

Holmdel Township Board of Education

Special Education Committee

Meeting Notes for August 25, 2009

Present: Board Members: Ana M. Vander Woude–Chair, Jim Shelton and Chiung-yin Liu
Administrators: Barbara Duncan and Meryl Gill

Absent: Mary F. Hartnett and Ron Rosenberg

1. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Update:

- a. Total ARRA Award: \$993,983.00 (The District’s nonpublic share obligation has lowered to \$139,779 from the previously reported amount of (\$166,280.);
 - i. Allocation: The application deadline for the second part of ARRA is August 28th. The board is required to vote on the submission of said application. Consequently it will be added to the BOE agenda for August 26th. Listed below are focus areas of need that have been identified for this application. The cost for each area has yet to be finalized. Although the transparency element of ARRA requires the district to provide a list of proposed allocations, amendments to the application are permitted after filing.
 - 2) *Extended School Year 2010:* The goal is for all costs to be covered, including teacher salaries;
 - 3) *Transition Support Services;*
 - 4) *Assistive Technology:* This will encompass both equipment and professional development. In the spirit of ARRA’s goal to fund self-sustaining programs, the district hopes to extend professional training to those who can serve as future trainers to our staff; thereby reducing future professional development costs by providing such services in-house; and
 - 5) Professional Development.

2. Integrated Preschool Program Update:

- a. Present enrollment: 14 General Education students and 16 Special Education students. Since all 36 spots available this school year for General Education students have not been filled, the program will accept additional students on a rolling admission.
- b. Parent mini-conferences will be held on Wednesday, September 9th for the parents of all enrolled students.
- c. Class Schedules:
 - 1) 2 Morning sessions, targeting the younger preschoolers,
 - 2) 2 Afternoon sessions, targeting the older preschools, and
 - 3) 1 full-day Preschool-Disabled session. This class will commence Monday, September 14th.
- d. Classroom Configurations (Maximum): 9 General Education students and 6 Special Education students per class.

The half-day classes will commence Tuesday, September 15 th .
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3. Policy Review: Policy 5141.22: Life Threatening Allergies:

- a. The committee had reviewed this policy in May. Comments and concerns raised by committee members have been addressed and revisions made accordingly. The first reading of policy to the full board will be on August 26th.
- b. Prior to the commencement of the school year, training in life threatening allergies will be provided to two different groups of district staff:
 - 1) Bus drivers and bus aides: Training by Meryl Gill, Bill Balicki and Cynthia Kuperman.
 - 2) Lunch monitors: Training is presently scheduled for Village School and Indian Hill School. It will be overseen by Dr. Ledford and Mr. Saponaro respectively with the school nurses. Additionally the parents of students with life-threatening allergies have been invited to attend.
- c. The school nurses at each of the district schools will meet with parents to develop Allergy Action Plans.

4. Items for the Good of the Order:

Committee Name Change to “Special Services Committee”: To change the name of a standing committee, board approval is required. At the August 26th meeting, Ana will raise this issue for discussion by the full board. Subject to any objections, it will be formally placed on the agenda for the Board’s September 16th meeting.

5. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 16th, 5:30p, at the Satz Main Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ana M. Vander Woude