

January 23, 2008  
West Norriton, PA

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT BOARD MINUTES**

### 1. Call to Order

President Joseph Chmielewski called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. on January 23, 2008.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

### 3. Roll Call

Joseph Chmielewski, President, Upper Dublin	Present
John S. Grispon, Vice-President, Spring-Ford Area	Present
Jeannette Maitin, Secretary	Present
Marie A. Knox, Treasurer, Upper Merion Area	Absent
Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner, Souderton	Present
Randy Bennett, Perkiomen Valley	Present
Dr. Russel S. Bleiler, Hatboro-Horsham	Absent
Diane DiBonaventuro, Lower Merion Area	Absent
Malcolm Gran, Springfield Township	Present
Dr. David Hakes, Upper Moreland Township	Present
Robert H. Hartman, Jr., Pottstown	Present
Yuri Khalif, Lower Moreland Township	Present
Marc Lieberson, Cheltenham	Present
Mary Rives Young, Upper Perkiomen	Absent
Ted Miller, Jenkintown	Present
Janice Pearce, Norristown Area	Present
Thayer Pendleton, Bryn Athyn	Absent
Burunda Prince-Jones, Wissahickon	Present
Frederick P. Remelius, Pottsgrove	Absent
Daniel B. Sattler, Methacton	Present
Vincent Sherpinsky, North Penn	Absent
Mitch Zimmer, Colonial	Absent

### Others

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

4. Appoint and Welcome New MCIU Board Members

President Chmielewski asked the new board members present to introduce themselves to the group.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Bennett and seconded by Mrs. Maitin that the Intermediate Unit Board acknowledge and appoint those nominated to fill the unexpired terms of the board members listed:

<u>Vacating Board Member</u>	<u>Nominated Board Member</u>	<u>School District</u>
Ms. Tracy G. Cole	Dr. R. Paul Baumgartner	Souderton
Mr. Cedric McKeever	Mr. Yuri Khalif	Lower Moreland
Ms. Boo Crofton	Ms. Burunda Prince-Jones	Wissahickon
Mr. Gordon Whitlock	Mr. Frederick P. Remelius	Pottsgrove
Ms. Marge Martinez	Mr. Daniel B. Sattler	Methacton
Ms. Vicki Lightcap	Mary Rives Young	Upper Perkiomen

**Motion passed unanimously**

5. Election of MCIU Board Secretary

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Grispon and seconded by Mr. Ted Miller that the Intermediate Unit Board nominate and elect Mrs. Jeannette Maitin to the position of Board Secretary.

**Motion passed unanimously**

6. School Directors' Recognition

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

7. Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2007

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Maitin and seconded by Dr. Hakes that the Intermediate Unit Board approve the minutes of the November 14, 2007 board meeting.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Chmielewski asked if there were any public comments regarding agenda items. Board member, Janice Pearce, announced that the Norristown Area School District had elected a new superintendent, Dr. Janet C. Samuels. Dr. Samuels comes with great credentials and is a fine person.

9. Special Presentation of 25 Year Awards

The Intermediate Unit honors employees who have completed twenty-five years of service. At the January 23, 2008 meeting the following dedicated staff members were recognized and honored:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Monica Caccese	Child Accounting Specialist
Deborah Crable	Job Coach
Lanieta Garbutt	Interpreter
Cynthia Hafner	Teacher Assistant
Gail Katch	Training and Consulting Specialist
William Soldano	Manager/Graphics Center

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

Mr. John Grispon presented the November and December Treasurer's Report to the Board. The cash balance as of December 31, 2007 was \$28,995,510.71

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Grispon and seconded by Mrs. Maitin that the Intermediate Unit Board approve the November and December Treasurer's Reports and the payment of bills.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

11. Personnel Report

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

**Motion passed unanimously.**

12. Review of Procedures for 2008/2009 Board Member Election

Dr. Shiveley reviewed the Procedures for the 2008/2009 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 February. The Nomination Form has a due date of April 21, 2008.

13. First Review of Proposed 2008/2009 Special Education Budget

Dr. Mason, Director of Special Education presented the proposed 2008/2009 Special Education Budget for first review.

