

School Administrative District No. 53

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Excellence in Education

Michael A. Gallagher
Superintendent of Schools

Advisory Committee

Minutes

3/9/10

Members in attendance:

Item 1. Review and Approve Ground Rules – Since the revised ground rules were not available at the meeting, the discussion of the draft ground rules occurred regarding the two changes that were recommended at the February 9, 2010 meeting. Superintendent Gallagher asked for a motion to approve the ground rules as modified. On a motion by A. Vigue, seconded by R. Downs, the committee members in attendance voted to approve the modified draft of the ground rules.

Item 2. Begin Negotiations Rating Term Sheet Items – Headmaster Chris Hopkins provided term sheet ideas provided by Advisory Committee membership and the Administrative Team of MCI to all in attendance. R. Downs and B. Basford had also composed lists that were copied and shared with all in attendance. From those lists per recommendations of the members of the Advisory Committee, Superintendent Gallagher recorded the ideas on chart paper that were considered to be within the scope of the contract. It was determined that the term or the length of the contract, the financial remuneration i.e. tuition rate and IVF, would be less difficult to determine, and that conversations about the ideas of the scope of the contract should be discussed first. Term sheet ideas included alternative education, special education, calendar, graduation requirements, academic offerings, ESL, co-curricular i.e. athletics, clubs, arts and music, communication with two subheading under communication of disciplinary and special education, state and Federal requirements, efficiencies, SAT/intervention teams/ “safety nets”, credit recovery and teacher quality.

After the list was constructed MCI Advisory Committee chair D. Fortin indicated that the list was rather lengthy for a scope of the contract, and that he did not anticipate having to include language about each of the items listed in the contract, and that the scope of the contract be more global. SAD #53 Advisory Committee member B. Basford indicated that she thought the process was to list ideas for discussion, to which MCI Advisory Committee member A. Vigue responded that the ideas listed were to be discussed, but

that the scope would seemingly be long if in fact all items listed on the chart were to be included in the contract. He further went on to explain that after discussing the various points on the scope list, items could be crossed off and re-categorized under another area on the scope term sheet list. He then explained that items on the current list could be resolved dispute resolution procedures spelled out in the contract.

Headmaster Hopkins began the discussion by asking whether or not the committee felt that special education should be provided at MCI. Members of the joint Advisory Committee indicated that they felt that special education should be provided to the students of the district at MCI who are identified under special education, and that those requirements stipulated in students' IEP be provided at MCI. It was also determined that special education really falls under number nine on the scope chart as a state and Federal requirement. Discussion continued regarding the role that the district's director of special services has at MCI. The current administrator, through recent changes in a current MOU, has additional supervisory responsibilities of the staff at MCI because of the district's responsibility for provision of services to those identified in special education. It was agreed by those in attendance that this seemed to be an important aspect of the district's special education administrator that should be continued in the future.

The next item to be discussed on the scope list was ESL. The current language in the contract regarding ESL was to resolve an issue that occurred several years ago when a district resident had two children who were in need of ESL services and were students at MCI. The provision written into the contract included a paragraph whereby MCI would provide ESL services for up to three district students without any additional costs. MCI Advisory Committee members indicated that they did not feel that the ESL language should be included in the scope of the new contract since it was implemented to address a problem that was previously an issue, but that no longer is. Mr. Fortin further went on to indicate that it should be part of the dispute resolution to be resolved between the Superintendent of Schools and Headmaster at MCI. There was some agreement that it could be removed from the scope, and be dealt with through the dispute resolution language of the contract. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that he and Headmaster Hopkins could develop a procedure for addressing ESL services for district students and therefore ESL contract language could be dropped. He further went on to explain that procedures have been developed for other situation i.e. for eighth graders who have been suspended by the MSAD #53 board, who would be enrolled at MCI as ninth graders, and a procedure has been developed for superintendent transfers in and out of MCI. A process or procedure for ESL should be completed in a similar format.

Additional discussion regarding ESL being a Federal requirement, much the same as special education, and that it must be provided to district students attending MCI. Headmaster Hopkins asked whether private schools that are non-academies would need to meet these Federal requirements. Superintendent Gallagher indicated that he did not know whether exclusively private schools who did not receive public funding would have to comply with these Federal requirements or not. However, because MCI contracts to provide services to the district's public school children, the public school children are entitled to these services under the IDEA umbrella. Those services include special

education, ESL and 504. Headmaster Hopkins then suggested that Superintendent Gallagher and he research and provide a list of Federal laws that apply to private institutions that are supported with public funding, and state laws that apply to private institutions that are receiving public funding. It was determined that at the next meeting the negotiations session there would be further discussion regarding item nine on the scope of terms, state and Federal requirements. In addition, the negotiations will attempt to tackle item eight, communication, both disciplinary and special education.

Superintendent Gallagher then asked Advisory Committee members to tentatively schedule June 15, July 13 and August 10 in their calendars for meetings of the Advisory Committee so that we could continue our work over the course of the summer. It was suggested that we exclude the month of July from the advisory schedule.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Gallagher