

**Holmdel Township Board of Education**  
**Community Relations Committee**  
**Meeting Notes for August 8, 2008**

**Present:** Ana M. Vander Woude—Chair, Barbara Garrity, Jim Shelton, Michael L. Collins, Barbara Duncan, and Spencer Tirella.

**Absent:** Nikhita Prasanna

**1. District Calendar:** The committee reviewed the final draft of the 2008-2009 district calendar and made several modifications. Most changes involved the repositioning of information to a more logical place within the calendar and including greater references to E-Alert and the district website.

**2. Mission Statement:** The committee received no additional comments regarding the mission statement after its reading at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting nor posting on the District website in the Superintendent's Message. Jim felt that the mission statement should have been posted separately on the website, rather than included with the Superintendent's Message for greater visibility. B. Duncan felt that a posting within her message was adequate as it is regularly accessed by the community to obtain district updates, and that she often receives community commentary regarding information posted in her messages. All committee members agreed with this assessment and consequently felt that not further posting for feedback was necessary. Thus, the final version of the mission statement (subject to one modification; underlined herewith) will be as follows:

*Mission: A Commitment to Excellence*

*The mission of the Holmdel Township Public Schools is to provide a comprehensive and caring educational environment that will develop the potential of every student into achievement. In partnership with our community, the School District will support all our students' efforts to meet and exceed the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards, and to become responsible and resourceful citizens and life-long learners.*

**Usage:** The committee recommends that the mission statement, upon board approval, be placed on the District website and any other formal communications where appropriate (e.g., the District calendar). Moreover, as a means to underscore our commitment to our community, the committee recommends that the mission statement be read at the start of the Board's meetings. Bearing in mind the demands placed upon the Board president, the committee recommends that the statement be read by the Board vice president or alternatively by all board members in rotation.

**3. Community Day:** In addition to requesting Board Members to tend the BOE table, the committee discussed what should be displayed during Community Day that would be of interest to our community: e.g., Gold Cards, the District Calendar and the District brochure.

**4. Items for the Good of the Order:**

- **Thank You Spencer:** The committee members expressed their great appreciation to Spencer for his dedication in attending all of the committee's meetings this summer. Although it is unlikely that he will be able to attend our meetings during the school year, the committee will continue to seek Spencer's input and looks forward to his contribution via other mediums.

**5. Next Meeting:** September 12, 2008 at 10a in the Superintendent's Office.

**Respectfully submitted**

**Ana M. Vander Woude**