



## **Career & Technical Education**

### **Director Mike Miller Reports on CTE News:**

#### **CTE Ready to Make 18-19 Our Best Year Yet!**

After catching up with each other about our summer escapades, MOCC and Meceola Tech staff members got right to work with a series of productive professional development sessions on Opening Day. During the opening session, led by the MOCC's new Assistant Principal Caleb Martz, the team became better acquainted with him and our two other new staff members: Todd Ballard, Automotive Technology Teacher and Doug Sickles, Construction Technology Teacher.

Next, it was a session discussing our mission, vision, values, and goals. Rich dialogue ensued regarding our vision for what it looks like if we are accomplishing our mission. Although still a work in progress, our draft vision statement is, “To improve the standard of living in our community and self-efficacy of its citizens by providing first class Career and Technical Education services – career awareness, career exploration, and career preparation – and developing multiple pathways for successful transitions into the workforce by creating and maintaining engaging partnerships with all stakeholders.”

In order to realize our vision, we also discussed a set of draft values that guide how we go about the work ahead. Our draft values include:

- Create a collaborative culture by providing a safe environment for students and fellow employees to take risks, work independently and interdependently and to value all perspectives.
- Establish productive relationships with all stakeholders which will support and leave people better off by engaging in courageous conversations and empathetic interactions in order to make choices that build trust and understanding.
- Establish an environment of continuous improvement that will provide data/feedback, and reflection that will assist in identifying and solving problems through an innovator's mindset.
- Understand your audience and tailor communication in a timely, clear, and appropriate manner always seeking to understand.

The final piece to this discussion surrounded the goals we will set to measure our success. Although the exact wording has yet to be finalized by the school improvement team, these goals will likely focus on students' career readiness skills, career plans, and high school graduation.

With this perspective in place to support our work moving forward, we were ready to tackle the rest of the day's agenda.

Teachers began working on their student growth goals within the 5 Dimensions of Teaching and Learning framework while Mrs. Hallman and Mrs. Iltis facilitated discussions among the paraeducators sharing best-practices and strategies for providing accommodations to students with special needs.

After the whole ISD gathered for lunch and then our opening ceremony, the CTE Dept. was back to work discussing CHAMPS and how to be trauma-informed in order to maximize student learning. We ended the day with a refresher on the 4 Disciplines of Execution and how we are going to be intentional in our work.

The CTE staff are primed and ready to go. We are excited for the school year and committed to making 2018-2019 our best year yet!

## Special Projects

### Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

Summer sailed right on by again this year! We are in full swing with GSRP students starting back on September 6. We have accepted our allocation worth of students and can take on a few additional to round out our classrooms. We will be serving 267 students/families with our funding this year.

On our radar this year is to host **Cognitive Coaching** courses for teachers, community agency folks and parents, foster parents and child care providers. There will be a charge for folks attached to schools or community agencies, but we will use grant funds to help remove barriers for parents and childcare

providers to participate. Cognitive coaching helps those being coached (the expert) through a reflective thinking and solution-focused problem-solving process. This process helps teachers be more reflective and effective in their practices and empowers people to creatively resolve issues they encounter no matter the size or scope. Using cognitive coaching strategies with your spouse, children or students really keeps the learner in the driver's seat and helps build resiliency and competency.

**Strengthening Families** represents another training we will be offering for community and families. This is the framework we already employ in our parent coalition, Great Start Collaborative, and family engagement practices. This framework's foundation rests on five protective factors: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence of children. This is at the very foundation of building resilience factors in families while buffering risk and promoting better outcomes. Many of our programs naturally operate this way so including this framework has been seamless and truly allows us to move beyond involving families into true engagement of families in our programs. Strong families with supportive communities helps to reduce child abuse and neglect. The number of children in investigated families has risen in our two county area as is evident from the table below (data is from 2018 Kids Count [www.mlpp.org](http://www.mlpp.org))

| County  |                                   | 2010   |       | 2016   |       |          |         |                |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|----------|---------|----------------|
|         |                                   | Number | Rate  | Number | Rate  | % Change | MI Rate | County Ranking |
| Mecosta | Children in Investigated Families | 848    | 103.5 | 1206   | 150.2 | 45.10%   | 112.5   | 46             |
|         | Confirmed Victims                 | 114    | 13.9  | 228    | 28.4  | 87.60%   | 17.9    | 59             |
| Osceola | Children in Investigated Families | 562    | 102.1 | 1034   | 193.3 | 89.40%   | 112.5   | 73             |
|         | Confirmed Victims                 | 62     | 11.3  | 133    | 24.9  | 110.70%  | 17.9    | 48             |

We will be planning more book walk events with community partners; building upon successful events in Mecosta and Osceola counties when we partnered with the farmer's markets, local libraries, SLD Read, MSU Extension, Spectrum Health, DART, Angels of Action, Evert Reads, and others.

