

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

MOP² MINUTES

May 22, 2020

A meeting of the Mecosta-Osceola Personnel Cooperative and Meceola Tech Programs Advisory Council (MOP Co-Op) was held on Friday, May 22, 2020, at 8 a.m. this meeting was held virtually, via Zoom, due to the Governor of Michigan's Executive Order.

Members Present: Lisa Brauher (Morley Stanwood), Sherry Anderson (Chippewa Hills), Michelle Rasmussen (Alternate for Big Rapids), Sheri Thompson (Mecosta Osceola ISD), Karen McNalley (Alternate for Crossroads), Gerald Nichols (Ewart), Christine Mund (Reed City), and Steve Locke (MOISD Superintendent/MOP Co-Op Director).

Members Absent: Pete Kent (Big Rapids), James Swartzendruber (Crossroads)

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

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

Minutes – There is a correction of the spelling of Sherry Anderson's name needed in the minute's section of the February 20, 2020 minutes. Gerald Nichols made a motion, supported by Sheri Thompson, to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2020 meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

County School Board Meeting:

Superintendent Locke informed the Council that the County School Board meeting has been postponed due to COVID 19. Possible reschedule in June or July.

MOP Co-Op Position - Big Rapids Public Schools - Payroll Specialist:

Superintendent Locke indicated that the resignation of the current MOP Payroll Specialist has been accepted; her last day will be June 30, 2020. The LEA's have unable to help utilize the sharing of this position, for various reasons, so the MOP has been filling this position like a third-party contractor. With this resignation, Big Rapids Public Schools will be taking back the responsibility of this position. The MOISD is appreciative that Big Rapids jumped in to participate in this MOP position.

Bi-Monthly Supervisors Reports:

Director of CTE – Mike Miller, Director of CTE, reported on the following:

- COVID 19 restrictions: Meceola Tech. has a little more latitude with adult learners; options may become available prior to June 30th.
- Two New Courses for Next Year:
 - Office Professional- Student will learn essential skills and information to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Students will earn Microsoft certification in each product. Upon passing all three certifications, they will

receive the Microsoft Office Specialist Associate certification. Students may also earn additional certifications if desired.

- Construction- Students work toward the OSHA 10 certification and the Michigan 60-hour builder's license. This aligns with our high school Construction Trades CTE program. The anticipated date to start this class is in the winter semester of 2021.
- New Training with General Mills Yoplait
 - The 36-hour industry training in machining was completed.
 - This course will provide employees with an enhanced skill-set and build upon the welding training we provided to them in the fall.
 - MOISD may become one of the training providers for General Mills Yoplait for its US Department of Labor registered apprenticeship.

Superintendent Locke explained that even though face to face instruction for K-12 has been suspended through June, the same does not apply to Meceola Tech. Mid Michigan has reached out regarding restarting their classes as well.

Director of Technology - Fred Sharpsteen reported on the following:

- Status on supporting staff, students, and LEA's during this COVID 19 event.
- Wi-Fi access for Crossroad Charter Academy and Reed City Area Publics School students: A Wi-Fi access point has been installed on these school to help students without access to the internet. All LEA's now have some sort of connection outside of their school for Internet access.
- Chromebook set-up: The MOISD purchased a "Go Box" that automates the provisioning of Chromebook hardware to speed up the process of provisioning for each district. Buying this box saved the school district \$300.00 on 50 Chromebooks.
- Distribution to students: Helped ready and distributed Chromebooks, Mac computers, and laptops to students who needed them.
- Zoom Conference Portal: This allows the remote face to face meetings with staff, parents, and students. The MOISD created over 80 accounts in the last three weeks and helped a couple of the LEA schools with their set-up.
- Screen Connect remote connection system: This system helps the tech team connect from anywhere to help a user who is having difficulty with their system.
- Work Ticket System: The tech team worked with several of the LEA's to get them into a helpdesk ticket system to track the support of staff and student needs.
- Why no Internet Access:
 - Lack of broadband Internet connectivity in Mecosta and Osceola county
 - No broadband service providers and Limited competition
 - Socioeconomic factors (such as income)

- Students in small towns/rural areas have no internet access or depend on slow access or access through a cell phone.
- Mr. Sharpsteen thanked the MOISD MOP technology team for their dedicated work supporting students and staff at the LEA's, and for going above and beyond. He also praised the LEA's technology directors and teams for working together so well during these challenging times. This has given the opportunity to look at things differently.
- Repair Issues? Superintendent Locke asked Mr. Sharpsteen about repair issues. Mr. Sharpsteen indicated that it doesn't take much damage to warrant repair, and is not cost-effective.
- Superintendent Locke indicated the LEA's Continuity of Learning Plans developed by the LEA Superintendents' identify the cost of tech coverage. LEA's used a 20% figure for repair, replacement costs, inventory, and programming.
- CARES Act ESSER funding: may have some funds that could be used. This funding aims to help K-12 schools "rethink the way students access education."
- Pupil Accounting: MAISA and MDE and working together on this.
 - How do we count kids? Do we need to change some of the rules for pupil accounting?

Other/Discussion:

Superintendent Locke and the Council discussed the following:

- Continuity of Learning Plans- LEA's have them posted on their web sites
- Budgets for the upcoming school year were discussed. There was a conversation regarding sharing services and the importance of sharing services for cost savings in the upcoming school year. This may be the launching pad to set up MOP services.
- Possible shared services:
 - Special Education Supervisor • Remote Learning Platform
 - Tech Support for classrooms • Curriculum • Supervisor Coordinator
- The Council will advocate its Board and Superintendents for shared services, and the significant cost savings shared services can save their district.
- Evert Public Schools Tech Support: Kudos to Shirley Howard, she has requested more tech support in Evert.
- School in the fall: there is no talk about fall as of yet.
- Superintendent Locke asked Michelle Rasmussen to let Pete Kent (Big Rapids) know that the CDL course is on track to run as scheduled.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:538a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patience Nemeth
Recording Secretary