

**Holmdel Township Board of Education**  
**Special Education Committee**  
**Combined Meeting Notes for May 21, 2009 and June 10, 2009**

**Present:** Board Members: Ana M. Vander Woude–Chair, Mary F. Hartnett, Jim Shelton and Chiung-yin Liu

Administrators: Barbara Duncan, Meryl Gill and Ron Rosenberg

**Absent:** Mary F. Hartnett (06-10-09 meeting)

*Unless otherwise specified, the agenda items below were discussed at both meetings.*

**1. Integrated Preschool Program:**

- a. Present enrollment: 14 General Education students and 16 Special Education students.
- b. There is a capacity of 36 General Education students allowable.
- c. A second round of advertising will be initiated and will include local newspapers, local businesses, doctors' offices and district kid mail.
- d. Meryl Gill and Mary Beth Currie have been collaborating with a consultant, Mark Miles, in the development of the program.
- e. Curriculum: No specific curriculum has been selected yet. Consideration is being given to various research-based curriculum including High Scope and Tools of the Mind.
- f. Chiung-yin queried about the safety of the preschoolers at pick up and drop off times due to the increased flow of traffic and people at Village School with the new program. It was explained that this should be a nonissue since the anticipated volume of traffic should be similar to years past when the program was operated by the YMCA . Moreover, the same procedures for pick up and drop off will remain in place.

**2. Policy Review:**

- a. Policy 5141.21: Administering Medication: The committee had previously reviewed this amendment to the existing policy. Concerns raised by committee members have been addressed and revisions made accordingly. The policy will be presented to the full board for approval.
- b. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the committee was asked to review a new policy: 5141.22, Life Threatening Allergies. Committee members were to forward any comments to Ana by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Comments and concerns were compiled by Ana and forwarded to Meryl, who will submit the policy to legal for review.

**3. Summer American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Application:  
(Discussed June 10, 2009)**

- a. General Overview: ARRA is the economic stimulus package signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. A component of the new law directs funding to special education. ARRA is to provide a short-term infusion of funding with the goal of producing sustainable long-term benefit.
- b. The funding is intended for a two-year period, commencing Summer 2009. Transparency is a major component of the new law. Consequently, the request for funding requires the completion of a detailed application explaining how the funds, if awarded, would be allocated. The application is subdivided into two parts: Summer 2009 and the remaining school years and summers, concluding in 2011. The summer application was only made available to the district one week prior to the submission deadline. Tremendous recognition is owed to Meryl Gill and all building administrators for developing an action plan and completing the application in such a short period of time.

- c. Estimated funding to be awarded is over \$900,000. Greater detail will be provided as to the allocation of such funds if and, hopefully, when said funds are awarded. Tentative allocations include funding for the ESY program, assistive technology, and the preschool consultant.

**4. Tuition Students:** There will be two news students from Matawan entering the district's autistic program: one in preschool and the other in kindergarten. In determining the tuition for tuition-based students, cost-based factors such as teacher's salaries, supplies and related services (e.g., therapies) are considered.

**5. Extended School Year Program (ESY): July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 7<sup>th</sup>**

- a. There will be an estimated 50 children in ESY. Depending on the grade, the students will attend 4 or 5 days per week. Transportation will be provided.
- b. Additionally, there will be about 20 students receiving supplemental instruction. They will attend 2 days per week for an hour. Transportation will not be provided.
- c. All students will be at Village School.
- d. The program for the high school multiply disabled students combines academic and vocational (STRIVE) instruction. Students are instructed in life skills in the community.
- e. Additionally, an Orientation Mobility Counselor works weekly with visually impaired students on life skills training in the community.

**6. Self-Assessment Update:** Based on the input received during the self-assessment process, Ron and Meryl developed a priority list that will target for improvement the following areas:

- a. College Fairs for Special Education,
- b. Communication between General Education Staff and Parents,
- c. Assistive Technology Training,
- d. Notice to Students in August of Their General Education Teachers' Names,
- e. Bus Driver Training,
- f. Software for Transition and Additional Activities,
- g. Parent Training: Guardianship and Wills,
- h. Additional Electives for Multiply Disabled Class,
- i. Survey of Recent Graduates,
- j. AYP Activities,
- k. Integrated Pre-School Activities,
- l. Positive Behavioral Supports, and
- m. Social Skills Training.

**7. Annual Review**

The committee approved a document drafted by Ana that summarized the committee's work product for 2008-2009 school year. It is attached herewith.

**8. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, July 30, 2009 at 9:30a at the Village School Child Study Team Conference Room.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ana M. Vander Woude**