



# HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGENDA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL  
APRIL 19, 2023 6:00 PM  
PUBLIC MEETING APPROXIMATELY 7:00 P.M.

## *Mission Statement*

*The mission of the Holmdel Township Public Schools is to provide a comprehensive and caring educational environment that will develop the potential of every student into achievement. In partnership with our community, the School District will support all of our students' efforts to meet and exceed the New Jersey Student Learning Standards, and to become responsible and resourceful citizens and lifelong learners.*

### A. Call to Order

The Board of Education, Township of Holmdel, met in a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at Holmdel High School, 36 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Reddy, Board President.

### B. Open Public Meetings Act

Statement is hereby made that adequate notice of this meeting was given by:

- Posting written notice prominently on the bulletin board in the Office of the Board of Education, 65 McCampbell Road, Holmdel, New Jersey, the District's website and sent to the four district schools.
- The mailing and/or hand delivery of said notice to the designated newspapers, Asbury Park Press, Star Ledger, the PLG, PSG, PSA, PTSO, SAB presidents and student representatives to the Board.
- Filing with the Clerk of Holmdel Township, Police Headquarters and Public Library.

### C. Roll Call

The following Board members were present: Mesdames: Briamonte and Tuccillo. Messrs: Reddy, DiMare and Mann. Absent: Mr. Wall, Dr. Collur, Mrs. Zhang and Mr. Buckley. Also present, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Mr. Paul Green, Board Attorney. Student Representatives to the Board, Ms. Trinity Han and Ms. Anugna Parvateneni were absent.

### D. Resolution for Executive Session

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, specifically N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b, permits a public body to go into an Executive (Closed) Session during a public meeting to discuss certain matters specified in the statute; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has determined that it is necessary to go into an Executive Closed Session to discuss matters relating to certain items as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the Township of Holmdel that it shall adjourn into Closed Session at this time to discuss the following subject matter(s) without the presence of the public in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b and 10:4-13:

1. Student matters

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2. Personnel matters
3. Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, it is not yet possible to determine when the matters discussed in Closed Session will be made public; the matter(s) discussed will be made known to the public at such time as appropriate action is taken on said matter(s), and when disclosure will not result in unwarranted invasion of individual privacy or prejudice to the best interests of the Board of Education, provided such disclosures will not violate Federal, State, or local statutes or regulations and do not fall within the attorney-client privilege.

MOTION: Mrs. Tuccillo SECOND: Mrs. Briamonte  
Show of Hands to Accept – All Approved

At 6:03 PM, the meeting moved to Executive Session.

E. Motion to Return to Public Session

Resolved: That the Board of Education returns to public session.

MOTION: Mrs. Briamonte SECOND: Mrs. Tuccillo  
Show of Hands to Accept – All Approved

At 6:56 PM, the meeting returned to public session.

F. Call to Order

The Board of Education, Township of Holmdel, met in a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at Holmdel High School, 36 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 6:56 p.m. by Mr. Reddy, Board President.

G. Opening Statement

Meetings of the Board are open to the public and all members of the community should feel free to participate:

- There is one opportunity for the public to speak.
- Any individual desiring to speak shall give his or her name, address, and the group, if any, that is represented.
- The presentation shall be as brief as possible but no more than three (3) minutes per individual.
- There are certain matters that may be brought before the board that cannot be immediately addressed in public. Such matters may be referred by the president to a board committee and/or to the Superintendent for consideration and/or resolution.
- The board vests in its president, or other presiding officer, authority to terminate the remarks of any individual if he/she deems it in the best interest of those present to do so.

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H. Roll Call/Flag Salute

The following Board members were present: Mesdames: Briamonte, Collur and Tuccillo. Messrs: Reddy, Wall, Buckley, DiMare and Mann. Absent: Mrs. Zhang. Also present, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Mr. Paul Green, Board Attorney. Student Representatives to the Board, Ms. Trinity Han and Ms. Anugna Parvateneni were absent.

I. Old Business

1. Street and Road Improvements near Schools

Mr. Wall requested this topic be discussed. He referenced the entrance to the High School and Satz and if there has been any communication between Administration and the Township regarding this matter. Dr. Cascone provided an overview and Mr. Reddy provided an update as to what was communicated to the Township Mayor/Deputy Mayor regarding sharing the PILOT Revenue. Mr. Wall requested feedback from the rest of the Board regarding this topic resulting in a discussion amongst the Board.

2. Strategic Plan Update – Ad hoc Board Committee

Dr. Cascone provided an update regarding the status of the Strategic Plan and referenced the Ad Hoc Board Committee and inquired if Mr. Reddy and the Board would be interested. Several Board members expressed interest and Mr. Reddy will follow up with Dr. Cascone regarding the applicable Board members for the Ad Hoc Committee.

