



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"*

## HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION/SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**February 7, 2023 @ 5:00PM**

**Location: High School Media Center**

### Welcome and Norms

#### Superintendent's Recommendations for Approval

1. **Approval of Out-of-District Travel, District Personnel:** The committee reviewed out of district travel (4), including 2 administrators.
2. **Approval of Student Trips:** The committee reviewed upcoming trips (5); 4 were no cost to the district.
3. **Approval of Student Teacher/Clinical Practice/Observations/Field Experiences:** The committee reviewed 1 additional student-teacher experience (HHS-social studies)
4. **Approval of Student Internships for the 2022/2023 School Year:** The committee reviewed 3 additional sites for student internships, all of which are local.
5. **Approval of New Courses at Satz for 2023/2024 School Year** - The district reviewed 3 course approvals for Satz. Additional staffing would not be required. The writing lab, similar in vein to the math lab, would provide extra support to students struggling in literacy. This led to a discussion about the success of math 8 and expanding that initiative to grade 7, possibly even grade 6. Dr. Irwin and KT clarified that math 8 scores represent a small number of students (56 enrolled in math 8, 183 in Algebra I) at the lowest tier, as the majority of students are in Algebra I. Dr. Irwin was asked what math 8 scores look like in comparative districts. DFG I average math 8 score is 28% (ours is 20%).
  - a. **Approval of Satz Writing Lab** - discussion held regarding math lab/intervention
  - b. **Approval of Heroes Among Us**
  - c. **Approval of Content Creators**
6. **Approval of HS Guest Speaker Mr. Aaron Golub** - <https://aarongolub.com> Guest speaker, first legally blind Division I football player, to speak to HHS about overcoming adversity and defining your own path.
7. **Approval of Proposed Calendar for the 2023-2024 School Year** The committee reviewed 3 options and was most in favor of option c. There was discussion about putting a survey to the parent community, rotating cultural holidays, and making the board approved absence code in Powerschool available at all 4 schools (currently only at HHS).
8. **Approval of District Curriculum List (February standards revisions)** - The committee reviewed continued list of curriculum that were updated with ancillary standards in preparation for QSAC visit.
9. **Approval of Policy #2610 - Educational Program Evaluation - Second & Final Read:** The committee reviewed the final read of program evaluation; the key difference is criteria to use multiple data points.



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10. **Approval of Policy #5112 ENTRANCE AGE. - Entrance Age - First Reading** Dr. Irwin explained kindergarten is a hard cut-off of October 1 per state code; there is latitude in first grade to revise guidelines. This would apply to students who did kindergarten out of district because they did not meet Holmdel cut-off but do not want to repeat kindergarten on transfer back to district. Guidelines include recommendations from accredited programs that speak to a child's academic and social/emotional readiness. Discussion was held about the cut-off date of December 1 or 31, as most local districts do either or. Looking for the Board to weigh in on cut off date.

## **Special Services**

1. **Approval of Home/Hospital Instruction** Approval of home instruction for one student.
2. **Approval of Extended School Year Program 2023** Approval of ESY dates/ hours (July 5th - August 15th / 8:30 - 12:30)
3. **Approval of Additional Location (s) for 2022-2023 Community Based Instruction (CBI) and Structured Learning Experience (SLE)** Additional local placements for community exploration.
4. **Approval of Staff Presenters** Approval of staff turn-key presenters from the January 23rd PD.
5. **Approval of Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission for the 2022/2023 School Year** Contractor to provide bi-lingual evaluations and CST support.

## **New Business:**

- **Test for Credit - AP, SAT, dual enrollment:** The proposal shared was born out of feedback from community constituents including the High School Principal, Board Members, and families in the district. Simply put, if we cap the costs of AP exams that we cover to 2 per student, we will be able to have a fixed projection and can use the savings to fund other postsecondary opportunities for students including SAT school day and dual enrollment. Parents would have the discretion to choose which opportunities (or a combination) that they would like covered. This does not stop students from taking as many AP exams as they please. This would also not take away the previous grading adjustment of a 5.5 for AP with the exam. It is believed that most students take the AP courses for the GPA bump, not because it is paid for them.
- **Placement Criteria:** Revised criteria posted on website for advanced classes. No significant changes; elimination of placement test in math in most cases; utilizing MP grades, NJSLA, MAP/LinkIt, and writing sample or other available assessments. Waiver process is still intact.
- **Winter Quarterly Achievement Data Presentation (in progress):** To be presented on Wednesday, February 15. Please provide questions in advance. At the meeting, SAT data was highlighted to illustrate improvement across a number of attempts.

## **Old Business:**

- **Opt Out Feedback:** Information to be shared during the weekly superintendent 2/10 email. More information will come in March.



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*The following old business items are to wrap up discussions regarding items previously raised by the committee. Please review these items on your own as there may not be time to discuss, given truncated meeting time.*

## **Items for March**

- Summer Step Up.
- Test for credit (old business)
- **Opt Out Feedback:** 240 qualitative comments; most were about the survey opt in versus opt out. Takeaways that full community may not be paying as close attention to district communication about processes. At the next meeting, we will provide updates to include those who did not respond. Discussion held about HiTops presented to the Board.

***Next meeting date: March 21, 2023***