

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—John Knebl

Mr. Knebl (filling in for Jane Mansuy) requested and received approval for various personnel items including: 1 appointment for professional staff; 3 appointments, 2 requests for unpaid leave, 5 resignations, 1 retirement and 1 return to service for teacher assistant/support staff; the appointment of a volunteer induction professional and 1 substitute; and requests for the addition of 1 temporary part-time 1:1 teacher assistant for the Autistic Support Program and a homeless initiative tutor.

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

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

- The 2012-2013 General Operating Budget in the amount of \$8,170,860
- Designation of amounts to committed fund categories, including the self insurance unemployment compensation account and the self insured dental account
- A grant for the general operation of Region #8, Homeless Children’s Initiative Program in the amount of \$62,583
- To receive Title I funds from the Lower Merion School District in the amount of \$20,273 to operate their Title 1 reading/math programs
- A revision to the IDEA regular budget in the amount of \$20,642,456

Special Education Division – Dr. Lois Robinson

Dr. Robinson reported that more than 200 paraeducators attended a professional development seminar held November 8th. Staff from Lower Moreland, Upper Merion and Souderton attended. Additionally, the MCIU behavior management specialists provided an onsite training for 75 instructional assistants in Souderton School District. The training was designed to meet the specific needs of the district.

Legislative Services and Grants Development Division – Dr. Charles Amuso

Dr. Amuso reported that SB 1 (the voucher bill) was approved by the Senate and is now being considered in the House Education Committee. The word is that the House will scale down the bill with a proposal for a 3-5 year pilot project that would include vouchers for students in 50 of the state’s lowest performing schools. The Senate spokesperson states that some version of the bill will be passed by the end of December.

SB200, was signed by the Governor and will become effective July 1, 2012. This legislation requires:

- Students, parents, and coaches must be informed about the dangers of concussions and traumatic brain injuries – prior to each season – with a sign off by parents.
- All coaches must participate in a training course – annually – on concussion management.
- Student-athletes who suffer an injury that causes concussion or brain injury symptoms may not return to game or practice until cleared by “licensed or certified health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and designated by such licensed physician.”
- The requirements are for all interscholastic, club sponsored, school affiliated organization sponsored contests or practices. This includes non-competitive cheerleading.

HB1980, which provides a new rating system for professional employees, was reported out of the Education Committee and then tabled by the full house. The Education Committee amended the bill in the following way:

- Requires charter and cyber charter to use the proposed new evaluation of professionals system
- Moves the implementation dates to one year later

- Requires that 50% of the evaluation be based on student performance (rather than “at least 50%”- which could have meant that PDE could have required more)

This is expected to move forward as additional reports on the pilots are made. Some information was shared at a virtual town meeting, hosted locally by the MCIU on November 8, but there is no certainty about what the final evaluation system will look like. The word is that the Corbett Administration does not support the inclusion of charters and cyber charters.

Technology and Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy was absent from the meeting. Dr. Shiveley referred board members to her written report.

Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development – Kendall Glouner

Ms. Glouner reported that she attended a training on October 15 and 16 related to the new Teacher Evaluation system being developed by PDE. Ms. Glouner’s role is to support the three school districts and one technical school who have volunteered to participate in the pilot. The evaluation system is being called the Multi-Measure Teacher Evaluation System due to the proposed use of student data as part of the evaluation system. Ms. Glouner’s role is related to the 50% that focuses on teacher observations using a research based teaching framework. More information will follow as this initiative is reviewed and revised throughout the second pilot phase.

Nonpublic School Services – Dr. Kenneth Voss

Dr. Mary Rita Cleary, filling in for Dr. Voss, reported that the Nonpublic School Services staff and Technology & Information Services Division supported nonpublic schools in completing and reporting enrollment figures to PDE which are directly tied to Act 89 allocations by the state.

PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand

Dr. Sloand highlighted the *Educational Interpreters: 2011 Weekend with the Expert: ASL to English Interpreting in the K-12* held on October 15 and 16. There are about 280 educational interpreters in the state who provide communication, language and academic support to students who are deaf and hard of hearing. PaTTAN provides over 40 hours of professional development to these staff each year. About a third of the interpreters attended the *2011 Weekend with the Expert*.

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

Mrs. Rawlings reported that the Communications Division will support the Superintendent Communications Task Force in developing a countywide newsletter that can be shared by all participating districts as a means of communicating news and information that is common across the county (i.e. budget, Act 1, legislation). The first issue, which will include three pages of countywide news, will be completed by January 2012. Districts have the option of contracting with the MCIU to write and design a district-specific page or they can incorporate the articles into existing publications. Districts will also choose the means of distribution.

Mrs. Rawlings also highlighted that the Education Foundation’s Fall Social, held November 9th, raised a record \$5,300 to support MCIU programs and services.

Division Spotlight: Special Education Division- Dr. Lois Robinson

Dr. Robinson highlighted a number of Special Education programs, including:

- New Vision Classroom: Benchmarked against similar programs, the MCIU's program will provide districts tremendous savings in the provision of services related to the child's IEP
- BrainSTEPS: Five staff are now trained to provide local school districts and families with the technical assistance they need to effectively support children and adolescents with brain injuries. The BrainSTEPS Team is currently working with two school districts and 3 students. In 2010-2011, there were 30 referrals for brain injury in Montgomery County documented by the National Brain Injury Association.
- New Summer Programs including:
 - Week-long Vision Camp offered at a lower cost than similar camps
 - ES/ESY Program at The Anderson School/ExplorationsPHP offering a 12-month mental health component and middle school and high school Extended School Year
 - Summer Transition Program providing 8 weeks of training related to work and apartment living
- Anderson School Restructuring: The school has slashed tuition to \$26,500 and redesigned the program to be more competitive with comparable education settings. The school has incorporated value-added services including targeted remedial reading and math programs, career explorations, transition services and a school wide positive behavior support system
- Expansion of Assistive Technology Services: Support for the use of assistive technology, including FM SETTs (Student, Environment, Tools, Tasks) and Speech SETTs has increased due to the availability of a SETT consultant
- ExplorationsPHP: Opened on October 17th, the partial hospitalization program currently has two students enrolled

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on
January 25, 2012
at 7:45 p.m.**