3. Energy Update / Options

Mr. Petrizzo provided an update, reviewed the options and referenced the trigger resolution required to authorize an electricity auction. The Board agreed to move forward with the trigger resolution which will be included on the April 26, 2023 agenda for approval.

4. Mrs. Tuccillo referenced last month's Guidance Survey and feels the District would benefit from having a Guidance Director and suggested that Administration advertise to hire a Director or Supervisor of Guidance Services resulting in a Board discussion. Dr. Cascone thanked the Board for their feedback regarding this matter.

J. New Business

1. Review of Action Agenda items for April 26, 2023 Regular Business Meeting

Dr. Cascone and Mr. Petrizzo reviewed the applicable action items on the agenda for approval.

2. High School Start Time

Dr. Cascone provided an overview of the Start Time Bill being analyzed (by the State) with an anticipated 2024/2025 school year implementation. He shared that, with a change in time would mean that transportation routes would be true 'triple' routes, which is not only doable but would result in financial and operational efficiencies, however, that wouldn't be the main 'driver' of the time change. The High School and Satz Complex would run 8:15 a.m. - 3:04 p.m., Indian Hill would run 7:45 a.m. - 2:24 p.m. and Village would remain the same.

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Dr. Kukoda provided additional information regarding the impact on Lab times and Lunches. Mr. Loughran provided additional information as to the impact on Satz classes and lunch. The Board provided comments and asked questions. Mrs. Tuccillo referenced the possibility of opening up extra help and clubs with the longer lunch periods. She asked if taking away the rotating schedule will impact students with regard to Math, English or Literacy achievement (either positively or negatively). Dr. Collur inquired as to why the Indian Hill Start time is earlier than High School and Satz. Dr. Cascone responded that research has shown that younger students typically rise earlier and the importance of and need for increased sleep amongst adolescents. Mr. Wall asked how this works with Special Education students. Dr. Kukoda, Mr. Loughran and Ms. Lamoglia responded to Mr. Wall's questions. Mr. Reddy asked Dr. Cascone to move forward with a survey of the parents. Dr. Cascone stated that his recommendation would be to first start with the Union and addressing the contract. Mrs. Tuccillo provided additional comments regarding start/end times and stated that perhaps some parents have older students they need at home to get younger siblings off the bus. Mr. DiMare referenced the Satz and High School students being on the bus together, current bus issues and transportation costs.

3. Textbook / Book Review Policies and Procedures

Mr. DiMare provided the reasons why he wanted this topic discussed. Dr. Collur stated that it would be difficult for her to make a decision regarding whether or not certain books are appropriate without reading each of them and feels that Administration should be determining whether or not certain books are appropriate. Dr. Cascone provided additional information on this topic and shared information on the public complaint and grievance process. Mrs. Tuccillo provided comments and stated that she hopes parents utilize the chain of command, rather than making the Board the first stop. Mr. DiMare also provided additional comments regarding reviewing and vetting appropriate books and materials. Dr. Cascone responded that this topic can be discussed further at the May Committee of the Whole Meeting.

4. Mrs. Tuccillo stated that HYAA will be providing a Letter of Intent to donate a new scoreboard at Indian Hill School.

5. Mr. Reddy referenced revisiting the Cardiac Awareness program that was implemented just before COVID and possibly reinstating the program.

6. Mr. Reddy referenced the HFEE's Gala that is scheduled for next week and shared that about 400+ folks will be going. He also shared that the Battle of the Faculties was held about two weeks ago and congratulated Mrs. Vitale on Indian Hill School's win.

7. Mr. DiMare referenced comments that parents make about the food quality. Mr. Reddy stated that Chartwells and Edvocate will be at the May 24, 2023 Board Meeting to present.

8. Mr. DiMare asked if we are doing the survey of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders regarding their experiences in Math based on a comment that one of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students made about loving math because it was only one period rather than a double block.

9. Mrs. Tuccillo referenced the following two topics she emailed Mr. Reddy about to add for discussion at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting: Complimentary testing and negative feedback she's hearing about National Honor Society and the new rules.

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K. Questions or Comments from the Public

- Mr. Lahage, parent, spoke in support of changing the school start times and referenced his 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Mrs. Brew, parent, provided a historical perspective as to why parents were concerned (which was the Village School parents) with the change of the end of the day (by 5 minutes). She also shared the timeline that was followed when we implemented the rotating schedule and has full confidence that the start time adjustment can be implemented quickly. She also encouraged getting feedback from the Parent Groups and SABS. Lastly, she supported changing the start times and referenced what Brookdale did adding the roundabout which has helped with traffic/egress.
- Mr. Loughran provided additional comments/clarity regarding the process that parents can follow with complaints. Mr. Wall and Mr. DiMare responded and Dr. Cascone provided final comments.

L. Executive Session (if required) – None

M. Adjournment

Board President Reddy called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DiMare motioned, Mrs. Briamonte seconded and by a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA  
Business Administrator/Board Secretary