



Career & Technical Education

Director Steve Locke Reports on CTE News:

Transition to Success 10 - Nine students are participating in the brand new pilot program called Transition to Success 10 (T2S10)! As mentioned in an earlier board report, this program is a collaborative effort between Special Education and the Mecosta-Osceola Career Center and was developed as a way to increase inclusivity and opportunities for students with disabilities. This model provides 10th grade students with the opportunity to experience six different MOCC courses with support from Special Education and MOCC Program staff. Students spend approximately six weeks in each participating course.

All indicators suggest that students are learning a lot and are enjoying the experience. An early success story is that of a T2S10 student earning her first aid/CPR credentials! As an added bonus, the success that has been earned at the MOCC has carried over to her local district where she is earning A's for the first time! The local district staff member shared that the T2S10 program has been a source of pride and has encouraged her students to approach their respective studies with similar effort and focus. Another point of pride and emphasis of the program is that students participating in

the program are virtually indistinguishable from traditional MOCC students! These students get a real, albeit abbreviated CTE experience.

Case Conferencing - Case conferencing 2017 at the MOCC had the greatest participation to date! This event is designed to connect MOCC staff and local district special education caseworkers and counselors and serve as a conduit for jump starting the communication process. Approximately 20% of MOCC students receive some level of special education services. Accommodations, modifications, instructional strategies, and support are all discussed and planned for through this event. Both the MOCC staff and the local district staff share ideas and strategies to support students for success. Additionally, staff can share instructional and personal approaches that work best with each student.



8th Graders Tour MOCC and Participate in National Manufacturing Day - October 6 has been designated as National Manufacturing Day. We have been working with the Mecosta County Chamber of Commerce, the Mecosta County

Development Corporation, Big Rapids Middle School and local manufacturers to bring awareness to manufacturing opportunities in this area. The events will begin at 8:30 in Miller with a short address from Mayor Warba, and then MOCC staff will follow up with some information about Career Center programming. Students will then spend time in five or six MOCC programs to learn more about what the Career Center has to offer. After visiting programs at the MOCC, 8th grades students will visit four different manufacturing facilities in Big Rapids.

Potential New Program - An Advisory Committee has been formed to look at the potential of offering an Information Technology based program. The MOISD's very own Fred Sharpsteen has agreed to chair the committee and will be reaching out to professionals in the industry in efforts to build the best connected and relevant IT program possible. The preliminary thought is that this will be a one-year program in which students will get an overview of hardware, software, programming, network management, etc. For students coming back a second year, they will have the option of branching into an area in which they are interested. Focus areas may include, Cyber Security, Game Design, Network Management, etc. In addition, this course will provide students opportunities to earn professional certifications often associated with post-secondary level education.

Meceola Tech

Career Connect - We are currently in the process of revising the Section 107 CTE Pilot Grant application while continuing to press forward in attempts to include as many adult education students in opportunities at Meceola Tech. In addition to the grant application, we have been meeting with adult education partners which include Fremont

Public Schools, operating out of the Michigan Works! West Central, Big Rapids and Reed City offices as well as Evert Public Schools to put together the details of the collaboration and student participation. Additionally, efforts have been put towards a collaborative effort with Michigan Works! West Central for soft skills educational programming. These partnerships are requirements of the grant. Most of the pieces are in place, and we will be rolling out a massive marketing campaign beginning in November for enrollment and participation in the "winter" semester at Meceola Tech.



This billboard will be placed in four different locations with the first going out towards Evert on US10.

Welding - The second cohort of Welding 151 is under way with classes beginning on October 2. We received a lot of feedback on the first offering and have made pretty significant changes, most noticeably going from an 18-week course to a nine-week course. While our inaugural class of students had really positive reviews and opinions of the training, the duration of the class was mentioned on more than one occasion. Rather than trying to schedule all of the concepts into a single course, it was essentially divided into two, nine-week courses. Welding 151 will continue to be an overview but will have a stronger emphasis on stick welding. The remaining components from the initial offering will take place in

Welding 153/5. In this course, MIG/TIG will be the featured concepts and processes. Currently 10 students are signed up for the course. Enrollment will remain open for two weeks.

