

MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD MINUTES

1. Call to Order

President Burunda Prince-Jones called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m. on August 28, 2013.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Burunda Prince-Jones, President, Wissahickon	Present
Louis Polaneczky, Vice President, Hatboro-Horsham	Present
Nancy Landes, Secretary, Pottsgrove	Present
Thomas DiBello, Treasurer, Spring-Ford Area	Present
Marc Lieberson, Past President, Cheltenham Township	Absent
Randy Bennett, Perkiomen Valley	Absent
Stephen Bochneak, Bryn Athyn	Absent
Maura Buri, Upper Merion Area	Present
Joseph Chmielewski, Upper Dublin	Present
Leslie Finegold, Colonial	Present
Dr. David Hakes, Upper Moreland	Present
Robert H. Hartman, Jr., Pottstown	Absent
Howard Jones, Methacton	Present
Daniel Kaye, Abington	Present
Yuri Khalif, Lower Moreland Township	Absent
Holly Kisailus, Springfield Township	Present
Ken Mullen, Jenkintown	Present
Carolyn Murphy, North Penn	Present
Janice Pearce, Norristown Area	Present
Virginia Pollard, Lower Merion	Absent
Donna Scheuren, Souderton Area	Present
William Scott, Upper Perkiomen	Absent

Others

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

Ms. Prince-Jones welcomed Ms. Donna Scheuren from the Souderton Area School District to the MCIU Board of Directors.

4. Presentation of the Annie Sullivan Award

The MCIU Public Relations Consortium and the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units jointly sponsor the Annie Sullivan Award. This award recognizes an individual in education who exemplifies caring involvement with disabled students, and who has helped others in the community to understand and accept students with disabilities.

Dr. Lois Robinson announced MCIU staff member Melissa "Missy" Newpher as the recipient of the 2012-2013 Annie Sullivan Award. Missy has held a variety of positions at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit and is currently the full-time teacher of the Language Enrichment Classroom in the Special Education Division.

Ms. Newpher thanked the Executive Council, MCIU Board, Dr. Shiveley and Dr. Robinson for the honor of receiving this award and extended her gratitude to the Special Education staff with whom she works.

5. Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2013

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Polaneczky and seconded by Mr. Chmielewski that the Intermediate Unit Board approve the minutes of the June 26, 2013 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Ms. Prince-Jones asked if there were any public comments regarding agenda items. Since there were none, the board proceeded with the agenda.

7. Report of Board Committees

Facilities

Mr. Chmielewski, Chair of the Facilities Committee, introduced Arif Fazil from D'Huy Engineering and Mike Pilko from RHJ Associates who provided board members with an update on the progress and timeline for the renovation of MCIU's new facility located at 2 W. Lafayette Street in Norristown.

- Design and Construction Phase: May 2013 - November 2013
- Bidding and Contract Approvals: December 2013 – February 2014
- Renovation of Facility: March 2014 – October 2014
- Move to New Facility: November 2014 – January 2015

The design and layout of the building was also presented.

8. Approval of Bills as Included in the Treasurer's Report (June and July)

Mr. DiBello presented the June 2013 Treasurer's Report to the Board. The cash balance as of June 30, 2013 was \$38,144,666.35.

Mr. DiBello presented the July 2013 Treasurer's Report to the Board. The cash balance as of July 31, 2013 was \$31,615,024.17.

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Polaneczky and seconded by Dr. Hakes that the Intermediate Unit Board approve the June and July Treasurer's Report and the ratification of the payment of bills.

Motion passed unanimously.

Note: Ms. Kisailus questioned whether it would be possible to send documents such as the Treasurer's Reports to the Board via email instead of providing paper copies. She asked that consideration be given over the upcoming year to move towards providing some documents electronically. Ms. Prince-Jones responded that although this topic has been discussed in the past, it has not been adopted in part because it would pose a problem with providing electronic devices. However, she stated that it is something that could be re-addressed. Ms. Kisailus added that board members could be provided the option to "opt out" of hard copies.

