

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD MINUTES

1. Call to Order

President David Hasiuk called the meeting to order at 8:17 p.m. on January 24, 2007.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

David A. Hasiuk, President, Upper Moreland Township	Present
S. Troy Miller, Vice President, Perkiomen Valley	Present
Cedric McKeever, Secretary, Lower Moreland Township	Present
Marie A. Knox, Treasurer, Upper Merion Area	Present
Dr. Russel S. Bleiler, Hatboro-Horsham	Absent
Joseph Chmielewski, Upper Dublin	Absent
Tracy G. Cole, Souderton Area	Absent
Boo Crofton, Wissahickon	Present
Diane DiBonaventuro, Lower Merion Area	Present
Malcolm Gran, Springfield Township	Present
John S. Grispon, Spring-Ford Area	Present
Robert H. Hartman, Jr., Pottstown	Present
Marc Lieberon, Cheltenham	Absent
Vicki J. Lightcap, Upper Perkiomen	Present
Jeannette Maitin, Abington	Present
Margaret M. Martinez, Methacton	Absent
Ted Miller, Jenkintown	Present
Janice Pearce, Norristown Area	Absent
Thayer Pendleton, Bryn Athyn	Absent
Vincent Sherpinsky, North Penn	Absent
Gordon Whitlock, Pottsgrove	Present
Mitch Zimmer, Colonial	Present

Others

Dr. Jerry W. Shiveley, Executive Director	Present
Jeffrey Sultanik, Solicitor	Present

4. School Directors' Recognition

Dr. Shiveley announced that it was School Directors' Recognition Month for the State of Pennsylvania. He thanked the board members for all the hard work they do and for bringing stability to the MCIU. His gratitude was extended on behalf of all of the IU staff.

5. Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2006

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Whitlock and seconded by Mr. Ted Miller that the Intermediate Unit Board approve the minutes of the November 15, 2006 board meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Hasiuk asked if there were any public comments regarding agenda items. MCIU staff member, Judy Stayton, spoke about the proposed Special Education budget and how the changes and cuts will affect the special needs students. Debrah Gunton expressed her concerns about the changes in the Early Intervention program, and asked how the parents can protect their children's therapeutic needs. Mr. Hasiuk said that he appreciated their concerns and that they will be integrated into the MCIU decision making process, explaining that the Special Education division is under budget constraints.

7. Special Presentation

The Intermediate Unit honors employees who have completed twenty-five years of service. At the January 24, 2007 meeting the following dedicated staff members were recognized and honored:

Wendy Block, Speech Pathologist
Ann Fogarty, Speech Pathologist
Dawn Harrington, Secretary
Sarah Nestor, Secretary

8. Approval of Bills as Included in the Treasurer's Report (November & December)

Ms. Knox presented the November and December Treasurer's Report to the Board. The cash balance as of December 31, 2006 was \$23,254,778.51.

Motion: It was moved by Ms. Knox and seconded by Mr. Troy Miller that the Intermediate Unit Board approve the November and December Treasurer's Reports and the payment of bills.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. Personnel Report

Motion: It was moved by Mr. John Grispon and seconded by Mr. Troy Miller that the Intermediate Unit Board approve the personnel recommendations as listed on Item 2.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Review of Procedures for 2007/2008 Board Member Election

Dr. Shiveley reviewed the Procedures for the 2007/2008 Board Member Election. There will be five three-year terms available on the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Board this June. A memo seeking candidates for these five positions will be sent out with the nomination form in early March. The Nomination Form has a due date of April 23, 2007.

Mr. Hasiuk noted that he is not standing for reelection on the Upper Moreland school board and that he is completing his second term as President of the MCIU Board of Directors. His term will end on June 30, 2007.

11. First Review of Proposed 2007/2008 Special Education Budget

Dr. Shiveley said that the board will see the full Special Education budget, noting that because the MCIU has kept the increase to 3.4%, cuts are inevitable.

Dr. Mason, Acting Director of Special Education, then presented the proposed 2007/2008 Special Education Budget for first review.

12. Special Education Update

Dr. Shiveley thanked Dr. Mason and her staff for the effort that they put into the proposed budget and the Special Education Cost Plan. Dr. Mason handed out the 2007-2008 Cost Plan of Special Education Programs and Services and explained that this booklet includes information on specialized classroom programs, itinerant programs and supplementary and new services. This document was produced in response to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's directive.

