

MISD Board Communicator
January 23, 2011

Manistee ISD will provide services that will improve teaching and learning

Joint Recruitment Process with FiveCAP

We were recently able to reach agreement with FiveCAP on a letter that will be used with parents of Manistee County pre-schoolers. The letter allows us to share application information between our agencies. It is step toward a common recruitment process.

This is a small step toward collaboration. We still have a long way to go in terms of a truly collaborative process. Long term goals for collaboration extend to regular meetings with early childhood staff to address local needs, joint professional development, and even a shared curriculum.

Our baby step was the result of a ninety minute, sometimes contentious meeting among FiveCAP, local GSRP, pre-school providers, and MISD staff. It is difficult not to want more given our neighbors who have knowingly decided to share and further develop all aspects of their early childhood education process. In fact, we see a jointly delivered combined Headstart and Special Education ECEP program using the same curriculum as all the local GSRP programs in neighboring counties. We still have a long way to go.

Manistee ISD will provide services to assist local districts to comply with local, state and federal mandates

- Here is the update on legislative bills SB618 (Charter Schools) and SB619 (Cyber Schools). The state limit on charter schools is moving from 150 schools to 300 next school year. It will move to 500 in 2013 and the following year, the cap will be removed completed. We can look for the legislature to also significantly expand the potential use of Cyber Schools in the coming months.
- In terms of revenue there is moderately good news related to state revenues. That said, it is clear from our legislators that they have “rebased” funding at our current foundation grant of \$ 6,846. Any additional funding assistance for schools will either come from potential changes in the Michigan Public Schools Retirement System or from new best practice funding options, that have yet to be defined. They do not project any increase in the per student foundation grant.

Manistee ISD will provide services to improve the quality, enhance efficiency, and foster cooperation and collaboration in our Educational service area

- Later this month Rita, Kris and myself will be meeting with township treasurers related to summer tax collections. We have also talked with Chuck Dillon from

West Shore Community College about their potential interest in joining with us and local schools in summer tax collections. At this point, WSCC is discussing the issue internally.

- Mike Matesich recently presented our Winds of Change Powerpoint used at our joint board meeting in December to the KND Board earlier this month. I am presenting the same presentation to the Onekama staff on Friday, January 20.
- Our local superintendents have asked that we schedule another joint board meeting in late February on Tuesday evening, the 28th to present additional information and engage in some discussion around the financial, demographic, and educational issues facing us in Manistee County.

Other Items

- We have recently received a parent complaint regarding services provided to student in a local district that is going to the Michigan Department of Education and will be heading back to us for assignment of a complaint investigator. The situation also shed some light on our Schools of Choice process with schools from outside of our ISD. We have addressed this broadly with our local superintendents and will be doing more on this issue in the coming weeks.
- Our scheduled committee a meeting of the WMISD/MISD Dual Superintendent Committee in December was postponed. ***Carver and Mary***: if you recall we have rescheduled that meeting to the night of our board meeting, immediately following our MISD meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please plan on staying a little later on Monday night. We will also provide a light dinner at this committee meeting.
- In February we will bringing you a revised budget for the current school year.
- Also in February, we will be providing you a new Superintendent's evaluation process that incorporates new state requirements. Your superintendent will be using a similar format for evaluation of our administrative team.
- And lastly, in February we would anticipate going into closed session to discuss negotiations. You might plan on the February meeting being a little longer than we have had lately.

As always, feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns. See you Monday late afternoon. - Scott

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