

Holmdel Township Board of Education
BOE Curriculum and Instruction Committee

Meeting Notes

November 11, 2009 – 6:00PM
Central Office Conference Room

Present

Board Members: Mike Collins, Ana Vander Woude

Administrators: Barbara Duncan, Mary Beth Currie, Bill Loughran, Eric Swensen

Absent: Mary Hartnett, Ray Tai

Testing Report – Mary Beth Currie presented the committee with the NJASK scores for Grades 3-8 and the HSPA scores from Grade 11. The scores were strong, and they allowed the District to meet Adequate Yearly Progress. A presentation about these results and the upcoming 2011-2013 Adequate Yearly Progress Benchmarks will be made at the November 18th Board Meeting.

Grade Computation – The High School administration recommends the Board adopt a modification of Regulation 5121. This will clear up confusion on how rounding is handled when calculating high school numeric grades. The committee supports this regulation modification.

Vertical Design to Visual Arts – Bill Loughran has been working on modifying the High School Visual Arts courses, so they better accommodate our students who want to pursue higher-level courses in the arts. After review from the committee, a new art, television production, and acting track will be established – with Honors-level courses being offered in the Art Department.

New Art Track Proposal (arrows follow the required course sequence):

Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	Year 4
Art 1 →	Art 2 →	Hon Adv	Hon Ceramics	Hon Art Studio	AP Art (yr)
Ceramics 1 →	Ceramics 2 →	Drawing →	III (new) →	(yr) →	
Art 1 formerly Intro Draw/Paint Art 2 formerly Draw/Paint		Can be taken in either order, Year 1 sequence required. Courses now Honors weight.		Course now Honors weight.	New AP, starting 2011-2012

New Television Production Track Proposal (arrows follow the required course sequence):

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
TV Production 1 →	TV Production 2 →	TV Production 3 (New)
(Formerly Intro TV Prod)	(Formerly Adv TV Prod)	

New Acting Track Proposal:

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
Acting – Cycle A	Acting – Cycle B	Acting – Cycle C	Acting – Cycle 4

Students may now repeat Acting for multiple semesters. Over a two-year period, four different “cycles” will be offered to ensure a different curriculum for each semester. There are no prerequisites between cycles.

High School Program of Studies – Bill Loughran and Eric Swensen presented the draft 2010-2011 Holmdel High School Program of Studies, and apprised the committee of any proposed policy changes. The committee also provided feedback on the program of studies. The document will be up for adoption in December. The following are consensus changes from last year’s program of studies:

- Clearing up language for the “Placement Criteria and Review Process”
- Course changes to a lower class must now be made by November 30, 2010.

- No course changes (i.e.: semester elective classes) will be permitted once the school year begins. The administration informed the committee that students would have ample notice to make any necessary changes over the summer.
- Delineation of courses that require summer assignments.
- AP Calculus BC will require an 80 or higher in Honors Precalc (changed from 73 or higher). Students with Honors Precalc scores between 73 and 80 are qualified to take AP Calculus AB.
- AP Economics Macro/Micro and AP Psychology have US History prerequisites. The most recent US History course completed will carry the determining grade for this prerequisite.
- Fabrication Technology will not be offered due to low enrollment.
- The Financial Literary and Economics course, which was adopted by the Board on October 28, is added.
- Special Services language is improved to discuss the STRIVE program.
- Courses modified/added, reflecting the new Visual Art tracks and courses above.

Senior Option – Prior to the 2005-2006 school year, High School seniors were allowed to take a “free” period as a senior privilege. The High School administration is recommending a return to this practice by again offering a “Senior Option” free period. The free period would be taken by seniors in lieu of an elective course that is not needed to meet state graduation requirements. The committee recommends this policy, which will require board action for adoption.

Seniors taking the “Senior Option” would have a free Period 1. Students can use the time as a study hall or to come in late at 8:13. Students without transportation can use the Satz bus runs to arrive for Period 2. With this option, seniors will be required to take the “free” period for the entire year and must take a standard lunch period.

Summer Programs and Schedules – The schedule for the Extended School Year and Summer Enrichment Programs was discussed. This discussion is being deferred to the Special Services Committee for further review.

Proposed Summer Curriculum – The committee supports the curriculum projects for 27 courses.

Donations – The committee recommends the acceptance of the following gracious donations:

- \$6,100 from the PTSO to fund an LCD TV purchase
- \$22,404 from the PSA in non-monetary gifts to support a multitude of initiatives

The next meeting is scheduled for December 9th, 6:00PM, Central Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Collins