



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE"*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **STAFF MEMBER'S APPOINTMENT GREETED WITH STANDING OVATION**

HOLMDEL (October 5, 2016) – It was an extremely special moment for board members and one township family at last week's Board of Education meeting when the board approved Holmdel High School alumnus Timmy McDonnell to work in the district as a Childcare Aide for its Kindergarten Wrap-Around Program.

Two years ago this week, Timmy, who was then a student at Rutgers University, was struck by a drunk driver and sustained a severe, life-threatening head injury. Since then, the road to recovery has been paved by Timmy's determination and his family's support. "I refuse to let my adversity define me and I thank God for giving me a second chance," he said.

It was by coincidence that Timmy happened to be at the meeting last Wednesday night as part of an assignment for a course he is taking at Brookdale Community College. For Timmy, the evening turned out to be much more than simply fulfilling a course requirement as he described the moment the board motion was read and the standing ovation he received as "the thrill of a lifetime." "I was honored to be approved to work at Village School, where I attended as a child," he said.

Reflecting on the meeting and the agenda item Timmy's mom Clare said, "Our family is thrilled beyond words for Timmy to be given this opportunity." "We never lost hope that Timmy would resume his life one day and we know that it would never have happened without the support our family received from the Holmdel Schools and all the caring people of this wonderful town."

During the board's discussion of the motion to approve Timmy, Board Member Mike Sockol commented, "To see Tim here tonight and in a position to be part of our family in the school district is heartwarming." "I cannot think of moments that will give me more pleasure than [approving] this particular [agenda] item," he added.

In addition to his work for the Kindergarten Wrap-Around Program, the board also approved Timmy to observe Physical Education teacher John Nacarolo as part of his plan to one day become a Physical Education teacher.