



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the November 17, 2010 Board Meeting

Board Actions

The Board approved the Executive Committee's recommendation to grant another four-year commission for Jane Mansuy, Assistant Executive Director/Director of Human Resources, as well as the adjusted compensation plan.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Shiveley shared with the board the feedback that he received from superintendents during meetings with them this summer. He meets annually with the superintendents to generate discussion about areas in which the MCIU can improve and potential services/support the organization can provide.

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—Jane Mansuy

Mrs. Mansuy requested and received approval for various personnel items, including a request for unpaid leave, teacher assistant and support staff recommendations, requests for 4 new special education staff positions funded by the requesting district, conference requests and a substitute.

First Review of Proposed 2011-2012 General Operating Budget

Mr. Wisler presented the 2011-2012 General Operating Budget which totals \$7,826,031 for first review. School district contributions represent a total of \$1,411,916 (an increase of \$886 on average per district) which stays in line with the 1.4% base index for school districts for 2011-2012 under Act 1. District contributions represent 18.03% of the total General Operating Budget. The individual district contribution is calculated by a state formula, including factors for enrollment and wealth. Other revenue sources include local, state, federal and fee-for-service funds. The MCIU is focused on developing and offering fee-based services that support the districts' needs by reducing their costs and enhancing operational and instructional capacity.

The four (4) budgets that make up the proposed Intermediate Unit's General Operating Budget for 2011-2012 include:

- General Administrative Services (no district contribution—funded from divisions and state subsidy)
- Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development (CIPD) (Total district contribution countywide is \$66,806 or an average increase of \$42 per district).
- Legislative Services and Grants Development (Total district contribution is \$109,297 or an average increase of \$69 per district)
- Technology and Information Services (TIS) (Total district contribution is \$1,235,812 or an average increase of \$775 per district)

Understanding the difficult economic climate, Mr. Wisler stressed that the 2011-2012 budget was crafted with a continued focus on streamlining and restructuring the MCIU to reduce costs. A number of strategies were used to accomplish this including:

- Cutting costs where possible
- Elimination of non essential purchases
- Not automatically replacing positions due to retirements/resignations

The budgets were reviewed and presented to the Superintendents at the Council meeting on November 11, 2010. Action on the budgets will be requested at the December 9, 2010 Superintendent Council meeting. The Intermediate Unit Board of Directors will be asked to approve the budget at the January 26, 2011 Board meeting. Local districts must vote on the budget in February and March and return their reports to the MCIU by April 8, 2011. The final budget must be sent to PDE by May 1, 2011.

First Review of Proposed Special Education Budget

Dr. Burke-Stevenson presented the proposed 2011-2012 Special Education Division budget for first reading and provided an overview of division programs and services. The proposed 2011-2012 budget of \$75,120,439 represents an overall decrease of 2.79% and is broken down as follows:

Preschool programs:	\$22,195,056
School Age programs:	\$52,219,237
Mental Health programs:	\$634,155
<u>Grant & Federal programs:</u>	<u>\$71,991</u>
TOTAL	\$75,120,439

School districts do not pay a member contribution fee for Special Education services; rather they opt to purchase services based on need and are billed only for actual usage. Funding for school age programs is projected to decrease 10.47% due to reductions in classroom enrollment for autistic, multidisabled, life skills and emotional support.

The proposed budget for early intervention represents an increase relative to an increase in the number of children served in the program (estimated at 2,400 for 2011-2012). The EI program is fully funded by the state and the per child amount has remained the same over the last three years. The rate actually represents a decrease when salaries, retirement and benefits are factored in. To operate within these funding constraints, the division is proposing to keep staffing level with 2010-2011 (65 FTE).

Over the past year, the division has decreased its expenses by scrutinizing and rationalizing every position. The division will continue to streamline operations and will only incur the expense if services are requested and purchased. The 2011-2012 budget includes projected revenues from 19 new services developed at the request of school districts. Dr. Burke-Stevenson highlighted a few of those offerings:

- Bilingual psychologist
- College fair for students with disabilities
- Gifted Resource Center
- New special education teacher training package

The division also expects to receive licensure for a partial hospitalization program which will expand current options for districts with students who have moderate to severe mental or emotional disorders.

The Board will be asked to approve the Special Education budget at the January 26, 2011 meeting.

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

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

- Recommendation to accept a subcontract agreement in the amount of \$65,000 between the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology and the MCIU
- Recommendation to approve the Title I School District Contract in the amount of \$17,000 to provide reading/math programs for students in nonpublic schools in the Lower Merion School District

Special Education Division – Dr. Barbara Burke-Stevenson

Dr. Burke-Stevenson introduced George Carlino who is serving as acting principal at The Anderson School. She complimented Mr. Carlino for the positive reinforcement activities he has students engaged in, such as the upcoming preparation of a Thanksgiving luncheon for the students and staff.

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

Dr. Gales reported that after not having enough votes to pass the Senate amended version of the pension bill prior to the general election, the bill passed with a 165 to 31 vote. She distributed details of the changes to the board. These can be found on the MCIU Legislative Division website.

Dr. Gales also distributed information on House Bill 101, the omnibus education bill. She noted that on Monday, the House voted 171-24 to override the Governor's veto. The Senate voted 42-7 to override the veto. The bill contains the language from 21 different education bills.