The Literacy Essentials for 0-3 will be rolled out in a train-the-trainer model later this fall. We have submitted Jessica Wimmer's name to the selection pile to go through this training and bring it back to our community. She has extensive credibility with childcare providers in the 6 county region and is well-versed in adult learning styles. Another bonus is that she is already a registered trainer in the Great Start to Quality System so we are ready to roll.

For September we will be busy working on grants, budgets, preparing for the annual homeless conference and solidifying out goals and identifying out lag and lead measures as a team.

Thanks for your continued support!

## General Education

### Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

#### The General Education Team:

Summer means a bit of downtime, but the General Education team was still pretty busy. Several of us continued to meet with our state organizations, including the Early Literacy Task Force, the Math-Science Directors Network, Data Hubs Advisory, MiCH, and the Mi-STEM Regional meetings. Our team goals will be centered around the MOISD initiatives of Trauma/Behavior informed schools, Early Literacy, MTSS, and the joint initiatives that cross the Special Education and General Education "lines". We want to continue to support the thought process of "all students first in our instructional goals"!

#### Early Literacy:

Cathy and Amy attended the Collective Efficacy Literacy Leadership Event featuring Dr. John Hattie on August 22nd. Dr. Hattie, as well as Dr. Jenni Donahoo, addressed the crowd of literacy leaders and school administrators on the number one factor influencing student achievement: Collective Efficacy. They presented research that when a school staff shares the belief that through their collective actions they can positively influence student outcomes a, student achievement increases. Amy and Cathy are looking forward to sharing their learning with districts so that we can accomplish the MOISD goals of working together to make a collective impact.

Amy, as a PBIS Systems Coach, supported Weidman elementary during their PBIS Kick-Off on the first day of school. Chippewa Hills elementaries are starting their second year

of PBIS implementation as part of the MiBLSI project.



Weidman Teachers Modeling PBIS

Cathy attended Portland to support coaching around CHAMPS and will be working, with members of the Special Education department on classroom management coaching.

She also attended the Novi Literacy Institutes with administrators from Morley Stanwood and Evert. Cathy provided professional learning, in the form of an Essential's overview to guide Evert teachers, as they select the focus for their personalized learning going into the new school year.

We hope to work with more teachers and administrators this year on the importance of the Essential Elements of Early Literacy. Portions of each Elementary Principal's meeting will be directed at having a more in-depth understanding of the Essentials, as requested by two of our principals that attended the training in Novi.

**Math and Science:**

Our math/science consultants attended a three-day learning session on the Next Generation Science Standards. These standards were adopted by the state of Michigan and are called the Michigan Science Standards. The new standards

focus on the "content", as well as the progression of learning and performance expectations of the students. Our goal is to be available to any of our schools, as they work to incorporate the standards into their classrooms.

A Math Recovery course was taught in June, with another course being taught in October. Fractions AMVR will also be offered through webinar throughout the school year.

Dates are being set for the Spring STEM Night with our local students. The tentative date is set for April 16 in the Miller Wing of the Career Center.

**Behavioral Specialist:**



**CHAMPS: ISD and Locals Staff**

What a busy summer of learning and collaboration for our General Education and the Special Education Teams. CHAMPS training took place in Oregon in July, with Michael Bausano and Cathy Wirth attending the learning and becoming trainers and coaches. Michael is a CHAMPS trainer/coach and Cathy is a coach for classroom management. The "boot camp" week was held the week of August 13, with three days of learning. The long term impact will be seen as behaviors are reduced and literacy rates improve.

## Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

### Summer work:

I would like to take a moment to thank the technology support team Mike Schonert, Rose Kipfmiller, Chad Marshal, and Ryan Draves for the outstanding work that they have accomplished this summer. Their hard work will lead to student success in this new school year. They always go above and beyond and this season has been no exception with all the special projects in addition to all their normal school preparation work.