9. Human Resources Report

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Chmielewski and seconded by Dr. Hakes that the Intermediate Unit Board approve the personnel recommendations as listed.

Motion passed as follows: Aye - 14; Nay - 1; Absent - 7

Note: Ms. Scheuren requested that Mr. Hurd provide her with a copy of the Step Matrix for the MCIU for future reference.

10. Mr. Stan Wisler

Mr. Stan Wisler requested approval on the following Action Items:

A. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- (1) Recommendation to Accept Funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the Title III Program

B. MANAGEMENT SERVICES

- (1) Recommendation to Accept the GASB 45 Valuation Agreement between Conrad Siegel Actuaries (through the Pennsylvania Insurance Trust) and the Montgomery County School Entities for Actuarial Services to Comply with the Requirements of GASB 45

C. NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SERVICES

(1) Title I District Contracts

Motion: It was moved by Mr. Polaneczky and seconded by Dr. Hakes that the Intermediate Unit Board approve the requested Action Items.

Motion passed unanimously.

11. Reports of Staff

A. Dr. Lois Robinson

The Special Education Department will be honoring the memory of Dr. R. Thomas Marrone, an independently contracted psychiatrist for the MCIU since the 1970's, who passed away this summer. The MCIU will place a plaque at The Anderson School in memory of Dr. Marrone's dedication and service to the students in Montgomery County. In addition, beginning with the class of 2014, one graduating Anderson student who has demonstrated resiliency will receive an award in memory of Dr. Marrone.

B. Tina Viletto, Esq.

On August 20th, the US Department of Education granted Pennsylvania's request for a waiver from the No Child Left Behind law. Dr. Landis reported that this is a conditional waiver which stipulates that PDE demonstrate that three key areas of accountability are being implemented at the state level. School districts will require support from intermediate units on:

- 1) College and Career Readiness – Implementation of Common Core Standards
- 2) State Level Accountability System- School Performance Profile (Fall 2013 implementation)
- 3) Monitoring Effective Instruction and Leadership – Educator, Specialist and Principal Effectiveness (July 1, 2013 partial implantation; July 1, 2014 full implementation)

Dr. Bill Harner was removed as the Acting Secretary of Education due to claims of inappropriate conduct. Dr. Carolyn Dumaresq has been named the Acting Secretary but is undergoing investigation for issues with her Statement of Financial Interest.

Nick Trombetta, founder and CEO of Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, has been indicted on federal charges of fraud, theft of federal funds, and tax issues.

A hearing will be held tomorrow to review the state's prevailing wage law.

Ms. Viletto reported that momentum is gaining on House Bill 76, the Property Tax Independence Act. At the request of Mr. Polaneczky, Ms. Viletto will forward board members a list of Montgomery County Legislators to follow-up on this issue.

C. Mrs. Gail Kennedy

A total of \$75,000 has been allocated to Montgomery County from the Pennsylvania Hybrid Learning Initiative to be used towards new and recurring hybrid learning projects. Once commitments from interested districts are received, funds will be distributed according to project scope and need.

Ms. Prince-Jones commented that she attended an MCIU technology workshop over the summer which she found very valuable.

D. Mrs. Donna Gaffney

The Montgomery County Instructional Council (MCIC) organized the first summer retreat for its members on July 24, 2013 at the Wissahickon School District. This was an excellent forum for members to share information and resources and discuss hot topics such as Educator Effectiveness and School Performance Profile. A total of nine districts participated in the retreat.

E. Dr. Ken Voss

The Nonpublic School Services Division opened the 2013-14 school year with three days of professional development beginning on August 27, 2013. There are five new principals, and Dr. Voss and his staff are looking forward to working together to introduce them to Pennsylvania Act 89 services.