General Education

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

October is shaping up to be equally as crazy busy as September!

Hands Across Michigan Homeless Liaison Conference - Next week is our 4th Annual Hands Across Michigan Homeless Liaison conference. We are planning on about 60 liaisons from districts in central and northern Michigan to attend. We have been fortunate to receive a semi full of backpacks, books, binders, gummy bears, and power bars to distribute to attendees to use in their homeless education programs. We have received an equally nice donation of shoes and boots from Wolverine World Wide, and Zontas are true to their mission and continue to keep us amply supplied with hygiene kits for our young ladies. Grant coordinators, like myself, will be coming to help out and share resources as well. It shall be an exciting day, even if it is Friday the 13th!

Grant Money - I am working with MDE and Kickstand to write a grant for some America's Promise Alliance through Grad Nation and SchoolHouse Connections to help fund the liaison credentialing project for all liaisons across the U.S. These are funds from Colin Powell and others. We will keep you posted. The money is ours, we have been told, we just need to submit the proposal.

GSRP - We continue to seek a Lead and Associate Teacher for the Ewart GSRP program. Staff stepped up and are making it work up there right now, but we are looking for a permanent team to take over so staff can return to their normal positions.

Thanks to Steve Locke and his crew for working to get new signage up at Eastwood to help make our drop-off and pick-up times safer and more organized for our students and their parents. Next up, an automatic door to make the building more accessible for our grandparents with assistive devices, moms with strollers or babes in arms and in hand. This is a much needed piece of equipment, and we are working on finding the best way to fund this project.

Students are quickly getting into the routine of how to do school! They have been busy learning what to do in case of a fire, tornado, and for lockdowns. They had their hearing and vision checked, some received their flu shot, and later in the month they will get their pictures taken. Firemen will visit this month to teach them all about fire safety, and later in the month they will dress up and have a parade for their families for Halloween.



We are working with the wonderful itinerant staff to establish procedures and protocols for developing strategies to support our students and work to identify workable solutions when teachers note a developmental concern or behavioral issue. Having extra eyes and extra ideas to try before a full-blown IEP process is helpful, as these little ones often just need extra time. We want to try things out, collect some data, tweak our plans and move responsibly through necessary processes when needed. Thank team CHSD for leading the way!

Brittany Firman, GSRP Lead Teacher at Stanwood, is taking the lead on a project to develop an orientation process for our classroom aides. This will be beneficial for all and help folks who may not have ever experienced working in a licensed preschool setting before. She is pulling in some of her GSRP peeps to help.

Training - A group of staff are working with Michael Bausano, Behavior Specialist, as a follow up to their CPI and trauma training on resiliency. They will be working through the *Build Your Bounce* text and growing together in the process. Building circles of safety and support will help them be better prepared to work with the families and students we frequently see coming into our centers who have experienced trauma.

Thanks for your continued support! Enjoy this wonderful time of year with all the colorful splendor Mother Nature provides.

Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

State and Federal Funding - The new Title IV funds have been released to the districts. These funds are newly designated funds

through ESSA. The purpose is to create “well-rounded students.” They are split into three categories: well-rounded students, safe and healthy students, and effective use of technology. These funds are received through the MEGS+ grant system, and a CNA (comprehensive needs assessment) drives how the funds are spent in each district. A proportional share is also required to be shared with any private school within the local district.

31-A funds have also been released but with significant changes. New forms for recording have been created for logging students, but the groups have been reduced on who “qualifies” for the funds. This could have significant impact on our local schools. Several educational lobby organizations and legislatures are already aware of the negative impact this could have on schools and the hope is that the language can be adjusted through the upcoming supplemental state budget.

Terry Hutchins, from MDE’s Office of Field Services, will be attending our next Curriculum Directors’ meeting to provide more insight and answer our local districts’ questions.

