

Holmdel Township Board of Education

Special Services Committee

Meeting Notes for February 17, 2010

Present: Board Members: Ana M. Vander Woude—Chair, Mary F. Hartnett, and Chiung-yin Liu
Administrators: Meryl Gill

Absent: Barbara Duncan

- 1. Disclosure of Records:** On February 2nd, the district was directed to mail a Notice of Disclosure of Student Records and Objection to Disclosure of Student Records to all parents of classified students in accordance with an order of the US District Court. In a federal lawsuit, several advocacy agencies allege that the New Jersey Department of Education and several other parties have violated the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA) and other related laws by failing to educate children with disabilities in the Least Restrictive Environment. Student records have been requested as part of the discovery phase of the lawsuit. Please note that no issues of noncompliance have been raised specifically with Holmdel in relation to this lawsuit. Every school district in the state must comply with the request to provide said information.
- 2. Budget Presentation:** The committee discussed what factors should comprise the Special Services section of the State of the District presentation. Ana will prepare a draft presentation for the committee's review at its March meeting.
- 3. Supervisor of Special Services:** Since June 2009, The Special Services Department has been operating without Ron Rosenberg, the Consultant for Special Services, due to a leave of absence attributed to personal health issues. In the hope that Ron would return in the near future, our staff district-wide has assisted Meryl to offset his absence. Unfortunately, we were recently placed on notice that Ron would be unable to return indefinitely.

Thus, Meryl is formally requesting the board to consider finding a replacement for Ron and renaming the position "Supervisor of Special Services." This would be a full-time, 12-month administrative position directly reporting to the Director of Special Services. Meryl is in the process of developing a job description. The position would encompass that of the Transition Coordinator previously developed as a separate position.
- 4. Holmdel Preschool Program Update:**
 - a. 2010-11 Enrollment: The 4-year-old program is full for tuition-based students. A placement lottery was required due to strong community interest. Eleven of 15 eligible tuition-based spots have been filled for the three-year-old program.
 - b. The HighScope curriculum will be presented to the C&I Committee for approval.
- 5. Extended School Year Program (ESY) Update:** The Summer 2010 ESY program is scheduled for July 6th to August 12th. It will be held 4 days per week, from 9a to 1p, and will be inclusive of a lunch period. The possibility of ESY students participating in suitable Academic Enrichment classes will be explored in consideration of the fact that both programs are offered at Village School.
- 6. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Update:** Additional professional development workshops will be provided to our staff using ARRA funds. The Mary Fowler workshops on ADHD Strategies and Classroom Management will be provided to Satz and High School staff and well as Intervention and Referral Services (I&RS) teams. Additionally, an all-day workshop will be held on February 22nd on Collaborative Team Teaching. Four teams from each district school will participate.
- 7. Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 10a at the Central Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana M. Vander Woude