

Holmdel Township Board of Education

Special Services Committee

Meeting Notes for August 16, 2010

Present: Board Members: Ana M. Vander Woude—Chair, Phyllis Pascucci, Chiung-yin Liu and Dennis Pavlik
Administrators: Barbara Duncan and Meryl Gill

1. ARISE:

- a. ARISE and the Special Services Department hope to collaborate this coming school year to provide two workshops of interest to both parents and faculty. Both sides will survey their respective groups for ideas on appropriate topics.
- b. Meryl Gill shared with the committee that workshops through the Regional Professional Development Academy are available for parents free of charge. She will coordinate with ARISE to provide this information to parents.

2. STRIVE/Transition Services:

- a. Currently seven students are scheduled to participate in STRIVE this coming school year. The goal is to expand the program to identify more students that meet the criteria.
- b. STRIVE Coordinators, Susan Stanzione and Doreen Cancilleri hope to expand the program to Indian Hill; thereby providing more than the currently offered two days per week at Village School and a change of environment and conditions to our students.
- c. STRIVE will continue collaborating with Brighton Assisted Living Facility. The committee wholeheartedly supported Meryl Gill's recommendation that Brighton be recognized by the Board for the support that has been extended to our students. A recognition ceremony with a photo presentation will be planned for sometime this fall.
- d. STRIVE will collaborate with ARC of Monmouth County for workshop and job sampling opportunities. Over the summer, the students visited Borders in the Freehold Mall for a job sampling experience.

3. Transfers and New Hires:

- a. *Transfers:*
 - i. Amanda Colannino replaces Jill Niehaus as the Village School LDTC
 - ii. Kelsey Higley will be the Temporary Leave Replacement (TLR) for Stacey Campbell at Village School.
 - iii. Maria Pasquale will transfer from Indian Hill to Village as a First Grade Replacement Teacher.
 - iv. Elizabeth Smith will remain at Indian Hill, but will now serve as a special education teacher.
 - v. Janice Esposito will transfer from Village to Indian Hill as an ICR teacher.
 - vi. Kelly Burns (teacher) will transfer from Holmdel High School to Satz.
 - vii. Elizabeth Kenny-Foggin will transfer from Indian Hill to Holmdel High School to teach English and Social Studies.
- b. *New Hires:*
 - i. Andrea Lopez, ICR Spanish teacher for Holmdel High School and Satz.
 - ii. Genevieve Kotzas, 6th Grade Teacher for Indian Hill.
 - iii. Kaitlyn Mulhern, Spanish and English ICR and Replacement teacher for Holmdel High School.
 - iv. Megan Rohrbach, Speech Therapist for Indian Hill, replacing Jo Lawlor.

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

- a. The ARRA funds consist of two parts: PreK (ages 0 up to 3) and Basic (ages 3 to 21).
- b. The PreK award has been used to set up the district's new preschool program. There is roughly \$5000.00 remaining. As funding permits, it will be used to support the preschool program as follows:
 - i. Continued training and support on the preschool curriculum, High Scope
 - ii. More support and training for monitors on ABLES and ABA.
 - iii. Training on Mondays for staff development.

- c. As for the Basic component of the award, the exact amount of remaining monies is uncertain due to the fact that any staff salaries paid with ARRA funds will need to be adjusted once the teachers contract settles. Thus a reserve of ARRA funds must be set aside. After ARRA-related salaries are paid, Meryl Gill would like to allocate the monies as follows:
 - i. Technology and related consultants.
 - ii. Instructional supplies, related to professional development.
 - iii. Hire Fern Litwak as a short-term consultant to provide student-related services.
 - iv. Any remaining funds will be used to support the 2011 ESY program.

5. 2010 Extended School Year Program (ESY) Update:

- a. The ESY 2010 program concluded on August 12th. Meryl Gill reported that it was the largest program in years. It ran very smoothly and recorded excellent attendance.
- b. Sue Pniewski from MOCEANS Center for Independent Living conducted a workshop for our older students regarding transition and promoting self-advocacy.

6. Preschool Program Update:

- a. Four-year-old program: all slots are filled; 17 students per class.
- b. Three in-house ABA (Applied Behavioral Analysis) training sessions were provided to 7 monitors by Vivian Attanasio. ARRA monies were used to fund this training, conducted over June, July and August.

7. Collaborative Partnership with Monmouth University:

Mary Brennan (Specialist Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Special Education of the Special Education Department at Monmouth University) will collaborate with the Special Services Department to support our teachers in the Collaborative Team Teaching Initiative. This service will be provided at no cost to the district.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 15th, 2010, at 10a in the Upper Library Conference Room, Holmdel High School.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana M. Vander Woude