



HOLMDEL TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AGENDA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HOLMDEL HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 24, 2024 6:00 P.M.
PUBLIC MEETING APPROXIMATELY 7:00 P.M.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Holmdel Township School District is to provide a well-rounded and inclusive education that empowers all students to reach their full potential and thrive. We believe that excellence comes from building strong relationships, embracing a positive attitude toward growth, overcoming challenges with determination, and celebrating our unique differences. Through teamwork and cooperation, we aim to create an environment where students can succeed academically as life-long learners and responsible global citizens.

A. Call to Order

The Board of Education, Township of Holmdel, met in a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at Holmdel High School, 36 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mr. Wall, 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: Collur (at 6:01 p.m.), LoPresti and Tuccillo. Messrs: Wall, DiMare, Mann and Libecchi. Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy. Also present, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Mr. Kyle Trent, Board Attorney. Student Representatives to the Board, Ms. Anugna Parvateneni and Mr. Jack Powers 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:

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1. Student matters
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: Mr. Mann SECOND: Dr. Collur VOTE: 7-0
Absent: Mr. Reddy and Mr. Buckley

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

E. Motion to Return to Public Session

MOTION: Mr. Mann SECOND: Mrs. Tuccillo VOTE: 7-0

At 7:00 p.m., the meeting returned to public session.

F. Call to Order

The Board of Education, Township of Holmdel, met in a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at Holmdel High School, 36 Crawfords Corner Road, Holmdel, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Wall, 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: Collur, LoPresti and Tuccillo. Messrs: Wall, DiMare, Mann and Libecchi. Absent: Mr. Buckley and Mr. Reddy. Also present, Dr. J. Scott Cascone, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA, Business Administrator/Board Secretary and Mr. Kyle Trent, Board Attorney. Student Representatives to the Board, Ms. Anugna Parvateneni and Mr. Jack Powers were absent.

I. Questions or Comments from the Public - None

J. Old Business

1. Chartwells Menus: Nutrition Facts

Dr. Collur stated the Board is looking into the Food Service Program to provide more healthy options presented in more attractive way and to try and reduce unhealthier options. They would like to increase the number of promotional days, where a new item is introduced and for Satz and the High School, nutritional values are posted for students to make healthier choices. Dr. Collur and Mr. Libecchi will be visiting the program on Friday. Mr. Libecchi provided additional comments and shared that nutrition can always be promoted a little better, especially at the younger grades. He shared that he is excited to get in there, see what is going on, see where we can make some recommendations and hopefully create a better environment for the kids. Dr. Cascone thanked Dr. Collur for championing this initiative and shared that we have enhanced the interactive Nutrislice menu to include nutritional value. He also stated that, going forward, representatives from Chartwells will attend all monthly parent group meetings and this will be a good opportunity for them to gather feedback and also to share information. Mr. DiMare applauded Dr. Collur's persistence with this matter and thanked Mr. Libecchi for getting involved. Mr. Wall echoed Mr. DiMare's comments regarding the Food Service Program and also referenced Mr. Mann and others investing their time and visiting to tour and the facilities to check HVAC systems, whether rooms are comfortable and the number of work orders from a maintenance perspective, all help to improve the communication between Administration and the Board.

2. Mr. DiMare provided an update from the January 15th meeting that he and Mr. Wall attended with the Township Committee, regarding opportunities to work together on. Items discussed:

- A. SLEO III – The Township covering 100% of these costs for 2024.
- B. Complex Ingress/Egress Project
- C. Turf field lights (potential 50/50 sharing of cost estimated at \$370,000)
- D. Duncan Smith Theater Renovations/Improvements/Updates (estimated at \$75,000)

3. Complex Ingress/Egress Project

Mr. Wall provided an overview of the much-needed road improvement project on Crawfords Corner Road in and out of the High School/William R. Satz Middle School Complex. He shared that this is a municipal roadway project that impacts the entire community and he is looking forward to continuing the conversation and working with the Township and other appropriate parties to solve this problem. This is a very important project that is extremely overdue.

