

Education Committee Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2015

Chairperson: Ms. Lindsey

District Liaison: Dr. Varley

- I. Common Sense Media – The district will be utilizing lessons and training from Common Sense Media, a free program, to provide digital citizenship curricula, which is required by the state for E Rate. Topics will include social media, copyright, cyber bullying, and digital footprint, among others.
- II. New SAT – starting in March 2016 – Dr. Varley shared resources about the SAT Redesign. The new SAT, which was revised to align with Common Core, will begin in March 2016.
- III. PSSA Update from AIU Curriculum Directors' Meeting
- IV. Kindergarten Transition Schedule
Kindergarten Screening

Purpose: To gather data about incoming students to inform roster development and guide instruction and any needed support services at the beginning of the school year.

Students will come to Dormont Elementary for a half-day of kindergarten screening in groups of 10-15. Parents will sign up for an appointment at registration. Kindergarten teachers, Title I reading specialists, the school psychologist, speech therapists, administrators, and other specialists will conduct the screening.

Students will take the Brigance assessment, listen to a story, draw a self-portrait, participate in fine and gross motor skill tasks, play, and work with other children so their academic, social, and executive function skills can be observed. Children will leave with activities to practice over the summer.

Kindergarten Transition Week

Purpose: To provide a stress-free beginning for children to the kindergarten year and full day, particularly for homesick children.

On the first day of school, students will attend an 1 ½ hour orientation with their parents to meet their teacher, take a bus ride, see their classroom, and listen to a story without the stress of arriving

with all of the other children. On days 2-4, students will have an early dismissal and leave after lunch/recess. Their kindergarten teacher will accompany them to lunch, recess, and specials to help them acclimate to these activities. Teachers will have their lunch and their planning period after the children leave. Friday will be the children's first day of school. Cost of the transportation will be \$1440.