

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL POPULATIONS

April 16, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. with the following Board members and Board support staff present: Laura Berthiaume (chair), Shirley Brandman, Judy Docca, and Michael Durso, Philip Kauffman, Laura Steinberg, staff assistant, and Glenda Rose, recorder.

Staff members that were present: Lori-Christina Webb, Chris Richardson, Maureen Ryan, Delores Harries, Marty Creel, Ruth Green, Margie Lope, and Carrie Booth.

Guest: Michelle Glick.

Minutes

The minutes from February 13, 2011, were amended and approved.

Highly Able High School Students

Staff presented information about the College Readiness Monitoring Tool and the M-Stat Train-the-Trainer model. The tool, developed through analyses of AP/IB student participation and performance, is used to improve identification of students for AP/IB courses and exams, as well as to provide improved knowledge of students that can lead to adaptation and modification of instruction. The cross function team identified four categories of students. Those who have (1) scored 3 or better on an AP exam or 4 or better on an IB exam; (2) taken an AP or IB exam but did not score better than a 3 or 4; (3) taken an AP or IB course but did not sit for the exam; and (4) not taken an AP or IB course. Staff shared that the data is reviewed throughout the year and across all grade levels and that the M-Stat process allows systematic analyses and an opportunity to delve into lessons learned.

ACTION: Look at data for students in each category for the purpose of providing more targeted support. What lessons can we learn from the data, and what actions is it triggering?

Home and Hospital Teaching

Staff provided an update on the Home and Hospital Teaching (HHT) technology integration pilot project and explained that the goals are to investigate additional options to expand the continuum of technology support, to provide teacher training in use of the technology, to monitor and evaluate the project through parent, student and teacher surveys, and to develop and implement a process for recruiting highly qualified teachers. Staff showed several technology-based teaching tools available to HHT teachers as well as demonstrating the component on MyMCPS that is allowing for virtual instruction. Staff appeared excited about the opportunities while acknowledging continued barriers including teacher recruitment, logistics, and communication as well as legal issues and state credit requirements.

Highly Gifted Centers

After staff provided a brief synopsis of the outreach, application and acceptance process, committee members asked if there is a limit on the number of students that can accepted from any one school. Staff said that there is no artificial limit imposed on the number of students from any one school. They shared that several years ago, one school experienced an extraordinarily large exodus of students for magnet programs and that a similar situation appears to be brewing this year. Staff said that the acceptance process must be race blind, to ensure no violations of the law. Staff intends to review the acceptance process in the next few months and, depending on the outcome, may be bringing findings to the committee and/or the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.