



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGENDA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 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, February 19, 2025 at Holmdel High School, 36 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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 (6:05 p.m.) and Tuccillo (6:18 p.m.). Messrs: DiMare, Buckley, Kim, Libecchi, and Reddy. Absent: Mr. Mann. Also present, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Deborah Donnelly, Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Mrs. Elena Jaume, Human Resources Director 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
3. Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege

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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. Reddy SECOND: Mr. Buckley VOTE: 6-0
Absent: Dr. Collur, Mrs. Tuccillo and Mr. Mann

At 6:03 p.m., the meeting moved to Executive Session.

E. Motion to Return to Public Session

MOTION: Mr. Buckley SECOND: Mrs. LoPresti VOTE: 8-0
Absent: Mr. Mann

At 7:00 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) - None

J. Action Items – None

K. BOE Liaison Reports

S.E.P.A.C. – Dr. Lamoglia shared summer resource information with parents.

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L. Board Sub Committee Report

Curriculum & Instruction – Mrs. Tuccillo reported that C&I will meet after the budget process is complete and shared that, in the meantime, she is working on preparing a list of topics of interest and they will refocus on C&I in the spring.

Public Relations – Mr. Libecchi shared the first newsletter was a great success with over 5,000 views. The newsletter is for informational purposes, to share good news and meeting highlights. Informational articles will also be published each month featuring important topics to educate the public.

Labor Negotiations/Personnel – Mr. Buckley shared that Committee and HTEA met on February 18th and had a productive session. Proposals have been exchanged and the next meeting is scheduled for March. The Committee will review the HTEA’s proposal in advance of that meeting, working diligently to develop a new agreement that is mutually beneficial to all parties.

Budget & Finance – Mrs. LoPresti shared there is a budget review meeting scheduled for 3/11. Mrs. LoPresti read a prepared statement outlining budget challenges. Mr. DiMare elaborated on Mrs. LoPresti’s overview regarding financial challenges. Mr. Reddy referenced PILOT funds, reserves being exhausted and courtesy bussing vs. staff/class sizes. Mr. DiMare defined courtesy bussing.

Policy – Mr. DiMare shared the new NJSBA Policy Manual needs approval and shared that the Committee will be meeting next week.

M. Old Business

1. *February 14, 2025 Course Placement Presentation Recap and FAQs - Dr. J. Scott Cascone*

Dr. Cascone shared the Waiver Data Update Presentation and provided a thorough recap of the February 14th parent presentation with additional input from Mrs. Killean, Mrs. Wrubel, Dr. Arciero and Mrs. Lotter.

N. New Business

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

2. *Central Office Department Updates*

Administration provided the department updates.

O. Questions or Comments from the Public

Mrs. Cunningham, parent, referenced courtesy bussing/PILOT and will encourage community members to attend next Township meeting. She stated she spoke to the former Mayor Impreveduto regarding safe walkways and plans to follow up with current Township Administration. She shared she is happy with the cafeteria changes and health & wellness improvements. Mrs. Cunningham supports The Balance Project and shared that PreK was play based and utilized a wonderful program called Tools of the Mind. She thanked the Board for their commitment of daily time and effort.

Mr. Shikhanovich, referenced courtesy busing and issues with safety, traffic and excessive vehicles. Mr. Trent provided a detailed explanation of the courtesy bussing guidelines as mandated by the State. Mr. Shikhanovich referenced his recent experience finding a daycare that was play-based and the more time kids spend playing together, the better and feels that screen time is an issue in itself.

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Mrs. Chen, parent, shared that she appreciates the acknowledgement that students on the cusp deserve a second look, which is critical for their success given that 75% of placement criteria is based on standardized testing. She referenced the MAP assessment computerized adaptive test where question difficulty increases based on their answers to previous questions versus NJSLA where all students receive the exact same questions and feels that students who are not exposed to higher level material, would have a harder time achieving a higher percentile ranking to earn the full 2 points for the placement criteria and asked Administration to revisit this. She also expressed concerns with misleading information in the FAQs regarding Algebra II and SA Testing. Dr. Cascone and the Board shared that they appreciate her feedback and responded accordingly.

Mrs. Haack, parent, thanked the Board for the theater comment and shared that she fully supports The Balance Project. She appreciates the level of detail Ms. Lotter provided on Friday and asked the Board not to forget about those students who place in the advanced classes as it weighs down the content and could potentially impact those students and may decide to leave.

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

Q. 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 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Deborah Donnelly
Business Administrator/Board Secretary