



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

*An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence*

## ***To The Point. . .***

**Key points and highlights from the April 27, 2011 Board Meeting**

### **Board Actions**

The Board recognized Karen Durante, a remedial reading and math specialist, who was awarded the 2010-11 Bobbie S. Goodman Award named in memory of a former MCIU reading specialist in the Nonpublic School Services Division.

The Board approved a recommendation to accept the Fox Rothschild LLP Retainer Agreement for Solicitor Services for the School Year 2011-2012.

The Board approved a resolution supporting the blended pension plan put forth by PSBA to present to the legislators.

The Board approved the appointment of the following four (4) individuals as the initial MCIU representatives to the Board of Directors of Reflections, Inc.: Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, Stan H. Wisler, Jeannette Maitin and Dr. Lois Robinson.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Jeffrey Sultanik (Judge of Ballots) reported that the ballots for the MCIU budget approval were counted on April 26, 2011 and that each budget in accordance with the provisions of the School Code was approved.

### **DIVISION REPORTS**

#### **Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy**

Mrs. Mansuy requested and received approval for various personnel items, including 10 professional recommendations (1 request for extension of unpaid leave for illness, 1 request for unpaid leave in accordance with Family and Medical Leave Act provisions, 1 return to service and 7 retirements); 3 teacher assistant and support staff recommendations (1 request for extension of unpaid leave for illness, 1 request for unpaid leave in accordance with Family and Medical Leave Act provisions and 1 retirement). In addition, the Board approved 1 Administrative Appointment and 2 Management Services summer temporary positions.

#### **Management Services – Stan H. Wisler**

Mr. Wisler asked for and received approval on the following action items:

- Recommendation to accept the 2011-2012 Act 30 contracts with Private Residential Rehabilitative Institutions
- Recommendation to award supply bids and fixed rate discount bids on behalf of school districts. These include custodial supplies, computer supplies, copy paper and catalog prices
- Recommendation to accept Title II-Part A funds (equitable share) in the amount of \$86,271 for professional development provided to nonpublic school staff
- Recommendation to approve the project revision of \$112,974 allocation for the Neglected and Delinquent Title I ARRA Federal Grant Rider KK
- Recommendation to approve a budget application revision in the IDEA Regular Project Budget in the amount of \$20,824,493

- Recommendation to accept a special education performance grant in the amount of \$20,000 from PDE/Bureau of Special Education to provide supports and services for students with complex needs

### **Special Education Division – Dr. Lois Robinson**

Dr. Robinson reported that the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) lab opened on April 4th. The PAES program is a simulated work environment which offers students with disabilities an opportunity to explore and learn about various careers. Eight students are currently enrolled.

Special Education hosted its annual Penn Data Revised Count meeting where 19 school districts and charter schools were represented. PDE has charged the MCIU to review and work with each district to help ensure the accuracy of the PIMS data, identify discrepancy trends, help resolve the identified errors and learn how to overcome the obstacles in reporting 100% congruent data.

### **Division of Legislative Services and Grant Development - Dr. Mary Jane Gales**

Dr. Gales reported that the Senate has confirmed Ron Tomalis as Secretary of Education.

The House Republicans are planning on introducing a budget bill which will stay at the same amount as proposed by the Governor - \$27.3 billion – but have different funding priorities. More money is expected to be earmarked for education, specifically higher education. There has been discussion about bringing basic education funding up to the 2008-2009 level for all districts. The Senate may consider a budget as high as \$27.5 billion.

The Governor's recommended changes to Senate Bill 1 (voucher proposal) were just announced, including the delay of the start of the vouchers to July 2012 and a cut in third year scholarships from \$250 million to an estimated \$163 million. The Senate GOP is hoping for support for the bill from the House, but that has not materialized yet. Dr. Gales stressed the importance of board members and educators contacting legislators to discuss Senate Bill 1. A good tactic is to not express outright opposition to the bill, but stress that there are better options to help students who are attending a failing school.

Rep. Quigley's HB 1330, which raises the Educational Improvement Tax Credit from \$75 million to \$100 million in the first year and then \$200 million, passed in the House Education Committee. Families earning up to \$60,000 would be eligible for the scholarships which average about \$1,100. By 2012 the income would rise to \$75,000.

### **Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy**

Mrs. Kennedy reported that there is a new licensing model called Microsoft's Enrollment for Education Solutions (EES) program which allows districts to base their costs on their staffing numbers or FTEs, rather than by device. This change is resulting in substantial savings for school districts.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, TIS organized and hosted the PA Regional Computer Fair Competition for Montgomery County High School and Middle School students. First place winners will advance to the state competition at Dickinson College on May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development –Kendall Glouner**

CIPD continues to provide assistance and guidance as districts prepare for the Keystone Exams. A two-day professional development session specific to Algebra 1 will begin on May 4th. The contents of the training will focus on the Common Core Standards and the Keystone Exams in an effort to help districts analyze current programming and make any necessary changes to curriculum alignment, scope and sequence. An additional training will take place on May 23rd to help districts make the most of the Classroom Diagnostic Tools assessments.

The Academic competition was held on April 15 with 18 school districts participating. The Upper Dublin team was victorious and will compete at the State Competition on May 6 in Harrisburg.

#### **PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand**

One of the newest components of the PaTTAN work related to building the skills and competencies of Special Education Leaders is the Pennsylvania Fellowship Program for Special Education Leaders. The Fellowship program is a year-long cohort program comprised of monthly skill-building and networking sessions. Additionally, each fellow is required to complete a culminating project based on programmatic or student-level data that demonstrates changes or improvements in their program.

2010-2011 is the first year for this Fellowship program. PaTTAN received over 145 applications and selected 46 participants of which 3 are from the Montgomery County area: Lois Robinson – MCIU, Wendy Emerson – Cheltenham Township and Jan Peszak – Abington. Applications for the 2011-2012 school year will be available in May.

#### **Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings**

Mrs. Rawlings reported that she will be assisting Pottsgrove School District with writing and designing their community newsletter beginning next year.

She reported that more than 1,000 nominations were received for the Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence. The 23 teacher finalists will be recognized at an awards dinner held Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Blue Bell Country Club.

#### **Nonpublic School Services – Dr. Kenneth Voss**

Dr. Voss presented the 2011-2012 Nonpublic School Services Budget for first reading. The budget will be presented for action at the May 25, 2011 board meeting. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Act 89 of 1975 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania mandates that IUs provide auxiliary educational services for nonpublic schools in remedial reading and math, speech/language therapy, guidance/counseling/ consultation and psychological services. The IU makes final determination of services provided after consultation with nonpublic school regarding general categories of students to be served. The services carry no individual entitlement for students and services are subject to limitations of annual funding through the state budget.
- More than 95% of the funding for the Nonpublic School Services Division comes from Act 89 state funds. The division also receives state and federal programs and grants, including Title funds, Homeless and Safe and Drug Free Schools funding.
- Montgomery County's nonpublic, non-profit school enrollment decreased by 1.69% from the last year which results in a reduction in Act 89 funding. The MCIU Nonpublic School Services Division is still the largest division of its kind in the Commonwealth, excluding Philadelphia.
- The Division is proposing a \$10,946,585 million budget for the 2011-2012 school year. Act 89 funds are projected to decrease by 3.41%.
- As a result of funding decreases, the Division proposes a reduction in staffing from 78.80 FTE to 74.87 FTE.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on  
May 25, 2011  
at 7:45 p.m.**