



To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the May 26, 2010 Board Meeting

Board Actions

The Board recognized the Cynthia Welder award winners, which honors an individual and an organization for their contributions to serving children with disabilities. This year's winners were Evan Malin, an Early Intervention Teacher, and Education Alternatives, LLC, which offers Applied Behavior Analysis and educational consultation for children with developmental disabilities.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Shiveley reported that he will be meeting with individual superintendents over the summer to assess current services and receive feedback on how the MCIU can better assist our component districts. The feedback from the meetings will be used to develop his goals that are approved by the Board and shared with appropriate division directors.

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy

Due to funding issues as well as declining student enrollment and program alterations, Mrs. Mansuy asked for and received approval to eliminate 7.0 early intervention teacher assistant positions, which necessitates that 6.0 teacher assistants be furloughed based on seniority. The MCIU is looking at additional staffing reductions based on reduced special education service needs.

Mrs. Mansuy also requested and received approval for various personnel items, including:

- Professional recommendations: 2 requests for sabbatical leave, 1 transfer, 3 salary adjustments, 1 resignation, 1 return to service and 1 retirement
- Teacher assistant & support staff recommendations: 1 appointment, 5 transfers, 1 resignation, 1 return to service and 1 retirement
- Administrative recommendations: 2 resignations and five retirements
- Request for new position: 1:1 temporary teacher assistant for the multidisabled support program
- Request for additional hours for 2 part-time PaTTAN consultants
- Request to fill summer support staff positions, 2 conference requests and 8 additions to the substitute list

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

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

- Recommendation to approve the trust agreement for the self-insured prescription program
- Recommendation to approve agreement with FutureScripts for self-insured Rx program effective July 1, 2010 for a 3-year period
- Recommendation to approve energy buying group agreements to purchase electricity using PowerPortfolio through Direct Energy
- Recommendation to accept the 2010-11 student accident/football insurance quotations

- Recommendation to approve the transportation contracts for the 2010-11 school year
- Recommendation to approve the Nonpublic School Services Division Budget in the amount of \$11,267,951 (Act 89 portion) and \$771,558 (federal and state programs and grants portion)

Special Education Division – Dr. Jeanmarie Mason

Dr. Mason reported that she received very positive feedback from the districts regarding the MCIU's first year of offering the services of an Autism Specialist/Itinerant Teacher.

The MCIU Autism Network, comprised of MCIU administrators and professional staff, School District administrators and professional staff, parents and agency representatives, met twice this winter and began planning two events for the 10-11 school year, including the first Autism Walk and an Autism Resource Fair for Montgomery County.

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

Dr. Gales reported that she contacted our federal legislators asking them to support Senator Harkin's Senate Bill 3206, "Keep our Educators Working." This bill would appropriate \$23 billion to restore any state funding reductions in education.

Pennsylvania will receive over \$14 million for the design and implementation of a statewide longitudinal data system. We were one of 20 states selected to receive funds from the \$250 million stimulus funding, which is intended to expand PIMS, the existing student and teacher data system.

A bill was introduced in the House this week to extend the current Empowerment Act until further notice. This would allow the districts to continue as they are until ESEA is reauthorized.

Legislators are waiting to see the state revenues from May before addressing the budget. If the deficit is above \$1.1 billion, it may impact the Senate's passage of a budget bill that is favorable to schools.

Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy reported that about 60 technology directors attended the first ever collaborative technology director's event, held on May 11th. This event was a result of a partnership between Bucks, Lancaster-Lebanon, and Montgomery County Intermediate Units.

Mrs. Kennedy was invited to participate on the Montgomery County Community College Dual Enrollment Planning Team to discuss creative online delivery of courses and methods of offering additional courses to county students through distance learning capabilities.

Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Development –Kendall Glouner

Mrs. Glouner highlighted a new partnership with TCG Global, the provider of MyChinese 360, to provide districts a viable, affordable option for Chinese language instruction. This unique program provides Mandarin Chinese language instruction for students using an online platform with a real-time, highly qualified teacher. It will be available for \$600 per student per course. A live demo may be scheduled by emailing bneiman@mciu.org or visit <http://www.mychinese360.com> to learn more about the program.

Mrs. Glouner also highlighted the first Math 24 hosted by the MCIU on May 24. This county-wide, competition attracted 92 4th and 5th grade students representing 23 schools. Students used their skills against one another to use the arithmetical operations to compute an answer of 24 when given combinations of four single or double digit numbers.

The MCIU will be partnering with the College Board to host a workshop titled AP 1010 on June 1. The half-day workshop will help Advanced Placement teachers with online resources for instructional and supportive help for students.

Nonpublic School Services – Dr. Kenneth Voss

Dr. Voss reported that Needs Assessment meetings with nonpublic schools are nearly completed. The annual meetings help the division determine the effectiveness of services and the needs for the upcoming school year. NPSS has been working with CIPD and TIS to offer a host of professional development offerings to the schools. To better accommodate teachers' schedules, the workshops are being held in late afternoon.

PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand

Dr. Sloand highlighted the 2010 Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference: Making a Difference: Educational Practices That Work! The April conference, coordinated by PaTTAN, offered 46 sessions over 4 days and attracted 1,200 participants. This year, the conference featured two keynote addresses that were "live streamed" in real time so educators and families who could not attend the conference were able to see the sessions from their home or school computer (150 individuals participated in the live session).

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

Mrs. Rawlings reported that the MCIU Education Golf Outing raised a record \$25,000 which is used for summer camperships and post-secondary scholarships for students with disabilities.

She also highlighted the summer issue of *MCIU Update* sent to districts this week. It features new summer camps which the MCIU would like to publicize to students. The Video Game, iMovie, and Website Development camps were featured on KYW news radio this month.

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 contacts our federal and state legislators on a regular basis to share the impact their decisions will have on the districts and students within Montgomery County.

Dr. Gales assists in preparing the monthly MCS DLC meetings by arranging speakers to address topics of interest. This group is comprised of one school board member from each of the districts.

Grants development is a relatively new addition to the division. Dr. Gales is in the process of establishing a research library of grants for school districts. She has access to the Foundation Center that lists over 95,000 grants and is available to help district representatives navigate the database, provide workshops on grant writing, or proofread/review grant proposals for districts.

A division priority this past year was to help re-establish a state wide governmental relations committee with a representative from each IU in Pennsylvania. The committee is now in the process of identifying key legislators throughout the state who will champion Intermediate Units and education within the state.

The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on

June 23, 2010

at 7:45 p.m.

This meeting will take place at PaTTAN, 200 Anderson Road, King of Prussia