14. Reports of Staff

a. Dr. Jeanmarie Mason

Having presented the first review of the Special Education budget, Dr. Mason said that her board report stands as written.

b. Mr. Stan Wisler

**Technology and Information Services**

**A. PAIU Net Contracts (Statewide Network Project)**

The PAIU Net project is beginning to take shape as outlined in Gail Kennedy's TIS report to the board. An Act 183 E-Fund grant has been secured by PAIU in the amount of \$4.5 million to pay for the majority of the startup costs to establish a statewide network backbone. MCIU submitted a proposal to PAIU to be the fiscal agent and billed entity for PAIU Net project. MCIU has been chosen to provide this service and we will be reimbursed for our actual costs plus 5%. As the fiscal agent we will need to enter into agreements with various parties as listed below:

1. **Contract with Sting** – Sting is the vendor that has been chosen based on the PAIU RFP to connect all 20 of the regional networks. As fiscal agent, MCIU will enter into the agreement with Sting on behalf of the 20 regional networks.
2. **Contract with each of the IUs/regional networks** – MCIU needs to enter into an agreement with each of the 20 regional networks (IUs). Since we are signing the agreement with Sting on behalf of all 20 of the regional networks, we need assurances that the regional networks are committed partners to this project and so that we are not liable to Sting for any action or inaction on the part of any member of the regional network.
3. **Contract with Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU)** – CCIU is the entity that is administering the Act 183 grant that has been secured by PAIU

to pay for this statewide connection project. MCIU needs to develop an agreement with CCIU to enable us to secure the grant funds that will offset the project costs and also to process paperwork for E-rate reimbursement.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Maitin and seconded by Mr. Miller that the Intermediate Unit be authorized to enter into the PAIUnet Contracts (Statewide Network Project) as outlined above and an escrow agreement (if needed) subject to the approval of contract language by the solicitor and MCIU administration.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **B. Acceptance of Act 183 Grant for Regional Network Connections**

Authorization is requested to accept the Act 183 E-Fund grant in the amount of \$1,022,047 to connect entities in Montgomery County that are currently not a part of the MCIU regional network. This grant will provide the funding to make the connections to those remaining districts (and other entities), so that all districts will be a part of the regional network. The total grant funding will be distributed as follows:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
07/08	356,281
08/09	416,192
09/10	<u>249,574</u>
Total	\$1,022,047

The entities being connected through this grant are as follows:

- Abington School District
- The Anderson School
- Jenkintown School District
- Lower Moreland School District
- North Penn School District
- Pottsgrove School District
- School District of Cheltenham Township
- Souderton Area School District
- Upper Merion School District
- Upper Perkiomen School District
- North Montco Technical Career Center
- Western Center for Technical Studies

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Maitin that the Intermediate Unit approve the Acceptance of the Act 183 Grant for Regional Network Connections.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**C. Contracts for MCIU Regional Network Project**

Based on the Act 183 grant that MCIU received, as noted above, we need to enter into the following agreements:

1. **Contract with Sunesys** – Sunesys is the vendor that has been chosen through an RFP process to connect the entities that are currently not on the MCIU network. The cost of the connections will be paid for through the Act 183 grant and the entities that are joining the MCIU network.
2. **Contract with “Connecting Districts”** – The entities that are currently not members of our regional network and will be connected through this project are listed above. These entities will be signing agreements with MCIU so that Sunesys (the contractor) can construct the appropriate network connections.

**Motion:** It was moved by Mr. Lieberson and seconded by Dr. Hakes that the Intermediate Unit be authorized to enter into agreements with the above entities subject to review and approval of contract language by the solicitor and MCIU administration.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**D. Authorization to Declare Equipment Surplus/Obsolete**

Authorization is requested to declare the list of items on the attachment obsolete. MCIU will attempt to eBay those items that are saleable, use some of the items for parts and dispose of those items that cannot be sold or used for parts.

**Nonpublic School Services**

**A. Title I School District Contracts**

The administration requests Board approval to accept Title I funds from school districts to operate their Title I reading and/or math programs for students in nonpublic schools. These contracts are with fifteen districts for the maximum amounts listed below.

Abington	\$40,543.00
Jenkintown	3,869.00
Lower Merion	3,597.00
Methacton	2,831.30
Norristown	45,000.00

North Penn	9,550.00
Perkiomen Valley	5,580.00
Pottsgrove	10,234.00
Pottstown	8,950.00
Springfield Twp	2,598.00
Spring-Ford	2,398.00
Upper Dublin	6,070.00
Upper Merion	2665.00
Upper Moreland	9,426.00
Wissahickon	<u>23,223.51</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 176,534.81</b>

**B. Title II – Part A - Districts**

The administration requests Board approval to accept Title II-Part A funds for the 2007-2008 school year. Eight districts submitted Title II-Part A grants regarding professional development. In order to meet the “equitable share” of the district Title II-Part A allocation, the nonpublic schools within these districts will be eligible for staff development which will be provided by the Nonpublic School Services Division. The compensation provided for the nonpublic schools was determined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

