

Holmdel Township Board of Education

Special Education Committee

Meeting Notes for May 21, 2008

Present: Ana M. Vander Woude—Chair, Mary F. Hartnett, Michael L. Collins, Jim Shelton, Meryl Gill, Ron Rosenberg, and Mary Beth Currie.

Absent: Barbara Duncan.

1. Proposed Developmental Kindergarten (Presentation by Meryl and Ron)

Rationale: Increasing student population whose learning readiness is beyond our Preschool Disabled program, but not our general education kindergarten program—in terms of age, and academic and social development.

Curriculum:

- Combination of Brigance (benchmark assessment tool) and Land of Letter People Kindergarten Program.
- Aligned with Core Curriculum Standards, NCLB (No Child Left Behind Act), and Early Reading First Initiative.
- “Least Restrictive Environment” philosophy: Integration of students with typical peers during “specials”, e.g., art, music, and library.
- Goals and objectives will be IEP driven.

Proposed Staff: 1 teacher (Teacher of Disabled/Teacher of Handicapped) and 1 monitor.

Class Size: 5 Students

Program Development/Research:

- Consultation with in-district special services personnel, including a special education kindergarten teacher who presently co-teaches in a general education kindergarten.
- Intervisitation: Meryl and Ron have consulted the Wall Township School District, where a developmental kindergarten program has been in place for the last 3 to 4 years. That program also employs the “Land of the Letter People” curriculum. An intervisitation is scheduled for June 2nd.

Budget: (Our district is mandated by state and federal laws to implement special services programs as the needs arise.)

- Land of Letter People Kindergarten Curriculum: Start-up program previously purchased from HFEE donation and is already in use in the Autism program.
- Curriculum support materials will be budgeted from Special Services monies.
- Staff: General budget.

Supporting Documentation Provided:

- Developmental Kindergarten Program (outline of curriculum)
- Welcome to Land of Letter People (curriculum methodology)
- Handwriting Without Tears (curriculum support)
- Tentative Daily Schedule for Developmental Kindergarten

2. Items for the Good of the Order

- a. Committee Structure and Description: Meryl provided the committee members with a document entitled “Committee Structure & Description”, referencing the role of the Special Education Committee. It will be discussed at our next meeting.
- b. STRIVE (Student Transition Readiness Independence Vocational Experience) Program: At the invitation of the Holmdel Kiwanis Club, Meryl will present to the club members on the program on June 11th. Hopefully, this will create new recruitment opportunities for our student participating in STRIVE.

3. Next Meeting: June 25, 2008 at 10a in the Central Office conference room

Respectfully submitted,

Ana M. Vander Woude