

**HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION/SPECIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**  
**MARCH 24, 2021 AT 9:00 AM**

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**Board Members Present:** E. Urbanski, Chair | V. Flynn, Board President | E. Briamonte | L. Zhang

**Administrators Present:** J. Charney, Interim Assistant Superintendent | M. Gill, Director of Special Services

**Meeting Location:** Remote

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1. The committee met on Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 at 9:00 AM for its Curriculum and Instruction/Special Services Committee Meeting.
2. Board Agenda Resolution: The committee discussed items recommended by the Interim Superintendent for approval including, but not limited to, new and amended Policies and Regulations, out of district travel, new AP courses including AP Seminar and AP Research, Pilot Math program for grades 4-6 (which excludes honors 6), New ELA program NoRedInk for grades 9-12 which will be funded by the Cares act, Summer Curriculum writing, ESY (extended school year ) for 2021 which will include Jump start Fridays, Summer Step Up programs for grades 1-9 which will be Funded by Grant funds (Title I, CARES Emergency Relief Grant, ESSER II), Approval of donations including a donation from Exxon Mobil for the High School and the Dowd Family donation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for the Holmdel Boys Lacrosse team, home instruction, student placements, and child study team members to conduct Summer evaluations and attend meetings.
3. Curriculum Showcase: Dr. Charney reviewed the high school curriculum showcase, along with the parent feedback, that was presented on March 10th. The next Showcase presentation for the parents and students will be about the Gifted and Talented program and Intervention, Support, and Special Services which will take place on April 14th.
4. AP Capstone Research and Seminar Courses: Two new Capstone AP classes will be introduced next year. The AP Seminar, which is designed for 10th and 11th graders, starts with a topic of interest and explores the process and procedures needed for investigating research approaches to problems that go beyond tests and scores. The AP research class, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem or issue, or idea of interest using proper research methodologies. Dr. Charney thinks these two new classes are a good fit with the current HAR (Honors Advance Research) offerings and enables students to complete 2-3 years of research credit. An example is the Waksman Student Scholars Program which services over 35 students a number of whom have been involved in 2-3 years of microbial genetics research.

5. Replacement of Honors with AP classes: The administration advised the Board that in the upcoming school year, Honors 11 English will be replaced with AP Language and Composition and Honors 12 English will be replaced with AP Literature and Composition. This will be updated in the Program of Studies.
6. Pilot & New Programs for 2021: In the elementary schools, the district will be implementing one new program and one pilot program in Reading and Math. For 4-6 grade, Ready Math will be piloted in two classes per grade for a full year of study. Questions were raised by committee members as to why this math pilot was not going to be given to all classes. Board members also raised concerns about monitoring the success of the pilot program during the school year to avoid any learning gaps and/or inconsistencies with the delivery of the curriculum. The Fountas and Pinnell Reading program will be implemented in all classes in grades K-3. This program focuses on all the elements of good reading, pedagogical approaches, and classroom setup. It offers teachers choices in presenting good reading practices and is backed by libraries of over 200 leveled books. For 9-12th grade ELA the district will be implementing No Red Ink, which will be funded by Cares Acts. This program, which will be enmeshed into the current H.S. curriculum, is designed to help students with improving composition.
7. World Business Leaders: The administration is moving ahead with the WBL internship program and is currently interviewing candidates to head the program. In this program, students take core courses at the high school, or at an affiliated institution such as Brookdale or Rutgers in the morning. In the afternoon students would be interning at local businesses.
8. Summer Curriculum Writing: Summer Curriculum writing will be addressing 2020 standards. Staff will be allotted 20 hours for new classes and up to 10 hours to revise existing courses. Supervisors have been asked to prioritize curriculum rewriting for courses.
9. Remediating Learning Loss: The Board was advised that currently, 8-11% of students (approximately 108 students ) in Village are not at grade level. The staff has already set goals for 79 of these students and their progress is being monitored. In addition, a letter has been sent to parents encouraging their children to attend a 0 period which starts next week. 0 period is time before school for the student to come in to receive individualized remediation. In Indian Hill, approximately 20% of the students are not at grade level. Currently, the teachers are spending 2 hours a week learning how to set goals for these students. The administration expects to focus on the lowest scoring children first with the

teacher instrumenting Tier 1 approach and reading specialists assisting in addressing these students' weaknesses within the next few weeks. The second-lowest scoring students will be addressed in similar ways. Remediation will involve 7 supplemental teachers either before or after school, The committee members expressed the desire for remediation at Indian Hill to commence as quickly as possible. This will be funded by the Cares grant which addresses learning loss in the Gen Ed population. In addition, the administration is applying for a ESSER grant which will be used toward instituting an Academic academy that will take place either in the mornings, after school, or on Saturday. In addition, a Summer academy will focus on transitional grades 3 to 4, 6 to 7, and 8 to 9, so children will be prepared for the next school. The administration predicts that it will take approximately 12-18 months to have children up to grade level.

10. Wellness rooms and SEL: Wellness rooms in Satz and the High schools are in the process of being completed and the furniture should arrive within the next month. On April 15th. Nicky Francis, a Behavioral Specialist, will be making a presentation to students and parents on how to adjust during times of stress.
11. Special Services: Meryl Gill presented plans for the Extended school years for Summer 2021. The program will run from 9:00-1:00 for 4 weeks. Special Services is also implementing a Jump Start Friday which will be a Summer Step-Up program for children with IEPs. The Special Services department is exploring other ways to offer extra services to children with IEPs in order for them to be prepared for school in September. It was noted that ESY and Step Up programs will be in person. Holmdel and other neighboring districts are partnering with Brookdale to offer a seminar to provide tools and resources for parents with children with intellectual disabilities to create their own businesses in which these students have an opportunity to work.
12. NJSLA waiver: The NJDOE is applying for a federal waiver for the NJSLA if a district monitors their own student growth. As of now, the NJDOE plans on administering the test but that may be subject to change. Districts are now in the process of sending evidence of data tracking to the NJ DOE to support the waiver request.
13. AP test Administration: A letter was sent to students that the AP tests will be administered in person with paper and pencil. This is beneficial because a student can go back and revise their work. 290 students will be taking 829 tests.
14. Student HAR awards: Dr. Charney highlighted students in the Honors Advanced Research classes working under the mentorship of Dr. Josephine Blaha, Mr. Ted Mester, and Ms. Lauren Lepore who had an excellent showing at the 46th annual Jersey Shore Science Fair. 17 of the 42 projects from the High School won awards and 9 will advance to the Delaware Valley Science Fair via virtual adjudication. From this regional competition,

student projects may be chosen to advance to the prestigious Regeneron-ISEF 2021 international competition.

15. Guidance/Naviance: In Order to have more accurate Naviance college acceptance and attendance records, Dr. Charney has recommended that it be mandatory for students to update their Naviance records in order for them to participate in graduation practice.
16. Academic Integrity: Dr. Charney updated the committee on academic cheating. Questions were raised as to how Securly has helped mitigate cheating in High School.

Next Meeting Date: April 21, 2021 @ 9:00 AM