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4. Resuming Addy's House Discussion/Special Education Opportunity

Mr. Wall stated that he has had conversations with Dr. Cascone and Ms. Lamoglia about utilizing that building for Life Skills/Special Education opportunities. Ms. Lamoglia provided additional comments regarding potential special education opportunities and Dr. Cascone provided additional information and also provided an overview of the Feasibility Study completed by Spiezle Architects. Mrs. Tuccillo made comments about budget concerns expressed in prior meetings (possibly decreasing staff members and increasing class size) and isn't sure why we are thinking about spending \$2 million plus on this. She asked about a possible alternative, demolishing the home and placing a modular home in its place to keep costs down. She loves the idea of placing the STARS program there but is concerned about the size and cost of the actual project in trying to get it up to code. Mr. Wall stated he is reluctant to demolish the home and went on to provide additional information. He shared that we would arrange a time for the new Board Members to tour the house. Dr. Collur made comments and provided some additional ideas on preserving the history of the building while keeping project costs down.

5. AI Policy

Mr. Wall asked if all Board Members have reviewed the draft AI Policy. Board members were good with the draft and Dr. Cascone confirmed that it will be included for first reading on the January 31, 2024 agenda. Dr. Collur thanked Dr. Irwin for her efforts in putting this draft policy together.

6. New Turf Field Lights

Mr. Wall provided an overview of the topic and stated there were four options – no lights, full funding of the lights, 50/50 split or split the cost 1/3, 1/3, 1/3. He shared that the Township Committee is waiting on a letter from the Board, indicating how we would like to proceed. Mr. Wall feels the entire project should be funded by PILOT funds but we need to get the lights on for the kids so his opinion is a 50/50 split. Mr. DiMare shared that he would like to see 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 with the volunteer sports groups contributing, however, we need to get these lights up and take some action so he is in agreement with the Board funding 50% as long as the Township is in agreement with funding the other half. Mrs. Tuccillo shared her concerns and stated it is unfortunate that we need to use any of our budget to fund this project when our student athletes will not be using lights on the field. Mr. Libecchi shared that he has been at the field many, many times and feels the lights need to be placed before someone gets hurt and is good with a 50/50 split of the cost. Mr. Mann and Ms. LoPresti are in agreement of the 50/50 split. Dr. Collur supported the Township paying 100% of the cost. Mr. Wall indicated that the Board would be sending a letter to the Township Committee in favor of the 50/50 cost split. Mr. Trent provided additional information and details regarding the process.

K. New Business

1. Review of Agenda Action Items for January 31, 2024 Public Meeting

Dr. Cascone reviewed the draft agenda and provided additional information on Resolution #7 (New Books added to the Media Center at Indian Hill).

2. Central Office Department Updates

Administration provided the applicable department updates.

At the conclusion of the Special Services update, Mr. DiMare made comments regarding the Transition Fair and Ms. LoPresti made follow-up comments regarding the Unified Sports program. Mr. Wall made additional follow-up comments regarding District Sports and inquired about Professional Development for our coaches. There was discussion among the Board Members and Dr. Cascone provided final comments.

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At the conclusion of the Human Resources and Guidance Department update, there was a discussion among the Board regarding dual enrollment and taking college classes while enrolled at Holmdel High School. Dr. Irwin provided an overview of the program and additional options and details on programs regarding same.

3. Request for Proposal - Grant Consultant – Mr. Wall provided an overview of this matter.
4. Appointment of Verita, LLC to conduct an internal investigation.

WHEREAS, the need has arisen within the Holmdel Township Board of Education to secure special counsel services to conduct an independent investigation regarding the distribution of curriculum resources from outside the District and related issues; and

WHEREAS, a neutral and experienced attorney is needed to investigate and prepare a fact-finding report on this matter; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to expedite the appointment of an outside investigator to address this matter; and

WHEREAS, Verita, LLC has the capabilities, skills, and requisite expertise to conduct this investigation; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby appoints Verita, LLC as special investigation counsel to conduct an internal investigation regarding the distribution of curriculum resources from outside the District and related issues at an hourly rate of \$280.00 and a total sum not to exceed \$5,000.00 for the 2023-24 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Board hereby authorizes the Board President to execute a Verita, LLC Retention Agreement on behalf of the Board and District personnel to take any action necessary to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

MOTION: Mr. Wall SECOND: Mr. DiMare VOTE: 7-0
Absent: Mr. Reddy and Mr. Buckley

L. Executive Session (if required) - N/A

M. Adjournment

Board President Wall called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DiMare motioned, Mr. Mann seconded and by a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Michael R. Petrizzo, CPA
Business Administrator/Board Secretary