

**Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District  
15760 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307**

**MOP<sup>2</sup> MINUTES**

**December 19, 2020**

A meeting of the Mecosta-Osceola Personnel Cooperative and Meceola Tech Programs Advisory Council (MOP Co-Op) was held on Thursday, December 19, 2020, at 8 a.m. in the Parsons Room of the Administration Building, 15760 190th Avenue, Big Rapids, Michigan.

**Members Present:** Lisa Brauher (Morley Stanwood), Sherry Anderson (Chippewa Hills), Pete Kent (Big Rapids), Sheri Thompson (Mecosta Osceola ISD), Dominic Pace (Crossroads), Christine Mund (Reed City), and Steve Locke (MOISD Superintendent/MOP Co-Op Director).

**Members Absent:** Gerald Nichols (Ewart)

**Others Present:** Fred Sharpsteen, Mike Miller, and Patience Nemeth

MOISD Superintendent Steve Locke called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

**Minutes** – Pete Kent made a motion, supported by Sheri Thompson, to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

**Bi-Monthly Supervisors Reports:**

**Director of CTE** – Mike Miller, Director of CTE, reported on the fall semester of Meceola Tech. He indicated that CNA students successfully passed the written and hands-on portion of their assessments, they are now eligible to work in long-term care facilities and several already have jobs lined up. EMT is on track and will begin their National Registry testing in February. The Automotive Electrical class concluded, and there is an Automotive and Heavy/Medium-Duty Truck Brakes class scheduled in January. These courses are aligned with our high school Automotive Tech. CTE program. He reported to the Council that Yoplait employees attended an industry-specific welding training on Tuesday and Thursday this semester, and we are planning to run a machining program for these same employees in January. He discussed possible upcoming courses: Microsoft Office Specialist and Construction. Enrollment was discussed, it is comparable to last year with a minor uptake, but courses are not full, enrollment in some courses continues to be a struggle. There was a discussion regarding starting wages for students who complete Meceola Tech courses. We continue to work on local business partnerships and continued partnerships with FSU and Mid Michigan. There was a discussion on these topics among the Council.

**Director of Technology** - Fred Sharpsteen informed the Council that we hired a new MOP Co-Op Computer Technician, Ryan Boochard, he is becoming familiar with all networks across the district. This position has had time purchased by Ewart Public Schools and Reed City Area Public Schools for additional tech. support. Big Rapids

Public Schools has expressed interest in some additional support as well. Mr. Sharpsteen reported on the last MO-Tech group meeting where they discussed what the needs are for the LEA's. They will be working as a group to come up with further solutions to the identified issues. He indicated that we are looking at staff member assignments and performing cross-training while working with the LEA's to meet their needs. There was discussion among the Council regarding the above and the importance of utilizing MOP services.

**Other/Discussion:**

Superintendent Locke and the Council discussed the following:

- Solvency and transparency with MOP finances: this year's budget was reviewed, projection \$50,000 in the red, this is pretty common for most MOP models. The Council discussed common MOP models.
- MOP Payroll Specialist Position: we are hoping for other LEA's to buy into this position, which currently services Big Rapids Public Schools.
- Member Kent asked the Council to speak with their Superintendents regarding shared services and the potential cost savings for each district. There was discussion as to the understanding that some current positions serve multiple roles within their districts. Member Thompson discussed the initial idea/intention behind the MOP.
- Possible future MOP positions: Transportation Director, SE Supervisor. There was discussion among the Council regarding these positions.
- There was a discussion regarding the shortage of school counselors and the need for additional assistance in that area. Superintendent Locke discussed the possibility of a testing coordinator as opposed to a counselor for counseling services; counselors would have more time to counsel students they are connected to and familiar with. 31N services and the stringent guidelines for the program were discussed.
- Member Pace discussed exploring with districts what they need or what services would be most beneficial to the LEA's. Superintendent Locke indicated that there had been discussions at Superintendent meetings.
- School Aide Budget

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patience Nemeth  
Recording Secretary