

EDUCATION/COMMUNITY/POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT – 2/21/13

During the ECP Committee met on Monday, February 11, 2013 several topics were presented. The items recommended for action included the 2013-14 School Calendar and Middle School Boundary Modifications. There were no significant changes between the current school calendar and the one presented for next year.

Boundary modifications were proposed that would result in all students from Gwyn Nor and North Wales elementary schools attending Pennbrook effective September 2014. Current 7th and 8th grade students from these two elementary schools who are attending Penndale would be given the option to remain at Penndale or transfer to Pennbrook.

Also, four information items were reviewed by the committee. These included North Penn United Way Outreach for ages beginning at birth to five years old which was presented by Linda Abram. The focus of this Community Impact Model is that Students Succeed in School. During the presentation, the need for early learning success and its impact on future learning was reviewed. Some aspects of this endeavor involve working with parents to strengthen parenting skills as well as their ability to serve as teachers for their young learners, monitoring developmental milestones for children, and providing supports for children whose learning is delayed.

Cheryl McCue and Marisa Neeson provided the committee with information about the Keystones to Opportunity Grant funded Preschool outreach efforts by the district. Partnerships with Head Start of Lansdale, Montgomery County Community College Children's Center, Trinity Lutheran Preschool have been established. The focus of these endeavors is readiness for kindergarten through assessment tools, professional development for pre-school teachers, and sharing apps used in kindergarten with pre-K families.

The iPad Pilot Evaluation Process was reviewed by Dr. Robin Lutcher. As part of this pilot, one cart of iPads is located at each elementary school and are to be used as instructional tools for RTII. At the secondary level, this is being piloted at Penndale and the high school. Teachers are receiving training to effectively utilize the iPads as an instructional tool with their classes. Additional discussion took place concerning the process for approving apps and the need to update policies and procedures to accommodate mobile device technology shifting from acceptable use to responsible use.

The Committee also reviewed student travel which is on the agenda this evening with the 2013-14 School Calendar and Middle School Boundary Modifications.

The next ECP meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2013.