



MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence

To The Point. . .

Key points and highlights from the October 28, 2009 Board Meeting

Board Actions

The Board approved the MCIU Programs Policies (100 series).

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

Dr. Shiveley reported that the October 19th workshop on budget issues/preparation and bargaining strategies was well attended and very beneficial to superintendents, business managers and human resources staff.

DIVISION REPORTS

Human Resources—Jane W. Mansuy

Mrs. Mansuy requested and received approval for various personnel items, including 5 professional staff appointments, two requests for unpaid leave, three salary adjustments, one resignation and one retirement; one salary adjustment for educational attainment for teacher assistant/ support staff and one retirement; a request for sabbatical leave; the appointment of two volunteer induction professionals who will mentor our new teachers and the addition of 8 substitutes for professional and teacher assistant positions.

Management Services – Stan H. Wisler

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

- Recommendation to approve the Agreement of Joint Purchasing of Prescription Drug Benefits
- Recommendation to accept a subcontract agreement between the Eastern Center for Arts and Technology and the MCIU

Special Education Division – Dr. Jeanmarie Mason

Dr. Mason highlighted that the MCIU's Adaptive Education Teacher, Darlene Anderson, was selected by the Pennsylvania State Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (PSAHPERD) for the 2008-2009 Pennsylvania Outstanding Adapted Physical Education Teacher award. Darlene has been with the MCIU 23 for 21 years.

Dr. Mason also reminded the Board about the MCIU Education Foundation's Fall Social and Fundraiser on Thursday, November 5 from 4:30 to 7:30 at the Lower Providence Fire Hall. More than 70 items are available for the silent auction.

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

Dr. Gales reported the Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved the development of Keystone Exams, as well as the corresponding curricula and diagnostic tools. The regulation calls for the state to provide 10 end-of-course exams, beginning with English literature, Algebra 1 and biology in 2010-11, with other English,

math, science and social studies subjects being phased in through 2016-17. Beginning in the 2014-15 school year students would need to pass courses in English composition, literature, Algebra 1 and biology to graduate. Beginning in 2016, 17 students would need to pass two of three math courses (Algebra 1, Algebra II, geometry); one of two sciences (biology, chemistry) and one of three social studies (American history, civics and government, world history). The state plans to ask the federal government to permit the first three exams to be used to satisfy the No Child Left Behind Act, beginning in 2012-13, thus enabling the state to discontinue the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams in 11th grade.

Dr. Gales also reported that the state budget is not yet finalized. House and Senate leaders have not yet reached agreement on details regarding the legalization of table games, which is expected to generate about \$240 million in revenue. Funding for the state-related universities, as well as some museums and medical institutions is being held up, since revenue from the gaming expansion will provide the basis for that funding.

Technology & Information Services – Gail Kennedy

TIS is hosting a day long Technology Vendor Expo on November 6th as a result of the September Technology Council meeting. Technology members indicated they would like to obtain more information about technologies and solutions that will save money, decrease support costs, increase the longevity of capital investments, boost high availability, and enhance clients computing experience.

On October 14, TIS streamed the live video of Attorney General Corbett's CyberBullying presentation to over 1600 students in 20 different schools. This video streaming technology was made possible through funding from an Act 183 eFund grant provided to the MCIU by PDE.

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

Mrs. Glouner highlighted that the continuation of the Teaching American History professional development sessions for 2009-2010 are slated to begin October 29th with a two-day workshop session. This program, funded through a US Department of Education grant, is open to all elementary, middle and high school history teachers. Altogether, there are 10 professional development sessions scheduled this school year. The MCIU plans to continue its work with the Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation to present training opportunities, including educational off-site trips, that improve instruction and student achievement related to traditional American History.

On October 7, CIPD hosted a session for districts to interface with a representative from the College Board to analyze five-year trend data provided to them free of charge by the College Board. This session provided for dialogue about ways for districts to support Advanced Placement courses and allow district staff to review various data sets including SAT results. Districts were exposed to curriculum and programs available through the College Board for secondary students.

Nonpublic School Services Division – Nancy Myers

Nancy Myers, NPSS Supervisor, reported on behalf of Director Dr. Kenneth Voss, that two of the NPSS counselors presented at the Family Involvement Conference on the topic, "*School, Home, and Community: Teaching Students How to Handle Conflict.*"

The private nonpublic school enrollment count for 2009-10 has begun. The accounting of enrollment as of October 1 provides the basis for the 2010-11 funding for NPSS.

NPSS also has been collaborating with the Special Education Division to assist in providing psychological assessments for the recent influx of Equitable Participation testing requests.

PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand

Dr. Sloand highlighted that PaTTAN has developed the Educational Interpreter Initiative, designed to expand the pool of qualified interpreters to work in educational settings, as evidenced by achieving a minimum score of 3.5

(70%) on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment. The training initiative includes a formal mentoring program, building regional interpreting labs, and continuing professional development opportunities.

Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings

Mrs. Rawlings reported that the fall issue of MCIU Update and the 2008-2009 Annual Report were completed and distributed this month to school boards, superintendents, staff, legislators and PDE contacts. The Annual Report will be submitted in the publication contests for PSBA, PenSPRA and NSPRA with the goal of winning a 3rd consecutive “Award of Excellence.”

Division Spotlight: Stan Wisler, Management Services

Mr. Wisler presented the 2010-2011 General Operating Budget which totals \$8,798,328 for first review. School district contributions represent 15.83% of the budget which is a \$39,000 or 2.9% increase for school districts countywide. The individual district contribution varies based on enrollment and a wealth formula calculated by the state. Other revenue sources include local, state, federal and fee-for-service funds.

The four (4) budgets that make up the proposed Intermediate Unit’s General Operating Budget for 2010-2011 include:

1. General Administrative Services (no district contribution—funded from divisions and state subsidy)
2. Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development (CIPD) (Total district contribution is \$65,884, an increase of 2.9% from 09-10).
3. Legislative Services and Grants Development (Total district contribution is \$107,788, a 2.9% increase)
4. Technology and Information Services (TIS) (Total district contribution is \$1,218,750, a 2.9% increase)

Understanding the difficult economic climate, Mr. Wisler stressed that the 2010-2011 budget was crafted with a continued focus on streamlining and restructuring the MCIU to reduce costs. A number of strategies were used to accomplish this including:

- Cutting costs where possible
- Elimination of non essential purchases
- Not automatically replacing positions due to retirements/resignations

As a result, the district’s contribution to support the three divisions in the General Operating Budget continues to decrease and is almost 6% lower than the countywide 2007-2008 district contribution rate of 20%. In order to generate revenues, the MCIU is focused on developing and offering fee-based services that support the districts’ needs by reducing their costs and enhancing operational and instructional capacity.

Total MCIU operations total more than \$113 million which includes more than 85 funds, ranging from \$900 to \$45 million. Restricted funds include PaTTAN, Nonpublic School Services and early intervention.

The budgets were reviewed and presented to the Superintendents at the Council meeting on October 8, 2009. Action on the budgets will be requested at the November 12, 2009 Superintendent Council meeting. The Intermediate Unit Board of Directors will be asked to approve the budget at the November 18, 2009 Board meeting. The budgets will then be sent to each district for action by local boards in December and January with the budget election results in February 2010. The budget will then be forwarded to the Commonwealth in May 2010.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on
November 18, 2009
at 7:45 p.m.**