We have wrapped up the summer work of updating and installation of network and computer equipment. We are currently working with the local schools on the joint firewall and core network switch project. I would also like to thank Dan Canham and Joe Bouman of Big Rapids Schools for sharing their time and knowledge with the MoTech group. It truly is a team effort with these collaborative projects.

### Technology Planning

On July 18th the MoTech technology directors met and started to develop a MOISD district technology master plan. We are looking to have this completed before the new year; and then we look forward to presenting it to the MOISD Board. More information will follow over the next few months.

### MOISD Website Refresh:

Ryan Draves a MOP Co-Op intern and a past Big Rapids school student took on the project after being hired for the development and refreshing the MOISD website. Ryan Started on June 11th and hit the ground running. He has done a fabulous job helping to get this work completed. Ryan left on August 28th for

college where he will be attending the University of Michigan to study Computer Science. We expect to see great things from this bright young man and his future endeavors.

### Michigan Consortium for Advanced Networks (MCAN):

Jake Martin the CTO of Ferris State, Jennifer Heinzman the Executive Director of the Mecosta Chamber of Commerce and myself were asked to give input with 25 other people from the North West Region of Michigan. We were invited to West Shore Community college to meet with the Gov. Snyder's office staff about a project called, "Michigan Consortium for Advanced Networks" (MCAN). We are optimistic that this will help us with our Midwest Michigan Broadband Groups (MMBG) mission to further enhance the educational instructional experience of students.

We believe we are positioned well with our pre-planning that has happened in the last year. We also have built the relationships needed in advance of this project by building trust relationships with the community organizations. The full MCAN report was released in August to the public. We are hoping to be able to take advantage of this funding in the next E-rate cycle by doing an RFP for the first phase of a fiber build. We are looking at putting out a bid proposal for a project this November or December depending on when the E-rate process opens this coming year. Steps that would need to be taken before this would be bid is to present the project to the Admin team and then the MOISD board for discussion.

Right now we are in the process of doing some pre-project planning by looking at the available fiber in the community that is

owned by the City, Ferris State University or other organizations and to see how we can help to reduce the cost of building a system by working in collaboration to support the community. The MCAN plan could be a great opportunity to help springboard and complete a fiber project within the region.

### Major MOP projects for the month and the school year

- PCG import and export automation
- Skyward Data Hubs integration
- School Messenger integration
- Website refresh redesign

## Special Education

### Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

**New Staff** - Welcome to the new staff members who joined our incredible special education team: Karis Blubaugh, Arianne Boynton, Lindsey LaGrow, Kristin Brookhouse, Jamie Deverage, Tara Horton, Emily White, Jennifer Herrema, Brianna Ballew, Jody Godbey, Brittany Sigafosse, Marisa Bullard and Tracy Gardner. We are also very excited and fortunate to have Deb Mako back to complete the Early On team!

**August Boot Camp**--We had a very successful first annual Boot Camp during the week of August 14. **CHAMPS** training was facilitated by Chris White from CCA, Holly Inman from Morley Stanwood, Michael Bausano from MOISD and Marie Chapman from MOISD on August 13, 15, and 17. Practical Strategies for Paraprofessionals was facilitated for 120 attendees by Janet

Hull from the Bureau of Education and Research; and our biggest hit was Trauma Informed Schools with Dr. Stephanie Grant, with over 150 in attendance. Evaluations on all professional learning were extremely positive and we are looking forward to more collaboration with our local districts as we take on this exciting initiative. For those staff members who were unable to attend, Evert and Reed City will be hosting CHAMPS 101 in September and October so there will still be opportunities for staff to be trained.

### Special Education Supervisor Beth Bond Reports:

At the Ed Center, we've kicked off the new school year with lots of enthusiasm and positive changes in the building and classrooms. Along with familiar faces and practices of the Ed Center, we are excited to introduce new staff, exciting ideas, and new looks in some of our programs and the building. More information on these ideas/changes will be forthcoming in future reports.

I would like to recognize that Chris Shankel (formerly of US-10) joined Dana Boglarsky in the office. Chris and Dana have been very busy getting information in and out for staff and parents. I am very impressed that our September Parent Newsletter (Hedgehog Herald) went home on the very first day of school. In the newsletter, we extended an invitation to parents to come to an Open House on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. Board members are also welcome to attend.

We now have framed posters which feature some of our Ed Center students in the hallways. Staff and students are loving the new look. What a great way to be inspired

and reminded of our mission as special education educators.



