

Holmdel Township Board of Education
BOE Buildings and Grounds Committee

Meeting Notes

January 11, 2011 – 5:30 PM

Central Office Conference Room

Present

Board Members: Mike Collins, Dennis Pavlik, Mike Sockol, Robin Wetmore

Administrators: Barbara Duncan, Michael Petrizzo, Bill Balicki

Transportation Review – The District is currently reviewing our transportation operations with our consultant from Transportation Advisory Services (TAS). The consultant is preparing a report that will highlight ways to improve services and find efficiencies. The committee had preliminary discussions on the transportation review, and will discuss the matter further at subsequent meetings.

Facility Closing – The Committee discussed and reviewed the facility closing from January 7 to January 9 and the following addresses the Committee's discussion:

In response to questions about the District's facility closing on 1/7 to 1/9, the Board's Buildings and Grounds Committee reviewed the administration's decision to close facilities. At our January 11, 2011 meeting, members Michael Collins, Dennis Pavlik, Michael Sockol, and Robin Wetmore reviewed and discussed the matter with Central Office administrators. The Committee offers the following to provide an overview of the events in question and offer prospective recommendations to assuage future concerns.

On January 7, 2011, the Central Office administration made the decision to close all District facilities. This decision was made in consideration of the weather forecast and concerns about the lack of grounds staffing in the District on weekends. In this context, the facilities were ordered closed through the end of the weekend on January 9, 2011.

The closure decision was communicated to our Regular User Groups. Despite this notice, the closure had an adverse impact on our Regular User Groups. With the District's facilities closed for the entire weekend, many groups were forced to cancel previously scheduled activities. Compounding frustrations about the closure, the weather conditions on the ground were more favorable than anticipated and did not warrant a facility closure if health and safety maintenance was performed (i.e.: salting and shoveling) at additional cost to the District.

The Committee believes that under the framework of Board Regulation 1330, the District has agreed to provide facility usage to our Regular User Groups, at booked times, for the established fee. To this end, the Committee believes facility usage for Regular User Groups should be rendered as long as building access does not constitute a health, safety, and welfare concern (the criterion used for a school closing). This belief is pursuant to the terms established and agreed to by both the Board and Regular User Groups in August 2010.

In this light, the Committee recommends that the Board reaffirm the District's commitment to render facility use for all scheduled weekends, except when weather conditions would ordinarily result in a school closing. The Committee is appreciative of the administration's commitment to fiscal prudence during these challenging times and recognizes that this directive may result in additional costs. However, the Committee believes such costs should not prevent

the District from operating under the established pretenses between the Board and our Regular User Groups.

The administration will continue to monitor the costs of maintaining our facilities in all weather conditions, and the Committee will continue to support this endeavor and provide recommendations to the Board on this matter. In consideration of budget constraints, the administration advises that the Board further review Board Regulation 1330. The Committee will review Board Regulation 1330, and take all costs into account, when making fee recommendations during the next annual facility use review (in June). In the interim, the Committee does not support modifying fees mid-term.

The Committee regrets any inconvenience that occurred on the weekend of January 7, 2011, and the Committee hopes this review helps affirm the Holmdel Township Public Schools' commitment to fostering a positive relationship with our Regular User Groups.

Facility Closing and Student Athletics – This facility closing decision (as discussed above) was miscommunicated at the school level, creating unnecessary confusion. Regretfully, student athletes and coaches arrived at the high school over the weekend only to encounter a closed building. The administration has since reviewed protocols to prevent a recurrence in miscommunication.

Hook Up Requirements for the Roggy Field Trailer – The Roggy Field Trailer will require hook-ups to the fire alarm, electrical, and burglar alarm systems to meet code (at no cost to the Board).

Roggy Field Press Box Status – The Township has condemned the press box at Roggy Field due to structural deficiencies. Since the only remedy is to replace it, more discussion is needed regarding the funding source.

Light Fixtures – The Buildings Department has completed a replacement of all electrical components in older light fixtures.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 8, 2011 at 5:30 PM in the Central Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Collins
Chairman
Buildings and Grounds Committee