



To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the February 24, 2010 Board Meeting

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy

Mrs. Mansuy requested and received approval for various personnel items, including 1 professional staff appointment, 1 request for unpaid leave and 3 salary adjustments due to educational attainment. Also approved were two requests for unpaid leave, one resignation, one transfer and two salary adjustments for teacher assistant/ support staff. Administrative recommendations included one resignation and one retirement. One teacher was approved for the award of her Professional Contract and two teachers were approved for the teacher assistant substitute list.

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

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

- Recommendation to accept the 2008-2009 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by Maille Falconiero and Company.
- Recommendation to Approve the All City Transportation, Inc. transportation contract and the Medical Transportation Systems contract. Mr. Wisler noted that the contractors would only be used if the pricing and service is deemed better than the contractors currently used by the MCIU.

Special Education Division – Dr. Jeanmarie Mason

Dr. Mason reported that her customer satisfaction visits with school districts were very informative. Districts shared their opinions of current services, made recommendations for improvement and suggested new services in the areas of transition, autism and secondary emotional support.

Dr. Mason also encouraged the Board to support the 11th Annual Golf Classic for Montgomery County Education Foundation Annual Golf Classic. Board members may participate as golfers or contributors.

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

Dr. Gales reported that Governor Rendell presented his 2010 budget. It reflects an overall increase of 4%, but education increased by 6.4% including \$748 million from the federal stimulus bill. On the negative side it has a 1% decrease in funding for intermediate units.

Dr. Gales also noted that Democratic and Republican leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and Labor announced plans for a bipartisan reform of ESEA. This process will start with a series of hearings. The first hearing was scheduled February 24th and focused on charter schools.

Last week, the Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee (MCS DLC) met with Jeff Clay, Executive Director of PSERS. The MCS DLC was the first group to hear the effects of the governor's proposal to address the increasing costs of the state pension systems. One step is to re-start the accrued liability for PSERS pension plan. The state is currently ten years into a thirty year pay back, so this proposal would extend it another thirty years. He also recommended a 1% rate cap for 2010-2011 and a 3% rate cap thereafter.

Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy reported that the Western Center for Technical Studies is now connected to the regional network. Three additional school districts will be joining by the end of the year at which time all of the districts will be connected.

Mrs. Kennedy also reported that TIS is in the process of restructuring programs, services and staff based on the service needs of school districts. Recommendations to the Board included reductions in several areas, a transfer of a part-time position from TIS to another division and an additional position to assume responsibilities in areas that have experienced increased demand.

Curriculum, Instruction, & Professional Development –Kendall Glouner

Mrs. Glouner highlighted the 3rd annual Health and Physical Education Symposium held February 13 at Hatboro-Horsham High School. Approximately 150 educators attended.

Mrs. Glouner also noted that planning for the 11th Annual Reading Olympics is underway. Registration forms have been sent to all of the school districts and volunteer opportunities are available for anyone wishing to assist with the event. Contact Maria Johns at mjohns@mciu.org for more information.

Ms. Glouner also distributed a Keystone Exams Fact Sheet created by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).She noted that three committees are being formed by PDE to inform the creation of the implementation guidelines and is hopeful that there will be representation from Montgomery County.

Nonpublic School Services Division – Dr. Kenneth Voss

Due to decreasing enrollment, Dr. Voss reported that at least two nonpublic Archdiocesan elementary schools will be combined next year. There are rumors that two other archdiocesan elementary schools and one non-archdiocesan school may also be closing. Dr. Voss stated that he will inform the public school superintendents about these closings since it will impact the transportation needs in these districts.

PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand

Dr. Sloand highlighted the variety of technology tools that PaTTAN has been using to assist in communication with colleagues and trainings for clients. PaTTAN has been using blogs, webinars, Twitter, Wikis, Wallwisher, Survey Monkey among other tools. She noted that the webinars have been highly successful attracting 200-300 participants per session. The webinar can also be posted to the PaTTAN website for viewing at a later date.

Division Spotlight: Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

Mrs. Rawlings reported on the Communication Division's responsibilities and shared highlights from the past year. The Division is responsible for the internal and external communications for the MCIU and is available to support school districts with their communications projects on a contractual basis. Services include:

- Publication Development
- Media Relations
- Strategic Communications Planning
- Developing Website Content
- Special Event Assistance
- Public Relations Trainings

Highlights from the past year include:

- Creation of 25+ brochures/flyers or other publication to promote the MCIU's services and professional development offerings
- Completion of the first all inclusive "MCIU Guide to Services" which incorporated descriptions of the more than 200 services and their associated costs.
- Receipt of an Award of Excellence from the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association (PenSPRA) for the MCIU Annual Report and an Award of Honor for *MCIU Update*
- Provided trainings to several school districts and a nonpublic school on branding
- Supported school districts with projects including Wissahickon School District's first annual report to the community, Pottsgrove High School's parent newsletters and the district office's faculty newsletter.

Mrs. Rawlings reminded the Board that nominations for the Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence are due by March 10th. This is the 4th annual event which honors exceptional educators. The nomination form is online at www.freedomcu.org or mciu.org.

Mrs. Rawlings also highlighted the Spring 2010 Fitness Challenge, which will run from April 1-May 20th. There are three competition tiers this time. Registration begins March 15 and can be completed online at www.fitnesschallenge.mciu.org. The first Challenge, held fall 2009, included more than 3,000 school employees and attracted the attention of other intermediate units who have requested training and purchased the MCIU's website to run their own Challenge.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on
March 24, 2010
at 7:45 p.m.**