



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

*An Educational Service Agency Supporting School Excellence*

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

### **Key points and highlights from the March 24, 2010 Board Meeting**

#### **Board Actions**

The Board approved the Guidelines for electing new MCIU board members and approved Jeffrey Sultanik to serve as the judge of elections. Eight seats will be vacant as of July 1, 2010, requiring school district boards to nominate and appoint a member from their district by majority vote.

Districts required to submit a 3-year term board candidate include:

- Abington
- Bryn Athyn
- Souderton
- Springfield Township
- Upper Moreland

Districts required to submit candidates for a 2-year term include:

- Spring-Ford Area
- Upper Perkiomen

Districts required to submit candidates for a one-year term include Hatboro-Horsham.

#### **Report of Judge of Ballots**

Mr. Sultanik reported on the ballots of the 2010-2011 MCIU General Operating Budget, which must be approved by the Boards of the 22 public school districts. The budget, which comprises funding for General Administrative Services, the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Division, the Legislative Services and Grants Development Division and the Technology and Information Services Division, passed overwhelmingly with more affirmative votes than in the past several years.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Dr. Shiveley requested that Steve Beck, School Safety Coordinator, provide an overview of his responsibilities and how he can assist the districts. The School Safety Coordinator is a unique position that has joint reporting responsibilities to the county Public Safety Department and the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. The position was created 2 ½ years ago to assist Montgomery County schools (public, nonpublic, colleges/universities) with an array of school safety issues and initiatives. Beck serves as the primary liaison between the school districts and the county. He offers a variety of support services to the districts, including trainings and consultation on emergency preparedness, crisis communications and protective services. He has handled multiple requests from schools to run table top exercises, conduct drills and provide safety presentations. He also assisted in the installation of the Countywide Law Enforcement Alerting Safety System into the county's 650 public, parochial, private and nursery school buildings.

Most recently, Beck has been working with Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Ferman on a county wide school safety coordination group to address all current and future aspects of school safety. Beck, a former lieutenant and second in command of the Lower Moreland Police Department, enjoys a close relationship with the other protective services agencies as well , including the fire and police departments, health department and emergency management groups. The schools benefit with Beck focusing on how these agencies can coordinate efforts to improve safety which is now an essential part of every school administrator's job.

## **DIVISION REPORTS**

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

Mrs. Mansuy requested and received approval for various personnel items, including the elimination of one technology support position and one furlough as of June 30th; the appointment of four professional staff, one request for unpaid leave and one request for sabbatical leave. Also approved were three appointments, one request for unpaid leave, two reclassifications and one furlough for teacher assistant/ support staff. The Board approved requests for two summer/winter temporary maintenance workers for PaTTAN and two temporary clerical workers to assist during vacation coverage and summer projects. Two 1:1 Temporary Teacher Assistants also were approved for the Autistic Support Program and four staff were approved as mentors for the Induction Program. Four conference requests were approved and one teacher for the teacher assistant substitute list.

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

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

- Recommendation to submit an application for \$24,502,161 in funding from PDE/Special Education, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

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

Dr. Mason reported that the Training and Consulting (TAC) staff will be working with the Montgomery County Transition Coordinating Council to facilitate a "Transition to Adult Life Resource Fair" on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 pm at Wissahickon High School. The fair features over 50 exhibitors and speakers to help provide support and resources to families and students with disabilities.

TAC staff also facilitated three workshops on Standard Aligned IEPs in December, January and February, which were attended by more than 130 teachers and administrators.

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

Dr. Gales reported that the House passed and sent to the Senate HB 2279 which is almost identical to Governor Rendell's budget proposal. The Senate plans on waiting until the March and April revenue numbers are available before taking action on this bill.

Pennsylvania is one of 16 finalists for Phase I of Race to the Top (RTTT) funding. On March 17, 2010. Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, Secretary of Education; Donna Cooper, Secretary of Planning and Policy for Gov. Rendell; Dr. Arlene Ackerman, Superintendent of the Philadelphia SD; Dr. Linda Lane, Deputy Superintendent of the Pittsburgh SD; and Dr. Lawrence O'Shea, Executive Director of Delaware County I.U. 25 presented the state's RTTT proposal. Intermediate Units have a critical role in this proposal because they provide for continuity after the elections. Announcement of the Phase 1 winners is expected in early April.