Early Literacy - Our literacy coaches are continuing to offer professional learning on the Essential Elements of Early Literacy. The newest elements for grades 4-5 have been released and sent to all of our elementary schools. The focus and purpose of the elements is to help our teachers direct their instruction to the vetted and researched best practices for instructing literacy (reading and writing) to our students. The elements also hit on instructional practices like small groups and parent involvement. On September 15, the first early release day, all of the teachers from Morley-Stanwood Elementary, along with a few others from our

locals, learned about small group instruction assessment practices. Due to the commitment from Morley, we will be holding our next learning on their campus, with teachers from all the locals still being welcome to attend.



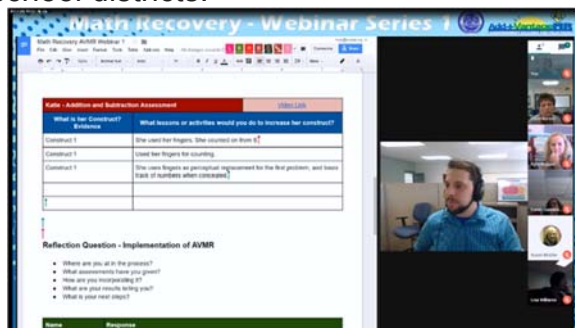
Local Elementary Teachers-Essential Early Literacy

Our coaches attended an Explicit Instruction training, with Anita Archer, in August for three days in Grand Rapids. Their hope is to bring this learning back to all districts, but specifically to the Chippewa Hills District to support their efforts in Mi-BSI. From October 16-19, the two literacy coaches will be attending an intensive coaching seminar, embedded into a Muskegon school district. This training is being facilitated by the Early Literacy Task Force and MDE.

Math and Science - MiSTEM Network Collaborations - As per legislation, the state is developing a Michigan STEM Network (MiSTEM Network) to build a more robust STEM education system that will lead students in STEM careers. Larry Wyn has been working closely with Math Science Center Directors to help inform the State Department on how to create a network that provides equity to students and teachers. Larry and the Northern Math Science Center Directors have also worked with the Northern Michigan Learning Consortium to

ensure the needs of Northern Michigan are being met.

Math Recovery Webinar Support - Teachers have a lot of responsibilities with planning, teaching, and their personal lives, so in order to meet their needs, we have decided to provide math webinar series during the 2017-18 school year. These webinar support sessions are designed to be done after school, with teachers connecting from their own classrooms. We are integrating Google within our meetings to have discussions and grow a community of teachers that go beyond the individual school districts.



Larry Wyn and Locals-Afterschool Webinar

Ongoing Activities:

First Principal and Curriculum Director Meetings - The beginning of the school year has initiated our first meetings with principals and curriculum directors. All districts were represented at each meeting, which is very exciting for collaborating with each other. Principal meetings are split with Secondary meeting in the morning and Elementary meeting in the afternoon. Each group determined their purpose and targets for the school year. Principals meet quarterly and curriculum directors meet monthly.

TRIG/Michigan Collaboration Hub - I continues to be involved with the TRIG project, now called the Michigan

Collaboration Hub. We will continue to work on and pursue teaching and learning as it relates to integrating technology into the classroom and instructional practice. The MOISD Gen Ed and Tech teams are collaborating on the State Data Hubs project and the State SEN project. Our goal is two-fold: 1. All LEA's be connected to the State Network, when the system is ready for connection 2. LEA data crossing into the Hubs for use by the local buildings. One of our locals has active data being sent to Data Hubs. In addition to our participation on the Hub, I am a member of the Data Hubs Advisory Team and the Revision Team for MDE of the Michigan Technology Standards/Competencies.

Reading Now Network – I am currently on both the RNN Field Study Team and the new Leadership Planning Committee for the future of RNN. We continue to meet monthly to plan for future learning, promoting the goals of RNN to Region 3 and beyond, lab school progress, principal coaching, and classroom libraries. Our next big learning event will be on October 3, where national presenter and educator, Doug Reeves, will our keynote speaker. Work with the RNN has expanded to include MAISA Region 7, opening more opportunities to learn and share about literacy in the classroom.

Professional Learning at the MOISD - We are continuing to work hard to provide as many learning opportunities for our local teachers and principals. Our goal is to provide embedded learning that can be taken back to the classroom and building.

