



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the May 25, 2011 Board Meeting

Board Actions

The Board approved a recommendation from the MCIU Board Executive Committee and Dr. Shiveley to accept modified employee agreements for 2011-2012 which reflect a one-year salary freeze for all MCIU employees. The acceptance of this freeze by all employees will result in a savings of approximately \$1 million which will help the MCIU absorb proposed cuts in state funding, increases in various fixed costs, and freezes or reductions in some additional funding areas. The Board thanked the bargaining leadership and all staff for their understanding of the current economic conditions and how they affect the MCIU.

Dr. Shiveley reported on the last Bucks and Montgomery County Health Insurance meeting to discuss the formation of a Taft Harley model for a self-insured medical plan for the two counties. Dr. Shiveley asked for and received approval from the Board to grant him authority to support the effort up to \$10,000 to help fund the organizational planning costs when he felt it was appropriate.

The Nominating Committee drafted a preliminary slate of officers that they will recommend to the board to be voted on at the June Board meeting as follows:

- Dan Sattler to assume Marie Knox's position as Vice President
- Lou Polaneczky to assume Treasurer's position
- Waiver of two-year term limit allowing Jeanette Maitin to continue to serve as Secretary

The Board recognized Cynthia Welder award winners, which honors an individual and an organization for their contributions to serving children with disabilities. This year's winners were Alison Scott, Special Education Data Coordinator, and the Philadelphia Marriott West in Conshohocken.

The Board viewed a 40th anniversary slide show that celebrated the many achievements of the MCIU over the past 40 years.

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy

Mrs. Mansuy has requested and received approval for various personnel items, including (4) Teacher Assistant and Support staff Recommendations. This comprises (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 and (1) return to service. Approval was also requested and received for Summer Project Positions, including (1) Teacher, (2) Job Coaches, and (3) Support Staff.

Mrs. Mansuy also advised that the Human Resources Division hosted the Second Annual Montgomery County HR/Payroll/Benefits Assistants workshop on April 18th. Approximately 25 assistants attended representing 13 school districts and the MCIU.

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

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

- Recommendation to accept the Team Pennsylvania Foundation Grant from PDE in the amount of \$12,400 to provide professional development for teachers
- Recommendation to accept the 2011-2012 Student Accident/Football Insurance quotations
- Recommendation to approve the Montgomery County School Entities Fuel Bid

- Request for authorization to declare equipment surplus/obsolete
- Recommendation for approval of Nonpublic school Services Division Budget for 2011-2012 as presented to the Board at the April meeting

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS – Dr. Kenneth Voss

The Nonpublic School Services Division is completing needs assessment meetings for the 2011-12 school year. These annual meetings are designed to discuss the current school year's program as well as assess program needs for next year and plan for assignments. The schools continue to request the same or more services for the upcoming school year.

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.

Special Education Division – Dr. Lois Robinson

This April, the MCIU Transition program began a partnership with Meadowood, a senior retirement community in Worcester. Four students participate in the program five days a week working in four different departments - grounds crew, skilled nursing, personal care and dietary/kitchen.

A meeting was held May 3rd at Capital Area IU to discuss the current year revised count submission, the Penn Data Child Count for 2011-2012, and the lack of congruency between Penn Data and Penn Data through PIMS. There will continue to be a parallel Penn Data collection for the 2011-2012 school year with a focus on the congruency between the data submitted via the existing system and data submitted through PIMS. The MCIU held a follow-up meeting on May 16th for the districts to review and discuss the obstacles and successes of their Penn data and Penn data through PIMS submissions.

The first Interview Day Employment Awareness Showcase (IDEAS4U) was held on May 16th at the Montgomery County Community College. Seventy-five students with disabilities had the opportunity to practice professional interviews with twenty-five community business partners. Additionally students attended sessions hosted by SEPTA and PA Transportation Management Association, Boscov's-Dress for Success Program and Montgomery County Career Link.

Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy advised that thirty-five area educators including five school districts and several nonpublic school personnel attended the Internet Safety and Cyberbullying workshop held on May 2nd. Mary Pat McCoy, a Special Agent with the PA Attorney General's Office, informed educators about the dangers of online predators and using technology to bully.

