

EDUCATION/COMMUNITY/POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT – 4/18/13

The ECP Committee met on Monday, April 8, 2013. The topics on the meeting agenda included 2013 summer programs, textbook adoptions, and the application for the continuation of the Keystone to Opportunity Grant.

As the district does every summer, enrichment and remedial courses will be offered in 2013. However, this summer there are two changes in course offerings. Additional courses providing instruction in Algebra 1, Biology, and English Literature will be offered in preparation for the Keystone exam that will be administered on August 1st. Another change affects the elementary summer reading program which will be supported by district funds rather than those of Title 1. Students will participate in this program for 2.5 hours each day that it is in session, which is an increase from previous years. This will equate to a total of 47.5 hours of instruction for students.

The annual summer library program will be located at Kulp Elementary on Tuesdays from 9 am to noon and at Walton Farm Elementary on Thursdays from 9 am to noon. The libraries will be open for five weeks beginning July 2nd and continuing through August 1st.

Another agenda item focused on the requested textbook adoption for a new elementary mathematics curriculum and program that will be implemented in grades K through 3 in 2013-14. The new elementary mathematics curriculum and related textbook adoption are based upon the PA Common Core Standards in Mathematics and reflect the new expectations for student knowledge and performance in that subject area. Also, the committee reviewed a recommendation to adopt novels for middle school and high school English courses. These novels will increase text complexity options for both independent and guided reading at the secondary level as well as increase student interest in reading materials. The textbooks and novels are available for public review.

The district will also be applying for renewal of its participation in the Keystone to Opportunity Grant for the 2013 – 14 school year. These grant funds may be renewed for up to five (5) years contingent upon funding by the U.S. Department of Education. Funding from this grant is to be used to address the literacy needs of all children by providing resources and supports for teachers to improve their skills in incorporating literacy strategies into their instruction.

The next ECP Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 13th at 6:30 p.m.