The MOISD has several more opportunities for learning coming up this year:

5-D Educator Evaluation:

September 22 (New Teachers Overview)
November 30 (School Improvement/5-D+)
February 7 (Observable Best Practice)
April 30 (Student Engagement)

Early Release Days:

Early Literacy: Sept 15, Nov 17, Jan 19, Mar 16

Math/Science: Oct 20, Dec 15, Feb 16, May 18

Math Recovery:

Over 30 hours of learning at onsite schools during the school year and 1 full week of learning in June (date not finalized)

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

Data Hub Project and local schools - Last week the MoTech Directors met to start the process of getting Skyward set up to exchange data with the Data Hubs. After the LEAs have completed this step, the Data Hubs will work on the final step of completing the connection to the Data Hubs. We have one district pushing data to the Data Hubs currently. This is Big Rapids Public schools. They are also helping to lead the way of helping the Data Hubs at a state level to work on getting fidelity of information being passed into and out of the system Data Hubs System.

REMC Spot Bid and Devices Purchases - Another year has been completed in device purchasing. This was originally part of the TRIG grants. Currently, it is now being completed by the State REMC Association. Two out of every three devices purchased in this program are Chromebooks again this year. This program may be a voluntary extension in the purchasing of devices based on each one of the vendors. The MOISD Technology team has played an integral part in the selection and evaluation

of the devices along with other members on the state technology purchasing community. Mike Schonert and I have helped the REMC association with this project.

Projection Units Updates - We have updated projection units across the MOISD MOCC building.

Eastwood Phone systems - Eastwood has had the last of the copper telephone lines going directly into the Head Start rooms moved to the MOISD Voice over IP Mitel phone system.

Security Camera System - The Avigilon camera system is getting wrapped up with the installation and setup. Last week they came in and did training with the Technology staff and other key personnel. We will be scheduling another end user training for the rest of the staff in the coming weeks.

Erate Program - The MOISD has received notification that the Erate program has accepted our application for category two hardware and network wiring. This will help to add new computer network drops to locations that don't have them currently. We will be updating some of the network closet switching and also adding APC UPS that will provide electricity to the switches that the phones are hooked to. This will be increasing the safety of students and staff when the power of the building goes out.

Special Education Project - The Technology Department is working with the Special Ed department on a new system called **PresenceLearning**. They provide access to a network of nearly 800 licensed clinical professionals who work face-to-face with students via secure, live, online video sessions using our proprietary platform, a vast library of therapy activities, and detailed progress monitoring and tracking tools. They

have delivered more than one million sessions of teletherapy to educational institutions across the United States and globally.

Community Broadband Network Meeting
The Community Broadband Network group has continued to meet. They will be looking at Grant opportunities to help the local community to develop resources to help the homework learning gap. There is some movement at the FCC and the state to do TV White Space (TVWS) to the homes for educational purposes. We will be visiting a model project as soon as it is completed in Alpena, Michigan. We have also been invited to present at a state conference on equity in student learning panel and the gap being created with students of poverty not having the same access to these services as their peers. Also, the group will be working with the LEAD organization to see if there is common ground to working together with this organization. We will be reaching out to the county and city to see if there is some opportunity to work together in a community network.

MOP Co-Op:

Technology Team Support service Metrics for the month of September:

The Technology Department helped to provide the following support:

- There were **388** support request tickets created
- The average response time for first contact for a help request was **5 hours, 46 minutes**
- Technology support for **23** professional development meetings for the month

Major MOP projects for the month:

- Muskegon River Youth Home - network reorganization
- Set up hardware and software
- Reset staff and student passwords as needed
- Continued working on the new video security system with the vendor
- New inventory asset system
- Worked on Data Hub project and local schools

Special Education

Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

Pilot Program - Our Parent Engagement Pilot with Michigan Alliance for Families got off to a good start, with a total of 17 parents participating in one of the three presentations on Positive Behavior Supports. This month they will take their show on the road on October 12 to Morley, Brookside and Chippewa Hills Intermediate School. We look forward to our continued partnership throughout this year as we work to help support our parents with the most up-to-date information and community outreach.