The State Board of Education did not make the deadline for posting the nutrition and physical education changes to Chapter 12 regulations in the Pennsylvania Bulletin the first week of November. They are holding firm to the 30 minutes of physical activity but said that they will eliminate the additional physical education component.

On the federal level, Representative John Kline will chair the House Education and Labor Committee. He has stated concern for common education standards that could easily morph into national assessments and a national curriculum. He wants to pull Washington out of the classrooms and stop using billions of federal dollars to bail out state education budgets. He would favor doubling spending on special education to meet the federal government's legal commitment to pay 40 percent of the special education mandates.

Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy highlighted the first ever Virtual PowerSchool User Group meeting held via Elluminate on September 29th. Three IUs statewide (MCIU, Capital Area IU and Carbon Lehigh IU) are seeking to expand the PowerSchool offerings statewide.

The grant application for Act 183 grant was submitted in partnership with four other IUs. If it is approved, the funding will have many benefits for school districts, including enhanced distance learning opportunities and expanded professional development offerings.

Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Development –Kendall Glouner

Ms. Glouner reported that CIPD, in cooperation with the Bucks, Chester, and Delaware County Intermediate Units, sponsored the first Delaware Valley English as a Second Language Conference on October 20, 2010. The event, which attracted over 130 participants from 39 different Eastern Pennsylvania school districts, included regular classroom, English as a Second Language, and special education teachers, and building and district level administrators.

The MCIU was also approved to be a host site for College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Summer Institutes in 2011. The AP Summer Institutes are subject-specific professional development opportunities. They provide teachers with the support and training needed to teach AP courses. Ms. Glouner said the application process was competitive and she is pleased to be able to host these institutes locally. Advertising for the Institute will begin in the new year.

Nonpublic School Services – Dr. Kenneth Voss

Dr. Voss reported that PDE has opened the Private Nonpublic Enrollment [PNPE] website for all approved nonpublic schools to list their student enrollment as of October 15th. These enrollment figures will form the basis of the 2011-2012 ACT 89 allocations to the IUs across the commonwealth. To date, there are

approximately 20 nonpublic schools that have not completed the electronic enrollment form. Schools who not complete the form cannot receive any ACT 89 services during the upcoming school year.

Dr. Glenn Zehner, Educational Programs Director of Drug Free Pennsylvania, will hold a “Straight Talk for Parents” seminar at the MCIU on January 13th beginning at 7 pm. Dr. Zehner recently spoke to the Executive Directors and is holding a similar seminar at various IUs throughout the commonwealth.

Nonpublic school principals will report their special education child find students to the MCIU Director of Special Education as of December 1st. Schools who have no special education students or who opt out of reporting will not be eligible for Equitable Participation Funds for the 2011-2012 school year.

Nonpublic school counselors began meeting in small regional cohorts 3 or 4 times a year to exchange information on strategies and interventions, share on the progress of their annual professional goals, and get briefed on upcoming IU events.

PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand

Research informs us about the critical role that parents play in ensuring that students with disabilities are achieving. With the reauthorization of IDEA in 2004, parent involvement was added as a key indicator that each state and district should work to continually improve. To assist LEAs in this, PaTTAN in partnership with key stakeholders including our federally funded parent centers, developed a series of training modules that schools can use to examine their current practices while developing improvement strategies to support meaningful and authentic parent engagement of students with disabilities. Our initial training on the modules was held on October 15 where PaTTAN had over 125 participants. PaTTAN King of Prussia will be repeating this training on February 9, 2011.

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

Mrs. Rawlings reported that the MCIU and Freedom Credit Union are partnering for the 5th year in a row to offer the 2011 “Voices of Inspiration” Award for Teaching Excellence. Nominations may be submitted by students, parents, co-workers, administrators, board members or school employees. The nominee should clearly demonstrate an extraordinary dedication to teaching young people while exhibiting the qualities that represent a truly exceptional educator. Nominations can be submitted online by visiting voicesofinspiration.org or mciu.org. The awards ceremony will be held May 3 at the Blue Bell Country Club.

Division Spotlight: Special Education –Dr. Barbara Burke-Stevenson

Dr. Burke-Stevenson highlighted the role of the three MCIU psychologists who provide psychological services to the school districts. The psychologists are responsible for:

- Conducting Preschool and School Age evaluations
- Consulting with classroom teachers on behavior and academic interventions
- Completing Functional Behavior Assessments
- Presenting to Parents As Partners Group – Early Intervention
- Training teachers (e.g. Summer Academy & Early Intervention Professional Development meetings)

Other psychological services include:

- Crisis support
- Culture Free/Language Free Evaluations
- Independent evaluations (e.g. Gifted, Initial Evaluation Report, Reevaluation Report)
- Program evaluations
- Psychologist Brown Bag Lunch Meetings
- Psychologist is available to meet with staff and/or do parent presentation
- Psychologist Listserv
- Psychologist Workshops
- Transition Out Evaluations: Transitioning from Preschool to School Age Services Program evaluation

The team also provides the popular Psychology Brown Bag Lunch Meetings held every 2 months for district staff to discuss issues related to the field of school psychology based on needs assessment. Act 48 credits are awarded for attendance.

To help support parents, the psychologists facilitate and coordinate a parent support group for parents of children in early intervention. Each session has an informational/training component and a time for sharing, networking and support.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on
January 26, 2010
at 7:45 p.m.**