocational schools remains a focus for the district. Satz Principal Mr. Loughran who was in attendance shared that he will be administering an exit survey to gather information in this regard. Also discussed was the importance of the district advertising and marketing its outstanding mathematics, engineering and technology programs in advance of students making these decisions. The committee and administration affirmed that it is a goal moving forward to recruit more of these students to remain at Holmdel High School for their high school education.
4. **Math Grade 4-6 Update:** Dr. Cascone updated the committee on the status of the mathematics pilot in grades 4 through 6. The committee is in the final stages of making a final recommendation which will occur at the June curriculum committee meeting. The committee is in final deliberations between the incumbent program Envisions and Into Math. One recommendation remains constant which is that the district intends to utilize the My Path I Ready software regardless of the mathematics program selected. This software has yielded excellent results with respect to student achievement and has been well received by the mathematics staff.
5. **Social Studies Curriculum: Civics in Action, Financial Literacy:** Secondary humanities supervisor Mrs. Arciero reviewed the new New Jersey Student Learning Standards for civics education and their focus on enabling students to connect classroom learning to authentic, real-world, community-based projects. The social studies department will engage in curriculum revision this summer. The standards are scheduled for implementation in September 2022.
6. **LinkIt!: Benchmark C:** Mrs. Wrubel provided a high-level overview of the benchmark C Link It results. The district is in the final stages of administering this end of year benchmark. Student reports will be going home to families in early June. The district intends to present a comprehensive district assessment report in the fall utilizing the LinkIt, MAP, SAT, AP, and New Jersey Student Learning Assessment data. A comprehensive district assessment report will be presented to the board and community in the fall after the district has received the 2021-22 state testing results.
7. **Math lab/Exec functions proposal:** Mr. Loughran presented a proposal to the committee for a Math and ELA/Executive functioning labs at Satz school for next year. This program will address the present need for academic support services during the school day for middle school students. Presently, the middle school is the only school without a program of this nature. The ELA executive functioning lab will address organizational skills and academic skills within the context of literacy for those students who may require additional transition support from 6th grade.
8. **6th Grade Wrestling - Middle School Participation:** Pursuant to board member request, the concept of affording sixth grade students the opportunity to participate in athletics at Satz School was brought back to the committee. Mr. Loughran shared some historical perspective that this premise was raised once before just prior to the pandemic. Some of the inherent challenges with regard to this were reviewed. Namely, the fact that Indian Hill and Satz School have different dismissal times. This would necessitate that the students from Indian Hill dismiss early from school on a daily basis to attend practices and or matches. Further, it would necessitate parental transportation to the games.
9. **Summer Step Up (Staffing):** Mrs. Wrubel shared the staffing and present student enrollment for the Summer Step Up program. Nearly 1000 students have been invited to one program or another, presently, there are approximately 250 students enrolled. An additional reminder email will be sent to parents shortly and once again immediately after the LinkIt Benchmark C results are shared with parents.

10. **AP Testing Participation:** The AP test participation numbers were shared with the committee and demonstrated exponential growth from last year. Increasing the percentage of students taking the AP tests was a deliberate focus of the district. Efforts included the districts subsidizing of test fees for students, as well as incentivizing and marketing and celebrating student performance. With few exceptions to participation rate was in the upper 90% to 100%.

**Next meeting date: mid-June. Time & date TBD**