



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the September 22, 2010 Board Meeting

Board Actions

The Board recognized Catherine Miller as the recipient of the Annie Sullivan award, recognizing an educator who exemplifies caring involvement with disabled students and who has helped others in the community to understand and accept students with disabilities. Catherine is currently employed as a job coach in the MCIU Transition Program.

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Shiveley encouraged the Board to review the MCIU Divisional Goals and contact him with any questions, concerns or ideas for new services/initiatives.

Dr. Shiveley also reported that the MCIU will be working closely with a Superintendent's Task Force on Cooperative Service whose mission is to facilitate a review by the component superintendents of the MCIU, of services of educational services agencies (ESAs) in the various states with ESAs, which could result in local district savings. Additionally, the Task Force will facilitate and develop support for a listing of new cooperative services to be offered through MCIU. These services will be designed to provide cost savings and improve instruction for students in the participating school districts. The Task Force will be facilitated by former superintendent, Dr. Charlie Amuso. The member superintendents include: Dr. Marsha Hurda, Dr. Bob Milrod, Dr. Chris McGinley, Dr. Tim Quinn, Dr. Melissa Jamula and Dr. Tim Wade.

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy

Mrs. Mansuy requested and received approval for various personnel items, including professional, teacher assistant and support staff recommendations, requests for leave, transfers, salary adjustments, new positions and volunteer induction professionals. New hires included 7 extracurricular positions for the Adult Basic and Literacy Education Program; 5 teachers and 2 counselors. The positions are funded by a grant from PDE.

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

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

- Recommendation to accept a grant award from PDE in the amount of \$61,237 for continuation of the Adult Basic and Literacy Education project

Mr. Wisler reported that the MCIU is busy working on the proposed 2011-2012 General Operating budget, which will be presented for board review in October, and the Special Education budget, presented in November.

Special Education Division – Dr. Barbara Burke-Stevenson

Dr. Burke-Stevenson reported that there is a new Early Intervention Supervisor, Damian Johnston, and an Interim Principal at the Anderson School, George Carlino, who will be in place through at least December. Both individuals have vast experience and are expected to strengthen the special education programs.

The Anderson School opened up the year with 34 students. Dr. Burke-Stevenson reported that the partial hospitalization program, which will be housed at Anderson, is nearing completion. The staff is working with the county and the behavioral health insurance company, Magellan, to iron out the details of the program.

The first county special education director's meeting was held in September. The MCIU staff shared important information gleaned from the Penn State Special Education Director's meeting earlier in the month. The CIPD director, Kendall Glouner, also attended to share information about professional development offerings that can be provided for special education and regular education staff.

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

Dr. Gales was not present due to her attendance at the annual legislative conference in Washington, DC with AESA and AASA. Dr. Shiveley reported that he joined Dr. Gales for meetings with legislators earlier in the week to educate them about the impact of proposed legislation on schools. Meetings were held with aides of the four Pennsylvania Representatives on the House Education Committee and Senator Casey, who sits on the Senate Education Committee. Topics discussed included Race to the Top, Reauthorization of No Child Left Behind, full funding of IDEA, vouchers, and unfunded mandates such as required training of all child nutrition staff. Dr. Shiveley noted that it's vital for educators to be involved in advocacy efforts due to the election this November.

Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Development –Kendall Glouner

The timeline for mandated school improvement plans has changed to better align school and district planning cycles. For this year only, schools in School Improvement will be required to submit a plan by December 22, 2010. In addition, for the first time, schools in "Warning" will now be required to submit a plan, but those plans will not be due until July 1, 2011. Schools in the following categories will also be required to submit a plan by July 1, 2011: Making Progress, School Improvement 2, Corrective Action I and Corrective Action II. CIPD will provide training to support schools that need assistance in completing the state-mandated document.

On September 16, 2010, the Pennsylvania State Board of Education approved another choice for districts related to Keystone Exams. A third option of adopting the keystones as a local assessment has been added to the other two options: (1) using the Keystone Exams and having the students' score account for one-third of the student's course grade or 2) allowing the districts to locally design and independently validate their own assessments. If this third choice is employed in a district, students would have to score "proficient" or "advanced" on the exam, but how the score is attributed to the student's course grade would be a local decision. More details should follow in the next two weeks.

Nonpublic School Services – Dr. Kenneth Voss

Dr. Voss reported that the Nonpublic School Services staff welcomed back 71 professionals for three days of professional development on August 31-September 2nd.

The Southeast Regional Federal Programs Coordinator from PDE will conduct an audit of the Division's Title II funding on September 24, 2010. Every few years, PDE conducts an audit of the federal grants.

The four-day Student Assistant Program (SAP) training, for public and nonpublic school staff, will be held in early October.

PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand

PaTTAN works closely with intermediate units to ensure that schools have the skills needed to support students with disabilities and their families during the transition process from education to training to work and life after high school. Using a five-year cycle developed by PDE, each school district is required to participate in training on how to include measurable goals in a student's IEPs. PaTTAN supports the IU TAC staff in the implementation of this training. This year Pottsgrove and Upper Merion are involved. Another highlight of the work related to secondary transition is the annual Community on Transition Conference held each summer. Over 1,000 educators, parents and students attended this energizing conference where they actively participated in sessions.

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

Mrs. Rawlings reported that 1,000 free coats will be distributed to 11 school districts on October 13th through a new partnership with Operation Warm.

The MCIU Education Foundation annual report was completed this September and work has begun on the 3rd Annual Fall Social and Wine Tasting to be held on Tuesday, November 9, 4:30 -7 pm, at the Lower Providence Fire Hall. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by contacting Kristen Rawlings at krawlings@mciu.org. The event includes more than 80 silent auction items.

Division Spotlight: Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy was joined by TIS supervisors, Troy Sosnovik and Sheldon Wedemeyer, to spotlight the division's technology initiatives and services. The Division's budget for 2010-2011 is \$4,797,171 with nearly \$2.3 million generated from fee-based services. The fee-based revenue stream continues to grow as TIS works to reduce to expand its contracted services with school districts/nonpublic schools and decrease its revenues from member service fees, paid by each district. Member service fees constitute \$1.4 million and Act 183 grant funds total \$429,000.

Member service fees include a wide range of value-added services that districts have requested such as advisory councils, consortium purchase coordination, grantwriting for technology, Internet2 access, basic moodle hosting and MCTV. However, districts are able apply their member service fees toward more applicable fee-based services if needed.

During the 2010-2011 school year, TIS has four focus areas:

1. Developing & providing cost effective services such as Remote Data Backups, Virtual Helpdesk, HP Computer Sales, Data Audits and Online Form Development
2. Providing collaboration tools such as Live Virtual Classrooms, Video Conferencing and Desktop Video Conferencing
3. Developing and offering content services including Gales Database, Safari Montage Video, the Computer Fair and Summer Video Gaming Camp, Vendor Workshops and technology trainings.
4. Building IU Partnerships which allows the MCIU to offer additional services to our schools using the expertise in other IUs and vice versa. A partnership with Bucks and Lancaster-Lebanon IUs, for example, will provide districts with additional services in Data Backup and Disaster Recovery, PowerSchool and Instructional Technology

Mrs. Kennedy also reported that this will be the last year of the Act 183 grant funding which will expand the local and regional wide area networks with new connections to nonpublic schools and implement a Mentorship/Development Program for new, current or potential technology directors.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on
October 27, 2010
at 7:45 p.m.**