Discussions continue on the ESEA Reauthorization. Emphasis will be placed on each student's academic growth and whether the schools are closing the achievement gaps between poor and affluent students. The administration's recent proposal would require states to use assessment and other indicators, such as graduation rates, to determine the categories into which each school will fall, ranging from the "Reward" schools to the "Challenge" schools, the latter of which would require significant state intervention. The plan also would move federal education funds toward a competitive grant system under Title I rather than through a per-pupil formula.

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

Mrs. Kennedy reported that TIS hosted the Annual Computer Fair this year which attracted students from four school districts and one nonpublic school. Her staff also participated in the Perkiomen Valley High School Career Fair on March 3rd to talk to students about careers in technology.

Seneca-Highland IU9, which serves Potter, McKean, Cameron and Elk counties, contracted with the TIS team to conduct a technology audit. The TIS staff evaluated their current capabilities and made recommendations on programmatic improvements in the technology services area.

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

Mrs. Glouner highlighted the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Reading Olympics, which attracted 508 teams and more than 7,000 students this year. There are 8 competitions between March and May.

CIPD sponsored the annual Academic Competition on March 17, attracting 18 teams from 13 school districts and 5 private/parochial schools. The winner, Cheltenham High School, will travel to the state competition on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

On April 16, CIPD will host a workshop called "Engaging Parents Across Cultural Borders to Increase Student Achievement." Dr. York Williams from West Chester University will present.

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

This March, the Nonpublic School Services Division federal programs staff conducted a focus group with the nonpublic school administrators regarding Title II funding which entitles the schools to professional development initiatives. Title I coordinators also met with administrators to discuss reading and math services that are provided to eligible students.

Dr. Voss attended the Montgomery County Children's Roundtable meeting where he heard a very informative presentation about gang-related issues in the school districts and nonpublic schools. He reported that districts may also find this presentation useful.

### **PaTTAN – Dr. Janet Sloand**

Dr. Sloand highlighted the PaTTAN initiative to provide technical assistance to local education agencies, IUs and approved private schools and families to enhance academic functional performance for students with visual impairments. Activities this year include:

1. The 2009 Summer Institute which included a five day series of workshops attended by more than 50 participants.
2. Three webinars that focused on how to effectively plan for secondary transition planning for students with visual impairment.
3. The creation of a summer camp for high school students with visual impairments. About 28 students are expected to attend the 2010 Academy this June to learn an array of academic and daily living skills that will help them succeed in college.

## **Communications Division—Kristen Rawlings**

Mrs. Rawlings noted that *MCIU Update*, the external newsletter will be distributed via email to Board members this Friday. She encouraged Board members to share the newsletter with their Boards and other educators who may be interested in MCIU services and workshops.

Nearly 600 nominations were received for the Voices of Inspiration Award for Teaching Excellence, representing every school district, the MCIU and the nonpublic schools. The award ceremony will be held May 6 at the Blue Bell Country Club. Board members are invited to attend.

## **Division Spotlight: Human Resources Division— Jane Mansuy**

Mrs. Mansuy highlighted a provision of the PA School Code known as Transfer of Entities (Section 1113) -- a law that districts may need to be aware of as they “take back” students who are being served through other Intermediate Units or career/vocational schools. Mrs. Mansuy discussed the requirements for such a transfer. This section of the School Code requires that if a tenured professional is suspended or furloughed as a result of the transfer, the receiving entity (school district), must offer them employment before hiring another employee. The law further states that the sick leave, years of service, sabbatical leave eligibility and placement on the salary schedule must transfer with the suspended/furloughed teacher.

If no position is available at the receiving entity, the teacher must be put into a pool of employees and offered the first available position for which the teacher is certified. There is an exception if there were already suspended employees in the pool who are certified to teach the same program. Also, the suspended/furloughed teacher is not required to accept the position.

Mrs. Mansuy also highlighted upcoming Human Resources events including:

- The annual Diversity Recruitment Fair held from 6 to 8 pm on March 25. About 17 districts are participating this year, providing information to about 100 candidates.
- The MCIU will host the Eastern Region PAIU/HR Directors on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- On April 19, the MCIU will host “It’s a Jungle Out There” – a workshop for Human Resources/ Payroll/Benefits Assistants from Montgomery County school districts.

**The next MCIU Board of Directors meeting will be held on  
April 28, 2010  
at 7:45 p.m.**