

EDUCATION/COMMUNITY/POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT – 11/20/14

The ECP Committee met on Monday, November 10th. Several topics were on the agenda.

The committee recommended acceptance of three grants that were awarded to the district. North Penn High School was selected as the recipient of the \$30,000 Dow CAC Grant. The grant will be used to support STEM programs and projects and also promote interest in careers and opportunities linked to STEM. In addition, access to 120 volunteers to assist students with research will be provided. A second grant in the amount of \$50,000 was awarded by Merck Sharp & Dohme to support the development of Peer Teacher Workshops for science, English, language arts, and mathematics teachers in grades K through 12. Through the workshops, professional development will be provided that will promote the unification of the instructional practices in these subject areas by focusing on science practices that can be integrated across curricula.

The North Penn School District also received a grant from the School Food Authority. This National School Lunch Program -School Food Service Equipment Grant will provide the funds to purchase a combitherm oven that is needed in the School Nutrition Services area of an elementary school in the district. The amount of the grant is for the cost of the oven which will be \$29,200.

New Board Policy 3640 – Payment of Bills was reviewed by the committee. The policy establishes criteria that will permit bills that satisfy those conditions to be paid and then ratified at an upcoming Board meeting. This policy is included on the agenda for a first reading.

The school calendar for 2015-16 was presented to the committee. Because Labor Day is September 7, the latest date that it can be in 2015, administration proposed that students begin class on Tuesday, September 1. Beginning school the week before Labor Day will provide more days of instruction prior to the administration of state assessments in the Spring. Surveys of families and staff indicated that a majority prefer starting school before Labor Day.

An update on the Penndale change in scheduling period E3 was provided to the committee including the rationale for implementing this schedule change and how parent concerns were addressed. The schedule will be evaluated to determine what will happen next year.

The committee was apprised of the School Performance Profile Summary. A score of 70 and above is considered by PDE to be proficient. All three middle schools and the high school performed above the county average. Elementary schools' results were at or slightly below the county average.

The next ECP Committee meeting will be in January 2015.