



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the June 22, 2011 Board Meeting

Board Actions

The Board approved the compensation package for the Executive Director/CEO, Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, which freezes compensation and all other items at the 2010-2011 level.

The Board approved the Nominating Committee's motion to elect the following slate of MCIU officers for the 2011-2012 school year:

- Marc Lieberson, President
- Dan Sattler, Vice President
- Lou Polaneczky, Treasurer
- Jeanette Maitin, Secretary

Solicitors Report

Fox Rothschild, Judge of Elections for the MCIU, confirmed the ballots of seven MCIU board members who were elected to fill vacant seats or complete open positions as of July 1, 2011 including:

- 3 year term: Marc Lieberson (Cheltenham), Louis A. Polaneczky (Hatboro-Horsham), Janice Pearce (Norristown), Robert H. Hartman (Pottstown), Marie A. Knox (Upper Merion)
- 2 year term: Anthony B. Quinn (Springfield)
- 1 year term: Mel Brodsky (Colonial)

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy

Mrs. Mansuy requested and received approval for a revised employment agreement for Stan Wisler, CFO, which freezes compensation at the 2010-2011 level. The Board also approved a revised staff demotion resolution, revised furlough resolution and revised salary lists for professional staff and ASCP.

Due to declining student enrollment and program alterations, there were 11 furloughs of teacher assistants, 1 hearing impaired teacher and 19 staff demotions, including 9 teacher assistants, 1 interpreter, 7 psychologists, 1 adapted physical education teacher and 1 social worker.

The Board also approved various personnel items for teacher assistant and support staff, including 2 requests for unpaid leave in accordance with Family and Medical Leave Act provisions, 1 request for extension of unpaid leave in accordance with Family and Medical Leave Act provisions, 2 requests for unpaid leave for illness, 1 transfer, 1 salary adjustment, 3 returns to service and 2 retirements. Professional staff recommendations included 1 request for unpaid leave in accordance with Family and Medical Leave Act provisions, 1 request for unpaid leave for child rearing, 1 resignation, 4 returns to service and 3 retirements. The Board also approved extended school year and summer support staff recommendations, the substitute list, and a revised supplemental contract chart for PaTTAN.

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

Mr. Wisler asked for and received approval on 17 action items:

- Recommendation to Approve the MCIU Insurance Coverage for 2011-2012

- Recommendation to Execute Participation Agreement and Authorization Resolutions for the Pennsylvania Other Post Employment Benefits (PA OPEB) Trust
- Recommendation to Designate Committed Fund Types
- Recommendation to Transfer Funds to the Capital Projects Fund
- Recommendation to Approve PAIUnet Budget for 2011-2012
- Recommendation to Approve Depositories for 2011-2012
- Recommendation to Approve the Budget Transfer Process for 2010-2011
- Recommendation to Approve the Revision of the Title II (Part A) Program Funds
- Recommendation for Approval for Continuation of Title I Program Funds
- Recommendation for Approval for Continuation of Project for Title II (Part A)
- Recommendation to Accept Continuation of Projects - Pennsylvania Department of Education/Bureau of Special Education and Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)
- Recommendation to Accept Continuation of Projects - Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 for the Early Intervention Project
- Recommendation for Approval of IDEIA Federal Early Intervention Project Application
- Recommendation for Approval of an IDEA Regular Project Application
- Recommendation for Approval to Submit Application for Early Intervention Purposes
- Recommendation for Approval of Application and MAWA Agreement
- Recommendation for Approval of Application for IDEA/ARRA Funds

Nonpublic School Services – Dr. Kenneth Voss

Twenty-three Abington elementary school staff members were trained in the Elementary Student Assistance Program model, with 13 of those staff members receiving free training through the 'Bridge' grant from PDE. Jean Miksch, NPSS staff and Student Assistance Lead Trainer, provided the training.

Dr. Voss reported that NPSS continues to move its remediation, speech, counseling and other services out of the vans/mobile trailers and in to the nonpublic school buildings. In the late 1990s, the state amended legislation allowing staff to offer remediation and other student services in the main school building.

Dr. Voss also reported that 219 students are enrolled in the free summer camps offered to nonpublic school students the week of June 20th to the 24th.

In partnership with CIPD and TIS, NPSS is hosting a number of professional development opportunities for nonpublic school faculty and administrators during the summer. These include, among others, Wilson three day overview, Foundations, Misconceptions in Math, SmartBoards, and Peaceful Schools Institute. Public school faculty and administrators are invited to participate in these ACT 89 programs through fee-based registration.

Special Education Division – Dr. Lois Robinson

Christopher Stultz assumed the position of Principal of the Anderson School on May 31st. He previously served as Middle School Principal at Indiana Junior High School, Indiana, PA.

