

EDUCATION/COMMUNITY/POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT – 11/21/13

The ECP Committee met on Monday, November 11th .

Changes to the Middle School Program of Studies for the 2014-15 school year were presented to the committee. The areas of math and literacy were the focus of these changes resulting in a tiered program of core instruction and intervention developed to meet the needs of students in reading and math. In addition, there is also a new section of the Middle School Program of Studies on the Keystone Exam in which the Keystone Exams and Chapter 4 graduation requirements are delineated.

Also, the district's current demographic data was shared. Total district K-12 enrollment now exceeds last year's total by 150 students. A large number of students enrolled during July and August, many of whom are new to the district versus having transferred to district schools from private schools. Our school populations are becoming more diverse. In addition, there is an increase in economically disadvantaged students and ESL students.

The Committee also discussed Administrative Regulation #6119 which addresses the district's position regarding religious and cultural holidays and celebrations. Community members also expressed their opinions on this topic during the meeting. Concerns were raised regarding the supervision of activities, the ability of students to attend activities after school hours, and the discretion of the principal to authorize holiday related activities. As a result of the discussion, the administration amended the regulation to allow school wide parades and holiday shops during the school day provided that the events do not exceed 45 minutes in length.

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