

Curriculum Committee Notes
April 16, 2008

Present: Garrity, Tai, Hartnett, Strickland, Currie, Duncan,
Presenters: Art Howard, Shana Nussbaum, and Richard Katz

1. Mr. Howard and Ms. Nussbaum spoke about their intent to expand the team teaching pilot of last year to the whole school. There will be two seventh grade teams, two eighth grade teams and one mixed team, meaning the teachers will teach some 7th grade classes and some 8th grade classes but the students will mix only in the hallways. Students will be on team for math, English, social studies, and science. The team concept will be explained to parents at Orientation and a letter will be sent in report cards.
2. Richard Katz from the High School spoke about the changes in the state law regarding truancy. "Truant" means unexcused, unexplained absences. Students who are truant more than 10 days must be reported to the New Jersey Administrative office of the Courts.
3. In addition, Mr. Katz said the High School administration is considering requesting a policy change in Holmdel attendance procedure. Currently students who are absent more than 15 days for a full year course and 10 days for a 1/2 year course have attendance failures. The High School is requesting a change to 18 days for a full year course and 9 days for a 1/2 year course for an attendance failure.
4. Ms. Currie corrected misinformation in the community about kindergarten orientation. There has been an addition made to the day. The usual orientation for students will occur but in addition students will be briefly interviewed to generally determine social and academic levels of the students. The purpose will be to balance the classes of students with different ability levels.
5. Spring and summer curriculum projects are being planned as part of the routine 5 year curriculum review cycle.
6. New textbooks in history, grades 6 and 8, algebra 1 and science grade 1 are being adopted to support the curriculum and meet 2002 NJ State Core Curriculum standards.