PAC - The Parent Advisory Committee will have their first meeting on Thursday, October 26 at 4:30 in the Parsons Room. This will be their annual organizational and goal setting meeting. With events already scheduled with Michigan Alliance for Families, we will be looking to the Parent Advisory Committee to help support parents' ability to attend.

LEA SUPERVISOR MEETING - We had our first local supervisor meeting on September 19, and we welcomed two new local supervisors to our group: Sarah Bailey, representing Evart, and Celeste Belcher-Girard, who is representing Morley Stanwood. The packed agenda included a presentation from Michelle Chisolm, our Area 5 Special Olympics representative, Natasha Bancroft, Youth Intervention Specialist and Michael Bausano, MOISD Behavior Specialist. The agenda also included MDE Office of Special Education Updates, particularly the state's focus on Least Restrictive Environment, upcoming professional learning both at MOISD and in Lansing.

MIBLSI - Our partnership with Chippewa Hills and MIBLSI is under way with the District Implementation Team meeting on September 25. MOISD is now the regional hub for MIBLSI and the team from Montcalm is also joining us to work with their coach from MIBLSI. This allows for great collaboration and idea sharing when other teams are navigating the MIBLSI structure together.



The Montcalm team discusses PBIS implementation with their MIBLSI coach



Chippewa Hills reviews their district capacity assessment with Sara Weaver and Tawny Smith, MIBLSI Implementation Specialists



**Supervisor of Special Education
Christy Miller Reports:**

Satellite Classroom Highlight: Riverview Elementary Resource Room - The school year is off to a great start at the Resource Room/Riverview! Students and staff are adjusting to their new routines and schedules as well as having completed their district testing. We took part in celebrating Homecoming-Spirit Week recently with Big Rapids. Dress up for spirit days were: shirt color by grade level, crazy socks, crazy hair, hats, and blue/red/cardinal gear. We even had a surprise visit by Big Red, the Cardinal!



Itinerant Highlight: Speech and Language Pathology Department - The speech-language pathologists all across the ISD are excited to see the new school year off to a great start. There have been several changes and initiatives put in place to help us better serve our students' needs. In the 2016-2017 school year, eligibility rubrics were developed to provide guidelines for determining if students are eligible for speech and language services in areas such as language, articulation, and speech fluency (stuttering). The rubrics will help with alignment and consistency in eligibility and service delivery as students move from district to district as well as within a district. In Mecosta, Mary Corder is working with the Head Start and Preschool teachers to provide in-classroom Rtl in the areas of articulation and language. At the Education Center, Traci Eister-Woods is implementing a new iPad communication app for students called LAMP: Words for Life. She currently has several students



using it. It's helping students who would have struggled to communicate be able to communicate in a new way. Using iPads is more socially acceptable than the use of other communication devices. Parents are also more financially able to afford iPads than traditional communication devices, which is improving communication at home as well. Last winter and spring, Kathy Blatchford did a whole-group Basic Concept Language hands-on and interactive Fun Friday in the Young 5s classroom. The gains were seen not only in their pre and post-test scores but also in their classroom performance across the board. Cindy Warner and Kathy Blatchford also teamed last year to provide a Social Skills group for our students with combined behavioral, social and speech and language challenges. This team approach helps create a more holistic comprehensive support for the students.

**Supervisor of Special Education
Beth Bond Reports:**

Assembly - Over 50 parents joined us for our annual Back to School Assembly held on Friday, September 22. Once again we treated students, parents, and staff to an Ice Cream Social. Along with introductions of staff, we also rolled out our new MOEC Positive Behavior/Guiding Principles: ROLL like a Hedgehog!

R = Respect, O = advocate for Ourselves, L = Listen, L = Learn

Staff performed a song to the tune of *Rollin' on a River*.

Respecting ourselves and others;
Advocating for ourselves in every way;
Listen to what they say;
Learning new things each day.

Rollin' Rollin' Rollin' like a Hedgehog.

