

Holmdel Township Board of Education

Special Services Committee

Meeting Notes for November 18, 2009

Present: Board Members: Ana M. Vander Woude–Chair, Jim Shelton and Chiung-yin Liu
Administrators: Barbara Duncan and Meryl Gill

Absent: Mary F. Hartnett

1. Brighton Assistive Living Update:

Twice monthly, seven high school students participate in the work-study opportunity at Brighton Assistive Living. The students have developed a positive rapport with the residents. Jobs include preparing the dining room for lunch and decorating the facility for the holidays. Transportation is provided by Brighton at no cost to the school district.

2. STRIVE (Student Transition Readiness Independent Vocational Experience):

- a. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 7 high school students participate in the STRIVE program at Village School.
- b. Program Coordinators: Susan Stanzione and Doreen Cancilleri.
- c. STRIVE has been very well received and supported by the Village School community; especially Ms. Giacobbe and Dr. Ledford, who among other initiatives interviewed the students to provide them with such real-world experiences.
- d. The students participate in various job sampling opportunities including: library assistant, classroom assistant, supply clerk, custodial assistant, and front office assistant.

3. Transition Consultant Update:

- a. The district has posted for a transition consultant position.
- b. The individual will be tasked with assisting the district in providing coordinated activities and services for our classified students that help them to move from school to post school activities after graduation, including college preparation, vocational training, life skills training, independent living services, and supported employment services.
- c. Forty-eight applications have been received thus far.
- d. The position will be budgeted through ARRA funds.

4. Preschool Outcome Study:

- a. The Holmdel School District has been randomly selected by the New Jersey Department of Education to participate in a 1-year preschool outcome study beginning January 2010. School districts have been subdivided into subgroups called cohorts. Holmdel is among 200 hundred districts in Cohort 3 or 4. The study will be overseen by the NJ Office of Special Education Programs.
- b. Background: The US Department of Education required each state to develop and submit a State Performance Plan that was responsive to 20 federal monitoring priorities and indicators. Indicator #7, Preschool Outcomes, requires the NJ Department of Education to report on the percentage of preschool children with IEPs who demonstrate:
 1. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
 2. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication and early literacy); and
 3. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

5. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Update--Allocations:

a. Professional Development:

1. ADHD Strategies and Classroom Management: December 8 and January 21.
2. Study Skills: March 5th.
3. Oppositional Behaviors Training for Special Education Monitors: February 11th.
4. Under development: Curriculum training for preschool teachers; and co-teaching training.

b. Assistive Technology:

1. Village: Flat screens will be purchased for replacement classes; FM units and Touch Screens for the preschool.
2. Indian Hill: Flat Screens will be purchased for various replacement rooms.
3. Satz: Elmo overhead projectors have been purchased and received. Meryl Gill is awaiting more input from staff regarding other assistive technology needs.
4. Holmdel High School: New computers and desks have been purchased in two replacement classes.
5. Software Enhancement: Meryl Gill is still reviewing staff needs and the required training to support such enhancements.

6. Extended School Year Program (ESY):

The district is in preliminarily discussing aligning the ESY program with the energy initiatives being taken district-wide and exploring the possibility of a 4-day week with increased hours.

7. Feast 2009: Amy Clark's class will once again host a holiday feast. Every aspect of the event will be conducted by Mrs. Clark's class, including set-up, meal preparation, and service. Additionally, this year the students will perform a holiday play for their guests. Feast 2009 will be held on November 20th from 11a to 1p.

8. Nursing Plan: The district is required annually to submit to the county superintendent a plan on the current state of nursing in the school district. Meryl Gill provided the committee with the 2009 nursing plan for its review and discussion at our next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 16th, 5:30p, at the Satz Main Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana M. Vander Woude