F. Dr. Janet Sloand

The Special Education Leadership Summer Academy was held July 22 through July 25, 2013 in Bedford, Pennsylvania. The conference was attended by over 250 special education leaders, including school leaders from Abington, Colonial, Methacton and Norristown School Districts as well as the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.

G. Ms. Kristen Rawlings

The Communications Division provided services to St. Albert the Great which included development of an e-newsletter, creation of an advertising rate sheet, and assistance with ad solicitation. Proposals for offering website management and social media support were submitted to Wallingford-Swarthmore School

District and Upper Perkiomen School District. A workshop on social media was conducted on August 13th and will be offered again on October 15th.

12. Report of the Solicitor

Mr. Sultanik had no report.

13. Report of the Assistant Executive Director

Dr. Landis stated that the 29 members of the Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units (PAIU) met recently to negotiate with PDE the Scope of Work Agreements for 2013-14 which focus on 10 initiatives:

- Safe Schools
- Teacher Effectiveness
- Principal Effectiveness
- Specialist Effectiveness
- Student Learning Objectives Deployment
- Keystone Exams/Performance Based Assessments
- Pennsylvania Common Core
- PIMS, Data Governance and Quality
- Comprehensive Planning
- eMetric and PVAAS

Although the MCIU will receive \$14,000 in additional funding, it still is not enough to cover the cost of providing services. This means the MCIU and other regional service agencies need to develop more entrepreneurial ways to make up the gap.

14. Report of the Executive Director

A. MCIU Board Meeting Changes: Dr. Shiveley stated that a few revisions are being made to the format of the MCIU board meetings:

- For Reports of Staff, written reports will continue to be included in board packets, and directors will focus their verbal reports on 1-2 brief highlights. The exception will be the Legislative Report which requires additional time due to its content.
- The structure of the monthly Board Spotlight will continue to include three budget presentations, but the other presentations will be more reflective of collaboration between divisions. Dr. Shiveley requested that board members contact him if they have requests for specific presentations.
- Dr. Shiveley asked board members if they noticed anything different with their current board packets. Mrs. Mary Dougherty explained that in the past, attachments in the board packets were handwritten at the bottom of each page which was a time consuming process. In a continuing effort to improve

efficiency, it was decided that the numbering of the documents could be eliminated without repercussion.

B. Upcoming Events Scheduled:

- New Superintendents/Mentor Meeting – The MCIU will be hosting a meeting in September between new superintendents and their mentors.
- MCIU Partnerships – A report on MCIU Partnerships will be presented at the October Board meeting. Forming partnerships is an important measure to save school districts money while also generating revenue for the MCIU.
- Summer Superintendent Meetings – The results of these meetings will be shared with the MCIU Board in Executive Session.
- Comprehensive Plan - Dr. Sloand will be initiating work on the Comprehensive Plan document next month.
- New School Board Member Orientation – A program will be scheduled for all new board members in December following the election results.

C. AASA Presentation: Dr. Shiveley and Dr. Landis attended an interesting presentation today hosted by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and the Abington School District. AASA Executive Director, Dr. Dan Domenech, predicted that "we will never, ever see reauthorization of ESEA".

15. Old Business

There was no old business.

16. New Business

Ms. Prince-Jones stated that all board members received information in the mail concerning the upcoming PSBA officer election. Included in each board packet is information from Mr. Otto Voit who is running for Treasurer. Ms. Prince-Jones brought attention to the fact that Ms. Maura Buri is running for At-Large Representative (East), and asked board members to review Ms. Buri's information in the included Slate of Candidates from PSBA as well as view her online video.

Ms. Prince-Jones further stated that Ms. Buri may be representing the MCIU as the 2013 PSBA Voting Delegate pending investigation by Mr. Sultanik that this is not a conflict of interest.

17. Additional Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

18. The date of the next Intermediate Unit Board Meeting will be **Wednesday, September 18, 2013, at West Norriton Conference Room B3/B4 at 7:45 p.m.**

19. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Polaneczky and seconded by Mr. Lieberman, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.