



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the June 24, 2009 Board Meeting

Board Actions

The MCIU Board elected the following an amended slate of officers for the 2009-2010 school year (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010):

- John Grispon, President
- Marc Lieberson, Vice President
- Marie Knox, Treasurer
- Jeanette Maitin, Secretary

The Board approved the Meet and Discuss Plan for Teacher Assistants/Paraprofessionals/Interpreters/Job Coaches

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 graduation of 12 students from the Anderson School, 2 from the Lynch Home and one from the Montgomery County School. The ceremonies included wonderful testimony from students and families regarding the academic, behavior and emotional support provided by staff of these programs. A parent of an Anderson student commented that “the Anderson School saved my child’s life.”

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

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

- (1) Recommendation to Accept the Lease Renewal between MCIU and Upper Merion School District – Belmont School
- (2) Recommendation to Approve the MCIU Insurance Coverage for 2009-2010
- (3) Recommendation to Approve the Budget Transfer Process for 2008- 2009
- (4) Recommendation to Approve Depositories for 2009-2010
- (5) Recommendation to Approve the Transportation Contracts for 2009-2010
- (6) Recommendation to Approve Grant Rider KK-Title I, Improving Basic Programs from the PA Department of Education
- (7) Recommendation to Approve the Continuation of Title I Program Funds
- (8) Recommendation to Approve the Continuation of Title II (Part A) Funds
- (9) Recommendation to Approve the Continuation of Title IV Program Funds

- (10) Recommendation to Accept Continuation of Projects - Pennsylvania Department of Education/Bureau of Special Education and Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)
- (11) Recommendation to Accept Continuation of Projects – Tuscarora Intermediate Unit 11 for the Early Intervention Project
- (12) Recommendation for approval of an IDEIA Federal Early Intervention Project Application
- (13) Recommendation for Approval of an IDEIA Regular Project Application
- (14) Recommendation for Approval of a revised budget for Early Intervention Project
- (15) Recommendation for Approval of application and MAWA Agreement
- (16) Recommendation for Approval to Submit Application for Early Intervention Purposes
- (17) Recommendation to Approve Period (Date) Change from Action at May 27, 2009 Board Meeting – IDEA/ARRA Funds

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

Dr. Gales reported that the state budget is still being debated and is expected to have a late settlement stretching past the June 30th deadline. The Governor has announced that he will present an amended budget by the end of next week with a \$500 million reduction, including \$212 million in education cuts. Programs that are being discussed for elimination include the Governor’s School of Excellence and Classrooms of the Future. To cover budget shortfalls, the Governor is also recommending a temporary income tax increase of 3.07% to 3.5%. He is also recommending use of Rainy Day Funds and an increase in the tobacco tax. However, House and Senate Republicans have stated that they will not approve a budget that includes tax increases of any kind.

Secretary Zahorchak sent a letter to the Senate and House education committees announcing the removal of state-mandated graduation test development from the Data Recognition contract. The contract will focus on the voluntary model curriculum and instructional diagnostic tools.

Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

Mrs. Kennedy highlighted that TIS sponsored two Lower Moreland Senior High School students as part of their senior graduation Communication Action Project. The two TIS supervisors, Troy Sosnovik and Sheldon Wedemeyer, mentored the students on projects ranging from troubleshooting computers to developing web applications.

TIS assisted Colonial School District with the implementation of the PowerTeacher/PowerSchool program which included the production of an overview video, parent portal video and 13 hands-on training sessions for 450 Colonial faculty members.

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

Mrs. Glouner highlighted Arthur Mitchell, who has been serving as the new Assistant Director of CIPD since June 8. Arthur is expected to be a tremendous resource for both the MCIU and the districts. He joins the IU with a wealth of experience in curriculum development.

Mrs. Glouner reported that the School Improvement Framework (Generation VI) which was revised by PDE based on feedback from the school districts and the MCIU, provides a format that is much more user friendly and meaningful.

Nonpublic School Services Division – Dr. Kenneth Voss

Dr. Voss reported that the summer camps for nonpublic school students were highly successful with tremendous feedback from parents and students. Although 3 new summer camps were created this summer, he anticipates further expanding the camps next year to accommodate demand.

Twelve NPSS staff, with more than 350 combined years of service, will be retiring this year.

Katie Young, a counselor with NPSS, is one of the authors of “Thirty-five Techniques Every Counselor Needs to Know”, published by Merrill Prentice Hall.

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

Mrs. Rawlings highlighted the upcoming Montgomery County Schools Fitness Challenge which will kick off September 14 with an initiative called “Fit in 60 Days.” It is anticipated that all school districts and vo-tech schools will participate. Staff will be encouraged to exercise and log their progress on a website developed by the IU. They can compare their progress to other staff in their schools as well as other districts. At the end of the 60 days, prizes will be awarded to the “Healthiest School District in Montgomery County” as well as to staff members who log the most time.

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

Dr. Sloand provided a spotlight on the services of PaTTAN King of Prussia –one of three PaTTAN offices statewide. PaTTAN, which takes program direction from PDE and the Bureau of Special Education, provides professional development, technical assistance, and resources to build the capacity of local education agencies to serve students who receive special education services. It also provides resources for parents and families of students with disabilities serving 40% of eligible students statewide.

PaTTAN King of Prussia is administered by the MCIU, but provides support to 9 intermediate units, 122 school districts, 80 charter schools and 20 approved private schools. It has a budget of about \$7 million and employs 42 staff members.

Dr. Sloand highlighted the expertise of her staff which includes 23 educational specialists and 2 parent consultants who provide services in the areas of:

- ✓ Inclusive Practices
- ✓ Autism
- ✓ Educational Sign Language Interpretation
- ✓ Special Education Leadership for new and veteran special education administrators
- ✓ Response to Instruction and Intervention
- ✓ Positive Behavior and Behavior Intervention
- ✓ Blind and Visually Impaired Instruction

PaTTAN employs support staff members who provide support for the training consultants and help organize PaTTAN’s numerous conferences and trainings.

PaTTAN’s staff also operate a bustling publications center which writes, edits, designs and distributes publications for the MCIU, PaTTAN and the Bureau of Special Education.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on
August 26, 2009
at 7:45 p.m.**