

Holmdel Township Board of Education

Special Services Committee

Meeting Notes for December 16, 2009

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

- 1. 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. The plan includes statistical information as to the services provided by our nursing staff and copies of the correspondence/notifications distributed to students. The information contained in the plan covers the period of September to December 2009. This committee reviewed the nursing plan and recommended that its submission to the county superintendent be approved by the full board.

- 2. Holmdel Preschool Program Update:**
 - a. Enrollment is increasing; 58 students between all 5 classes.
 - b. Highscope has been selected as the curriculum for the preschool program. Professional development for teachers, therapists and child study team members is scheduled for late spring 2010. This will be funded with ARRA monies.
 - c. Preparations for the 2010-11 school year:
 - i. A parent handbook will be developed.
 - ii. Morning and evening Open Houses are scheduled for January 21, 2010.
 - iii. Enrollment Dates: January 26, 27, and 28, 2010.
 - iv. First priority will be given to current students. The committee discussed the possibility of siblings of returning students being given priority.
 - v. There will be an increased publicity campaign.

- 3. 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.
 - b. The staff will require training on the assessment tool, Battelle, in order to conduct the study. Meryl Gill will attend training on January 21, 2010 and will determine what staff will conduct the study.
 - c. Only classified students who enter the program from March 2010 will be assessed.

- 4. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Update:** On December 8th, 20 staff members (10 general education and 10 special education) from Village School and Indian Hill School attended the first of two professional development workshops on ADHD Strategies and Classroom Management. All were very motivated by the strategies learned. During the second session, scheduled for January 21st, the participants will discuss their progress towards implementing said strategies. The workshop, funded by ARRA funds, was taught by Mary Fowler, an internationally recognized expert in the field of ADHD. Meryl Gill hopes to offer another series with Ms. Fowler in the future.

5. Extended School Year Program (ESY):

- a. The 2010 ESY program is scheduled for July 6th to August 12th . It will be held 4 days per week, from 9a to 1p, and will be inclusive of a lunch period.
- b. Components: Language Arts, Math, Social Skills, Art, and Adaptive Physical Education.

6. Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 13th, 5:30p, at the Satz Main Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana M. Vander Woude