



Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the April 22, 2009 Board Meeting

Board Actions

The Board recognized Deb Booher as the recipient of the annual Bobbie S. Goodman Award, named in memory of a former MCIU reading specialist in the Nonpublic School Services Division. Deb was commended for her dedication to teaching, personal caring for students, creativity, professional support for colleagues, commitment to friendship and loyalty to the MCIU.

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy

Mrs. Mansuy requested and received approval for various personnel items.

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

Mr. Wisler asked and received approval on:

- Accepting the 2009-2010 Act 30 contracts with the Private Residential Rehabilitative Institutions (PRRIs) Carson Valley School, New Life Youth and Family Services and St. Gabriel's Hall System. The MCIU is the LEA for these PRRIs.
- Authorization to declare equipment obsolete. MCIU will attempt to e-Bay those items that are saleable, use some of the items for parts, and dispose of those items that cannot be sold or used for parts.

Division of Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Development –Kendall Glouner

A written report was provided.

Special Education Division – Dr. Jeanmarie Mason

Dr. Mason reminded the Board about the MCIU Education Foundation Annual Golf Classic which will be held May 11 at the Blue Bell Country Club. Golfers are needed as well as sponsors and door prizes.

Tourette Syndrome Awareness Month is May 15 to June 15. Dr. Mason said trainings about Tourettes are available to school districts through an organization, PA-TSA. Visit www.patsainc.org for more information.

Dr. Mason will be representing the MCIU at a Disability Resource Expo sponsored by State Rep. Thomas Murt on May 9th. She will exhibit information about MCIU resources for children with disabilities.

The MCIU received a \$50,000 grant from the Office of Child Development and Early Learning to increase information to area preschools for children with disabilities.

Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy highlighted a new contract with the Colonial School District to provide Power School implementation and training.

Mrs. Kennedy is serving on a statewide committee assigned to creating a business plan for PAIUnet, which will detail resource sharing, management of revenues and vendors among other things. She anticipates the plan will be completed by this summer.

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) – Dr. Janet M. Sloand

Dr. Sloand highlighted PaTTAN's recent trainings as part of the Statewide Behavior Initiative to change classroom practices to better manage student's behavioral issues. PaTTAN consultants provided a 3-day training series in November and March which attracted more than 700 educators to each. One is also scheduled for May.

To make the trainings more accessible to educators, PaTTAN also offered a series of after school video conferences.

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

Dr. Gales was attending a legislative conference in Washington, DC. A written report was provided.

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

The MCIU received an "Award of Excellence" in the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA) Publications Contest for its 2007-2008 Annual Report. This is PenSPRA's highest ranking.

Mrs. Rawlings is currently recruiting school district contacts to help with the promotion of "The Montgomery County Schools Fitness Challenge: Fit in Sixty Days" which will kick off in the 2009-2010 school year. This event and other wellness initiatives will help improve employee wellness and, thereby, result in potential savings in health insurance premiums—a win-win for everyone!

Spotlight: Nonpublic School Services Division – Dr. Kenneth Voss

Dr. Voss provided an overview of his division and the 2009-2010 Nonpublic School Services Budget which will be presented for action at the May 27, 2009 board meeting. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- Act 89 of 1975 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania mandated auxiliary educational services for nonpublic schools in remedial reading and math, speech/language therapy, guidance/counseling/consultation and psychological services. Intermediate Units were designated to provide these services.
- More than 95% of the funding for the Nonpublic School Services Division comes from Act 89 state funds. The division also receives state and federal programs and grants, including Title funds, Tobacco Control and Safe and Drug Free Schools funding.
- Montgomery County's nonpublic, non-profit school enrollment for 142 schools was about 29,000 in 2008-2009 and is expected to stay the same in 2009-2010. Enrollment dropped last year by about 1,500 students due to two schools (Episcopal Academy and Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy) relocating to Delaware County. The MCIU Nonpublic School Services Division is still the largest division of its kind in the Commonwealth, excluding Philadelphia.
- The Division is proposing a \$10.3 million budget for the 2009-2010 school year. This reflects a 5% decrease of \$500,000 due to cuts of about 2.5% in Act 89 Funds and an additional 2.5% reduction in title funds from the decrease in student enrollment.
- In order to absorb the anticipated budget cut, the Division has proposed a reduction of its FTE by 8.7.

- In the 08-09 school year, the division provided remedial math services to 71 schools and 673 students; reading services to 93 schools and 1,472 students. It provided psychological services to 107 schools and 610 students individually. It also provided guidance and counseling services to 1,546 individual students and 9,100 students in a group setting. Occupational therapy services were provided to 66 schools and 1,022. Speech therapy was provided to 78 schools and 1,159 students.

Dr. Voss and his staff also highlighted three new summer camps available to students in nonpublic schools:

- Jump Start to First Grade for incoming first graders
- Social Smarts Camp for students entering the 2nd and 3rd grades
- High School Smart Camp for students entering the 9th grade

Camp Ophelia for middle school girls will be held for the 3rd year in a row and the Boys Leadership Camp for the second year.

The next MCIU May 27, 2009 at 7:45 p.m.