



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

*An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence*

### ***To The Point. . .***

#### **Key points and highlights from the August 26, 2009 Board Meeting**

##### **Board Actions**

The MCIU Board welcomed its new board member representing Lower Merion School District, Dr. Susan Guthrie.

The Board honored Tammy Bertel as the recipient of the Annie Sullivan award recognizing an educator who exemplifies caring involvement with disabled students. Tammy currently works as a Speech/Language Support Class teacher.

##### **Report of the Executive Director – Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley**

Dr. Shiveley highlighted that the executive directors of area intermediate units – Montgomery, Bucks, Chester and Delaware – have been meeting to discuss the development of joint services and expertise that may be accessed by other intermediate units throughout the state. This will increase services to our local school districts. The executive directors are also meeting with the Lebanon Lancaster Intermediate Unit.

Dr. Shiveley reported that if the state budget impasse continues in to October or November, it may have a serious impact on the continued operation of the Nonpublic School Services Division, which is fully funded by state dollars that have not been released. Fortunately, the IDEA funds, which fund PaTTAN and the Early Intervention services, have been released. At the September board meeting, Stan Wisler will present a report on the financial status of the MCIU related to no state revenue coming to the MCIU due to the budget impasse.

##### **DIVISION REPORTS**

###### **Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy**

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

###### **Special Education Division – Dr. Jeanmarie Mason**

Dr. Mason highlighted the Extended School Year (ESY) program which served 59 students with Autism from districts in Montgomery County. Dr. Mason thanked the school districts that provided ESY classroom space this summer: Cheltenham, Colonial, North Penn, and Perkiomen Valley.

Dr. Mason reported that 185 professional staff and paraeducators in the school age programs are attending a Summer Academy, August 25, 26 and 27 which offers three days of professional development opportunities. The Summer Academy is one example of the professional development opportunities that are offered annually to the staff in the special education division.

###### **Management Services – Stan H. Wisler**

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

- Recommendation to approve the Project Revision for Rider PP Grant Application for Title III: Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students in the amount of \$219,632
- Recommendation to accept a grant award from PDE, Bureau of Adult Basic and Literacy Education, in the amount of \$49,989
- Recommendation to approve a lease agreement with the Freedom Valley YMCA to house the early intervention hearing impaired classroom
- Recommendation to acknowledge receipt of a written report from a state audit conducted for the school years, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. There were no findings or observations.

Mr. Wisler shared the guiding principles that will be used by division directors in the development of the budgets for 2010-2011, given the current state of the economy.

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

Dr. Gales reported that it has been 57 days without a state budget and there is no indication that the impasse will end quickly. The MCIU has been actively reaching out to legislators via email, phone calls and visits to advocate for speedy passage of a budget that fulfills the educational needs of our districts.

HB 1881 was reintroduced which creates a 16-member Health Care Trust Board which would have the authority to: 1) conduct a study of current school employee health care offerings statewide; 2) develop a statewide plan of health care coverage to school employees or an alternative measures program with certain features designed to reduce costs to school districts, subject to a qualified majority vote of the statewide board; 3) determine the standard benefits package and benefit options in a statewide plan. The bill has been referred to House Appropriations Committee.

The State Board of Education has approved the Keystone Exams regulations. The Senate and House Education Committees and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission will now formally consider the proposal.

### **Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy**

Mrs. Kennedy reported that the Division is in year 2 of a 3 year e-grant to connect all the county school districts to the Regional Wide Area Network (RWAN). TIS anticipates having the entire network completed by next year. TIS is also exploring another e-grant that will expand distance learning capacity.

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

Mrs. Glouner highlighted that the MCIU is partnering with The Flippin Group, Learning Keys and Avid to host “The Administrators’ Leadership Academy” which will take place over 19 days from October 2009 through July 2010. The mission of “The Administrators’ Leadership Academy” is to increase the relational leadership skills and organizational knowledge of current administrators. Administrators will earn 180 PIL (Act 45) credits.

Mrs. Glouner reported that the deadline for submitting school improvement plans to PDE has been delayed until December. CIPD will be holding school improvement informational sessions and planning sessions to assist schools in September and October.

### **Nonpublic School Services Division – Dr. Kenneth Voss**

Dr. Voss reported that his division will have opening day on September 1. Dr. Ellen Wedemeyer, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will discuss Accommodations and Modifications within the Curriculum”.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has notified the Nonpublic School Services Division of a new, eligible nonpublic schools opening in Montgomery County -- Friendship House in Hatfield. NPSS does not have to provide services until the 2010-2011 school year.

**PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand**

PaTTAN, together with the Bureau of Special Education (BSE), offered 9 conferences & specialized trainings this summer serving 5,000 educators, parents, and educational leaders. The training opportunities covered a wide range of topics, including the Summer Academy for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired and an Assistive Technology-Occupational Therapy-Physical Therapy Summer Institute.

**Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings**

Mrs. Rawlings reported that registration has begun for the first annual Montgomery County Schools Fitness Challenge: Fit in 60 Days. All school districts, 3 vo-tech schools and the MCIU are participating. For more information, log on to <http://fitnesschallenge.mciu.org>. Districts may watch their progress in the competition via the website.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on  
September 23, 2009  
at 7:45 p.m.**