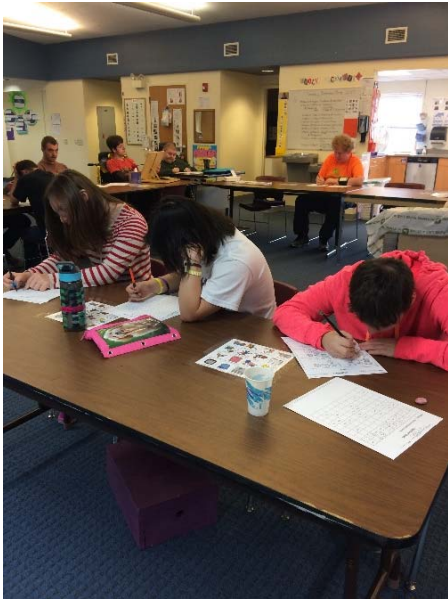
Students made posters which represent these key ideas and they are displayed in the hallways. We hope to get t-shirts made for staff/students.



Feature Programs for October - We have two amazing Transition Programs at the MOEC! Our Transition I Program (Moderate CI) is located on the ISD campus as part of the Education Center building. This classroom of 22 young adults (18 to 26 years) is led by teacher, Victoria Deadwyler, and five para-educators: Kris Lans, Tammy Cummings, Judy Nelson, Lisa Thebo-Hull, and Laurie Golden. The focus of this program is working on functional daily living skills and functional academics. Activities may include learning to cook simple meals, improving hygiene, getting along with others in a group setting, etc.



Learning Targets for Transition I



Students in Transition I working on academic learning targets

Our Transition II Program (Resource Room) is located in downtown Big Rapids across from the movie theater. Ellen Kanitz is the teacher for this program along with 4 para-educators: Chris Garrett, Chari Nixon, Dawn Coon, and Lynn Thompson. The 20 young adults in this program also work on functional daily living skills at a more independent level than their Transition I peers.

Both classrooms participate in a Transition Community Living Experience (TCLE) which provides training for our transition students to learn job skills which hopefully will lead to future employment and/or volunteer opportunities at similar job sites. Keeping with the special education department's goal of expanding our footprint in the community, we are excited to have between 15-20 working relationships with local businesses.



Transition II students cheer on the annual Torch Run downtown Big Rapids in support of Special Olympics

Supervisor of Special Education for US 10 Pat Craven Reports:

US 10 Corridor Schools Community Collaboration - The US 10 Corridor Schools and the facilities they serve, Muskegon River Youth Home and Pineview Homes, are proud to embark on a new community collaborative effort with three local businesses in Evart. The Career Readiness Program will place eligible students in a job shadowing experience with Unit Assistant of Evart, Morgan's Composting, and The Gathering Place Restaurant. Students are prepared through the US 10 Corridor Schools' career exploration programs and coordinate their interests through Transition Coordinators, Christy Lang and Chelsea Bancroft. School personnel then collaborate with facility leadership and business leaders to identify qualifying students and programs. The first round of students will participate in their program during the week of October 9. The US 10 Corridor is very excited to unroll this project and continue to leave our positive footprint in our community!

Special Education Supervisor Carol Phelps Reports:

Think Tank Thursdays - Think Tank Thursdays are Professional Learning Community meetings at the local districts each Thursday after school at the location of their choosing for around an hour. The idea behind these travelling professional learning conversations is to provide proactive professional development convenient to every local staff member on topics relevant to the needs of the district. The first topic is the PLAAFP or present level of academic achievement and functional performance which is the first written statement in the IEP plan documentation of the child's ability and current achievement at the time the IEP is written. Each district will have four Think Tank Thursdays throughout the school year. As the year goes on, various staff members will join in to provide content expertise or lead the PLC as well. In September, PLC meetings have been held at the Mecosta Osceola Education Center, Big Rapids Middle School and Chippewa Hills High School.

Catamaran - Catamaran is the new system that replaces CIMS for monitoring and compliance work. An additional feature of Catamaran is the finance module. On September 15, workbooks opened for all districts. It is in these workbooks where districts find their student level corrective action plans (SLCAPs) and corrective action plans (CAPs). Student level items are due by the end of October and the corrective action plans are due the first of November, with a year to complete all activities related to the CAPs.

ECSEP



*Happiness from Mrs. Clay's ECSEP
Classroom*