

Holmdel Township Board of Education

Special Services Committee

Meeting Notes for January 13, 2010

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

1. Holmdel Preschool Program Update:

- a. The school district is working with Kathy Priestly, the state liaison, to ensure the quality of the program.
- b. *Curriculum:* All preschool staff (teachers, therapists and child study team members) will receive professional development training in Highscope, the curriculum identified for the preschool program. Training is tentatively scheduled for the following 7 days: April 20 and 21, and May 3, 4, 5, 18 and 19. The estimated cost for training and coaching is \$10,500 and will be funded with ARRA monies.
- c. *Preparations for the 2010-11 school year:*
 - i. Morning and evening Open Houses are scheduled for January 21, 2010.
 - ii. Enrollment Dates: January 26, 27, and 28, 2010.
 - iii. First priority will be given to current students. The committee discussed the possibility of Professional development siblings of returning students being given priority.
 - iv. Publicity campaign: ads in local publications and outreach via the Village School PSA.

2. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Update:

- a. *Professional Development:* On February 17 and March 25, the Mary Fowler workshops on ADHD Strategies and Classroom Management will be provided to Satz and High School staff (general education and special education) as well as Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) teams. Additionally, on March 9, the Special Services Department will present a workshop jointly with ARISE (see details below).
- b. *Technology:* Over winter break, flat screens were installed in replacement classroom at Indian Hill. Additionally, iPods and supporting equipment were purchased for two replacement classrooms (1 Indian Hill and 1 Satz).

3. Extended School Year Program (ESY) Update: 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.

4. Transition Consult Search Update: The position remains unfilled following a series of candidate interviews.

5. ARISE: The Special Services Department will collaborate with ARISE to present a workshop titled “No More Meltdowns: Handling Challenging Behaviors & Teaching Social Skills” on March 9th. It will be presented by Dr. Jed Baker, a nationally recognized speaker on the topic of social skills training and managing challenging behaviors. The workshop will be open to parents, educators and community members. Holmdel certificated staff in attendance will receive 2 ½ hours of professional development hours.

6. Transportation Concern: Currently 2 mini-buses provide transportation to 32 Village School students. It was determined that the students were not consistently arriving to school on time due to heavy routing assignments. Consequently, another route will be added and the students will be divided among the three mini-buses according to geography.

7. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 10th, 5:30p, at the Satz Main Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana M. Vander Woude