Mrs. Kennedy also reported The PAIUnet Virtual Conference was held at MCIU on April 13th. The event was attended by 27 IUs and over 400 participants. Through video conferencing, using PAIUnet, participants had the opportunity to hear keynote speakers, interact with panelists, and conduct in-depth conversations with educators locally and at other IUs. TIS will host another video conference on June 21st called "Bringing Your Own Technology to School."

Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development –Kendall Glouner

Mrs. Glouner advised that the MCIU in partnership with the Bucks County IU offered high school teachers the opportunity to be a part of the Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) grant sponsored by PDE. Teachers involved in the three-day training were provided with information relative to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, Literacy in History, Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects.

In its thirteenth year, the MCIU Reading Olympics included 518 teams (more than 7,000 students) from nineteen districts and forty-eight non-public, private and charter schools.

The new AP Summer Institutes hosted by CIPD have 74 enrolled participants.

PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand

As the lead on the Special Education Paraprofessionals initiative, PaTTAN King of Prussia is partnering with institutions of higher education to align pre-service programs with the requirements listed in the Pennsylvania regulations regarding special education paraprofessionals. These include 5 community colleges that offer an Associate Degree for Paraprofessionals:

- Community College of Allegheny County
- Lehigh-Carbon Community College
- Luzern Community College
- Northampton Community College
- Montgomery Community College

This partnership consisted of a small grant and PaTTAN staff providing technical assistance. The outcome is that these five community colleges will be preparing paraprofessionals who have the skills needed to support students in today's schools.

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

Mrs. Rawlings reported that the MCIU Education Golf Outing raised more than \$23,000 which is used for summer camperships and post-secondary scholarships for students with disabilities.

The Director worked with the Human Resources and PaTTAN directors to create an enhanced employee orientation process, which includes a new MCIU slide show that the employee will view prior to starting their job and the assignment of a "buddy" to assist them with any questions/concerns about the organization.

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

Dr. Gales highlighted the purpose and accomplishments of the Legislative Services and Grants Development Division, which has been an integral part of the MCIU since 1973. Dr. Gales provides a number of services to inform and assist districts on legislative issues that may impact schools and the MCIU including:

- Timely updates and alerts on legislative issues
- Regular contact (meetings, phone calls and correspondence) with legislators and their staff
- Preparation of position letters for superintendents and Boards
- Maintenance of the MCIU Legislative Webpage
- Organization of speakers for MCS DLC and superintendent meetings
- Network with governmental relations staff of education associations

This year, there has been a host of proposed legislation that the Legislative Services Division has been closely following to advise and inform legislators of the impact on schools. In some cases, advocacy efforts appear to have effected positive change such as:

- Budget proposal for 2011-2012 - The House passed their own version of the budget (HB 1485) which would restore \$34 Million in social security reimbursement; Basic Education Funds to all Districts to the 2008-2009 Level and 40% of the Accountability Block Grant
- Delayed Vote on SB 1-Vouchers
- Introduction of Teacher Furloughs for Economic Reasons (SB 612 and HB 855)
- Mandate Relief – Legislators are requesting information on which mandates need to be addressed
- Chapter 12 Nutrition and Physical Education Changes on Hold
- Vouchers Removed From U.S. Defense Bill

- U.S. Education Jobs Fund Passed

Dr. Gales is also available to assist districts in searching for and reviewing grants. She can provide grant writing workshops and assistance on navigating The Foundation Center Website. This past year, she researched grants for specific funding requests by 5 school districts and met with superintendents and curriculum groups to discuss grant opportunities. Additionally, she worked with the Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Anti-Terrorist School Work Group to obtain additional funding to support identified safety and security needs in schools.

Dr. Gales works closely with the MCIU Education Foundation to raise money that supports programs and services that benefit districts and students such as summer camperships and post-secondary scholarship for students with special needs, scholarships for the Chinese360 program, funding for a world language teachers workshop and the Practical Assessment Exploration Lab used by transition students.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on
June 22, 2011 at PaTTAN
at 7:45 p.m.**