

Holmdel Township Board of Education

Special Education Committee

Meeting Notes for December 22, 2008

Present: *Board Members:* Ana M. Vander Woude–Chair, Michael Collins and Jim Shelton
Administrators: Barbara Duncan, Mary Beth Currie, Meryl Gill and Ron Rosenberg
Absent: Mary F. Hartnett

1. Self-Assessment Update

- Open Public Meeting for Discussion of Special Education Programs and Services: Ron and Meryl are processing the input received from the meeting as well as e-mails and forms submitted by parents. Concerns were raised as to the benefit of the meeting due to limited community attendance and the structure of the meeting. The committee agreed to bifurcate discussion of the public meeting as follows: 1. substantive (focus on the state's areas for self-assessment); and 2. form (focus on the procedural aspects/methodology of the actual meeting). In the immediate term, it was felt appropriate for the committee to focus on the substantive matters in relation to an update on how the steering committee is addressing the self-assessment topics, and the administration will provide its takeaways from the public meeting in terms of the substantive notes taken at said meeting. In regards to the latter category, this committee will discuss it at a later date as a post-mortem of the entire self-assessment process for consideration as a learning tool for the improvement of future public meetings.
- The Steering Committee has been formed and is scheduled to meet in January. Please refer to attached document for member list.
- There are eight areas that will be subject to self-assessment for Compliance Review:
 - i. Transition to Adult Life
 - ii. Statewide Assessment Participation and Performance
 - iii. Least Restrictive Environment
 - iv. Parental Involvement
 - v. Disproportionate Representation of Specific Racial/Ethnic Groups
 - vi. Evaluation/Reevaluation Process
 - vii. Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 - viii. Programs and Services

2. STRIVE (Student Transition Readiness Independence Vocational Experience) Program:

- Brighton Assistive Living: The program is developing well. Our students are working with the clients at the facility to improve and support vocational skills. They work there every other Wednesday from 9a to 12:30p and also have lunch with the Brighton residents.
- General: The program at Village School is also progressing well. The Transition Team that oversees the program has drafted a STRIVE referral form. Students selected for the program would engage in developing resumes, completing job applications, and participating in a job interview process. For example, Ms. Giacobbe and Dr. Ledford interviewed the students who currently participate in STRIVE.

3. Foundations Update

- Program Summary: Foundations is a systematic and explicit phonemic awareness, phonics and spelling program for the general education classroom for grades K – 3rd. It is designed to supplement the language arts program. Based upon Wilson Reading System principles, Foundations serves as a prevention and early intervention program to help reduce reading and spelling failure.
- On December 6th, 12 teachers who are currently participating in the program, as well as Dr. Ledford and one of Village's learning consultants, participated in a workshop to assess their progress and receive ongoing support. A second workshop is scheduled for February.

- 4. YMCA Preschool Program:** Meryl and Mary Beth informed the committee that the YMCA program for 3 and 4 year olds will likely be discontinued at the end of this school year and replaced with an in-district program. More details are to be provided at the next meeting.

Next Board Meeting: January 28, 2009—rescheduled to February 10, 2009

Place: Holmdel High School, Upper Library Conference Room

Time: 2:00 P.M.