



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the August 24, 2011 Board Meeting

Board Actions

The Board recognized Dr. Joan Evans as the 2010-2011 Annie Sullivan Award recipient, recognizing an individual who exemplifies caring involvement with disabled students and who has helped others in the community understand and accept students with disabilities.

The Executive Committee recommended and the Board approved the Executive Director's goals for 2011-2012. The Policy Committee recommended and the Board approved the GASB 54 Fund Balance Policy.

The Board voted to appoint Joseph Chmielewski as the Voting Delegate to the PSBA Legislative Policy Council meeting to be held on October 20, 2011 during the School Leadership Conference.

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy

Mrs. Mansuy requested and received approval for various personnel items including: 2 recalls of furloughed staff, 2 appointments, 10 transfers, 2 resignations and 2 returns to service for professional staff; 1 request for unpaid leave, 8 transfers, 1 salary adjustment, 2 terminations/furloughs and 2 resignations; 1 appointment, 1 resignation and 1 retirement for administrative staff; the addition of 27 temporary 1:1 teacher assistants as part of students' IEPs (all funded by school districts); the appointment of staff to fill a Summer Support staff position the award of a professional contract for one staff member and 8 professional substitutes. The Board also approved the IRS mileage rate of \$55.5 per mile.

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

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

- a recommendation to approve 2010-2011 budget transfers
- a recommendation to accept the 2011-2012 Title I funds from school districts to operate their Title I Reading and/or Math Programs for students in nonpublic schools
- a recommendation to submit the application and MAWA agreement to the Pennsylvania Department of Education/Bureau of Special Education for the State Early Intervention Project, in the revised allocation amount of \$14,565,003

Nonpublic School Services – Dr. Kenneth Voss

Dr. Voss reported that the NPSS staff will be participating in three days of professional development beginning August 30 to start the school year. Hal Bowman, creator and sole presenter of Teach Like a Rock Star, will provide a workshop on August 31.

The division will provide services to two new approved nonpublic schools this school year, Bright Horizons in Collegeville, and Vantage Academy in Souderton.

In collaboration with the Edward Savoiz Driver Training School, NPSS will begin offering a state-approved online driver's education theory class beginning this fall. Students who successfully complete the 30 hours of online instruction and pass the final examination may be eligible for reduced insurance premiums on their parents/guardians policies. The cost is estimated at \$100 and students will be able to register via a link on the MCIU website.

Special Education Division – Dr. Lois Robinson

Dr. Robinson reported that an Open House will be held Wednesday, August 31st at the Anderson School to showcase the new school-based partial hospitalization program, ExplorationsPHP, and the redesign of the Anderson School. Formal remarks will begin at 3 pm followed by a tour. Explorations is expected to begin accepting students at the beginning of October. The board, special education administrators/staff, counselors, nurses, psychologists and other interested district staff are invited to attend.

The Special Education Division served 42 students with autism in the Extended School Year (ESY) program this summer. Dr. Robinson thanks Hatboro-Horsham, Methacton, North Penn, Perkiomen Valley and Wissahickon for providing classroom space.

The final Early Intervention aggregate data was compiled and verified by the State. This past year, the program served an additional 136 students for a total of 2,454.

The division assisted with the timely submission of the school district data for the State Revised Child Count which is used to calculate districts percentage to their state performance indicator targets.

Legislative Services and Grants Development Division – Dr. Mary Jane Gales

Dr. Gales reported that legislators are in recess but are still having hearings on education proposals. Governor Corbett's education plan presented in March includes the topics most likely to be debated when legislators return next month. Vouchers are still a high priority for the Governor although there is hesitancy on the House side.

Dr. Shiveley will be visiting with our federal legislators next month and will have a more up-to-date report. As of now, the House is coming out with piecemeal bills related to the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Senate is giving very little insight about what will be in their reauthorization package.

A highlight this month is the Phi Delta Kappa poll on education – nearly 80% of the parents polled gave the school their oldest child attends a grade of "A" or "B". This is the highest percentage since the polls started asking the question in 1985.

Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy highlighted a PowerSchool MiniCamp held in partnership with Capital Area IU, Carbon-Lehigh IU this July. As the first official partnership event for professional development, this allowed the IUs to provide cost-effective training to PowerSchool users throughout the state.

TIS developed a web-based application to track organizational goals called EzGoal Tracker. The MCIU will begin using the system this year and will make it available to school districts and other interested organizations. It is designed to provide flexibility in collecting data, sharing information throughout the organization, and creating progress reports for goals.

Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development –Kendall Glouner

Mrs. Glouner advised that PDE will be focusing on the planning and roll-out of 8 key initiatives beginning in 2011-2012. IUs have been invited to be involved at the onset of the process which should be beneficial to districts. These 8 initiatives provide an idea of where PDE and districts should expect changes and/or improvement.

CIPD wrapped up its first AP Institute this summer with a total of 96 teachers participating. Evaluations were excellent. Planning for next year has already begun and CIPD plans to offer more than 6 institutes in the summer 2012.

PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand

Dr. Sloand highlighted the Teachers' Desk Reference series developed by PaTTAN for the past 2 years. The Desk References provide practical information for special education and regular education teachers on topics ranging from Classroom Management to Assistive Technology. The monthly issues are just one of about 50 new publications that PaTTAN develops and distributes each year.

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

The Communications Division is offering communications internships (unpaid) beginning this fall to provide work experience for communications/marketing students at local colleges/universities.

Mrs. Rawlings reported that a number of communications projects were completed over the summer including the launch of a Facebook site for the MCIU to help publicize new services, events and highlights. She also began organizing the Education Foundation's Harvest Social and Wine Tasting. The fundraiser will be held November 9 at the Lower Providence Fire Hall.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on
September 21, 2011
at 7:45 p.m.**