*Ruby in the gym and Kayla Hammermeister working with Kailey in the classroom.*

This year, I plan to feature a different teacher/classroom/program each month. Bonnie Clark's elementary MoCI classroom and their recycling program is the focus for September:

Elementary MoCI classroom students have been recycling for many years now. Ms. Clark, is an avid recycler herself and has started a recycling program at every school that she has worked.

Every room at the Education Center has a blue recycle container. Typically, on Thursday mornings, one student, paired with a high school student from Mrs. Nielsen's class, goes to each room to collect the recycling. It is announced in the morning "Today is recycle day, please put your bins in the hallway!" The students empty each bin into a large box. When the box is full, they take it to the recycle room, located in the old kitchen.

In the recycle room, you will find activity that surpasses an ant hill! Students, under the direction of either, Ms. Clark, Mrs. Seaman, or Mrs. Wheeler, sort the material from the large box into the correct container. Students get to be so good at what they do!! They know where each item goes and if an unknown item comes along,

he/she usually needs only to be told once and they remember the next time!

Here are examples of the materials we sort:

Paper, newsprint, Styrofoam, cans (metal), # 1 & #2 plastics, tag board, cardboard, and aluminum. The students also know where we place batteries and pop cans. Ms. Deadwyler's Transition Center Adults wash our lunch trays every day to make them acceptable for recycling.

The students get "paid" for recycling. It is considered a working time for them and the expectations of good work habits are taught. The students also "catch" certain things from the box that they think Ms. Clark would like to use in the classroom. She loves it!

Our Elementary MoCI students also do extra things for others during recycling time. We save the tabs off pop cans and give them to the organization providing free kidney machine time. Last year, two of our staffs' daughters were involved in collecting caps – and yes! Elementary MoCI was on it!! If anyone needs anything to reuse from recycling, we are happy to collect for them.



*Ruby and Tyson help break down boxes.*



*Sara, Timmy, Storm and Branden are sorting recycle materials into separate bins.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Bond – MOEC Sp. Ed. Supervisor

### **Special Education Supervisor Carol Phelps Reports:**

#### **BACK TO SCHOOL**



This is the first day of school in Cortney Clay's Early Childhood Special Education Program (ECSEP). She is reading a book to the students about five little ducks. The classroom paraprofessionals, Ashley Thompson and Lisa Dubois, help model the motions of the story for the students and keep them engaged in the story. The preschool students explore books and magazines in the classroom library before circle time.

### **Special Education Supervisor Pat Craven Reports:**

A new school year is upon us, and our staff and students are excited to get rolling again! At our US 10 Corridor Schools of Pineview Homes and Muskegon River Youth Home, our staff and students work off of a year-round, balanced school calendar. This allows our youth to continue to grow academically while they continue to work to improve their individual lives and circumstances. While our break wasn't as long as the others, three weeks can seem like an eternity. Our staff members took their three-week break and used it to gain some much-needed rest and rejuvenation, as well as take in some outstanding professional development through our MOISD initiatives of Trauma-Informed Schools and CHAMPS.

We are proud to know that our many dedicated staff members continue to grow in their learning and understanding of what Trauma Informed Schools are really about. Learning about our students and creating positive relationships with them can be the life-saving partnership they so desperately need. The combination of last year's Restorative Practices initiative with this year's CHAMPS and Trauma-Informed Schools initiatives has provided our staff with the tools needed to be the outstanding mentor that our kids need.

While other schools and students were on break over the summer, Muskegon River Youth Home and its staff and students celebrated another graduation. Our students continue to succeed at a high rate and show tremendous academic growth. It is so exciting to witness and be a small piece of their transformation. Our teachers

and paraprofessionals work diligently to provide our students with all of the resources they need so that their goals can be met. Many of our graduates are now taking college courses as they prepare for their adult and professional futures.

Another of our colleagues, Pete Seager, used his short three-week break to travel with a group of people to Uganda and serve the wonderful people of Africa. Mr. Seager returned safely with many stories of service, friendship, and love. His experience was one that has changed the lives of those he served as well as his own. If you get a chance to speak with Pete regarding his trip, he would love to tell you about it!

The US 10 Corridor Schools and staff continue to strive to provide an outstanding educational experience for our kids. We are excited to return to school this fall and look forward to the many life-changing experiences ahead!

















