

West Islip School District  
*Education Committee Meeting Minutes (Virtual)*  
June 11, 2020

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**Education Committee Members:**

Mr. Richard Antonello  
Mrs. Bernadette Burns  
Mrs. Annmarie LaRosa  
Mr. Peter McCann  
Mrs. Dawn Morrison

**Agenda:**

I. District Plan for Special Education Students:

Mrs. Dowling submitted the required bi-annual District Plan for Special Education Students. An overview of the plan was provided to the Board of Education Special Education Committee on Wednesday, June 10, 2020. The plan overviews the continuum and scope of services available for special education students, information related to the professional staff available to provide such services, data related to the special education budget, and other relevant information related to the education of West Islip's special education population.

II. Special Education - Extended Year Summer Services:

Approximately 72 special education students have met the criteria for special education extended school year services. A virtual program is currently in place to address the learning needs of the students.

The district is awaiting notification as to whether or not West Islip students can attend in person extended year services provided by the placements indicated on their IEPs.

The district is currently in the process of creating a plan to provide in person extended year services as delineated in IEP if necessary.

As soon as the plans for special education extended year summer services are finalized, parents will be notified.

III. AP Exams - Update:

579 AP exams were recently taken over a two week period by our high school students. Approximately 30 students encountered some type of technical difficulty with the submission of their exams. The difficulties experienced by the students in West Islip were similar to those that students nationwide experienced during the testing time period due to technical glitches in the College Board system. Mr. Gilmartin collaborated with the College Board to resolve all issues to the satisfaction of students and parents.

IV. Instructional Planning Committees (elementary, middle school, high school):

Elementary, middle school and high school Instructional Planning Committees have been established to plan, subject to guidance from the SED, for the various instructional scenarios that may take place throughout the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committees are comprised of teachers and staff members from the various grade levels and buildings. The committees will meet on a regular basis throughout the coming weeks.

V. Dimensions Professional Development - Grade 4:

The Dimensions Math Program, currently utilized with our K-3 students, will expand into 4th grade for the 2020-2021 school year. Four professional development sessions have been scheduled for the 4th grade teachers between now and the start of the new school year. The professional development sessions will provide background knowledge in regard to the philosophy of the program and its support of the standards, will familiarize teachers with the materials and resources utilized to effectuate the program, and provide teachers with an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas.

VI. Little Lions Program:

The Little Lions Program at the high school provides opportunities for the students in our Early Childhood Education classes to interact with preschool students three days a week throughout the school year. It also provides pre-school aged children in the community with an opportunity to attend a preschool program.

The program typically starts in October and concludes in May. Due to the ongoing uncertainties posed by the current COVID-19 pandemic and the impact that it will have on our classroom and building environments, the start of the Little Lions program has been postponed until further notice. Information will be posted on the district website when an update is available in regard to the program.

VII. Summer Activities:

Elementary and Secondary Curriculum Council members recently discussed the summer activities that are typically provided to students each year in order to maintain engagement in the academic process throughout the summer months. As a result of the stress and upheaval that the pandemic caused this year, adjustments were made to the summer activity experiences that will be provided to students. Suggested activities (K-12) will be optional this summer. Choice boards will be provided to K-5 students in the areas of ELA and STEM. The activities provided on the choice boards encourage creativity, exploration and fun! Suggested, but optional reading lists will be shared with students and parents (K-12). No work will be collected in September, but students will have an opportunity to share their learning experiences with their teachers and classmates should they choose to do so.

Optional summer activities will be posted on the district website prior to Friday, June 19, 2020.

The Chromebooks provided to elementary school students throughout the school closure time period will remain with the students over the summer. Elementary students will have access to Razz Kids, Reflex Math and IXL should they or their parents wish to engage in reading or math practice during the months of July and August.