Cheltenham	\$29,285.00
Hatboro-Horsham	1086.00
Jenkintown	3296.00
Lower Moreland	207.00
Methacton	94.00
North Penn	5544.00
Pottsgrove	84.00
Upper Merion	<u>644.00</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$ 40,240.00</b>

**Motion:** It was moved by Mrs. Maitin and seconded by Mr. Miller that the Intermediate Unit approve the Authorization to Declare Equipment Surplus Obsolete.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

c. Dr. Sharon Richardson

Dr. Richardson brought attention to the Costing Out Study, noting that a new campaign was launched to keep HB 460 from passing because the Steering Committee and its sub-groups do not want to see the issue studied over the next year as proposed by this legislation. This group is proposing that Governor Rendell start addressing the Costing Out Study in his February budget

presentation. The Governor is expected to deliver his 2008-09 proposed Commonwealth Budget Address on Tuesday, February 5, 2008.

d. Ms. Gail Kennedy

Ms. Kennedy announced that five of the TIS staff members have received their PowerSchool IPT Level I certification. Two more staff members are expected to receive their Level II certification shortly. Being certified allows the MCIU Technology staff to provide support and implementation guidance for the districts who use the Pearson's PowerSchool Student Information System.

e. Dr. Peter Grande

Dr. Grande reported on High School Redesign noting that the State Board will vote in January to approve the new requirements for high schools to offer 10 end-of-course exams, including three in Math and Social Studies and two in Language Arts and Science. Dr. Richardson added that there is considerable debate among the legislators and that the proposal will be argued out over the next year or two. In the meantime, according to Dr. Grande, the Intermediate Unit is working to develop a county-wide end-of-course exam.

f. Dr. Ken Voss

Dr. Voss reported that he is conducting needs assessments for the next school year with all of the nonpublic schools. His division is working to ensure that all nonpublic schools complete the mandated state forms which enable their programs to be funded. Dr. Voss also reported that Detective Randy Floyd of the Telford Borough Police Department spoke on Cyber-Bullying and Internet Safety at the recently held meeting of nonpublic school counselors and counselors from nine Montgomery County School Districts.

g. Dr. Janet Sloand

In addition to the information provided in her written report, Dr. Sloand reported that PaTTAN has initiated a new series titled, "Brown Bag Lunch". This lunchtime program is a Webinar for Special Education Leaders which enables the attendees to participate from the comfort of their own office, on their own computer while eating lunch. Dr. Sloand also noted that the PDE 2008 Annual Conference for educators, administrators and parents will be held February 24-27 in Hershey, PA.

15. Report of the Solicitor

Mr. Sultanik had no report.



16. Report of the Executive Director

Dr. Shiveley welcomed the new Director of Communications, Ms. Kristen Rawlings.

Dr. Shiveley informed the board members that invitations have been mailed to them for The Anderson School dedication ceremony scheduled for Saturday, February 2, 2008 from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. The Ribbon Cutting ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m.

Dr. Shiveley stated that he will be leaving for Washington, D.C. immediately following the board meeting to attend the AESA Legislative Conference. Dr. Shiveley sits on the National Governmental Relations Committee for AESA which is working toward keeping the money that has been allocated for education in the past.

Dr. Shiveley reported that there will be a New Board Member Orientation scheduled in the next month or two for the six new members of the MCIU Board of Directors. Notification will be sent out shortly and responses should be forwarded to RoseAnn Westerfer.

17. Report of Board Committees

President Chmielewski reported that there is an opening on the Finance Committee and asked for a volunteer. Mr. Randy Bennett volunteered and the Board approved the appointment. Mr. Bennett joins Ms. Knox and Mr. Sherpinsky on this committee.

18. Old Business

There was no old business.

19. New Business

Mr. Gran noted that there are two Jewish holidays in September and October in anticipation of calendar preparation for the 2008-2009 school year. Rosh Hashanah is September 30<sup>th</sup> and Yom Kippur is October 9, 2008. Neither of these dates should affect the Board of Director meetings.

Dr. Baumgartner asked if the MCIU Board of Director meeting minutes are posted on the IU Website. Dr. Shiveley responded that they are not, but that upon completion of the new website, he anticipates that the minutes will be posted. In the meantime, the IU will continue to publish *To The Point*, a synopsis of the key points of the board meeting which is emailed to the board within a day

or two of the board meeting. Board members are encouraged to share this publication with their fellow school directors.

20. Additional Public Comments

There were no additional public comments.

21. The date of the next Intermediate Unit Board Meeting will be **February 27, 2008, West Norriton Conference Room at 7:45 p.m.**

22. Adjournment

Upon a motion by Mr. Lieberson and seconded by Mr. Miller the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.