Over 65 participants from 22 districts and charter schools attended a meeting on May 16th to discuss congruency of PennData and PennData through PIMS information and to understand the fiscal implications to their IDEA funding if their current PIMS data is used instead of the PennData information. The state would have lost \$20 million in IDEA funds and Montgomery County would have lost \$500,000.

This June, the MCIU celebrated the graduation of one student from the Lynch Home and 8 students from the Anderson School. One Anderson student received a scholarship to the Montgomery County Community College.

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

Dr. Gales reported that the Legislature and Governor's Administration are still hammering out the details of the state budget. There is about \$200 million in question as legislators debate funding for the Welfare Department and whether to use Tobacco Settlement Funds.

It is expected that the final bill will add \$50 to \$100 million more than to Accountability Block Grant program than HB 1485 had. There is also a tentative agreement to reinstate \$25 million to reimburse school districts for charter schools.

There appears to be consensus that the Omnibus bill will not include items that have not been approved in at least one chamber. This has been the tradition for the past four years.

Debate on vouchers and elimination of Act 1 exceptions continues. A hearing on vouchers and charter schools by the House Education Committee was cancelled this week on a technicality. Hearings must be announced at least five days in advance and this only had one day notice. Representative Christiana announced HB 1708 which is a compromise of the other bills. It is for low income students in the lowest 10% of the schools. Private schools would have to test the students on a standardized test and have the results posted. The scholarship would be 100% of the Commonwealth's share of the district's total revenue per average daily membership of the prior school year, times a multiplier based on the student's poverty level. The Senate may take up the voucher issue before the end of the session.

Dr. Gales met with Representative Grove last week, who is the sponsor of HB 1326 which removes all Act 1 exceptions. He agreed that there was a need to retain the PSERS and special education exceptions. Governor Corbett has stated that he wants a bill passed eliminating Act 1 exceptions before he signs the budget. The Senate leadership committed to doing this.

SB 612 that allows for economic furloughs of teachers was scheduled to be voted on in the House on June 22nd, but this did not occur. Representative Cox stated that when it is considered, it should include an amendment that would allow districts to use criteria other than seniority.

Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy reported that more than 60 technology directors and technical staff attended the second annual IU Technology Collaboration Day was held May 20th to network and learn about privacy and security issues.

On May 18th, approximately 45 educators attended a free workshop offered by Apple to learn the process for imaging and setting up iPad carts and secure the devices on a school network.

Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development –Kendall Glouner

Mrs. Glouner advised the new AP Summer Institutes hosted by CIPD will begin the week of June 27. There are 30 participants enrolled in the first 3 institutes and an additional 45 enrolled in the next three. Also, beginning June 27th, CIPD will also be hosting The George Washington Freedom Institute, a four-day training focused on the Civil Rights Movement. This will be the culminating event for the 3-year Teaching American History grant.

Twelve school district representatives participated in a meeting on May 18th to discuss a collaborative effort to develop a framework for a K-12 civics curriculum. Discussion took place with Sally Flaherty, an expert in this field who has worked with Judge Rendell, Pennsylvania Department of Education and The Constitution Center in strengthening the civics initiatives in Pennsylvania. A collaborative group plans to move ahead with developing a stand-alone secondary civics course that would aid in the preparation for the potential Keystone exam in this area, as well as a K-12 framework that could be incorporated with the work the districts have begun to do with civics.

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

Mrs. Rawlings reported that many end-of year communications projects have been completed or are underway, including the summer issue of MCIU Update, the annual report, and School District Service Reports. She is also working with Pottsgrove School District this summer to develop their district calendar and community newsletter.

Division Spotlight: PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand

Dr. Sloand provided an overview of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), King of Prussia office. PaTTAN is responsible for providing training and on-site support to build the capacity of schools to serve students who receive special education. There are 3 PaTTAN offices statewide, but the King of Prussia office provides services for more than 40% of the students and families statewide. Specifically, PaTTAN KOP supports 9 intermediate units, 122 school districts, 80 charter schools and 23 private schools. PaTTAN partners with each of the 29 IUs and the Training and Consulting staff funded by the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) to provide an effective system of support for educators, parents, students and schools.

The PaTTAN budget for 2011-2012 is approximately \$7.5 million, which includes a State Personnel Development Grant of \$1.1 million and \$6.6 in BSE funding. In addition to the director, PaTTAN employs two supervisors, 20 educational consultants, 2 parent consultants and 13.5 support staff.

PaTTAN staff is grouped into teams across the state to manage a number of statewide initiatives. Each office serves as the lead on a number of projects. The staff's expertise and trainings on special education topics range from Assistive Technology to Visual Impairment. The staff organize an ongoing professional development series, the annual PDE conference, a number of week-long summer institutes, webinars and on-site assistance.

PaTTAN KOP also manages a publications division that developed 34 new publications this past year and distributed more than 490,000 publications to over 700 stakeholders. The staff is responsible for the concept, layout, printing and distribution.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on
August 24, 2011
at 7:45 p.m.**