13. Reports of Staff

a. Dr. Jeanmarie Mason

Dr. Mason had nothing to add to her report. It stands as sent.

b. Mr. Stan Wisler

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Troy Miller and seconded by Mr. Whitlock that the Intermediate Unit board approve the declaration of the three listed vehicles as

obsolete and that the Intermediate Unit board approve the acceptance of Title I funds from school districts to operate their Title I programs for their nonpublic school students. These contracts are with thirteen districts for the maximum amounts listed below.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Abington	\$ 30,574.00
Jenkintown	6,942.00
Lower Merion	2,812.00
Norristown	25,000.00
North Penn	9,514.00
Perkiomen Valley	8,224.00
Pottsgrove	13,816.00
Pottstown	6,803.00
Springfield Township	8,948.00
Upper Dublin	16,587.00
Upper Merion	3,127.74
Upper Moreland	4,434.00
Wissahickon	<u>8,363.94</u>
TOTAL	\$145,145.68

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Mr. Richard Luoma/Ms. Gail Kennedy

Ms. Kennedy thanked the Board of Directors for appointing her to serve the schools of Montgomery County.

d. Dr. Robert Shields

Dr. Shields reported on the newly formed Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), a department created by Governor Rendell to incorporate all early childhood development programs. Dr. Shields also extended an invitation to the board members to attend the 2007 Montgomery County Academic Competition to be held at the MCIU on February 7, 2007.

e. Mrs. Elizabeth Weber

Mrs. Weber gave an explanation of the Title 1 program and the funds that were approved by the board in Mr. Wisler's report, explaining that the funds for the thirteen school districts are primarily for reading programs and some math. Mrs. Weber also brought special attention to the Olweus Bullying Program which addresses the problem of bullying to eligible non public schools in Montgomery County.

f. Dr. Janet Sloand

Dr. Sloand brought attention to the Secondary Transition Initiative which was established to provide a positive approach to transitioning students with disabilities from school to adult life. PaTTAN provides training and technical assistance to the school districts in an attempt to assist in their efforts on behalf of the transitioning students.

g. Mrs. Laurie Smith Wood

In addition to the information items on Mrs. Smith Wood's report, she informed the board members that the Superintendents' Advisory Council held a special meeting in January to begin the development of a white paper which will define strategies for safe school environments. In addition, Mrs. Smith Wood reported that she is meeting with all of the school district superintendents individually to ascertain the services they would like the MCIU to provide.

14. Report of the Solicitor

Mr. Sultanik had no report.

15. Report of the Executive Director

Dr. Shiveley asked Dr. Shields and Ms. Kennedy to report on the alignment of the Technology and Information Services Division and the Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development division. They spoke to the board about the need to be transparent during the transition and the need to have a greater alignment among the internal and external clients. The concept will be to look at the curriculum first to determine what technology is needed. Ms. Kennedy brings much experience to her new position and will work to refine the MCIU's core services. Her emphasis will be on information, helping to gather and analyze data for the school districts.

Dr. Shiveley asked Dr. Shields to update the board on the progress of the MCIU Strategic Plan. Dr. Shields informed the board that the staff is working together to operationalize the Mission, Vision, Values and Goals in an effort to make it a living document. Dr. Shiveley said that this is all coming together thanks to the staff participation, Dr. Shields' strategies and the Ray Jorgensen process.

Dr. Shiveley pointed out that the Annual Report was completed and distributed, and that a copy is included in the board packet. He thanked Laurie Smith Wood for her hard work in bringing this to fruition.

Dr. Shiveley congratulated Vicki Lightcap on her appointment as the chairperson of the Legislative Committee. She will be working closely with Sharon Richardson in her capacity as the new Director of Legislative Services and Grant Development.

16. Report of Board Committees

There were no board committee reports; however, Mr. Hasiuk did note that an Executive Session was held prior to the board meeting to discuss personnel and real estate issues.

17. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

18. New Business

Mr. Gran expressed his appreciation for all who supported the Springfield Township School District during their difficult and painful time in December. The outpouring of concern and offers of assistance were wonderful.

19. Additional Public Comments

Melanie Bate, MCIU Speech Therapist, spoke about the tragedy at Springfield High School and said that the MCIU's response that day was wonderful. She was there that day and said that the IU's Special Ed Director and other personnel came to the school to assist and put together a team of psychologists and support staff.

Darlene Anderson, MCIU Adaptive Physical Education Teacher, spoke about the proposed Special Education budget cuts, noting that there may be an 80% loss of staff that deal directly with the children. Because the school districts will be taking back these students, she implored the board members to encourage their school districts to give the IU staff first consideration when hiring staff to accommodate the extra children in their program.

20. The date of the next Intermediate Unit Board Meeting will be **February 21, 2007, West Norriton Conference Room at 7:45 p.m.**

21. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Whitlock and seconded by Mr. Zimmer the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.