

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
CHOCONUT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLACKO PAVILLION
MEETING DATE JUNE 3, 2010 7:00 P.M.

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

3 JUNE 2010

Community Advisory Committee Members Present: Jim Shelp, Diana Bean and Maureen Shelp

Administration Present: Mike Ognosky and Don Golden (Special Education Director)

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

Items Discussed:

I. Mike Ognosky took the roll and noted the attendance as listed above.

II. Old Business: The following item was presented under Old Business

- **Concerns from the April Meeting:** The following items were reviewed from the February Meeting:
 - ✓ Mr. Ognosky also updated the group on the status of the administration building project. Since our last meeting, the school district team has met on 3 different occasions with the architectural firm managing the project. In those meetings the foot plan of the office space, the basement, the parking area, and the entranceway have been established. The firm will present their plans at the Buildings and Grounds meeting on June 10th and then develop a specifications book to present to prospective bidders. Bids will be received by the end of July, a bid will then be awarded and the building stage of the project will commence.
 - ✓ Mr. Ognosky also updated the group on the status of the projected budget for the District in 2010-2011. Currently, as of Friday, May 28th the District proposed budget is \$7,884 income over expenditures. Expenditures are currently estimated at \$24,414,709 and income is estimated at \$24,422,593.
 - ✓ The work on the boiler room pipes went very well. The new piping has been installed and the company has a few remaining odds and ends to tie up after the students are finished for this school year.
 - ✓ Mr. Ognosky will continue to work with Guidance to furnish the requested information regarding the test results of the PSAT/NMSQT's taken this year.

III. New Business: The following items were discussed under New Business:

- **Dr. Golden, Special Education Director, presented an overview of the current special education programs supported by the District:**
 - ✓ The District currently offers special education programs that address a multitude of disabilities including, but not limited to, hearing, vision, learning disabilities, emotional support, life skills, occupational therapy, physical therapy, gifted services, and students with multiple disabilities.
 - ✓ In the past two years the District has returned to the District programs in Elementary Autism, Elementary Life Skills and Secondary Emotional Support. Those services had previously been supported at off site facilities and the District paid tuition to those schools as well as supported the Transportation services required on a daily basis. Those programs were returned to the District prior to the start of the 2008-2009 school year.
 - ✓ The District will begin a Secondary Life Skills program at the Junior-Senior High School beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, therefore returning a fourth program to the District buildings. Dr. Golden explained that the students and their parents spent the day today meeting with the High School Administration, teachers and other support staff that will be servicing that program.
 - ✓ Currently, the District services a total of 314 students with Individualized Education Plans in accordance with Department of Education procedures. Included in that number are 49 students whose primary disability is Speech and 96 students currently enrolled in our gifted program. As compared to last year, this is a 10.8 % decrease in the number of students in Special Education programs as last year we serviced 348 students with IEP's.
 - ✓ Dr. Golden also explained that the District has switched their Occupational Therapy Services in 2008-2009 from the Northeastern Intermediate Unit to a local provider, Tier Occupational Therapy. That has been a welcome change in services that has provided wonderful services to our students and staff. They specialize in providing teachers with plans to assist students in their classroom in meeting those therapeutic needs.
 - ✓ Dr. Golden also outlined some of the opportunities available to our gifted students. He explained that the K-8 program is a pull out program in which students are scheduled for a specific class with the gifted teacher. Currently, there are 26 gifted students at Lathrop Street, 21 at Choconut Valley, and 15 at the Junior-Senior High School in that program. At the 9-12 grade level, students have specialized programs developed through the IEP process and do not have a specifically scheduled class. We currently have 31 Senior High School students enrolled in the program.
 - ✓ Students in the gifted program are also exposed to a variety of field trips and other co-curricular activities. For example, this year students have taken field trips to the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia and the Bodies Institute Presentation in New York City. They have also participated in the Brainetics Math Program, LEGO Mindstorms, Hovercraft Challenge as well as numerous independent research projects.

At the completion of the presentation the Committee members present asked a number of questions and thanked Dr. Golden for his thorough presentation. Included in the discussion at that time were the following items:

- ✓ In response to a question from Mr. Shelp regarding the services of English as a Second Language (ESL), Dr. Golden responded that also comes under the direction of his department. Currently, he has 8 students enrolled in the program. Those students receive specific instruction from a part time ESL teacher hired by the District. The program has been in place for 6 years and in those years has serviced students whose primary languages have included Spanish, Russian, Italian and German.
- ✓ Numerous questions were asked about procedures and the development of the IEP for a student and Dr. Golden explained that the District offers the opportunity for Special Education teachers, Regular Education teachers, administration, school psychologist, guidance counselors, outside service providers, parents and students to participate in the development of an IEP as required.

IV. Open Forum: Items of discussion during the open forum included the following:

- Mr. Ognosky explained the current status of our Cross Country program with the resignation of Mr. Kloss, Head Coach. The position of Head Coach has been posted and will be acted upon at the June board meeting. The vacant assistant coaching positions will then be posted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2010
in the Community Learning Center of the Junior-Senior High
School at 7:00 p.m.**

Submitted by

Mike Ognosky