

**MID VALLEY SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

JANUARY 17, 2013

1. Present: Kris, Brad, Fran, John, Donna, Jerel, Greg, Sarah, Carla, Sue
2. Tech upgrades:
 - a. MV Programs housed in district buildings. Sue reminded the group that if tech upgrades are being considered, you should keep the MV programs in your buildings in mind. The current agreement indicates that there should be two student use and one teacher use desk tops. But, as districts move toward laptops or ipads for the classrooms, how does this affect the programs? If large purchases are going to be considered for these classrooms (e.g, smartboards) or changes are going to be made, please contact Sue or Carla to discuss these options to see if it will work in the programs. Sue and Carla will poll the programs to see what is necessary for next year.
 - b. Itinerant staff housed in a school. When these changes occur, districts should also keep in mind that there are itinerant staff in each of the buildings. Generally, they have access to office space, equipped with a desktop. As the districts change their equipment, often these staff members no longer have computers. It was recommended that MV purchase laptops for each of the itinerant staff to reduce this type of obligation for the districts. These purchases would increase the individual program costs at least for the upcoming school year.
 - c. iPad issues accessing network. As MV starts to purchase iPads for use in the programs, we are having difficulties with at least one district providing access to the network. We will try to work this problem out with D304, but other districts are asked to keep this situation in mind.
 - d. Donations of recycled equipment accepted. As always, if the districts are upgrading and there will be unused equipment, we are happy to accept donations.
3. Program locations – FYI update (All decisions are tentative. To date, projections have only been received from one district.)
 - a. May be going down 1 section of CLASS at Grace McWayne
 - b. May be going down 1 section of PALS at Blackberry Creek; Consider moving intermediate from John Stewart to Blackberry Creek
 - c. May be opening an early childhood autism section and a high school autism section; these would require new locations
 - d. Reminder – if districts need to reclaim space, notify MV by March 1.
 - e. MV was reminded about Prairie Knolls being a 6-7 grade center. Next year, there will be 8th graders in the program.
4. Federal grants discussion: There was a brief discussion about what will happen in the districts if sequestration creates an 8% across the board reduction of IDEA funds. In general, districts are going to do what they have to do to provide services and figure out a way to pay for them.

5. Budgets – General discussion

- a. There was a discussion about distributing admin costs to itinerant budgets. It doesn't seem right to have all the administrative costs link only to the programs and not the services. Several different options were considered that included: weighting the students, assigning administrative costs on a per student basis, creating an applied formula with several factors, using staff as the denominator rather than students, create a different way to look at fixed vs. variable costs (using the population formula). Sue and Carla will obtain additional information from other cooperatives and will report back to the group at the next meeting.
- b. The group was reminded that if D101 hires their own OT/PTs, it will increase FTE costs in OT/PT budgets. At this time, the actual impact of this decision is unknown.

6. Budget Reviews

- a. Admin and O&M: There were questions/discussion about the D303 management fee, administrator salaries, insurance payments, legal fees, workers comp, unemployment, improvement of instruction salaries, and the debt service.
- b. Safe Schools: Sue noted that this budget is based on 12 students because the exact projections are not able to be obtained. The salaries are average salaries. The grant from the state is not certain, so the budget was broken down into reimbursed or unreimbursed tuition. The tuition for this program is included in the bills, but the bill has it broken out into various programs.
- c. ALOP: The tentative funding that can be expected from ALOP were discussed as were the uses of the funding. At this time, there would be some costs to improve programming and there would be some use of the funds that could offset New Directions tuition costs for the upcoming school year. At the next Safe Schools meeting, we will discuss the possibility of after school or night school options for students who are at-risk.

7. The next meeting is **February 14 from 12:00-3:00**. We will provide lunch and review all of the program budgets.