



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE”

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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Community Relations Committee Meeting

5:30 PM - December 6, 2022

Google Meet

**In attendance Virtually: Vice President Zhang, Mr. Wall, Mr. Hammer, Mr. Reddy, &
Dr. Cascone**

The meeting began at approximately 5:40 and concluded at approximately 6:45.

I. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Outreach to Non-School Community Members-The committee discussed feedback received by the board from a community member regarding school district outreach and communication with town residents without children enrolled in the district's schools.

Dr. Cascone solicited input and historical feedback from the committee on ways in which this has been done in the past and/or proposed. The committee volunteered the following items for consideration for the administration and board.

- Work with the Town Committee to establish a school district column in the township newsletter.
- Administration visits township senior centers and community centers to introduce themselves and share information about the district.
- Provide free admission to athletic and performing arts events for seniors.
- Create a database of graduating seniors and other student organizations to include in future communications.
- List the township website on the district homepage and vice versa.

- Best practice: Consider holding a joint public meeting between the TC and BOE.
- Consider having meetings on the road at community centers, Bell Works, etc.

B. Draft 2023-24 BOE Meeting Calendar

Dr. Cascone solicited feedback from the committee regarding the prudence of presenting the “not to exceed”, preliminary budget; the committee was unanimously in favor of doing so. Mr. Wall expressed the value of having relevant administrators present at the presentation to perhaps speak to the rationale for budgetary decisions/recommendations. Mr. Hammer expressed the importance of also being succinct.

Mr. Wall suggested the prospect of the administration drafting two calendars, one with Committee of the Whole and one without to be moved forward for consideration, selection, and approval at the January 4th reorg meeting. The committee unanimously agreed that this was an appropriate course of action.

II. OLD BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Health Education Survey Launch

Dr. Cascone updated the committee with regard to the recent launch of the health education parent survey. He reported that the survey was working well and that the district had received approximately 500 responses to date. He also shared that parent questions have been coming in both technical as well as curricular, and are being answered accordingly by the technology and curriculum departments.

Mr. Wall inquired as to the number of opt-ins which have been received. Dr. Cascone shared that while he did not have that data at his fingertips for this meeting, he would provide regular updates to the board through his weekly superintendent’s report to them.

Mr. Wall followed up with regard to the board’s consensus request for a corresponding board policy and set of regulations to align with the district’s approach to the health education curriculum. Dr. Cascone shared that he would have a well developed policy and regulations to share with the board for first reading at the January meeting.

B. Committee of the Whole

Mr. Wall had requested of Ms. Zhang as committee chairperson if the Committee of the Whole could be added to the agenda, Ms. Zhang consented. The committee engaged in a conversation exploring the prospect of moving to COW in 2023 transitioning from the current non-quorum subcommittees of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Services, Community Relations, Personnel, Business/Finance and Buildings, Grounds, and Safety. The following points were raised and discussed.

- Dr. Cascone recommended checking Board Bylaws/Policy to determine if the current committee format/structure is codified therein and thus would need to be revised?

0155 - BOARD COMMITTEES Dr. Cascone pulled the linked, relevant board bylaw, it would appear that it would require some modification, though legal counsel should be sought to confirm.

- How would the Personnel committee function? Would it be a separate committee? Or would all that confidential business be addressed in a closed executive session prior to the COW?
- Board would meet twice a month, public COW would occur on the 2nd week of the month with the public meeting on the 4th.
- Possible February start to COW with one month to transition. Dr. Cascone shared his point of view that adequate time should be provided in order to ensure: the administration was prepared for the shift, the board was prepared to make and operate within the shift, and that new BOE members have an opportunity to work within the current structure before being asked to vote on the change and perhaps on a revised board bylaw. Mr. Wall offered his thoughts that the transition and shift should be relatively easy and smooth.
- All committee members support Mrs. Zhang as long as meetings were not unreasonably long, when considering the length of the current sub committee meetings.

III. ITEMS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

A. Mr. Reddy circled back to the information item he raised at the previous public meeting regarding the naming of the Roggy field announcing booth after Mr. Baronowsky. Dr. Cascone recommended reviewing the relevant board policy to align the process as appropriate and necessary. Dr. Cascone pulled the relevant policy and statute for the review of the committee. Mrs. Zhang and the committee agreed on the importance of conducting a thorough vetting of any recommended nominations.
Policy 7250 - SCHOOL AND FACILITY NAMES
Regulation 7250 - NAMING OF FACILITIES

B. Mr. Reddy reminded the committee about past discussions to start a Holmdel Hall of Fame.

[HTAA MOA](#): Mr. Wall inquired with Mr. Reddy, the agreed upon points in the MOA. This document will be shared with the full board on 12-7 and discussed in depth at the personnel, and finance on 12-9.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 2-23, Date and Time, TBD